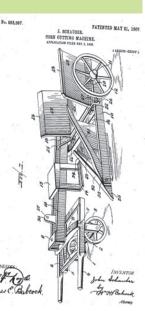
New Implement Saves Time

The Schauber Corn Cutter was invented and patented on May 21, 1907, by a Kent County farmer named John Schauber. "The object of said invention is to produce a simpler, more reliable and more durable machine for such purposes than those hitherto known...." Before Schauber designed this implement, corn was cut by hand, laid in small piles, then the piles of stalks were picked up and carried



to the end of the row where they were stood up in shocks to dry.



The Corn Cutter was pulled by a horse from one end of the field to the other. A knife made of cutlery steel was drawn just above the ground cutting through the corn

stalks. The cut stalks were pulled toward the man sitting on the cutter, who caught and guided them into the dump body. The stalks were then dumped at the end of the row, and the horse guided to the next row. Together with one horse and three to four men, the Corn Cutter could harvest eight to ten acres per day.

Built by hand on the Schauber farm, about 4,000 Corn Cutters were manufactured and sold from 1907 until 1934.

---From Beyond the Roadgate, Stanley Sutton; U.S. Patent Office, Patent No. 853,997



With Special Thanks...

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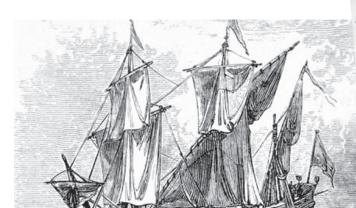
Farmers, Inventions, Crops, Shipping.

Early Farming on the Eastern Shore



When Tobacco was King





THE Ship BRITANNIA, Capt. ROBERT CLARKE, Capt. Chafter Jown, and now lying at *Chefter-Terwn*, and bound to *Barbados*, will take in *Indian* Corn at 9^d. per Bufhel. Freight, and Bread and Flour at Three Pounds per Ton, de-livered along Side before the 6th of March next. She will certainly fail by that

Time. She brought in a Quantity of Choice old Bar-bader RUM, which we will exchange by the Hogfhead, a Gallon for a Bufhel of Good Indian Corn, delivered along Side the faid Ship before the above Time, and will fell it very cheap for ready Cath, or Flour.

the above a line Flours ready Cath, or Flours RINCGOLD, & Co.

Tobacco was the chief money crop in early Maryland. By 1671, roughly 50 years after tobacco growing began in the Chesapeake area, Maryland & Virginia exported between 15 and 17 million pounds of tobacco annually. In fact, the leaf had come to be considered legal currency and remained such for almost a hundred years more. In 1763, Chestertown's custom inspectors were paid an annual salary of 6,400 pounds of tobacco. Agricultural workers were mostly indentured servants from England. But, as the number of English laborers declined, the planters faced a labor shortage. Efforts to enlist Native Americans failed, and the colonists turned to slave labor.

Growing tobacco was labor intensive. Seedlings would be transplanted to prepared "hills," each hill home to a single tobacco plant. Weeding, topping, and picking off pests ensured leaves of the best quality. When the tobacco plants stood six to nine feet tall, they were ready to harvest, and each leaf was hung to cure. The USDA estimates that growing and harvesting an acre of tobacco takes an average of 230 worker-hours, compared with two to three worker-hours for one acre of corn.



Growers packed wooden barrels, called "hogsheads," full of tobacco and rolled them to the waterfront. A hogshead could hold 1,000 pounds of tobacco. While a successful tobacco farmer was rewarded financially, tobacco drained the soil of nutrients and only about three growing seasons could occur on a plot of land.

Combine this with the labor issues, and by the mid-1700's Kent County planters were moving to a grain-based economy, exporting two and a half times more wheat annually than what was exported on the rest of the Eastern shore.

---From National Park Service, Historic Jamestowne; Chestertown as a Colonial Port, Robert L. Swain

Century Farm Goes Green

In 1880 George Thomas Williams and his wife started farming in Worton. Over the years, the Williams's farm would grow to almost 600 acres, producing crops and milk from a dairy herd. By 1950 the dairy operation was increased, and 165 acres were planted in corn and alfalfa to feed 150 Holsteins, 75 of which were milked twice a day, every day.

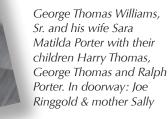
The 21st century brought change: unable to compete with the larger dairy farms in the area, the family got out of the dairy business in 2005. Then, in 2015, Bryan Williams and his mother "Sis" took a chance and invested in hydroponics. In temperature-controlled greenhouses, hydroponic gardening is environmentally friendly - using 2/3 less water, no pesticides, and less fertilizer compared with traditional farming. Today, lettuces and herbs are grown in three greenhouses at Red Acres Farm and delivered fresh up and down the Eastern Shore.

Red Acres Farm is currently worked by the 6th generation of the Williams's family and was recognized as a Maryland Century Farm in 1994. To receive this designation, at least one descendant of the pre-1884 owners must still live on and/or farm the property. The farm must retain ten of its original acres, and the property must turn a profit of at least \$2,500.

Currently, 10 farms in Kent County have received this honor.

---From Interview with Bryan Williams; www.redacreshydro.com





Harry Thomas Williams, Sr.

"Miss Caddie," Bryan Williams's great-grandmother, raised turkeys on the farm, selling them throughout the Eastern Shore.





Evelyn Bockmiller married Arthur L. Harris, of Howell's Point farm, in 1906. A city girl from Baltimore, she quickly fell in love with the farm. When her husband died suddenly in 1924, she found herself with nearly 600 acres, orchards including 60,000 pear trees and thousands of peach trees, and five children to educate. She got to work the best she could, writing that "this business of fruit growing and farming is something which calls out all the ingenuity which we possess." With very little ready cash, she would rely on bartering to get the things her family needed. The tailor would trade his work for a bushel of sweet potatoes or five pounds of fresh sausage. The well digger accepted five pounds of home-made chocolates

and a Christmas tree for his bill. When she needed an operation, she traded a sportsman's holiday on the farm for the surgeon's fees. Five years later, the country sank into the worst depression in its history and, at its depth in 1933, some 200,000 farms across the country underwent foreclosure. Evelyn wrote about her struggles, and her story, The Barter Lady, was published in 1934.

Evelyn wrote that "Miss Evyline" had no money



for supplies "because the pear orchard which we have been watching for 15 years was wiped out with an incurable disease....My hopes for paying off the mortgage were dying as the trees died." Because the pears she could harvest "brought only enough for harvesting and nothing to pay back money borrowed for cost of production, and because the efforts I made to distribute properly the fruits and vegetables were futile and I was not able to do more than trust to the

honesty of the commission men in the cities where so few of them deal in honesty these days." For several years Evelyn found herself barely able to pay the interest on her loans.

"The checks for two magazine articles were the only money I had really earned before I spent it in the nine long years I had been farming as a widow. Except for that, all the

work, and the materials, had to be bought with money earned a year or two after it was spent."

In 1934 Evelyn would lose the farm, but she continued to write - advocating for fair pricing practices for farmers.

---From The Barter Lady, A Woman Farmer Sees It Through, Evelyn Harris

RTICL Evelyn Harris. a big reputation of Betterto the saturd Without Mone of the issue of June 18th. Write Farming

brought many letters of urge to write mo ored a variety of offers , ranging from article proposals of marriage to offers to and

Free Black Farmers on Quaker Neck

The earliest land purchase by a free Black in Quaker Neck was by Joseph Dublin (born 1787) and his wife Hannah in August of 1816, when they purchased six acres for \$150. By 1850, the Agricultural Census shows that Dublin owned 15 acres of improved land and 10 acres of unimproved land worth \$300. He also owned two horses, two milk cows, and 10 swine worth \$150, as well as 20 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of Indian corn, 40 bushels of oats, 90 pounds of wool, and 8 tons of hay.

The largest land transaction was made by Robert Wilson (born 1788) in September of 1830, when he purchased 150 acres of land for \$800. By 1860, Wilson had become a very wealthy farmer, with real estate worth \$1,200 and personal property worth \$600.

The 1850 Agricultural Census records approximately 140 free Blacks living in 26 households, but only eight of these household heads were described as farmers. The following free Black families also owned land before the Civil War: Derry, Lively, Bordley, Broadway, Houston, Graves, Young, Gale, Warren, Johnson, Yorker, Reese, and Elias.

The first U.S. Census, taken in 1790, counted 6,088 Blacks living in Kent County, almost half the total population, including 655 who were free. By 1860 the number of free Blacks had grown fivefold to 3,411 while the enslaved population declined by more than 50 percent. Kent County

had the largest percentage of free Black property holders on the Eastern Shore in 1860 at 22.7 percent.

Lake, Griffing, Stevenson Map of 1877. The pre-Civil War free Black land owners are marked. Map, published twenty years after the War, also lists many other Black land owners.

--From Free Black Communities on Ouaker Neck and Broad Neck and in Georgetown, Bill Leary, The Key To Old Kent Vol. 9, #1

