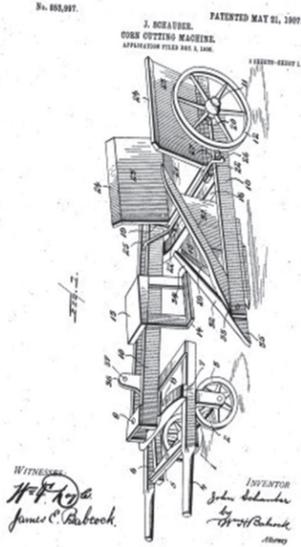


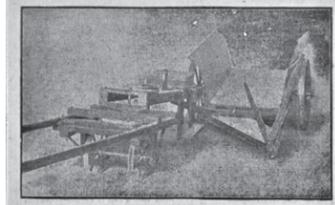
## New Implement Saves Time

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 SCHAUBER CORN CUTTER

takes but one man and one horse to operate, and cuts from eight to eight and one-half Acres per day average.



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...

Stephanie Gosman for research and design; Jane Nevins for expert copy-editing; and Kurt Smith for that extra pair of hands for installation.

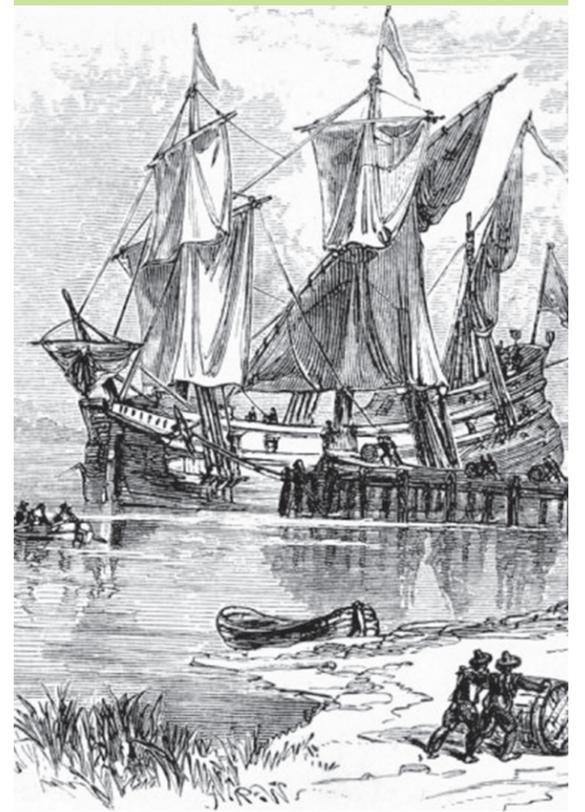
This exhibit has been funded through *Stories of the Chesapeake*, a program of Eastern Shore Heritage, Inc., and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant funding has been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Maryland Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the NEH sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) initiative.



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# Farmers, Inventions, Crops, Shipping.

## Early Farming on the Eastern Shore



## When Tobacco was King



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.



**THE Ship BRITANNIA,**  
Capt. ROBERT CLARKE,  
now lying at *Chester-Town*, and  
bound to *Barbados*, will take  
in *Indian Corn* at 9<sup>d</sup>. per Bushel.  
Freight, and Bread and Flour  
at Three Pounds per Ton, de-  
livered along Side before the  
6<sup>th</sup> of March next. She will certainly sail by that  
Time.  
She brought in a Quantity of Choice old *Bar-  
bados RUM*, which we will exchange by the  
Hoghead, a Gallon for a Bushel of Good *Indian  
Corn*, delivered along Side the said Ship before  
the above Time, and will sell it very cheap for  
ready Cash, or Flour.  
(2<sup>d</sup>)  
THOMAS RINGGOLD, & Co.

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

