

"The Molonigraphy of Maryland,"

by John McGrain, Baltimore County
Historian

Baltimore County Chapter, Maryland
State Archives (35mm film).



History Trails

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THE WATER MILLS IN MONKTON

Shirley E. Clemens

In December of 1742 Thomas Brerewood, the proprietor of My Lady's Manor, granted unto Jacob Bull 118 acres of land on the manor. In return Bull was "obliged to build a good corn water mill on the said premises in the space of one year." (1)

Bull's lot, in terms of present-day landmarks, was along the stream called Charles Run, a few hundred yards east of the town of Monkton and on both sides of the road that leads to the manor and St. James Church, called Monkton Road.

Since Jacob Bull kept his lease until his death 14 years later, and since his will, dated November 22, 1756, left to his son, Isaac, "my parcel of land on My Lady's Manor and my water grice mill thereon", we can assume that the mill built on Charles Run about 1743 was the first mill in the town, then called Charlottetown. (2)

There is no knowledge at present of the site of this mill or of its size or the materials from which it was built. It may well have occupied the site of the present mill on Charles Run; persistent rumors hold that the brick structure is built on the foundation of a much older mill. It is an excellent location from the standpoint of water flow.

The second mill in Charlottetown was apparently built by another member of the Bull family and only a few years later at that. This second mill was on the Great Falls of the Gunpowder, on the west bank just downstream of the stone house by the old highway bridge to Hereford. Jacob Bull's son, Isaac, had begun to acquire land of his own on My Lady's Manor even before his father died. By 1764 he had leased almost 200 acres, extending from Charles Run where it enters the Gunpowder to the west: with, and across the twisting Gunpowder River, to the west line of the manor, which is in the vicinity of Matthews Road and the road to Hereford. (3)

It is interesting to note that Isaac Bull's land was not granted to him by Thomas Brerewood but by the Rt. Hon. Edward Lloyd, acting as agent for Lord Baltimore. After Brerewood's death in 1746 the ownership of the lands of the manor was in dispute in the courts but still being parceled out by the crown's official agents. Some of Isaac's land had been designated by Brerewood as small lots on Charlottetown but this plan died with the proprietor. (4)

We do not know the year in which the mill was built but we do know the date when Isaac Bull took out a Writ of *Ad Quod Damnum* on a 20-acre tract of his own land: 1762. (5) The writ specified that the land was to be set aside "ten acres on either side of the Gunpowder so as may be most convenient for the building and setting up of a mill." The site of this mill was probably southwest of the stone Bridge House on Matthews Road-Monkton Road corner. The stone walls of the last working mill were torn down in the early 1900's but are remembered by older residents of the



MANOR MILLS, age unknown, survives on Monkton Road southeast of Falls Road near Monkton, the successor of Jacob Bull's mill of circa 1742. But nothing survives for the camera from the second area mill built on Matthews Road about 1762 by Isaac Bull.

community. The tail race is still visible, and when the Gunpowder flooded in 1972, a head race was exposed on the front lawn of the Bridge House.

By 1756 Isaac inherited his father's mill on Charles Run, and therefore, when he sold his leases on My Lady's Manor to Thomas Harris in 1764, his holdings must have included both mills and a substantial tract of land. The corner of Wesley Chapel Road and Sheppard Road and the corner of Manor Brook Road and Monkton Road were roughly the eastern boundaries of this land which then included the southern portion of the present town of Monkton as well as land across the river. In terms of today's landmarks, Bull's original lot joined the smaller lots of Charlottetown approximately where Isaiah Baptist Church now stands; the church hall is probably on Bull's lot and the church on a town lot. Most of Garfield Avenue was also on Bull's land.

From Thomas Harris the property leases went to an Adam Hoopes of Philadelphia in 1770. After Hoopes' death in 1773, his wife Elizabeth transferred the property to Robert Cummins who was her nephew.

Among the many people who figured in the ownership of the water mills in Monkton, none was more controversial or colorful than Robert

Cummins, who owned the mills from 1773 until his death in 1777. This was during the early years of the American Revolution and Cummins secured a contract for selling grain to the continental troops. We know this because, when he died, his mother, who was executrix of his estate, advertised in Dunlap's *Maryland Gazette* for those who had demands against his estate on this account to come forward.(6)

It was Robert Cummins who gave the name of Monkton to what had been Charlottetown, we know this because he used the name "Monckton Mills" in writing to the Council of Safety in 1777. Cummins had been in Nova Scotia with his uncle, Adam Hoopes, helping to settle that province after it was taken from the French. He named his Canadian holdings for Colonel Robert Monckton, son of Viscount John Galloway, who had fought to regain Nova Scotia. Adam Hoopes' death and his own illness forced Cummins to leave Nova Scotia and he settled on a mill site twenty miles from Baltimore in Maryland which had been his uncle's property.(7) Possibly these British connections caused Cummins to also sell grain from Monkton Mills to the British; we do not know! It is known that his contract with the American commissary department was not renewed and that one Samuel Baxter wrote the Council of Safety in 1777 saying that everyone in Monkton except him and Benjamin Merryman were Tories.(8)

Cummins was the last owner of both water mills built a quarter of a century before by Jacob and Isaac Bull. His will and inventory left two grist mills and a sawmill valued at 1,750 pounds. He was a man of property: his inventory also listed three stills, a Negro woman and child, a blooded mare and foal (valued at 110 pounds a pair), gallons of wine, decanters, mahogany tables and chairs even a cheese toaster — all to the tune of 5,044 pounds total value.(9).

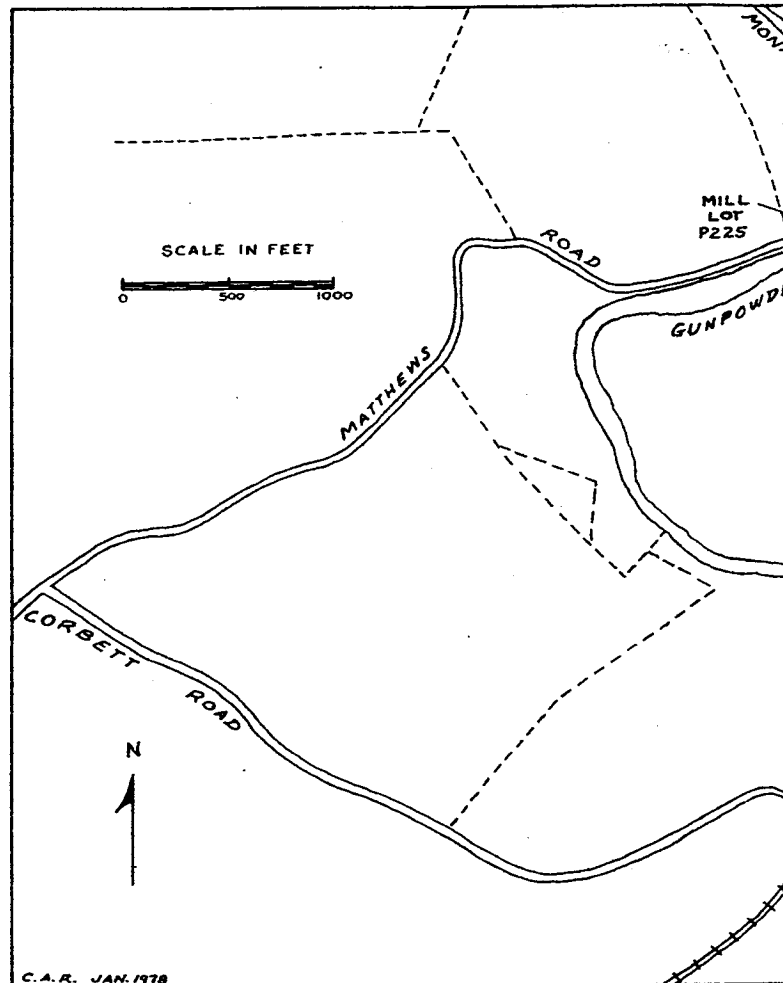
Both Monkton mills were located on My Lady's Manor and were therefore subject to seizure and sale by the Alien Property Committee at the close of the Revolutionary War. Oddly enough, the record of the forced sale of the mill on the Gunpowder River does not appear in the deeds, only in the patent certificates as filed in the early 1800's. Although on the manor, this mill was listed in Middle River Upper Hundred and not Mine Run Hundred and this may account for the difference in the recording of the sale.

Old Jacob Bull's mill on Charles Run, together with the portion of his property called Lot 70 of the manor, was sold to David Poe, and then between 1785 and 1804 it changed hands four times before it finally came into the possession of John Merryman of Benjamin. A listing for this mill cannot be found on the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment rolls; possibly it was in total disrepair at that time or land speculators were able to avoid having it listed. John Merryman did own some property on the Manor on the 1798 Tax List as did his father, Benjamin Merryman, whose chief land holdings were "Inclosure Rectified" (the present Philip Mumford property on the south side of Hereford Road on the hill west of Monkton).

It is thought that John Merryman built the brick house at the corner of Monkton-Manor and Sheppard Roads shortly after 1804. By 1823 the Tax Assessment for the old Fifth District listed him as owning an estate called "Fruitful Valley" which included a grist mill and land on the old road from Monkton to Joppa including parts of lots 60, 61 and 63 of My Lady's Manor.

By 1876 the property was in the hands of John Johnson Merryman, son of the builder of the house, and was called "Merryman's Farm"; the stream was called Merryman's Branch instead of Charles Run. This John Merryman was married to Margaret, daughter of William Gwynn of R., and a plat was drawn to divide the estate among his six sons.(10)

While the brick house remained in the Merryman family for three generations, the mill on Charles Run and the miller's smaller brick house were sold to Samuel Miller on 1864; the plat clearly shows the mill plus the miller's house and the small house as a separate parcel in the midst of Merryman land. At that time the family owned both sides of Monkton Falls Road and well into Corbett toward the village, although there was no Corbett Road

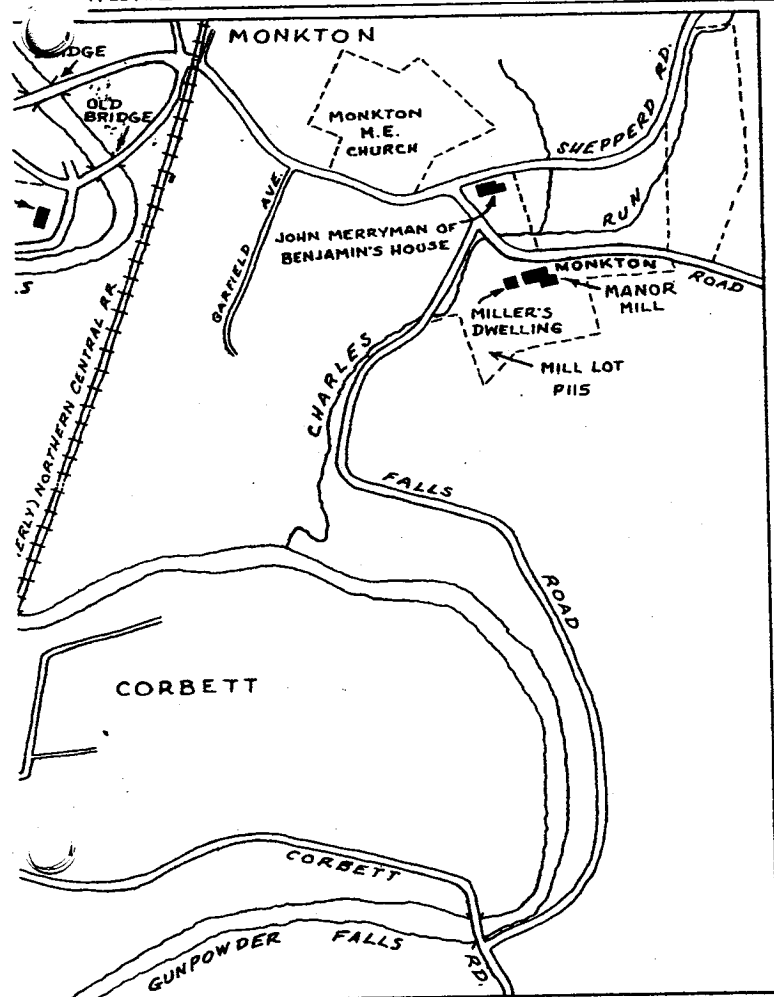


before 1883. One of John J. Merryman's sons, Robert Gwynn Merryman, built a steam sawmill and the first houses in Corbett.

About the only technical data about the surviving brick mill is found in the 1850 census of manufacturing, where John Merryman was listed as owner of a water mill of \$10,000 capital investment; there were two run of stones, one employee, and an annual output of 352 barrels of flour "and other goods" worth a yearly total of \$4,060. An account of 1943 reported an overshot wheel of 24-foot diameter; at that time miller Arthur H. Deute was still using millstones to grind cornmeal and buckwheat.

The date of the building of the mill that is standing today is not known. It might be as old as "Fruitful Valley" which is dated just after 1804; it might have been rebuilt by Samuel Miller. The Manor Mill continued to operate into the 20th Century; it was the subject of several magazine articles in 1943 and 1944 and at this time the name of the stream had been changed to Manor Branch. At the present time the stream is back to being called what Thomas Brerewood named it, Charles Run, and the mill and the house are owned by Asbel Fields and his son, antique dealers. The elder Fields lives in the house and his son Rodney and family in the mill which is being restored.

Meanwhile, Isaac Bull's mill on the west bank of the river was sold by Robert Cummin's mother, Margaret, to a John Montgomery of Carlisle Pa., who in turn sold it to Abraham Cox and Joshua Wyley, local millers. It was in Cox and Wyley's hands at the time of the Alien Property Sale but by 1785 Cox had bought out Wyley and was in serious debt. He was described as a miller and living on property on Charles Run (probably Lot 64 which begins on the west side of Charles Run). By 1791 Gwynn was the sole owner and filed an unpatented certificate for the land. In 1802 and



MAP OF MONKTON based on current Tax Maps Nos. 28 and 29 shows on Monkton Road the surviving Manor Mill, the miller's dwelling, and "Fruitful Valley", home of John Merryman of Benjamin, long-time owner of that mill seat. On the north side of Matthews Road, "Mill Lot," Parcel P225 on Tax Map 28, was the site of Monkton Mills of 1762; the faint traces of millraces discernible there last autumn had been almost obliterated by mid-winter flooding of early 1978.

William Gwynn and his family are somewhat of a mystery, having appeared in this area in the late 1780 period and coming from Ohio or Pennsylvania (we have heard both places). William had brothers: John and Robert, and the three were active in financial circles around here. William was also a vestryman at St. James Church, and several members of the family are buried in that churchyard. William Gwynn, the miller, died in 1819 and his brother John and nephew John Jr. were in charge of his land holdings. John sold some of the property to John Merryman, but by 1824 John and his son were deceased and the Gwynn affairs were being managed by William of R. (son of Robert). This William owned the stone house in Corbett known as "Cromwell's Park" and it was his daughter who married John J. Merryman to unite the two mill families.

We find William of R. and another William (son of John?) in a chancery case in 1833 in which the heirs of Gwynn forced the sale of the mill. When the highest bidder failed to pay, a second sale was arranged and the mill on the Gunpowder was bought by James Tracey and William Eichelberger. By 1840 the mill was sold again, this time to Eliphelet Parsons, who was probably the father of the Parsons who figured in the late 19th Century transfer of the Lambs School in Sparks to Baltimore as Parsons Academy.

Mr. Parsons divided the property several ways: the mill proper he sold to William Baker in 1857 and some of the land across the river he gave to his son, Lewis, who is listed on the 1876 survey as owning land on the west side of Garfield Avenue, and a house still standing in 1978.

It is difficult to determine how long the Monkton Mill operated. William Baker and his brother, George, were the millers for some time after 1857. Newspaper advertisements in 1867 and 1881 give clues that the mill had been rebuilt. The mill was three stories, of stone and frame, 40 feet square, with two pair of French burr stones for grinding. Power was provided by two Jaggar patent turbines made in Albany which developed 150 horse power. The stone dam was described as new in 1859. The second ad gave a conflicting date for the mill itself, citing the year as 1861. The turbines, which were normally buried underground, would have rendered the mill less scenic than a plant powered by a visible overshot waterwheel. There is no clue in hand as to whether this works was ever equipped with the steel-roller, self-contained flour mill units that became popular with country gristmillers after 1882.

The Bacon family, prominent in Manor history since the mid-1700's, had acquired the former Benjamin Merryman property at the top of the hill before 1850, and by the turn of the century they also owned the Bridge House and mill lot and continued to occupy the house until recent years. It was Dr. Walter Bacon who had the last stone walls of Monkton Mill torn down and hauled away — nests of copperheads under the stones posed a threat to inquisitive children.

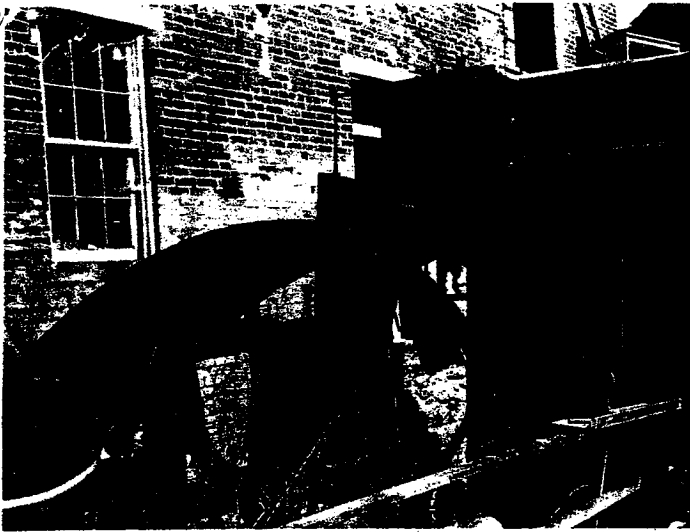
Research into the history of the land in Charlottetown and later Monkton has disclosed the information written here. It has also raised several questions that are unanswered: Why was the mill on Charles Run not listed on the 1798 tax list? Who built the stone house now known as the Bridge House? Where was the location of the home of Robert Cummins with his elaborate furniture and 5000 pound estate? How can we place the boundaries of the lots on My Lady's Manor, the Writ of *Ad Quod Damnum*, and the west line of My Lady's Manor on a modern map?

1808 Gwynn took out patents on Lots 64,65,66, and 69 of My Lady's Manor (roughly, all the land which Isaac Bull had leased 40 years previously). At this time the lands were listed as having been bought in the Alien Property Sale by Colonel Thomas Price and by David Lamar of Frederick, Md.

This water mill does appear on the 1798 Tax List although the correct listing was not discovered until recently because it was recorded (quite correctly) in Middle River Upper Hundred and not in Mine Run Hundred in which most of My Lady's Manor lay. Today the mill site and the miller's house are in Eighth District (recently changed from Seventh) while the property across the river is in Tenth District. The value of the house in 1798 was \$1,000 and the value of the land, barns, and grist mill was \$1,056.(11)

William Gwynn's property was listed as Monkton and the dimensions of the stone house and outbuildings are within a few feet of the dimensions of the house as it stands today, beautifully restored by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Durkee, Jr. The discrepancy in the dimensions may be accounted for by the report in *The Federal Gazette* of Baltimore for August 13, 1817, in which it is reported that a flood had washed out the sawmill, a part of the grist mill, and the miller's house at Monkton Mills.

Although we assume that William Gwynn lived in this house, we do not know the builder or the date. Recently a house date stone has been found bearing the date 1764 and the initials W.M. and T.H. The T.H. may stand for Thomas Harris who owned the mill and property in 1764, but the date stone might not belong to the present house; it could be from one long since torn down.



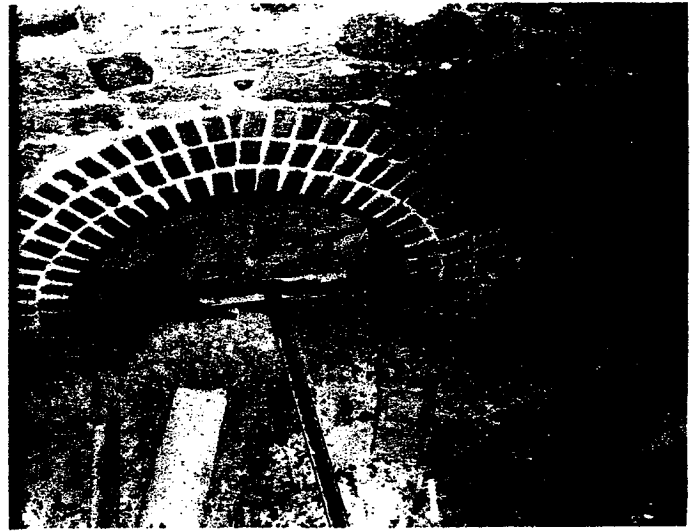
The great steel wheel on south side of Manor Mill. Set in a deep pit, its iron shaft passes through an arch in the stone foundation into the basement of the mill. Photo of April, 1978.

The last question, that of an adequate rendition of the west line of My Lady's Manor, ought to be answered before anything but speculation can be made as to where things were. In consideration of the fact that the only original stone marker on the west line of My Lady's Manor that has been pin-pointed in 1977 is the beginning stone below Corbett; that magnetic north has moved several points in 200 years; and that the bed of the Great Gunpowder may have shifted slightly—the author is of the opinion that these questions may not be answered right away.

However, the fascinating facts that delight any historian are still in evidence. Modern-day deeds make reference to mill races, new homes are being built on what is said to be Lot such-and-such on My Lady's Manor, and the old lot and tract boundaries are still very much in evidence on current maps. Those who first settled this land and ordered the building of a good corn water mill have left their marks on the land and we live with them.

NOTES

1. BC Deeds, TB No. C.f. 121-124, Hall of Records, Annapolis (hereafter cited as H.R.).
2. BC Wills, 30:223, H.R.
3. Grover McGregor Hutchins, maps made in 1947 of (a) My Lady's Manor original lots, and (b) The lots as of 1797.



Brick arch in basement of Manor Mill is part of the tailrace that passed through the mill and traveled underground through a stone-walled conduit to discharge behind the miller's dwelling.

4. BC Deeds, WG No. B.f. 415, H.R.
5. Chancery Records, BT No. 1, writ of *ad quod damnum*, H.R.
6. Dunlap's *Maryland Gazette*, Baltimore, December, 2 1777.
7. Esther Clark Wright, "The Naming of Monkton Mills," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 52 (September, 1957): 248.
8. Samuel Baxter to Council of Safety, from Monkton Mills, January 3, 1777.
9. BC Wills, Accounts, and Inventories of Robert Cummins, 1777, H.R.
10. Plat of Merryman's Farm, Original Will of John J. Merryman, Orphans Court, Towson.
11. Federal Direct Tax List, 1798, H.R.

Bibliography

Monkton Mills: research notes by John McGrain. Deeds, wills, etc., as recorded by Baltimore County Courthouse and Hall of Records in Annapolis. Tax Maps for Monkton Corbett area, 1850 Map, 1877 Atlas. Appreciation to Elmore Hutchins and John McGrain for much of this material. Also to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Durkee Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Asbel O. Fields for interviews and property inspection. To Claire A. Richardson for the site map.

New Book on Woodlawn in Stock; Also Turnpike History

The society has obtained a supply of a new book by a five-person team about the neighborhood of Woodlawn in the Second Election District. The title is *Woodlawn, Franklintown, and Hebbville*, published by the Woodlawn Recreation and Parks Council. This book contains some interesting data about a neighborhood that has received little attention from historians. There are 172 photos and eight maps as well as new drawings and paintings by Baltimore realist Melvin Miller. Woodlawn as a suburb entirely replaced the textile mill town of Powhatan that existed from 1809 until the great fire that destroyed the main mill building in 1895. The book contains an 1818 illustration of the mill complex, never before published, and the text recounts the fact that the mill was designed

by Robert Mills, more famous for his Washington Monument in Baltimore City. There are also histories of nearby communities, a plat of the proposed town of Franklin; stories of churches, early homes, and remarkable people, both farmers and suburbanites. The book will be on sale every Saturday and at meetings for \$6.95.

Difficulties Made Easy by William Hollifield is selling well but the society is counting on every member to buy a copy to allow us to recover our investment. The Enoch Pratt Free Library devoted a window display to the turnpike history and there has been favorable publicity in the local papers. Price to members is \$4.50 plus 23 cents State tax. Sixty cents extra for copies by mail. Also on sale every Saturday.

This was apparently the "Henry Rutter's Mill" shown on the tracts Mill Land and Turkey Cock Hall on a 1788 plat filed in the case of Rinaldo Johnson -vs.- Michael Kramer and John Bosley (HR Res. Plant No. 49, MSA). The mill was shown as an "x" on this plat that attempted to resolve overlapping boundary lines.

Christopher Nice's heirs advertised Nice's or Monk's Mill, 1 mile from the new powder manufactory, *Federal Gazette*, February 8, 1803.

When laid out in 1806, the Falls Turnpike was to follow a route "beginning at a tree in George Stephanson's field, in crossing the Bare Hills. When the route entered Thomas Johnson's land, it was to cross to the east side of the Falls at Monk's old mill and go through Johnson's woods to a corner of Nicholas Ruxton Moore's property, then through Thomas Johnson's meadow and woods to a tree on the 'old court road leading to Joppa,'" William Hollifield, *Difficulties Made Easy* (1977), p. 42. Calculating from the turnpike specifications, the dam was apparently at Rockland Bleach Works, and Monks Mill was most likely downstream of the Bleach Works. Other valuable proof is found in Towosn deeds, EHA 40:143 (1864).

See Robert Barnes, "The Career of Renaldo Monk, Convict," *The Archivist's Bulldog*, 13 (September 13, 1999): 1.

MONKTON DYEWOOD MILL (10)

R. J. Baker advertised in Wood's 1861 *Baltimore Directory* his Monkton Dyewood Mills: dyewood, dyeing drugs, emery paper, etc., used by woolen, cotton, soap, and paper manufacturers, machinists, and dyers. Outlet at 30 South Charles Street.

#MONKTON MILLS: MANOR MILL (10)

Two Monkton Mills have existed at two different locations. Both mills stood on the same large tract of Bull family property and took different descents after the American Revolution. The last owner of both tracts was the widow of Adam Hoopes, ca. 1771.

Research by Dr. Robert M. N. Crosby at the time of forming a My lady's Manor National Register Historic District demonstrated that the mill now called Manor Mill was the location of the first mill operation in this area and it stood on the Fruitful Valley land grant. In 1742, Thomas Brerewood, owner of the entire manor, had leased Lot 70 to Jacob Bull and required him to build a mill (Deeds TB No. C, folio 121). The second Bull Mill was on present Matthews Road and had a long life as Gwynn's Mill or Baker's Mill, and although shown on the 1915 Bromley atlas, it had been disassembled and its stones reused for road metal by that time.

In 1756, Bull, identified as "Old Jacob", left a water mill and 188 acres to his son Isaac. Isaac Bull in 1769 sold this tract along with his interest in another mill seat to Thomas Harris. Harris deeded in 1770 to Adam Hoopes. Hoopes died the next year, bequeathing the property to his wife Elizabeth Hoopes. Mrs. Hoopes sold to her husband's nephew, Robert Cummins, whose name is often spelled Cummings.

Robert Cummings apparently gave a name to the vicinity and in fact he used the name "Monckton Mills" in a letter written July 19, 1773, recording that he had purchased part of his uncle's estate for 1400 Pounds, *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 52 (September 1957): 250.

According to one, now-exploded account, the village originally called Charlotte Town, took its present name from the Monkton Mills of William Wynn [sic], who named it for Monkton Priory in Wales. See, "Youth Finds Charlotte Town Plan," *Sun*, December 4, 1947. A more supportable theory given in MHM, 52:248, was proposed by Esther Clark Wright, in "The Naming of Monkton Mills," wherein she stated that the settlement was named by Robert Cummings for Monkton in Nova Scotia. Cummings actually used the name "Monckton" in his 1776 letter to the Council of Safety (*Arch. Md.*, 12:501). Cummins intended to honor Colonel Robert Monkton, son of Viscount John Galloway, the colonel having been involved in dispossessing the French from Nova Scotia. Monkton Mills, without a "c" was a post office name from 1848 to 1883.

Robert Cummins advertised that Thomas Welsh, probably an indentured servant, had run away from his mills on the Great Falls of Gunpowder, *Maryland Journal*, July 9, 1774.

Cummins died at an early age and his mother, Margaret Cummins, served as executrix. In an advertisement about settling the estate, Mrs. Cummins gave her address as "Monkton Mills, Baltimore County," and urged her son's creditors to come forward, including, "Likewise, those who have any demands against the said Cummins, as contractor for victualing the Maryland or Continental troops," Dunlap's *Maryland Gazette*, Baltimore, December 2, 1777.

Margaret Cummings sold some of the estate lands to John Montgomery in 1778, including 122 acres of The Manor, 45 acres of Isaac's Lot, Isaac's Second Lot (23-1/2 acres), and an unnamed parcel of 20 acres (Deeds WG No. B, folio 415).

William Gwynn had a survey made, but never patented, for 131 acres called "Monkton Mills," Unpatented Certificates No. 1039, Maryland State Archives.

Dennis Griffith's 1794-1795 State map showed a mill symbol on the west bank of the Gunpowder, which would equate with the Monkton Mill near the "Bridge House." However, Griffith did not show the first mill on the Charles Run. The 1794 mill symbol marked the site where Isaac Bull had built a mill about 1762 after taking out

a writ of *ad quod damnum* to create a 20-acre mill seat within his own property. He was literally condemning his own land by this process but also creating a salable mill property--a sort of minor subdivision.

In his will, Edward Murray mentioned a mill in his bequest to son Francis Murray (1794). This had to be the predecessor of the present Manor Mill. In rapid order this property passed to Robert Gorsuch (1797), Robert Smith (1797), Gorsuch and Merryman (1799), and finally in 1804 to John Merryman of Benjamin. No Merryman mill appears in the 1798 tax list but in the assessments of Old District No. 5, the mill appeared in 1818, 1823, 1824, and 1833, taking a jump in value from \$500 in 1823 to \$1000 in the volume for 1833. John Merryman of Benjamin left the mill to son John J. Merryman in 1848. J. C. Sidney & P. J. Browne's county map of 1850 showed the J. Merryman Grist Mill just south of the present Sheppard Road, west side of Monkton Manor Road, powered by the stream now called Charles Run. "Grist Mill, J. Merryman" also appeared on Robert Taylor's 1857 county map.

On one occasion, both mills were mentioned in describing property offered for sale by Josiah Sheppard. The land advertised was "on the manor . . . near . . . a mill formerly owned by a Mr. William Gwynn, and 1 mile from John Merryman, Esq.'s mill," *Baltimore American*, January 29, 1834. The Merryman line of descent is the one related to the brick mill still standing in 2006. On the other hand, the Gwynn Mill and its dwelling were both described as built of stone in an advertisement placed by Charles F. Mayer, Trustee, *Baltimore American*, October 28, 1834.

The 1850 Census of Manufactures listed John Merryman's water mill with \$1000 capital investment, two run of millstones, and 1 employee. Annual output was 352 bbl flour per annum and other goods, worth a total of \$4060. John J. Merryman sold the mill to Samuel Miller in May 1864; in that deed, the stream was called Merryman's Branch (deeds JWS 40:504). The Merrymans retained the large brick Federal style or late Georgian house called Fruitful Valley at the SE corner of Sheppard and Monkton Roads.

An item in the *Maryland Journal* of Towson stated on August 5, 1865, that a heavy rain at Monkton on the 25th of July had washed away "Mr. Miller's Mill dam."

The 1877 G. M. Hopkins *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*, showed "G. M.--Sl. Miller" for the Manor Mill in District 10 owned by Samuel Miller.

The County Commissioners' *Journal of Proceedings* in September, 1880, contained an order "to repair bridge over Charles Run at Miller Mill, 10th District," (Vol. 5:30). Early in 1889, a county newspaper reported that a storm had washed



Manor Mill in 1978 with Rodney Field's Antique Business Truck
out "one of the flood or waste gates in the millrace belonging to Mr. Samuel Miller,"
whose loss was \$50 (*Maryland Journal*, April 6, 1889).

John J. Merryman's will included an 1876 plat showing that the mill had left the family. The brick house to the rear of the mill stood at that time--and no doubt had been there some time--assuming that the Merrymans relied on a hired miller for the actual operation of the works; that brick dwelling, while sturdy, is far from high style.

Following the deaths of both Samuel Miller and his executor, the mill passed to Samuel W. Billingsley in 1917 and was immediately deeded to Edna E. Miller. In 1920, Edna E. Miller and husband, S. Elmer Miller, sold to Frank S. Schultz. According to a *Jeffersonian* story of June 21, 1940, the mill was owned by J. F. Schultz, who was then over 80 years of age and in the hospital:

The old Monkton Mill, which was owned and operated by Mr. J. F. Schultz for a number of years is no longer in operation and has been closed. Mr. Schultz has been in poor health the past two years and is now a patient at the York Hospital with arthritis. Mr. Schultz is an octogenarian and has resided in this community a long time. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Schultz's executors sold to Robert F. Fahy and wife in 1941, and they sold to Arthur H. Deute and wife in 1942. Deute published an article entitled, "The Stones Grind Slowly," in *Gourmet*, March 1943, p. 15, where he spoke of Manor Mill at Monkton in the heart of "Our Lady's Manor . . . near point where Manor Creek dashes into the larger Gunpowder is Manor Mill . . . built of native stones and local brick and great hand-hewn timbers many years ago. It was supposedly built by a family of Dunkards, and they erected it with the idea of a long life. The mill is four stories

high and has a huge cellar below."

The overshot wheel was described as 24 feet in diameter. The mill was supposedly used as a hiding place on the Underground Railroad before the final dash for freedom into Pennsylvania [which is unlikely, because the Merrymans were slaveholders]. Mr. Deute was producing buckwheat when he wrote in that food magazine; he was also mentioned in the *Evening Sun's* article on the aid rendered to the war effort by rural millers: "State's Old Water Mills Get New Lease on Life," June 30, 1944. Deute died in 1946, and the following year his widow conveyed to J. Talbott Kelly (Deeds JWS 1527:572). In January, 1948, Kelley [sic] sold to Charles C. Walts; at that time the stream was described as Manor Creek (Deeds JWB 1635:367).

In August, 1948, Anna R. Walts conveyed to F. Kenenth Albrecht (Deeds TBS 1682:539). Towson's legal newspaper reported the sale:

The mill on The Manor at Monkton, which was recently acquired by Dr. F. Kenneth Albrecht, editor of a medical magazine in Baltimore, has been reopened under the management of Herschel Bucksath ("Mill on the Manor Reopened," *Jeffersonian*, September 13, 1948).

In 1963, Dr. Albrecht's widow conveyed to the present owner, antique dealer, Asbel O. Fields. In the 1960s or so, a cinder-block wing was attached. The stream is again called Charles Run.

About 1976, architect James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA, wrote the site descriptions for the National Register nomination of the Manor. He stated of the dwelling, "The Miller's House is a rectangular, two-storey house above a high stone foundation, three bays in length, one room in depth. A one story porch extends across the principal or east front, facing the mill, at the first floor level. An unmoulded four-panel door is centered between 6/6 windows with louvered blinds and exposed wood lintels. In its detailing, the Miller's House is identical to the adjacent mill and was undoubtedly built at the same time."

In 1977, Rodney O. Fields was interviewed by Mitch Betts about the antique business and stated that the mill had stopped running about 1950, "Monkton Mill Stone Stands Silent," *Valley Voice*, December 8, 1977.

On April 11, 1978, John McGrain, county historic sites planner, and Mrs. Shirley Clemens toured the mill and took large format photographs. The photos were used by Mrs. Clemens in an article entitled, "The Water Mills of Monkton," *History Trails*, 12 (Winter 1977-1978). After publishing that article, McGrain found in the county transfer books No. 10, 1867, an update line entry where Samuel Miller was charged with "New Mill," assessed at \$3500, in District 10, entered in 1870 (folio 4).

Notes made on the 1978 visit include the statement that there was no sign that roller units were ever adopted after they became available in the 1880s. The third floor was apparently the grinding level. Two wooden hoppers, but no millstones or vats remained inside. The mill cornice was formed of corbeled brick. Window lintels were of wood. There were several brick arches in the basement: at least four, two for wheel axles, one an arched doorway, the other of purpose unknown. There had been a grain-drying kiln in the basement in the NE corner. There was some iron gearing: iron vertical drive shafts, some bevel gears with hard wood teeth set into the iron rim. The water wheel looked more like 32 feet in diameter and was in an outside open pit. The stone walls of the first story were extremely thick. One piece of broken millstone with its grooves showing was set in an outside wall (east). There were millstones in the yard, both French burr stone as well as a conglomerate stone. Rodney Fields thought that the machinery had been removed in stages before his family's tenure. There were all kinds of notches in girts and upright posts. There were no visible pegs in the bolsters but a lot of them were split. Mr. Fields thought there were blind pegs out of sight in adjoining surfaces. In 1978, the hoist was still operable. Its rope had worn a hole in the gable peak under the hood. The pulleys were large, made of composite or laminated wooden pieces. There was also a large iron out-of-doors pulley on an axle emerging through the west end of the mill.

The mill tailrace was clearly visible to the west. There was also a part of the approaching race across the road, up a slope. The question arose of whether the water was brought in on a flume or via level ditch. There was a large iron input pipe which fed into an iron riveted box over the wheel. There were iron rods in the building and also iron tie-plates or anchors.

At that visit, before finding the Transfer Book entry, the dating of the building remained problematical. The bricks seemed to be older than a post-Civil War building, being brittle and dry. Two heads of the elevator system survived. Most of the chutes and elevator conduits were gone--some used for fuel by a former tenant. The millstones on the ground had irregular dimensions: about 45 inches--not 48 inches as expected. Some stones had "eyes" in the center, in the shape of the Red Cross symbol, obviously runner stones that in actual operation had been supported from below by an iron shaft.

Rodney Fields continued the antique business until 2004. That year, Curtis and Joann Shearer bought the mill property and promptly started restoring the brick dwelling. The Shearers invited John McGrain, Kimberly R. Abe, and Martin P. Azola to tour the mill and dwelling on October 18, 2004. The mill had suffered serious alterations since 1978, and there was much seepage from the roof. The floors in places were wearing thin. The water wheel buckets had entirely rusted away. The wooden grain hoppers from the old millstone installations were still on hand. The excellent crafting of chamfered posts was still apparent.

MONKTON MILL (Bridge House). As noted above, Isaac Bull built a mill on the west bank of the Gunpowder Falls about 1762, then sold to Thomas Harris in 1764.

