THE EASTON STAR

T. H. DOBSON, Editor.

TERMS:

One Dollar and Fifty Cents cash in advance, or *Two Dollars and Fifty Cents* if not paid within the year. Clubs of ten, *Ten Dollars* in advance.

☞ No paper will be discontinued, except at the option of the Editor, until all arrears are paid. No subscription taken for a shorter period than six months. Subscribers out of the county $2 in advance, which includes prepayment of postage.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

One square—8 lines—one insertion $1; and 25 cents for each subsequent insertion. A liberal reduction made to those advertising by the year or for six months.

Advertisements sent to the office not marked the number of times to be inserted, will be marked up and continued till ordered out, and charged according to regular rates.

Special Notices in Local column, 10 cents per line for each insertion.

The Easton Star.

Devoted to Politics, Literature, Agriculture, Foreign and Domestic News.

NEW SERIES. EASTON, MD., TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1881. VOL. XVI.—NO 18.

To Travelers.

MARYLAND STEAMBOAT CO.

CHOPTANK ROUTE—Winter Arrangement. Commencing Saturday, January 1st, 1881.

The steamer **ENOCH PRATT,** (weather permitting,) will leave Baltimore, Pier 4, Light street, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 3 o'clock P. M. for Easton, Oxford, Cambridge, Leadenhall and intermediate landings to Medford's wharf, extending Saturday trip to Denton.

Returning will leave Denton every Monday at 10 A. M., and Medford's every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 1 P. M., Cambridge at 5, and Easton at 9, arriving in Baltimore at 4 P. M.

Freight taken at low rates and carefully handled.

The steamer Highland Light will be withdrawn for the season, on and after Friday, December 31st.

RICHARD S. SYSON, President.
Office 93 Light street, built core.
Roman S. Dixon, Agent at Easton.

Winter Arrangement,

ST. MICHAELS & WYE RIVER,

STEAMB OAIVE, Capt. E. N. Dodson

On and after Monday, Nov. 29th, 1880, will leave Tunis Mills at 10 30 A. M., St. Michaels 12 M. and Claiborne at 12 45 P. M., every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, arriving in Baltimore at 6 P. M. Returning leave pier 12, Baltimore, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 12 M; arriving at Claiborne at 5 P. M., Tunis Mills 6.30., and St. Michaels 7 15

Wye River Arrangement—Leave Public Landing at 7.30 A. M., Wye Landing and Trimble's at 8 30 A. M., for Baltimore every Wednesday and Friday. Wye River passengers from Baltimore on Tuesday and Thursday will have to remain on steamer until following morning.

H. C. DODSON, General Agent.

LG

Delaware & Chesapeake

RAILWAY.

Summer Arrangement.

ON and after Monday, Sept. 28th, 1880, (Sundays excepted,) trains will run as follows:

GOING NORTH.

STATIONS.	No. 1	No. 3.
Oxford, Leave,	7 30 AM	10 00 AM
Trappe,	7 42	10 13
Easton,	8 00	10 37
Woodland,	8 18	10 56
Cordova,	8 29	11 06
Hillsboro,	8 45	11 23
Ridgely,	8 57	11 35
Greensboro,	9 15	11 55
Goldsboro,	9 30	12 16 PM
Henderson,	9 41	12 33
Marydel,	9 51	12 48
Slaughters,	10 04	1 07
Kenton,	10 22	1 35
Clayton, Arrive,	10 37	2 00
Wilmington,	12 20	6 40
Philadelphia,	1 50 PM	8 25
Baltimore,	3 22	9 20
New York,	4 48	3 45 AM

GOING SOUTH.

STATIONS.	No. 3.	No. 4.
New York, Leave,	11 55 AM	8 15 AM
Baltimore,	7 05	10 05
Philadelphia,	8 10	11 45
Wilmington,	9 25	1 05 PM
Clayton,	11 10	2 35
Kenton,	11 36	2 56
Slaughters,	11 44	3 17
Marydel,	11 56	3 33
Henderson,	12 06 PM	3 44
Goldsboro,	12 16	3 55
Greensboro,	12 33	4 15
Ridgely,	12 47	4 32
Hillsboro,	12 59	4 46
Cordova,	1 12	5 06
Woodland,	1 25	5 16
Easton,	1 41	5 38
Trappe,	2 05	6 05
Oxford, Arrive,	2 15	6 20

All Freights must beat the various stations at least Thirty (30) Minutes before starting of trains, otherwise they will lay over twenty-four hours.

Freight Trains will have Passenger Car attached, which will be subject to delays incident to the Freight business.

O. S. SANFORD, Supt.

Oxford, July 22d, 1880.

Notice to Travelers.

The omnibuses of the subscriber run regularly from the hotels in Easton to the cars and steamboats, to convey passengers to any place they may desire to go. Passengers at private residences called for at any hour by leaving word at my office, on Railroad Avenue. Horses and carriages for hire at all times at my livery stable. Travelers conveyed to any part of the county or peninsula. Handsome turn-outs always on hand.

LUTHER W. COVEY.

Easton March 25th, 1879.

Farmers and Merchants Packet Line.

The Schooners Clara M. Leonard and Annie M. Leonard.

THE above boats are making weekly trips between Easton and Baltimore, and will do all kinds of freighting as cheap as any other line. Every effort will be made to give satisfaction. Our boats are new and built out of the very best material. Orders left with Messrs. G. E. Bowdoin & Co., Commission Merchants, corner of Bowley's Wharf and Pratt st., Baltimore, will be promptly attended to. Grain bought or taken at the lowest freight rates. All Grain stored in our Warehouses, in case of fire will be at the owners risk. Agricultural lime delivered at the lowest cash price. Feeling thankful for past favors, we hope by strict attention to business, a continuance of the same.

C. E. LEONARD & BRO.

Office in same room with R. B. Dixon on Dover street, Easton.

may8,77

BRICK HOTEL

Livery, Sale and Exchange Stables,

EASTON, MD.,

SOLOMON PIPPIN, Proprietor.

Horses and Carriages

for hire. The carriages are all new and of modern style, and the horses quick draft, safe and reliable.

Passengers conveyed to any part of the peninsula.

Ample accommodations for horses at livery; also good shelter for carriage.

An Omnibus regularly to the cars and steamers.

HORSES & MULES

Always on hand and for sale or exchange. A polite and attentive assistant at the Stables in the proprietor's absence.

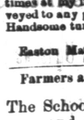
Fair Dealing and Low Prices the Motto.

The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited. apr13,79

Ready Mixed Paints.

In 1 gallon cans, in ½ gallon cans, in quart cans, in pint cans, in ½ pint cans, any shade or color, for sale by E. J. Tripp.

FOR SALE.



A good Family Horse, sound and gentle, and well broken to harness and pleasant in the saddle—will be sold cheap. Apply to

dec14tf. WM. P. POWELL.

Lumber Business.

BUY YOUR

LUMBER,

SHINGLES, LATHS,

Sash, Doors, Bricks, &c.

AT LOW PRICES FROM

SAML. BURNS & CO.,

104 Light Street Wharf,

BALTIMORE.

OAKLAND

STEAM SAW & PLANING MILL.

PINE, HEMLOCK, CYPRESS

AND OAK

LUMBER

SHINGLES, LATHS, PICKETS, MOULDINGS, CASINGS, FRAMES, SASH, DOORS, BLINDS, LIME AND HAIR,

LOCUST AND CEDAR POSTS.

We have always on hand a full supply of *MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, GEORGIA and WHITE PINE, and HEMLOCK*

Timber,

with facilities unequaled in the State for manufacturing and filling orders promptly and delivering anywhere. We invite a comparison with city or other dealers.

Our constantly increasing business is an evidence of fair prices

We have also *BUILDING HARDWARE* and a full line of General Merchandise for country trade.

W. W. TUNIS & BRO.,
OAKLAND MILLS. *EASTON, MD.*

January 14, 1879-1yr

LUMBER!

--AND--

Building Materials,

Shingles, Laths,

Lime, Hair, &c.

DOORS, SASH, BLINDS.

and Mill Work generally.

PRICES LOWER THAN EVER.

My long experience in the Lumber trade should be a guarantee to purchasers of my ability to suit them both in quality and prices.

Prime articles of No. 1 White Pine and White Hemlock Fencing now in stock.

Principal office in Easton and Yard at Easton Point connected by Telephone.

Deliveries made on navigable water free of freight.

Comparison of Quality and Prices Solicited.

ROBERT B. DIXON,
Dover Street, EASTON.

Fall and Winter Clothing!

WE ARE NOW RECEIVING AT THE

METROPOLITAN CLOTHING HOUSE,

178 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.,

(IMMEDIATELY OPPOSITE CARROLLTON HOTEL.)

From the well-known Factory of

ROGERS, PEET & CO., New York,

Our Fall and Winter Stock of

Men's, Youths' and Children's Suits and Overcoats,

Comprising every variety and style in the New York market, for elegance of quality, style, finish and low price; cannot be surpassed. The public are cordially invited to call and examine our Stock. *No* trouble to show goods.

MORDECAI & SMITH,
PROPORTIONS.

1 oct2,79y

Miscellaneous.

A RARE STOCK OF

CLOTHING!!

Wishing to close out our immense line of ELEGANTLY MADE CLOTHING before JANUARY 1ST, (all this year's make), we have made SWEEPING REDUCTIONS, rather than carry them over.

See Our Prices To-Day!

MORE REDUCTIONS.		MORE REDUCTIONS.
$5 Pants cut down to	- -	$3.50
$7 " "	- -	$5.00
$8 " "	- -	$6.50
$17 Suits "	- -	$13.50
$18 " "	- -	$14.00
$20 " "	- -	$15.00
$22 " "	- -	$18.00
$25 " "	- -	$20 00

ONE PRICE. ONE PRICE.

All fine stylish goods.

A like reduction in lower-priced goods, and in

Overcoats, Ulsters & Ulsterets,

FOR

MEN, BOYS AND CHILDREN.

Our goods are better and our Prices Lower than all the rest.

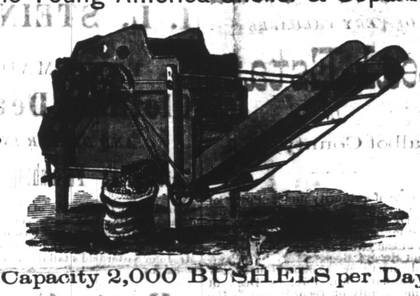
C. N. OEHM & SON.

Custom Department, 55 Hanover st. extending through to Ready-Made, 230 W. Pratt St.

mar16,80—tiljan10,81 G. LACY EATON, Salesman.

☞ Clothing made to order 20 per cent less than elsewhere.

The Young America Sheller & Separator.



Both Hand and Power. The Best is the Cheapest.

Capacity 2,000 BUSHELS per Day.

N. TUTHILL, Easton, Md.

Groceries and Provisions

LOWER THAN EVER, AT

JOSEPH MILLER'S

GROCERY AND PROVISION STORE, ON DOVER STREET, NEXT DOOR TO MAJOR W. E. STEWART'S LAW OFFICE.

I have always on hand a well-assorted stock of Family Groceries, Provisions, Queensware, Glassware and Woodenware. All the best brands of FLOUR, by the pound, bag or barrel, and warranted to give satisfaction. Great reduction in Teas and Coffees; good Tea 40 cents per pound and upwards, Coffee 16 cents and up; old Government Java and pure spices. Tobacco of the best quality, and Cigars of the best manufacture. Queensware, Glassware, Woodenware, Brooms, Pails, and all other kinds of goods usually kept in a first-class grocery store.

I have just received a new stock of

BOOTS AND SHOES

OF THE BEST MANUFACTURE, CONSISTING OF MEN'S COARSE BOOTS AND SHOES, FINE SHOES AND GAITERS, LADIES AND MISSES' SHOES OF EVERY STYLE AND QUALITY.

I am thankful to the public for past patronage and solicit a continuance of the same. Country Produce taken in exchange for goods.

nov2tf JOSEPH MILLER.

HULSE & NICHOLS,

HEADQUARTERS FOR

Tinware,

STOVES STOVES

BIBB'S NEW BALTIMORE Fire-Place HEATER.

Handsome, Perfect, Cheap, Convenient, Durable, Economical.

The most powerful heater made. Works like a charm. Guaranteed to give satisfaction. Buy no other.

THE NEW EMERALD COOK

A perfect baker. First-class with all the improvements of the latest improvement. *CHEAP AND DURABLE.* Guaranteed to give satisfaction.

Buy Only the Emerald Cook

And you will get value received for your money.

A Variety of Heating Stoves.

THE BEST FURNACES.

ROOFING & SPOUTING AT BOTTOM PRICES.

A full line of the Best TINWARE always in stock.

REPAIRING COOK STOVES, FIRE-PLACE HEATERS, STOVES, FURNACES, and furnishing Repairs for Stoves, promptly attended to.

We do our own work and guarantee satisfaction and bottom prices. Favors with your trade.

HULSE & NICHOLS.

Miscellaneous.

THE CHARITIES OF TALBOT:

Being Contributions to the Social Annals of that County.

THE FREEMASONS.

For some months past the Freemasons of Talbot county, and more particularly those belonging to Coats Lodge, No. 102, have been engaged in erecting a handsome building in the town of Easton, and soon they will be dedicating it to the uses of their venerable order with those imposing ceremonies which are usual with them upon such occasions. The building of a greater temple in a remote antiquity throughout the world is regarded as epochal in the history of masonry; the building of this less, one may hereafter be regarded in somewhat the same light in the history of masonry in this county. It is thought no more suitable time could be selected for presenting an account of this society as it has existed here from the date when the first traces of it are discoverable down to the day of the completion of this temple, which is to furnish its permanent and enduring lodge.

It is proper to say by way of preface to this account that the writer has labored under the disadvantage of not being a member of the fraternity, and thereby of having the records of the lodges closed to his personal inspection. It is right, however, that he should add, that members of the order have, as far as they were permitted by the rules of the Grand Lodge, assisted him in securing from those records much information of masonry in Talbot which he could not otherwise have obtained. It is a matter of regret that the records of the lodges prior to the year 1823 are missing and perhaps irrevocably lost. What has been said, however, of masonry, anterior to this date, has been drawn from thoroughly authentic though scanty sources.

Enthusiastic masons are accustomed to claim for their order an antiquity which the more critical are unwilling to concede. Antiquarians, who are not biased by their partiality, have not been able to perceive those indications of a remote origin which seem clearly visible to the devoted brethren of the craft. Indeed they are sometimes disposed no longer to examine and question, but to ridicule the pretensions of those who in their zeal for the honor of masonry profess to be able to see in some of the customs of certain ancient societies a portion of the ritual, in the sculptured figures upon ancient edifices or statues, some of the signs and symbols, and in the phrases of ancient inscriptions and writings, some of the mystical words of Masonry. In all ages and in all regions the human mind being essentially the same, it has adopted the same expedients and methods to secure certain ends and satisfy certain needs.—Hence traces of secret brotherhoods are discoverable wherever and whenever men have been gathered into organized communities, and the necessity of mutual support and protection has been felt.—From this source has sprung legendary or mythical masonry. Historic masonry begins with those associations of practical architects and their workmen in their several grades, who, in what are called the dark ages of Europe, banded themselves together for the purpose of securing certain important ends, mutual protection from oppression, remunerative wages, and constant work in the line of their calling, freedom from destructive competition with those poorly instructed and qualified in their trade, the preservation within themselves and transmission to their successors of certain secrets of their craft, and finally succor and assistance in time of sickness and trouble.—These associations took the simple name of Hutten, or Lodges, and under their direction, and with their labor were erected many of those grand cathedrals and other large edifices which remain to this day as monuments of practical or operative masonry. This form or phase of historic masonry may be said to have disappeared about the beginning of the last century, when practical workmen ceased to make up the lodges, and men untrained to the handicraft took their places.* But even before this date, it had been allowed to admit to the lodges certain persons, usually personages of distinction in the church or state, who were recognized as "accepted," and as differing from the working masons.

Speculative or theoretical masonry dates from the year 1717. In this year, according to the best authorities, the first lodges of free and accepted masons, as distinguished from the ancient working masons made their appearance at York, in England. In the year 1725 lodges were established, conformable to the English rite in France, in the year 1735 in Germany, and the year 1730 in America. The first lodge ever formed on this continent, disregarding those mythical lodges said to have existed among the aborigines, was that which was organized in the year last mentioned, and held at the Tun Tavern in the city of Philadelphia.† In June of this year Col. Daniel Cox of New Jersey—a name so familiar to us of this county as to suggest a probable connection between him who may be regarded as the father of masonry in America and some of our Talbot families—was commissioned Grand Master of the provincial lodges in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. To this lodge, held in the Tun tavern, authorized and sanctioned, but apparently not established by Col. Daniel Cox, the lodges Talbot trace their succession.

The origin of masonry in this county is almost as obscure as its genesis in the world. Who was the first mason here, or where and when was established the first lodge, it is now impossible to say.—Through the intercourse, social and commercial, which subsisted between Philadelphia and the people of this peninsula, to say nothing of that with the old country, through emigration and trade, it is altogether probable that unassociated members of the order were scattered here and there throughout the counties on the Eastern Shore, having received their degrees in the city to which there was frequent resort by those of the mechanic class, or in England their original home. But the first well attested evidence of the existence of Masons in Talbot, or even in the province of Maryland is of the date of 1764 and is derived from the files of the old Maryland Gazette, of Annapolis.—This evidence consists of an advertisement inserted in that paper to the effect that the money received for tickets in a lottery which had been projected for the benefit of the masons of Talbot county, would be returned to the subscribers, as the chances would not be drawn according to the scheme proposed. It would appear that the managers, whose names unfortunately are not mentioned, had been unsuccessful in disposing of a sufficient number of tickets to justify the drawing, and therefore they honorably returned the money. While this advertisement is proof positive of the existence of masons in Talbot in 1764, it furnishes none of the existence of an organized lodge; but taken in connection with the peculiar phraseology of the petition presented in 1780 to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, for the establishment of a "new lodge" in Talbot county, the conjecture is rendered more than plausible, that at the date indicated, 1764, the brethren of the craft were associated, and were working under some duly recognized authority, derived either from England or from Pennsylvania.‡—It is proper to say this advertisement does not indicate the purposes to which the money to be raised by lottery was to be applied, but it is, probably, not wide of the mark to say it was for the purchase of the "jewels" of a lodge and other paraphernalia. As indicating the progress of morals, it is not improper to note that it was not considered improper at the time to raise money by lottery for any laudable purpose, even the building and repairing of churches. At a more recent period, as will be pointed out in the sequel, the masons of Easton resorted to a lottery to raise money.

This advertisement is the only intimation of the existence of Masonry in this county anterior to the revolutionary war.‡ There is evidence however of the existence of lodges upon the Eastern Shore before this epoch. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania had granted a charter to a lodge, numbered 6, which assembled at Georgetown in Kent county as early as May 23, 1766. A charter a little later, though the precise date is not known, was granted to a lodge, numbered 7, meeting at Chestertown in the same county. On the 16th of September 1773 a charter was granted to a lodge assembling at Queenstown, Queen Anne's county.—This lodge, numbered 17, by the year 1779 had become enfeebled, probably by the civil troubles of the time, and had fallen into pecuniary embarrassments, from which they asked some relief from the Grand Lodge. But it continued its organization and with Nos. 6 and 7 was one of the original constituent members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Under the date of February 10th, 1780, we have the following minutes of a "lodge of Emergency" assembled at the request of the Deputy Grand Master, of Pennsylvania, Doctor John Coats: "After a proper and affectionate address to his brethren, he acquainted them that he was under the painful necessity of removing into another State, at a distance from the seat of the Grand Lodge, but that wherever he might be settled he would at all times exert his utmost endeavors to serve the cause of masonry and every brother in particular. He signified at the same time his desire of having a warrant for collecting and holding a new lodge in the county of —— in the State of Maryland, where he is going to reside. The members of the Grand Lodge express their affectionate concern for parting with their worthy brother, the Deputy Grand Master, from whose learning and knowledge in the masonic art, and his zeal to promote the same, the Royal Craft has received great benefit, and they unanimously agreed that when our worthy brother Coats shall think proper to apply for a warrant, and recommend his officers, this Grand Lodge will most cheerfully grant the same."‖ This indefinite, but entirely authentic notice of a purpose to establish a lodge in Talbot, is the first of its kind that has been discovered. At a meeting of the Grand Lodge on St. John's day, June 24th, 1780, Dr. Coats presiding as deputy Grand Master, pro tempore, "A petition from Talbot county

*Sir Cristopher Wren, the builder of Saint Paul's, London, is said to have been the last Grand Master of a working lodge.

†Much of the information respecting the formation of the early lodges upon the Eastern Shore, and elsewhere in Maryland, and also of the institution of the Grand Lodge of this State has been drawn from a work now publishing, but yet incomplete, of which the primary title is: "The Grand Lodge of the most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania."

*In the year 1765 a warrant or charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Great Britain to certain citizens of Baltimore county to establish a lodge of Masons near the town of Joppa, the ancient county seat. It is proper to say that this lodge had received its authorization from that section of the masons called and known as "the moderns," and that in 1781 it applied to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a new charter, which was granted February 1st, 1782. This lodge was then numbered 35. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, chartered Lodge No. 15 in Baltimore, Jan. 28, 1770, and Lodge No. 18 in the same town Sept. 21, 1779. A list of the members of the first of these lodges for the years 1778 to 1780 is in the possession of the Maryland Historical Society. It united with the Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1790. The other soon became extinct.

†The writer has been informed by a mason that this advertisement is incontestable evidence of the existence of a lodge here in 1764, for a lottery for masons could not be formed without authority from a lodge.

‡During the progress of this great contest, namely in April 1780, a warrant was issued by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for the formation of a military lodge, by the brethren of the Maryland line, to be held wherever they happened to be quartered. At this time they were participating in the southern campaign. The officers of this lodge were General Mordecai Gist, Master; Colonel Otho Holland Williams, Senior Warden, and Major Archibald Anderson, Junior Warden. The last named is believed to have been a Talbot soldier, as he first enlisted in 1776 as a lieutenant in the independent company of Captain James Hindman which was recruited chiefly, if not wholly, in this county. Lieutenant Anderson became Captain in 1777 in the regular or continental line, and at the date of the organization of this lodge was serving under General Smallwood in the south, with the rank of Major.—He distinguished himself in the battle of Camden, sharing the glory of the Maryland troops in the midst of the shame of a disastrous defeat of the army, and he died bravely and honorably on the field of battle at Guilford Court House, March 16th, 1781. He is another of Talbot's military worthies, if indeed he was a Talbot man, to whom neither due justice has been done, nor upon whom have merited honors been bestowed.

‖There is little doubt that the blank in this extract should be filled with the name of this county, to which Dr. Coats removed about this time. Of this worthy so complete and full account as is possible, will hereafter be given in this contribution.

*It is proper to state that at a previous meeting in April 1780, Dr. Coats had made application for a warrant to hold a lodge at Cambridge in —— county, Maryland, and the warrant was ordered to be engrossed. The number of this lodge is not given, but it is known to have been 29. It is very evident Dr. Coats had been down this peninsula, preparatory to his final adieu to Philadelphia, and that he had visited Cambridge and Easton. Being a zealous mason he had interested himself in making preliminary arrangements for the formation of lodges in each of those towns. At this date there were already lodges at Georgetown and Chestertown in Kent and at Queenstown in Queen Anne's as before noted.

†The Brother Smith mentioned in the text was the Rev. Dr. William Smith, a most zealous Mason, who for five years Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He was an able and distinguished clergyman of the Church of England and then of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America. He at one time was Provost of the College afterwards University of Pennsylvania, and the first Principal or President of Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland. He was a man of fine attainments and pure character. His piety and learning caused his name to be mentioned in connection with the the bishopric of Maryland.

‡The account of the institution of the Grand Lodge of Maryland has been compiled chiefly from two sources, viz. "The Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania," referred to above, and now in course of publication, and to "The Maryland Abridgment Book" to which is prefixed a "History of Masonry from the establishment of the Grand Lodge [of Maryland] to the present time" [1797]. Both these books have the authentication of the Grand Lodges by which they were respectively published. It is proper to say that there is a difference in the dates of the meetings of the Conventions, and of the related incidents, of just one year, the Penna. Proceedings giving 1780 and the Maryland Proceedings 1781, but at the last more complete and probably as personal knowledge of what is recited in them, their dates have been followed in preference. For the use of the book containing the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Penna. the writer is indebted to Coats Lodge, No. 102, for that of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, to the Librarian, J. W. Lee, of the Maryland Historical Society, to whom care one of the few copies extant is committed.

Deputy Grand Master, and left for consideration to the next Grand Lodge. Brother Charles Gardiner was proposed as Master, Richard Skinner, Senior Warden, and John Stevens, Junior Warden." This petition came up for consideration in due course, at the meeting on the 24 of July, 1781, and was "unanimously granted, and a warrant numbered 34 was accordingly ordered. Brothers Coats and Smith were appointed to install the officers, to wit: Charles Gardiner, Master; ——, Senior Warden; ——, Junior Warden." Doubtless these blanks should be filled with the names of Richard Skinner and John Stevens. This furnishes the date and the circumstances of the organization, as well as the names of the first officers of the first lodge in Talbot county of which we have unquestionably authentic information. Up to this period, what is known of Talbot Masonry is much obscured by the mists of an unwritten past. With the organization of lodge number 34, however, historic Masonry in this county begins, and though it is impossible from the loss of many of the records of the lodges to trace its subsequent course uninterruptedly, it is possible, with here and there a break in the continuity, to follow it down to the present time.

But it now became necessary to abandon this minor stream, of which the very fountain and origin have been disclosed, to explore to its sources the grander river of Maryland Masonry into which it was soon diverted, and of which it became a principal affluent and tributary. Soon after the independence of the American colonies had been assured by the success of their arms, and indeed before the treaty of peace had been signed by which that independence was acknowledged by the mother country, the question of the expediency of establishing Grand Lodges throughout the confederacy which should severally embrace all the lodges of each particular State, was discussed by intelligent masons. Further: with the upgrowth of the political idea of a national unity, harmonizing with a united State sovereignty were the correlated Masonic ideas of a supreme lodge which should embrace all the subordinate state grand lodges. On the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where masonry seems to have taken deep root, and to have spread widely, these ideas were freely canvassed, and especially by Dr. William Smith. This earnest mason eventually had the co-operation of Dr. John Coats, though at first this gentleman was reluctant to sever ties which were strong by reason of their long continuance and tender because of their pleasing associations or reminiscences. In the end however no one was more earnest in advocating the plans of separate State Grand Lodges, and of one supreme federal lodge, to which the others should acknowledge a kind of fealty, than Dr. Coates. This discussion led to the calling of a convention of representatives or delegates from each of the lodges upon the Eastern Shore, at Talbot Court House as Easton was then called, on the 17th day of June, 1783 (or according to the Pennsylvania record 1782) for the purpose of establishing a Grand Lodge for the State of Maryland. At this convention there were but four lodges represented, namely No. 17, (Queenstown); No. 29, (Cambridge); No. 34, (Talbot Court House); and No. 37, (Princess Anne). No. 7, (Chestertown) was represented by proxy, Dr. William Smith acting in that capacity. The delegates representing the Talbot lodge were John Needles, Master, and Charles Crookshanks, Senior Warden. Dr. John Coats was also present, but as a visiting brother as of Lodge No. 3, of the city of Philadelphia. The delegates having assembled together proceeded to elect officers for the purpose of opening a lodge, when Dr. Coats was chosen master Mr. William Jameson (of Dorchester) Senior Warden, Mr. John Stevens (of the same county) Junior Warden, and James Kent, (of Queenstown) Secretary. It was unanimously resolved "that the several lodges, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, consider it as a matter of right and that they ought to form a Grand Lodge, independent of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania." It was then proposed that there should be an election of the officers of the "said Grand Lodge," but as the representative of lodge No. 7, Dr. Smith, who was versed in Masonic law, objected, on the ground that he was not authorized to join in such election, and that by his enforced withdrawal there would be but four lodges to participate, whereas five were necessary to make the election legal or constitutional. It was therefore resolved to postpone the election to the meeting of a Grand Convention on the 31st of July following when, it was expected there would be a sufficient number of lodges represented to complete the organization of the Grand Lodge of Md. It was agreed to petition the parent Grand Lodge for a warrant for the new Grand Lodge thus inaugurated. Dr. William Smith consented, on application "to prepare a sermon for the brethren against their next meeting." This first "Grand Convention of the Freemasons on the Eastern Shore of the State of Maryland" then adjourned.

On Thursday July 31st, 1783 the second Grand Convention assembled at Talbot

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