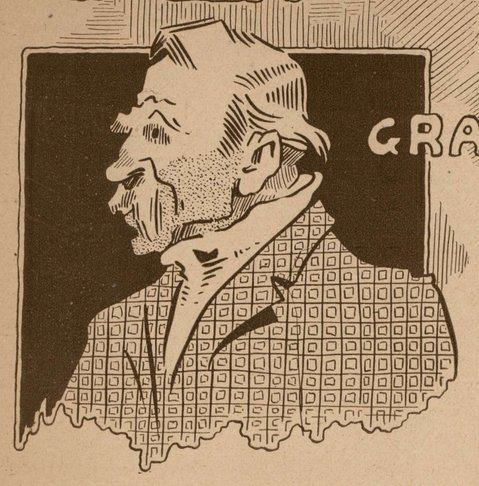
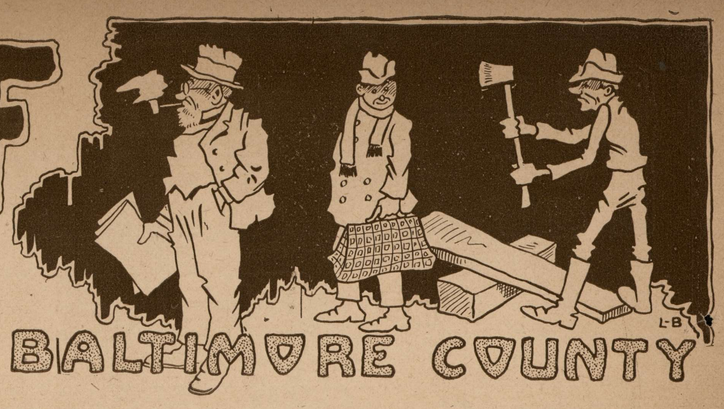
OLD TIME STUFF



WHAT OUR DADDIES AND GRAND DADDIES DID 60 YEARS AGO IN BALTIMORE COUNTY



The "American" of Sept. 13th, 1861, gives an account of the arrest of a number of men from the Eighth Ward of Baltimore City at the Monument House on the old Shell Road; they were on their way to Dixie. It also tells of the arrest of a man named A. Williamson, doing business at 56 German street, Baltimore, who had $2500 worth of contraband goods packed in a wagon all ready to start South. They were all confined in Fort McHenry.

A large Union meeting was held at Middletown on Sept. 7th to select delegates to the convention to be held at Towson on Sept. 12th. The names of over 100 persons attending the meeting were published. The delegates selected were Wm. H. Hoffman, Jacob Loucks, Christian Gore, Samuel Gore and Joseph D. Pope.

The American of October 11th has an editorial "The Blood Mania." It deplores the bloodthirsty minions of Jeff Davis and gives some extracts from the newspapers of the South. The "Cynthiana News," Kentucky, says "The Italian dagger and stiletto did good work in the recent revolution of Italy. These instruments of war are the terror of tryants and those who sustain them, and it is hoped they will not be forgotten in this day of terror and usurpation. A dog will sneak to his kennel at the sight of cold steel. Couldn't a few dogs be kenneled in this State?"

The "Memphis Appeal," Tennessee, had the following: "If hell does not break loose under the feet of every Federal soldier and every Federal adherent—aye, every persistent Union man in Missouri, Kentucky and Maryland, it will be because there is no such place as hell, or those States are unworthy to join our glorious Confederacy. We know that vast pyramids of human bones they are erecting in imagination all over our Southern plains. And every Southern man with even a piece of soul in him, should brace himself like steel for the rush of scythian hordes that Lincoln is preparing to hurl upon us. Ho! every Southern man; ho! every man on this side of the border—fling yourself from this day forward, heart and soul, into the conflict, each in his appropriate sphere of action. Let the brutal minions of a beastly despotism come on! The slaughter pens are ready and Yankee blood shall flow as free as festal wine."

The American editor says: "This is what they say and do, wherever they dare to say and do it. Is it not a manifestation of madness, horrible to contemplate?"

It was sure hot stuff, but it was in keeping with the hot times of that period.

In an editorial of October 18, 1861, under the head: "Decrease In The Price Of Slaves," the editor lamentingly says: "The sheriff, after having once offered Henry Stokely, a negro sentenced by the court to be sold as a slave out of the State for eight years, offered him a second time on Wednesday last and realized the enormous sum of $10. This boy would have sold last year for at least $500. This is the manner in which secession benefits negro property."

George Jessop of Cockeysville, offers $50 reward to anyone who will give information leading to the recovery of a bright mulatto girl named "Massa," about 21 years of age, of ordinary woman's height, slender and neatly made, who ran away about September 16th.

In those days each district nominated and elected its school commissioner, road supervisor, justices of the peace and constables, and the entire list of candidates were published on October 11th.

The statement of receipts and expenses of the county was also published on October 11th and 18th. The cost of roads and bridges was $17,879.77, and of schools $23,600; support of prisoners in jail, 5,972.32.

A good quality of bricks were made on the Hillen road near Towson and were advertised regularly in the American.

The Democratic, or "Peace party" put up a county ticket in opposition to the Union Ticket and this is what the editor of the American had to say about it:

"The rebel convention, encouraged by the clemency shown by the Government to the traitors in different parts of the State met yesterday, pursuant to call, and nominated the following gentlemen for the House of Delegates: John S. Gittings, J. Howard McHenry, Carville S. Stansbury, Richard I. Worthington, Nicholas Burke and William S. Keech.

"Mr. Gittings is well known in the county as the president of the Chesapeake Bank. Mr. McHenry we have so often spoken of as to need nothing more at our hands. Richard I. Worthington was the candidate of the American party for State Senator, in opposition to Dr. Lynch, who is now a resident of a certain place where some others may very soon be. C. S. Stansbury is also too well known to require anything at our hands, being a kind of standing candidate in Baltimore county. Nicholas Burke is a worthy farmer of the 7th District, and Wm. S. Keech is a lawyer of this place, as well known in politics as he ever will be. Take this ticket altogether, and it is just about as easy one to beat as any which the Convention could have put forth."

Another editorial note says: "Union men of Baltimore county, take notice: That in addition to what you previously expected to have to oppose at the ensuing election, you have the Chesapeake Bank to contend with. Up then, and at them, and swear by the Eternal that you will whip all the secessionists, peace men, rebels, traitors and the immortal Chesapeake Bank to boot. Mr. John S. Gittings was the president of that bank."

There is also an editorial on "The Court House Clique."

There is a death notice of Thomas Wildey, the founder of Odd Fellowship, who died on the 19th of October and whose funeral took place on the 22nd from Odd Fellows Hall, Gay street, Baltimore, and was attended to Greenmount cemetery by a very large procession of odd fellows, with delegations from the Supreme Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Maryland and lodges of Baltimore city and vicinity. Towson Lodge and Ridgely Encampment were in the procession, the former unde rthe marshalship of Bro. Charles A. Connor and the latter of Bro. Chas. H. Mann.

The American of November 8th gives incomplete returns of the election, but enough to claim that the Union party has elected every candidate in the county from Sheriff to constable.

In an account of the election the paper says: "As far as we can learn the election proceeded quietly in all the districts of the county. Here in our own district (the 9th) good order was preserved and the peace was not broken during the whole day except by a knock-down or two. About 1 o'clock a posse of Deputy Marshalls made their appearance at the polls and arrested the following members of the Baltimore County Horse Guards: Messrs. George H. Carman, R. Edwin Hook, George F. Wheeler, William Clarke, Thomas Hill, Frank Potee, William Payne, Philip M. Slicer, Jacob K. Harvey, Henry H. Badders, James Stevenson and Dr. I. Davis Thompson, but they were all released.

Here is a local news item: On Friday morning last a lad about 9 years of age, named John Grason, son of Richard Grason, Esq., of this town, was run over by a wagon between this place and Riders' Switch. He was sitting on the side of the wagon, which in going suddenly over a break in the road threw him off, and both wheels passed over his body. His injuries, though painful, were not of a serious character, and he is now doing well.

November 15th—As predicted in the American last week the Union ticket sure made a clean sweep in the State and county. Augustus Bradford for Governor, received in the county 4589 votes; Benjamin C. Howard, 2235; the Legislative ticket received an average majority of 2250, and our old friend J. Dixon O'Dell, now of Towson, received 4568 votes, and Richard W. Templeman, his opponent, 2250 votes. Governor Bradford's majority in the State was 31,469.

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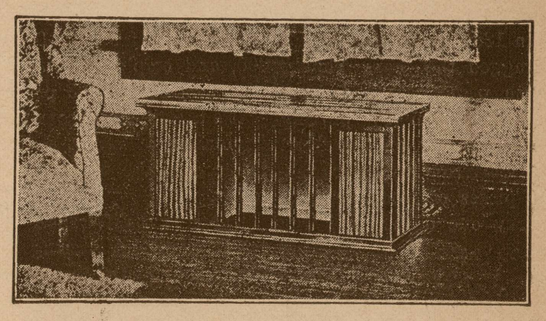

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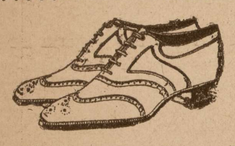
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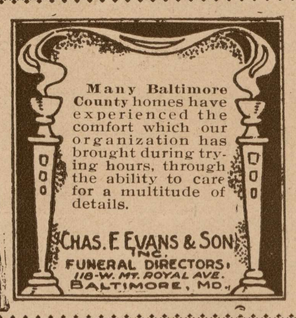

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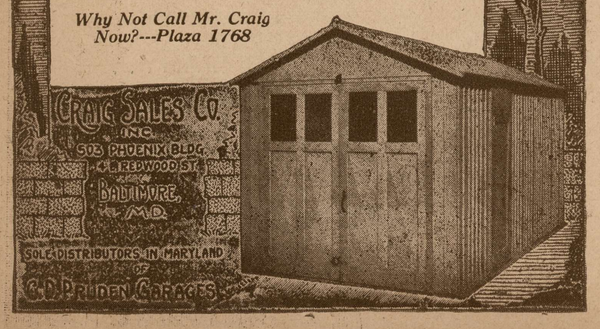

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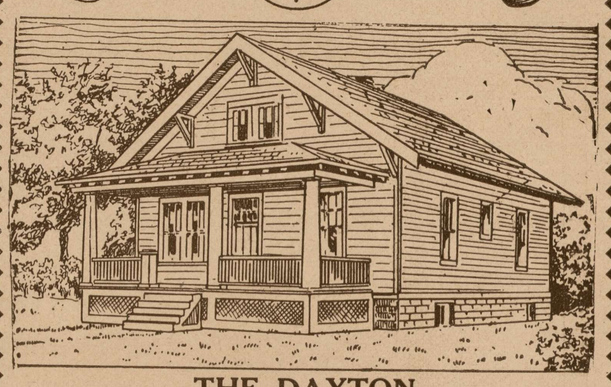
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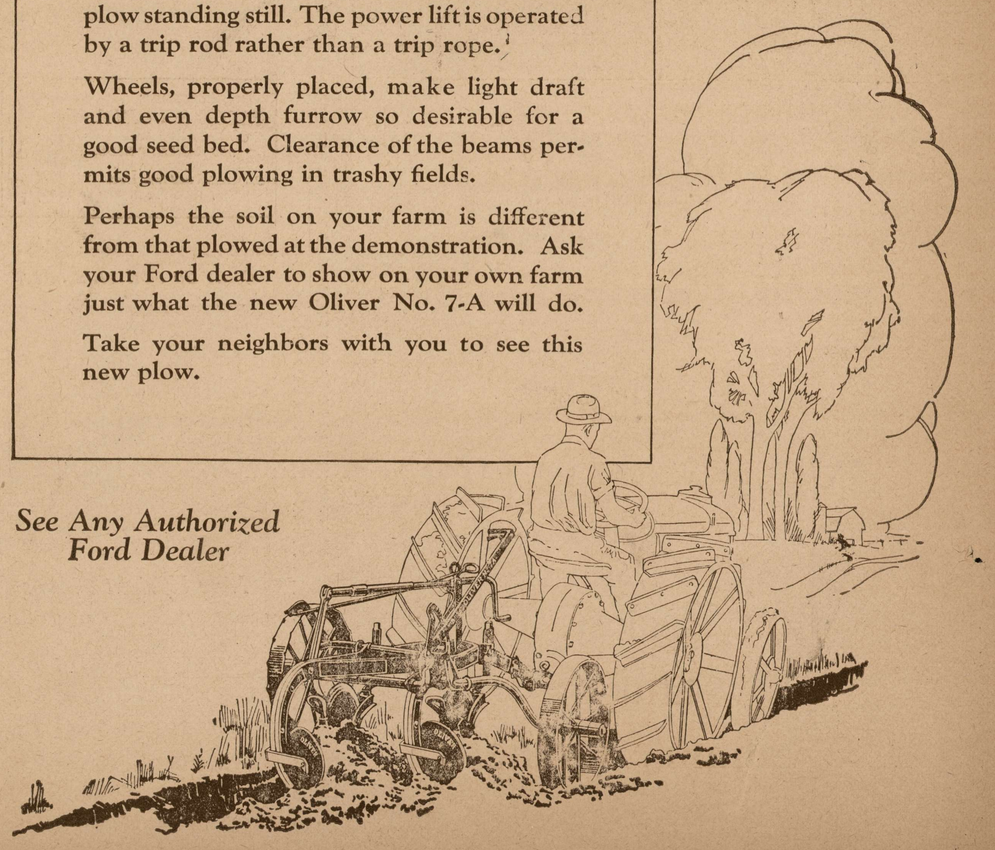

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