

DOCUMENT 10a

Dr. Thomas Gerard

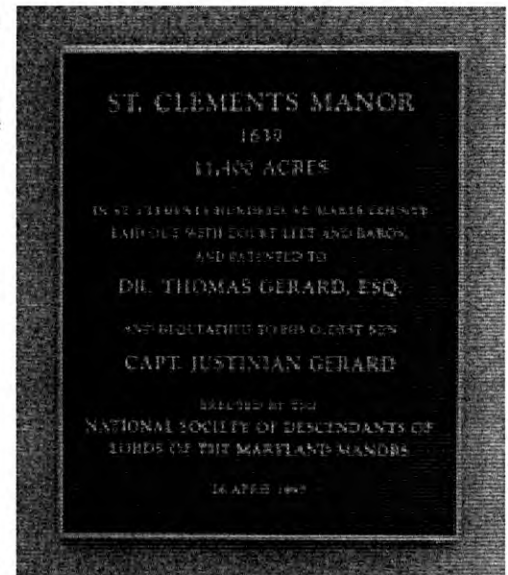
Dr. Thomas Gerard was baptized in Winwick Parish, Newhall in Ashton-in-Makerfield in the county of Lancashire, England on December 10, 1608 and was the son of John Gerard of Newhall and wife, Isabell. The Gerards were a Roman Catholic family that is traced back to the time of the General Survey of the Kingdom 1078.

Dr. Thomas Gerard married Susannah Snow on September 21, 1629 in the county of Stafford, England. She was born about 1611 and was the daughter of John Snow of Brookehouse, county of Stafford and wife Judith. They had the following children: *Susannah, Justinian, Frances, Thomas, Anne, John, Jane, Mary, Elizabeth and Temperance.*

Dr. Gerard came into the Province of Maryland by April 1638. He had been chosen by Lord Baltimore to aid in the development of the "Manor" System in Maryland and was issued one of the first manorial grants to be issued in Saint Mary's County in 1639. This patent was for 1,030 acres that Dr. Gerard named, "Saint Clement's Manor." This patent included Saint Clement's Island, the landing place of the "Ark" and the "Dove" that brought the first settlers to Maryland in 1634. On Saint Clement's Manor, Dr. Gerard built his home and also erected an Anglican Chapel for his wife, Susannah, and their children, who were Protestants. With this patent, he achieved the status of "Lord of the Manor." He acquired other manors becoming one of the largest land owners in Maryland. He also acquired land in the Virginia Province, one parcel being 3,500 acres in Westmoreland County, Virginia that he named, "Gerard's Preserve." He and George Thompson invested jointly in a parcel of land becoming the land's original title holder. The current title holder is the Federal Government and the location of this property is Capitol Hill in Washington D C. At one time, Dr. Gerard had owned 32,343 acres of land.

Gerard was a surgeon and a planter by trade. He manufactured liquors, particularly peach brandy, and was a breeder of fine cattle. He also took an active part in politics. In 1639, he was appointed conservator of the peace for Saint Clement's Hundred. In 1641, he was chosen Burgess from Saint Clements and two years later, he was appointed a member of the Provincial Council by Lord Baltimore and as a Judge of the Provincial Court. Other appointments and commissions followed, such as one to look after his Lordship's property and another to serve as advisor concerning Indian problems.

During the Puritan uprising (1654-1656), Dr. Gerard was appointed one of Governor Stone's captains. He took part in the battle of Herring Creek where he was captured with the rest of Stone's force. Four of the men were executed by the Puritans and Gerard narrowly escaped with his life. After the difficulties with the Puritans had been resolved, Gerard returned to his duties on the Council under the governorship of Josiah Fendall. He held this position until he aligned himself with the Fendall Rebellion of 1659. The Fendall Rebellion was to protest certain taxes, which was thought to be unfair, so the Maryland Assembly issued the first declaration of Independence in America. Governor Fendall had proclaimed Maryland a republic, which started the revolt. With the rebellion's collapse in 1660, Dr. Gerard was banished from the Province. He went to live in Westmoreland County, Virginia.



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Eventually, he was pardoned by the Maryland Council and with his citizenship restored, all estates ultimately were returned to him, but he was forbidden to hold any offices.

Bushwood Manor House



On January 26, 1654, Thomas Gerard conveyed to son-in-law, Robert Slye, and his eldest daughter, Susannah, a tract of land containing approximately 6,000 acres, which was a part of "Saint Clements Manor." He had already given to them about 1,000 acres, which was known by the name of "White Point." This tract of land had been a wedding dowery to his daughter upon her marriage to Robert Slye. Slye renamed this manor "Bushwood." He made his living as a merchant and as a planter and was one of the wealthiest men in Maryland. "Bushwood Manor" had the first "Mint" where colonial coins were made for Maryland and for other colonies as well. Slye's political career was extensive. He had also

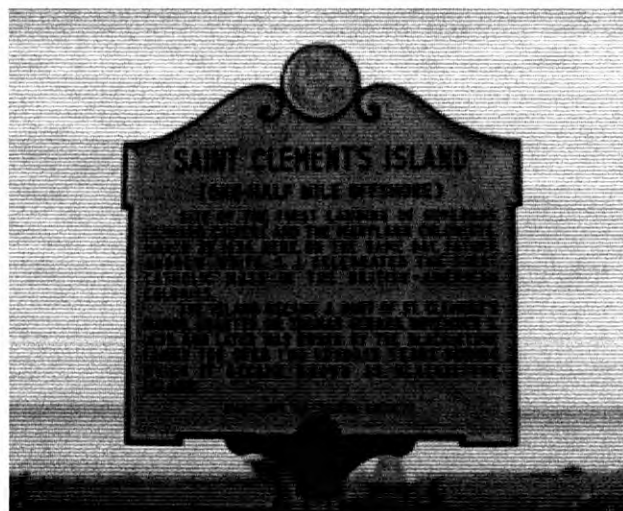
supported the Fendall Rebellion and had temporarily lost his offices, when it collapsed. But afterwards, he became Speaker of the House of Burgesses in 1663-1664. Robert Slye held the rank of Captain in the Militia.

Dr. Thomas Gerard died at "Mathotick River" in Westmoreland County, Virginia in December of 1673. He had requested in his Last Will & Testament that his body be taken to Saint Clement's for burial beside his wife, Susannah, who died there in 1666. The burial ground where Thomas and Susannah are buried no longer exists because the tombstones disappeared giving no clue as to the location of the site.

The Legacy

Some of the descendants of Dr. Gerard and wife, Susannah, eventually migrated to Washington County, Kentucky, which was still part of Virginia, as did other Catholics from Maryland. Some of them migrated on to the wilds of what is now known as Perry County, Missouri. Then a group of these Catholics went to Texas. The Mexican government invited settlers into Texas but they had to be of the Catholic faith. No other religions could be established. A Headright Certificate to a league and labor of land was issued to a settler. The league consisted of 4,428.4 acres and a labor consisted of 177.1 acres.

Bernard Brown and wife, Ann Riney Brown, arrived in Texas prior to 1833 and lived in the town of Gonzales until the Mexican Government granted the league and labor selected, which adjoined the west bank of the Lavaca River in present day Lavaca County. After the Texas Revolution in 1836, this same property was reissued by the Republic of Texas. From this league, Bernard deeded approximately 305 acres for Saint Mary's Catholic Church, the rectory and a farm, which would be used for the upkeep of the priests. The same day, he deeded an adjacent 44 acres to Bishop Odin being where the cemetery is located today. Bernard and Ann are buried in unmarked graves in this cemetery. Other descendants are also buried there. This area became known as "Brown's Settlement." Today it is known as Saint Mary's Community, which is located near Hallettsville. As of today, Hallettsville has incorporated some of the Bernard Brown Survey within its city limits.



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