



Wollaston Manor Page

Maryland roadside historical markers are concise stories about people, places and/or events that have been deemed as noteworthy of our heritage. This page lists all the historic markers within the Wicomico Scenic River watershed. The images and text describing these locations were taken from the Complete Guide to Maryland Historic Markers.

53 - Wollaston Manor, At Potomac View, west of MD 257 and Issue.

Wollaston Manor is made up of 2,000 acres patented in 1642 to Captain James Neale and was named for his Grandfather's home in Northamptonshire, England. Neale's wife, Anne Gill, was Lady-in-waiting to the wife of Charles I, Queen Henrietta Maria. Arriving in Maryland in 1636, Neale traded with Indians, was member of the Privy Council, a Commissioner of Treasury and a Magistrate. Neale's four children were born while he was King's Emissary to Spain and Portugal, and became Maryland's first naturalized citizens after his return to province in 1660. A house built near Wollaston Manor, known as "Lone Holly," survived until 1900.

Captain James Neale immigrated circa 1636/37 to Maryland. He and Anna Maria Gill resided at 'Wollaston Manor' in Charles County, Maryland. Below is a contract for building The Wollaston Manor.

Contract for Building a House.

Condicon between Capt Neale(8) & ffran: West.

It is condiconed & agreed betweene James Neale, Esqr of the one party francis West of ye other party as followeth, ye said francis West doth hereby promise & oblige himself to build for ye

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said James Neale on his plantacon on Wollaston manor one house of forty foote long & twenty five foote wide framed worke to bee nine foote betweene ye groundsill & Wall plate & all ye groundsills to bee of Locust wood ye Lower part to bee divided into five Roomes wth two chimnies below & one snall chimnye above And build to it a proch ten foote long & eight foote wide ye Loft to bee layed wth sawed wood And to build two Dormer windowes above & other window at ye end of ye left And to point all Windowes & Dores below Stayres & all Compleatly finished except ye covering & weather board-ing for & in consideration whereof I ye sayd James Neale doe oblige myself to furnish ye said ffrancis West Meate Drinke & Lodging dureing ye time of ye building ye said House & to allow him two servants namely my boy John ye Dutchman & ye other John which I have hired by Captn ffednall to doe all such workes Concerning ye said building as ye said francis shall appointe or Command them & not to bee hindered by mee ye said James Neale in Doing any other worke & further I doe oblige myself my heires & Executors to pay ye said francis West three thousand five hundred pounds weight of tobco & Caske ye one halfe to be payd at or before ye feast of ye Nativitie of our Lord next ensueing And ye other halfe at ye finishing of ye worke.

In Witness whereof ye parties aforesaid have hereunto put their hands this 22d Day of July, 1661. And ye said ffrancis West not to goe off ye plantacon of James Neale to worke or build till the worke bee fully furnished.

James Neale

ffrancis West

Testes Wiliam Bretton John Leeke

feb ye 4th 1661 This condition was Recorded.

Captain James Neale resided at 'Wollaston Manor', He left a will on 28 Feb 1718/19; proved 13 Mar 1719.

Maryland Calendar of Wills: Volume 6, page 40

Neale (Neal), James, Sr., Wolleston Mannor, Charles Co., 1st April, 1725;

11th Oct., 1727.

To eldest son James, Jr., deed of Woolleston Mannour afsd. confirmed; and personalty.

To second son Henry, deed of 500 A. Gills Land confirmed; and personalty.

To son Benjamin and hrs., 500 A. leased to and known by names of Davies, Antho. Smith, Jno. Castles and Tho. Sparkes; sd. son dying without issue, to

son William and hrs.; and personalty.

To son William and hrs., 500 A. leased to Cha. Rocks, Nat. Freeman and Thomas Marrish; and all land at Matta Woman bou. of Geo. Hinson; sd. son

dying without issue or during minority, to son Benj. and hrs.; and personalty at age of 21.

To wife Elizabeth and hrs., interest in 340 A. lying at Upper Machoteck, Va., lately in poss. of Michael Webb and Benja. Berryman; 1/3 personal estate.

[p.40]

To daus. Mary Deaton, formerly Vanswerring, Mary Tawney, formerly Neale, Ann, now wife of Mr. Edward Cole, and Margaret, personalty.

To dau. Mildred, £30 at age or marriage.

Exs.: Wife and sons Benjamin and William to divide residue of personal estate equally.

Test: Walter Story, Thos. Taney, Joseph Alvey.

Codicil: Son William and dau. Mildred to have no interest in bequests until they give bond to acquit themselves and hrs. of all interest in certain slaves

once property of dau. Elizabeth.

Date and tests same as above will. 19, 246.

Abstracts Of the Inventories And Accounts of the Prerogative Court of Maryland 1679-1686 Libers 6, 7a, 7b, 8

Capt. James Naill 8.215 Inventory CH £269.15.6 Aug 26, 16 8 4 the inventory also included # 3765

Appraisers John Faning, John Courts, Jr.

Mentions Anthony Neale, Madam Neale, father(unnamed) of deceased.

list of debts:

Mr Lynes upon account of Thomas Stacks (merchant of London), John Wudge of a bill upon John Lucombe, Patience Blagg, John Faning,

William Wells, Ed. Hapstone of Virginia, Bernard Fielder of Virginia.

Marriage Contract

Anthony Neale and Elizabeth Roswell were married 7/1682.

10/6/1681: Marriage agreement between James Neale, Gent. of Charles Co. and William Roswell of St. Mary's Co.; intended marriage of Anthony Neale, son of James and Elizabeth Roswell, dau. of William.

One month after the ceremony, James Neale is to convey one equal half of all his manor lands called "Wolleston Manor" patented for 2,000 ac.; also 300 ac. adjoining said manor; also 200 ac. patented by Neale adjoining "Gill's Land"; for use of Anthony Neale for life and after that to his intended wife Elizabeth Roswell for her natural life; and after that to the heirs of her body; also three negroes; two white hands; 20 head of cattle; ten ewes, and a ram.

Neale is to be paid 5,000 lbs. tobacco and 10 barrels of corn yearly for the term of his life and that of his wife. William Roswell is to deliver to Anthony Neale one negro man and his wife with his said daughter on or before Christmas Day next and will pay Anthony 20,000 lbs. tobacco on 10/10/1682 and 20,000

lbs. tobacco on 10/10/1683.

8/17/1682: Transfer of property as agreed.

Ref: Charles County Court and Land Records.

Dates: 1755

3, No. 56. Estate of Raphael Neal. CH. Wolleston Manor.

THE DAVID RANKIN BARBEE PAPERS FOLDER LISTING

Box: 8 Fold: 450 WALLESTON MANOR.

DATE SPAN: [01/01/1928]? - [12/31/1956]?

DESCRIPTION: Transcribed material, correspondence and newspaper clippings concerning the Neale home in Maryland.

If one had the privilege of choosing the spot where he wished to be born, he could find none more attractive than Wolleston Manor. Long ago the old manor house was destroyed by fire, and not a vestige of it remains to tell its story,

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The site where once it reared its lofty walls still exists -a small plain fronting the majestic Potomac for a mile or more, and presenting a vista of such rare natural beauty and splendor as to have no compeer on either side of that noble stream. Standing on the spot where the manor was erected in the early days of the Seventeenth Century, to the left, as one looks out on the river, lies a grove of primeval oaks, beneath whose shade the heroine of this narrative played when a child. No doubt she heard from her parents and from her kindred the saga of her family, one of the proudest that ever came from England to settle this continent. Beautiful women, the queens of Maryland issued from that race, and men of great ability, who, from the founding of the colony down to the day of her death, made and were making great history. On both sides of the Chesapeake Bay and on both banks of the turbulent Potomac lived families of the first distinction in whose veins ran the same blood that coursed through young Rose Maria's. Southern people, particularly those from Maryland and Virginia, paid more attention to their birthright than did the people of the other colonies, and that characteristic alone set them apart, as different from their neighbors to the north. It was a remarkable connection in which to be bred and educated. No aristocratic race was ever finer. And we shall see that this famous woman, descended from Irish and Spanish royalty and having the best qualities of each, was ever and always an aristocrat, deeply attached to the soil which her ancestors had cultivated, and deeply loyal to the traditions which made Maryland

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one of the foremost States in the Union. Blood kin to many of the first families in Southern Maryland, she knew the history of each family and also the history of the other great families who lived on the shores of the Potomac and were neighbors to Wolleston Manor. Around one little town - a consequential town in colonial days and down to this century -Port Tobacco, there clustered the homes of some of the most distinguished men and women of their times - homes where Washington and Lafayette and other leaders in the War of Independence were often guests, wining and dining, dancing and reclining, and sitting down to a stout game of cards. At Mulberry Grove lived John Hanson, President of the First Congress organized under the Articles of Confederation. in 1781, and often called the First President of the United States, who extended to Washington the official thanks of his country when that great soldier came to Philadelphia to make formal announcement of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. Nearby is LaGrange, named in honor of the home of Lafayette, where resided Doctor James Craik, the first Surgeon General of the United States Army, but whose chief claim to our remembrance is that he was Washington's most intimate friend, who closed his eyes in death. Neighbor to LaGrange is Rose Hill, where Doctor Gustavus Brown, the consulting physician in Washington's last illness, with his incomparable wife, dispensed a hostility that is

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traditional even in our times. Just beyond Rose Hill is Habre-de-Venture, the seat of Thomas Stone, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, although he did not favor a war with

England. His fame lingers on with the passing years. Around it clings a romantic aura, for he died of a broken heart, while still a young man, grieving over the loss of his beautiful young wife. Some miles to the southeast of this cluster of historic halls stood Wolleston Manor, a great house older than any of the others. Here Captain James Neale, on October 21, 1642, established his residence, on a grant of two thousand acres, given him by Governor Leonard Calvert.

Source: This is an excerpt from an unpublished mss of Mrs. Robert Greenhow by David Rankin Barbee.



Harry Wright Newman, "Charles County Gentry: A Genealogical History of Six Emigrants" published by author in Washington DC 1940.

Charles County Circuit Court

Land Survey, Subdivision, and Condominium Plats

MSA S1536-300: (Plats on Microfilm, CH, Index)

Reference: Land Commissions BGS 1, p.s 67-68

Date: 1874

Description: The Late Simms, Anthony, owned by heirs, Plat of Wallaston Manor and Plat of Charlestown

Image(s): Images from Microfilm

[MSA S1536-300](#), p. 1 From CR 46,985 (size: 359kB)

[MSA S1536-300](#), p. 2 From CR 46,985 (size: 624kB)

(Click the links to view the Plat images.)

The following certificate of E Wells Editor of the Port Tobacco Times a newspaper published in Charles County is as follows to wit:

Order of Ratification in the Circuit Court for Charles County.

In the matter of the petition for the division of the real estate of A. B. Simms

It is ordered that twenty third day of July 1874 that the report and return of the Commissioners for the division of the real estate of Anthony B. Simms, late of Charles County deceased, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the third Monday of October next: provided a copy of this order be inserted in the Port Tobacco Times. A newspaper printed in Charles County, once in each of three successive weeks before the third Monday of October.

True Copy of Fact

R. Ford

B.J. Stonestreet, Clk.

This is to certify that the above order in the matter of the petition for the division of the real estate of A.B. Simms was inserted in the Port Tobacco Times once in each of three successive weeks before the third Monday of October, 1874.

Whereupon the Court here passed the final order of ratification of Commissioners report filed Nov 16th 1874 is as follows, to Wit:

In the matter of the division of the real estate of Anthony B. Simms

Ordered this the 16th day of November eighteen hundred and seventy four that the report and return of the Commissioners in the same matter be and is hereby finally ratified and confirmed no cause to the contrary having been shown although notice appears to have been --- as directed by the preceding order therein.

Geo Brent

The diction of Thomas Simms to take lot No 1 is as follows to Wit: I, Thomas Simms, one of the sons and heirs at law of A. B. Simms late of Charles County deceased do hereby elect to take Lot No. 1 according to the plat in the division of the real estate of said A.B. Simms under the commission erected from the Circuit Court for Charles County to divide said real estate.

Test

Jane Simms Thomas Simms

The election of Robert Simms to take Lot No. 2 is as follows to Wit: I, Robert Simms, eldest son of A.B. Simms late of Charles County deceased and one of his heirs at law do hereby elect to take Lot No. 2 according to the plat in the division of the real estate of said A.B. Simms under the commission issued from the Circuit Court for Charles County to divide said real estate.

Test

Jane Simms Robert Simms

I, George N. Simms one of the sons and heirs at law of A. B. Simms late of Charles County deceased do hereby elect to take Lot No. 3 according to the plat in the division of the real estate of said A.B. Simms under the commission erected from the Circuit Court for Charles County to divide said real estate.