

"History of Cecil County Maryland"

Head of Elk, "he being a poor man and much incumbered with people passing and repassing to the said mill along the Queen's road," which then ran from the lower ferry at Perryville via North East and crossed the Big Elk Creek at or near where the bridge now stands at Mitchell's mill, and ran down the peninsula east of the heads of Back Creek, Bohemia and Sassafras rivers.

Three months after John Smith received the deed for the one thousand acres before referred to, he and his wife and father-in-law sold the mill and eight acres, on part of which it stood, to Thomas Jacobs, bolter, who is described as being of Middletown, Chester County, Pa. This land is that south of Main street and west of the road by the mill. Jacobs also bought another tract containing twenty-one acres on the west side of the creek and running a considerable distance up the stream above the breast of the dam. It was stipulated in the deed that Jacobs was to have the right to cut as much timber as would be required to build a dwelling-house and also to rebuild the said mill and no more upon the other land of Smith free of charge. It is worthy of remark, as showing the condition of the country and the customs of the people, that "the fishings, fishing places and fowling ways" are specified as being conveyed to Jacobs. This mill continued in possession of the Jacobs family till 1784, at which time it was in a very bad condition, and Thomas Jacobs, the grandson of the person who purchased it from Smith, entered into a copartnership with Zebulon and Levi Hollingsworth for the purpose of carrying on the milling business. It was at this time that the old mill now standing was built by the Messrs. Hollingsworth, who built the mill and furnished it with a pair of French burr millstones and put £700 into the business. The third story of the mill, which is frame, was subsequently added to it.

This man John Smith did business in a curious manner. His deed to Jacobs shows that he had previously bargained to sell the mill to Allen Robinet, for he mentions an agree-

ment between that person and himself in the deed, and Jacobs covenants to indemnify him for any breach of the said agreement. Reese Hinton lived at that time on the Grange. In 1711 Smith sold seventy acres north of the Grange and adjoining the land of Jacobs to Hinton, and the next year he sold ten acres of marsh (which is the marsh west of the gas works) to Henry Hollingsworth, who, in 1711, had bought fifty acres of land from William Sluby, of New Castle, for £28. This last tract is described in the deed as being south of and adjoining the land of Simon Johnson. Hollingsworth also purchased some acres of marsh which was between Hollingsworth's Point and the mouth of Mill Creek. It is described as being near Glover's Hill, which is the hill near the west end of the causeway, across Little Elk, just above Elk Landing. In 1713 Smith, who had been absent from the county for some years, returned and took up one hundred and seventy-one acres of land, called Elk Plains, near the head of Elk River, on the south side of a path leading from head of Elk River to the town of New Castle.

In 1720 the inhabitants of New Munster and one Lewis Jones had a quarrel about a road from New Munster to the head of Elk. This road seems to have run some distance east of where the road is now located, and the quarrel appears to have been long and bitter. The petitions presented to the court in reference to it are interesting and curious. Jones owned a large quantity of land extending from Gilpin's bridge north of Elkton, to some distance north of Bellehill. The quarrel seems to have been caused by the desire of the people of New Munster to obtain a better fording of Big Elk Creek.

In 1721 many of the inhabitants of the upper part of the county presented a petition to the court, in which they state that "Whereas, the great and main King's road, leading through his lordship's province of Maryland, passing over the dangerous & swelling falls of the two heads of Elk River,

Doc # 4