



PATENTIA ET PERSERVERANTIA

Dent

THE MARYLAND "DENTS

A Genealogical History of the
Descendants of Judge Thomas Dent
and Captain John Dent who settled
early in the Province of Maryland

By

HARRY WRIGHT NEWMAN



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JUDGE THOMAS DENT AND HIS
DESCENDANTS

THE ENGLISH BACKGROUND

On the banks of the River Dee in West Riding of Yorkshire is a town called "Dent", the founding of which goes back to at least the 12th century, and thus originated the English family of that name. Four centuries later two members of this Yorkish family arrived in the Province of Maryland and without doubt established the most distinguished branch of that name in America.

Dent or Dente was the word for dale or a small valley in old Anglo-Saxon, so it is self evident that the patriarch of the family took his surname from the dale around the River Dee. At present Dent is a compact little town reasonably characteristic of the many villages of the Pennine dales. It is largely of 18th and 19th century buildings, except the Church which is considerably 15th century. The town was once of great importance in the hand-knitting industry, but its position in this respect and that of a market and industry has been largely surrendered to Serdbergh, a few miles away.

As the sons of the patriarch attached their Christian names to his with the de of the Normans, there developed a strong and prolific family which eventually wheeled a certain influence upon the economic and political life of the shire. They fought in all the battles of that period, taking side with this noble and that noble—sometimes losing and sometimes winning. They rose in statue and soon earned the titles of "Gent." and "Esq.".

Several were knighted from time to time, especially during the War of the Roses, when North Britain for the most part displayed the Red Rose of the Lancastrians or adherents of Henry IV. In those ancient days when knighthood was in flower, only knighthood was bestowed for heroic exploits on the battlefield or at tournaments. As the Dent family rose in importance, it was armorialized by letters-patent and thus entitled to bear arms.

The patriarch selected a silver shield upon which he placed a bend and adorned it with three lozenges on which he placed dabs of ermine. Why he selected these charges and made the bend black and lozenges of ermine, records fail to relate, but it henceforth became the symbol and armorial bearings of the Yorkish House of Dent. It was the identical arms which was used by the early generations in Maryland and as a reverence for their heritage many members of the Dent family display it today. Unlike many family escutheons, the original Dent arms has undergone but few variances by cadet branches.

For their local pride and interest in the development of their native Yorkshire, the various members of the family did not mingle with the East Anglia and West County families. They were apparently satisfied with the fertile and pastoral scenes of their traditional environments of North Britain and intermarried with native Yorkshire families or the gentry houses of adjacent Durham and Northumberland.

While several branches of the Dent family appear in the Visitations of York in the sixteenth century, the herald somehow overlooked or failed to register the immediate branch of the Maryland emigrants. But it took an enterprising professor of natural sciences of Cambridge University, one Peter Dent, Gent., to record his pedigree in 1684, now a priceless document in the College of Arms, London.

Back in the late fourteen hundreds and early fifteen hundreds lived one James Dent, Gent., whose estate embraced "Ormesby", a parish in North Riding of York near Middlesborough and not far distant from County Durham. He and his wife begot several children, some of whom distinguished themselves in battle, jurisprudence and the Church. Like all families some remained loyal to the ancient English faith, while others clung to the Roman ritual. For the most part, however, the Dents were adherents of the Reformation and followed the tenets of the Established Church of England.

James Dent, of Ormesby, Gent., had a son and heir, Peter, who inherited the parental estates in Ormesby. Of his children there was a younger son, Peter, who acquired an estate which he called "Gisborough". He married a daughter of the Rev. William Nicholson, of Hutton Cranswick, a parish in East Riding near Hull. One Margaret by name, and it were they who became the parents of the learned professor of Cambridge and the father of Judge Thomas Dent, of Maryland, Esq.

Thomas Dent arrived at St. Mary's City during the sixteen-fifties bringing with him a young kinsman, John Dent. Immediately upon his arrival he became a leader in the political and social life of the Province and his descendants in each succeeding generation followed his leadership. Today while the Dent name is not associated so much with politics in America, the descendants of Judge Thomas Dent play a conspicuous yet for the most part conservative role in the social life of America. John Dent, the kinsman, became active in the Provincial Militia but was allied more with a liberal group than Judge Thomas Dent.

The two branches remained quite apart socially, politically and economically. In the early days there apparently were no intermarriages between them—but this was not so true in the Federal period or after the

Revolution. Judge Thomas Dent received favours from the Lord Proprietary during his political ascendancy from the defeat of the Puritans in Maryland during 1658 to the overthrow of Lord Baltimore's rule by the radical Protestants in 1689. On the other hand Captain John Dent was involved in some spurious contrivances perhaps through the influence of his father-in-law, the one-time Puritan John Hatch of Kent Isle notoriety and had intrigued with the plotters to overthrow the rule of the Calverts. Judge Thomas Dent on the other hand, although he had passed on before the ascendancy of William and Mary which encouraged the liberal Protestants to act against the rule of Lord Baltimore, received favours and honours from the Calverts up to the time of his death. Judge Thomas Dent, therefore, can be placed as a conservative and not a liberal like his compatriot, Captain John Dent.

JUDGE THOMAS DENT, GENT.

It is matter of conjecture which prompted Thomas Dent, of Gisborough, Yorkshire, Gent. to seek the adventures of the New World and especially the Province of Maryland. The Calverts, you know, were a Yorkish family and second to London Town the Yorkshiremen were more acquainted with the virtues and advantages of Lord Baltimore's Province than perhaps other Englishmen. He was young, certainly in his twenties, unmarried and not the eldest son to receive the inherited wealth of his parents.

What vital part as a youth he played in the Parliamentary Wars between the Royalists and the Puritans is not known, but Yorkshire espoused the cause of the Stuarts rather than the Cromwellians. He was down to London about the time that the Cromwellians were losing favour with the populace and the agents of the Royalists were intriguing to recall Charles Stuart, later Charles II, from his exile in France.

While in London he contracted to transport as his own expense five willing Britishers to Maryland, for which he was responsible for their passage and "keeps" during the voyage and then saw that they were suitably housed in Maryland. That he had sufficient financial resources for this task is therefore inevitable. In all probability he and his proteges sailed from the port of London, but the name of the ship is not known. They arrived in Maryland sometime before 1658 or just about the time that Lord Baltimore was able to wrestle his Province from the rule of the Puritans.

Fresh from the Inns of London where he read law Thomas Dent upon his arrival soon established himself as a lawyer and sought quarters on Barristers' Row in the then flourishing village of St. Mary's. Cecilius, Lord Baltimore, granted him 50 acres of land within the town's limits on Aldermansbury Street which he called "The Lawyer's Lodging." His marriage to the young daughter of the Anglican clergyman soon occurred after his settlement, and then a young and interesting family group developed.

Peculiarly his wife had her roots in Yorkshire also. She was Rebecca Wilkinson, the Virginia born daughter of the Rev. William Wilkinson and Naomi his wife. His father-in-law was the first Anglican clergyman to be accredited to Maryland, although services of the Church of England had been read by laymen from the beginning. He was the son of the Rev. Gabriel Wilkinson, born 1576, in Yorkshire, a graduate of Merton Col-

lege, Oxford, and vicar of Woodburn, Bucks, until his death on December 17, 1658. William, the son, was born 1612, entered Magdalen College at 14, and received his M.A. in 1632. Within three years he had married and settled in Virginia.

On November 20, 1635, the Rev. William Wilkinson received 700 acres of land in "Linhaven, commonly called Chisopeian River" opposite the plantation of Captain Adam Thorrogood whose daughter became the ancestor of the Dents of another generation. After a residence of some fifteen years in Virginia during which time he buried his first wife and married the Widow Budden with a daughter, he settled in Maryland and became rector of Popular Hill parish.

On October 10, 1650, he applied to His Lordship's Land Office at St. Mary's for 900 acres of land, his right for his own personal adventure and for the transportation of his three daughters, Mary, Rebecca and Elizabeth, his wife and her daughter and three servants—William Warren, Robert Cornish and Anne Stevens.

Thomas Dent had not been married too long when his father-in-law died. Feeling that the end was approaching, the Rev. Mr. Wilkinson drew up his last will and testament on May 29, 1663, in the presence of Randall Hanson and Daniel Smith. He probably wrote his own will as neither one of the witnesses were literate, yet it is not beyond the realm of possibility that one of his sons-in-law was present and was responsible for the writing.

After a few legacies to his step-daughter, Elizabeth Budden, the daughter of Margaret "my last wife" and his two grandsons, William Dent and William Hatton, the residue of his estate was divided between his son-in-law Thomas Dent and Rebecca his wife and his son-in-law William Hatton and Elizabeth his wife. The instrument was probated at court on September 21, 1663, with the two sons-in-laws as executors.

It is quite evident from circumstances that his last wife, Margaret, had pre-deceased him, as she received no bequest in the will. The step-daughter, Elizabeth, was apparently of young age, because she died in 1673/4, unmarried when Thomas Dent and William Hatton stated in court that they had cared for her since the death of her step-father and requested letters of administration upon her estate.

The following children were born to Judge Thomas Dent and his wife, Rebecca:

1. William Dent, born 1660, married Elizabeth Fowke and Elizabeth Brooke. *q.v.*
2. Thomas Dent, no further record.

3. Peter Dent married Elizabeth Ballard and Jane Pittman Gray. *q.v.*
4. George Dent, *d.s.p.* before 1702.
5. Margaret Dent married May 26, 1681, Edmund Howard.
6. Barbara Dent, born 1676, married Thomas Brooke.

The first public office of note for Thomas Dent was his commission in 1661 as a Magistrate of the County Court of St. Mary's or one of the several Justices of the Peace, an institution for justice founded by Edward III of England back in the fourteenth century. In Colonial Maryland the office was invested with much dignity and prestige. He was soon advanced to a Justice of the Quorum, another honour of note for without the members of the Quorum no judicial action could be taken. He was a Magistrate as late as 1670.

As Lord Baltimore visualized his town of St. Mary's as an important metropolis and the entrepot for all trade with England and the Continent, it was incorporated and granted its first charter in 1667 with mayor, recorder, aldermen and councilmen. A second charter was issued in 1671, at which time Thomas Dent was named as one of the seven councilmen.

As the holding of office in those days was multifarious or prominent men holding several dignities, along with his judicial duties on the county bench, Thomas Dent was appointed in 1664 to the Shrievalty of the County—always an appointed post of that day. There is also a record of his being High Sheriff in 1667.

Continuing his interest in public service and winning the esteem of his fellow citizens in St. Mary's County, he was elected by the freeholders to the Lower House of the Assembly in 1669. He was reelected in 1674 and 1675 and held the office at the time of his death.

While no direct evidence has been found of any military title or his serving actively in any armed conflict, the Council had sufficient confidence in his ability to secure provisions for the proprietary militia upon several armed campaigns against hostile Indians. On February 8, 1667/8, he and Robert Slye were appointed by the Privy Council to secure "28 barrels of corn and 4000 weight of meat out of St. Marie's County."

On one occasion he acted as an emissary to the Colony of Virginia by which he was entrusted with a letter of instructions to Colonel John Washington and Isaac Allerton advising that Maryland would do her share of equipping five troops of men with sufficient horses, arms, ammunition and subsistence for an expedition against the warlike and cruel Susquehanna Indians. The tribe would come down from what is now eastern Pennsylvania and New York and ravage the Maryland Plantations and on oc-

casions murder the settlers. Upon his return to Maryland he was commissioned by the Council, dated November 1675, to equip and organize the militia for the planned expedition.

While his activities centered mostly in public service, he did not neglect the opportunity to enlarge his estate for the future security and proper maintenance of his growing family. Land was plentiful for a small fee or by the financing of Britishers to settle permanently in the Province, and while the quit rent to Lord Baltimore was high, it did not deter him from patenting undeveloped tracts on the frontier or purchasing desirable plantations along the rivers and creeks in the more settled parts of St. Mary's and Charles Counties.

Although he had been in the Province for several years, it was not until March 26, 1663, that he proved his rights to 300 acres of land for transporting himself into the Province and financing the passage of John Dent, John Winne, Conant Stephenson, George Atley and John Venables.

On May 4, 1663, William Hatton, his brother-in-law, assigned him for a valuable consideration certain land rights amounting to 550 acres. One of the witnesses to the assignment was John Dent, presumably the protege whom Thomas Dent transported. With these rights of 850 acres, the Lord Proprietary granted him on September 4, 1663, a plantation of that acreage on the Anacostia River in a then unsettled portion of Maryland to which he gave the name of "Gisborough". The survey stated that it lay on the east side of the Anacostia River in a branch of the said river called the Eastern Branch along a little arm which was given the name of Gisborough Bay. As the early surveyors had little knowledge of the geographic formation of the back country, the Anacostia River was undoubtedly the Potomac River. The Eastern Branch was the tributary of the Potomac which retained that name until the twentieth century when it was officially re-named the Anacostia River. Gisborough was virtually the land where the village of Anacostia developed in the 19th century, but now within the National Capital. Gisborough Point is still known today by old timers of the National Capital.

About this time or in May 1663, he and William Hatton agreed to the partition of the tract of 900 acres which they had purchased jointly a short time previously from Nicholas Guither known as "Guither" or "Guyther". This tract later became the seat of his son, Colonel William Dent, and his descendants which became known as the senior branch of the family.

On March 15, 1665/6, he proved to the satisfaction of His Lordship's Agent that he transported six additional settlers to Maryland at his own expense, namely James Thomas, John Mills, Katherine Festus, John Saun-

ders, William Pritchett and John Headland. He thereupon assigned the warrant to Alexander Frizell. On January 7, 1666/7, he entered land rights for transporting two additional settlers which he assigned to Sylvanus Gilpen, of Calvert County. On December 20, 1669, he conveyed his rights for bringing-in three persons to Francis Hill.

On July 9, 1670, he entered his rights for 29 named indentured servants, assigned him by Henry Hall, of St. Mary's County, for which he received a warrant for 1500 acres. Rather than patent this large survey he seemed to have assigned various portions from time to time. One of his assignees was William Hatton, Gent., to whom he conveyed 150 acres.

About this time Richard Edelen, Gent., was the Deputy Surveyor of St. Mary's County, a family into which the descendants of Thomas Dent later intermarried. It is certain that they were friends of that day, for Richard Edelen himself was likewise the son of an Anglican clergyman of England. On March 20, 1671/2, Richard Edelen made statement that he had laid out for Thomas Dent and William Hatton a plantation of 236 acres above Piscataway in the woods, indicating that it was not on a body of water, which was given the name of "Brothers' Joint Interest."

Before May 9, 1671, he had transported at his own expense eight additional settlers for which he received a warrant for 400 acres. This he assigned to Benjamin Salley, Gent., of St. Mary's County. He continued to finance the passage of prospective inhabitants and as late as November 18, 1672, he received a warrant of 750 acres for transporting 15 settlers. On the same day he assigned his warrant to Jeremiah Jadwin, of Westmoreland County, Virginia.

On May 26, 1673, he again proved land rights for bringing-in settlers, twelve in number, one of whom was a John Dent. These rights were assigned to Nicholas Proddy, of Charles County.

His brother-in-law, William Hatton, on August 14, 1674, sold him his share of a large tract known as "Guither" which they had bought jointly in 1662. In the deed he was styled "Thomas Dent of the said Province, Merchant", and the land consisted of 900 acres lying on the north side of the Potomac and on the west side of Nanjemoy Creek adjoining the plantation of Joseph Harrison. The consideration was 24,000 lbs. tob. and had been granted originally to Captain Nicholas als Guither on August 20, 1658.

On June 21, 1675, he received an assignment for 600 acres from William Calvert, son of the late Governor, and another 600 acres from John Bloomfield, of St. Mary's County. Two days later he was assigned an additional 650 acres by John Quigley, of St. Mary's County.

On September 16, 1675, he purchased from the sisters and heiresses, living in Beedale, Yorkshire, of Richard Watson, late of Charles County, deceased, a plantation of 200 acres known as "Wattfield", lying along Portobacco Clifts.

He inherited from his father-in-law a portion of "Westbury Manor", an authentic manorial domain of 1250 acres which had been granted to Thomas Weston, Esq., in 1642, with full prerogatives of a baronial court. Weston died and the manorial privileges descended to his daughter and sole heiress of New England. Weston was indebted to William Stone, one-time Governor, who claimed the manor by right of default. Stone seized the manor and later sold portions to various planters. One section known as Hull's Neck on the west side of St. Mary's River was sold to the Rev. William Wilkinson, father-in-law of Thomas Dent, and it was this portion which fell to Thomas Dent and his brother-in-law, William Hatton.

By a subsequent deed of his son and heir, it developed that Thomas Dent was deeded "Jenifer's Gift", of 100 acres, by Daniel Jenifer which was intended to be held in trust for the use of the ministers or ministry of Popular Hill Church for good and pious intent.

Besides his professional duties as a barrister and his many civil honours, Thomas Dent engaged in importing and was often styled "Merchant". His dwelling-plantation bordered one of the Creeks of the St. Mary's River, but it was apparently on the west bank as he was sometimes styled of St. George's Hundred. He had his own private landing as shown during a lawsuit when the defendant declared that he delivered a boat "at the landing Mr Thomas Dent in his Creeke in St Georges [now St. Mary's] River."

In the midst of a brilliant career Thomas Dent died at the age of about 42 in full manhood and left a fruitful widow, a daughter and four sons—the eldest being about 16 years of age.

He dated his last will and testament as of March 28, 1676, and was apparently quite ill at the time, because his death occurred in less than a month. The will was probated at the April session of the court on the 21st day. William Hattan, his brother-in-law, who probably wrote the instrument and William Harper were the only witnesses.

He spoke of his dearly beloved wife, Rebecca, made her the executrix and devised her the plantation at Portobacco Clifts in Charles County. William, the son and heir, who was in his middle teens was devised a portion of the plantation at Nanjemoy in Charles County and Westbury Manor in St. Mary's. Thomas, the second son, was willed the remaining portion of the land at Nanjemoy.

Peter and George, the younger sons, were devised equally the unseated plantations of "Gisborough" and "Brothers' Joint Interest" which eventually fell into Prince Georges County in 1695. Margaret, the only named daughter, was willed one acre of land in St. Mary's City and several negro slaves.

Speaking most lovingly of his faithful wife, he devised her the plantation "Wattfield" on Portobacco Clifts to "her heirs to dispose of for the good of her children or otherwise to keep it and at her death or during her life to bequeath or give to any child or children, as she in her discretion shall think fit". The residue of the real and personal estate was bequeathed to her "to dispose of as shall best please her". She was therefore well provided for and when she married John Addison a few months thence, she brought him a handsome estate in many respects.

Shortly after the death of Thomas Dent, his widow found that she was with child. A daughter who was given the name of Barbara was born in the early autumn of 1676. On November 20, that year, "Rebecca Dent, of St. Mary's County, Widow and executrix of Thomas Dent, late of St. Mary's County, Merchant, deceased" placed in trust with William Hatton 200 acres of land purchased by Thomas Dent from Richard Watson for the use of Barbara, her daughter. It was stated that Thomas Dent by his will had provided for his children with several parcels of land and "whereas the said Rebecca was big with child at the death of said Thomas and has since been safely brought to bed and delivered of a daughter named Barbara who is now alive and has no provision made for her in said will". The trust was to terminate when Barbara attained the age of 16 years, but in the event that she died before her 16th birthday, the land was to revert to Thomas Dent, the third son of Thomas and Rebecca Dent.

The personal estate was inventoried on May 4, 1676. At the Nanjemoy Quarters were four negro slaves and three white indentured servants, much livestock, a sail boat as well as the usual farm implements and furniture of its kind. The entire value there was 44,019 lbs. tob. At the dwelling-plantation in *St. Mary's County* were a number of books, silver plate, "Small hoop ring and a seale ring", the latter presumably his coat-of-arms. There were also a boat and a "canou" and much merchandise in the store. The entire personal estate was valued at 130,129 lbs. tob.

The inventory was filed by the widow on September 7-9, 1676. On November 20, 1676, as Rebecca Dent she made the deed of trust with William Hatton, but by February 13, 1676/7, she had married John Addison, a bachelor, certainly of middle age, as no previous marriage has been found for him.

Citations were issued her by the court on August 22, 1677, to render an account on the estate of her deceased husband, whereas she appeared in court on October 19, 1677. and "craved time till her husband, John Addison, returned into his Province."

John Addison was in Maryland as early as 1667, and soon identified himself with the civil and religious life of the Province, although he espoused the cause of the Whigs and was not allied with the Proprietary Party. He was first a Captain of the Foote in Charles County and later of the Horse, and a member of His Majesty's Council. As Colonel John Addison in 1694, he was appointed a trustee of the free institutions of learning in the Province.

In March 1689/90, John Addison acting on information obtained from Mr. Holliday and others addressed a letter to John West, of Virginia, stating that 9000 Frenchmen and Seneca Indians were surrounding Captain Bourne's plantation in Anne Arundel County. It later proved to be sheer propaganda to cause dissension in the Province, especially between the Roman Catholics and the liberal elements.

Madam Dent-Addison presided over the dwelling of her husband, Colonel Addison, in January 1694/5, when "a sufficient and lawful number of inhabitants of Piscataway Parish" met and elected the first vestry of the Parish and Perfected plans for the erection of St. John's, the mother church of the Parish. Forty pounds of tobacco were to be assessed all freeholders of the Parish payable to John Addison and William Hutchinson who were to employ carpenters for the erection of the church and vestry.

The trust on "Wattfields" for her daughter, Barbara Dent, was terminated by 1704, when it was stated that Rebecca Dent relict of Thomas Dent conveyed in 1676 the plantation to William Hatton for her youngest daughter, Barbara Dent, and that the said Barbara had survived and was then married to the Hon. Thomas Brooke, Esq. Furthermore, "Rebecca Addison and her husband John Addison" confirmed the deed of conveyance of "Wattfields" from Thomas Brooke and Barbara his wife to Edmund Howard, of Charles County, Gent.

On a business trip to England, Colonel John Addison died without a will, leaving a widow and only son, Thomas, at his plantation near Piscataway. On July 19, 1707, describing herself as "Rebecca Addison Sr., Relict of the Honourable John Addison, late of Prince Georges County, Gent., deceased," she "for ever Quitt claim all her right of dower in the estate of the goods, chattels, Lands, Tenements & Hereditaments which were belonging to the said John Addison, Esq., deceased, of which he said Rebecca might or may claime by viture of her Intermarriage wth s^d John

Addison, Esq." for a consideration of £620 to be paid by Thomas Addison, son and heir, of the said John Addison. The witnesses were William Hutchison, James Haddock, John Warren, John Michell and Hickford Leman. At the same time Thomas Addison obligated himself by bond to pay to Rebecca Addison £640 before July 20, 1709.

Her later life was spent with her daughter, Madam Barbara Brooke, and as the story goes, the Brookes acquired most of her wealth. She outlived her three Dent sons and died in 1726. While no visible strained relationship is found to suggest any differences between her Dent children and the Addisons, it is nonetheless true that she failed to leave any legacies to her Dent grandchildren.

She bequeathed her son, Thomas Addison, £20, and £200 to her grandchildren Lucy, Baker and Thomas Brooke, the children of her daughter, Barbara, by the latter's husband, Thomas Brooke. In the event that the three named grandchildren died without issue or under age, then the legacy was to revert to another grandson, Benjamin Brooke. The residuary estate went to her daughter, Madam Brooke, whom she appointed executrix.

Although circumstances would indicate that she should had been a wealthy widow at her death, her personal estate was surprisingly negligible, unless property was concealed, and consisted only of the articles which an aged person would have in her room. There were no slaves, no silver plate and no jewelry. The total value was only £20/3/3. Thomas Addison, her son, was the only kinsman who approved the valuation.

The will was dated November 5, 1724, and probated in Prince Georges County on August 20, 1726, by Alexander Contee, John Howard and Mary Delihunt.

COLONEL WILLIAM DENT, GENT.²

1660-1704

William Dent, son and heir of Judge Thomas Dent and Rebecca Wilkinson his wife, was born in or about the year 1660, inasmuch as in 1698 he deposed to be 38 years of age. His birth probably occurred at Hull's Neck, Westbury Manor, the seat of his maternal grandfather. Being a name-sake of his clerical grandfather, he was thus favoured in his will of 1663.

Of the parental estates, he inherited the Hull's Neck plantation on Westbury Manor in St. Mary's County and a portion of the large plantation on the Nanjemoy in Charles County, where he eventually established his dwelling-plantation.

Few colonial squires lived in more feudal style and elegance than William Dent, with his numerous slaves and white indentured servants on his several plantations. Besides his country seat on the Nanjemoy, he maintained a town house in Annapolis, the capital and social center of the Province, and well-stocked plantations on the Mattawoman in Prince Georges County and another stock farm at Portobacco Clifts. His library was considerable for that day and the value of his silver plate at his death was incredible. In his town house at Annapolis were two pictures, undoubtedly family portraits, as according to the writings of the seventeenth century, family portraits were the only pictures found in the homes of the gentry.

About the time he and his brothers were arriving at manhood or about the time that William and Mary ascended the English Throne, the Liberals or Anti-Proprietary Party in Maryland overthrew by force of arms the regime of Lord Baltimore and established a Royal Colony directly under the Crown. A series of Royal Governors were appointed with brief tenure of office until the arrival of Colonel Francis Nicholson, Esq., with a commission from Their Majestys, dated February 10, 1693/4. During his term of office the three sons of Judge Thomas Dent received numerous favours, and it is possible that there was a close blood relationship. Judge Dent's grandmother was none other than Margaret Nicholson of York. Concurrent with the rule of Colonel Nicholson, the Secretary of State was Sir Thomas Lawrence, Knt, Bart. who was also an intimate of the Dent family.

Certainly at an early age William Dent read law with one of the leading barristers of the Province, but it is not beyond the realm of possibility that he read law under the guidance of his father—for there is no record of his being sent to England to attend one of the English Inns of Law. On March 20, 1682/3, at the age of 22 he was sworn before His Lordship's Justices of Charles County as an Attorney and he eventually developed into one of the outstanding legal minds of early Maryland. He was eclipsed only in the next generation by the brilliancy of Daniel Dulany the Elder. At the age of 26 he began his public service to the Province as clerk to the Lower House of the Assembly.

His legal acumen was recognized in England, inasmuch as on November 10, 1691, he was appointed by the Court to be the Attorney "for our Sovereign Lord and Lady ye King and Queen" and was so sworn and admitted.

He became interested in the virgin farm land of his plantations on the Nanjemoy near the then growing port town of Port Tobacco which was

destined to become the capital of the growing County of Charles. Portobacco was the ancient spelling, as it was named from the tribe of Portobacco Indians and not the popular belief that it was a river port where tobacco was shipped and thus received its name.

At Portobacco settled after 1661 Colonel Gerard Fowke, Esq., from across the Potomac in Westmoreland County, presumably upon the plantations of the late Job Chandler, Esq., whose wealthy widow Colonel Fowke married.

In the vicinity of Nanjemoy and Portobacco grew up the several daughters of Colonel Fowke, especially one Elizabeth. Fair she must have been to have caught the eye of young William Dent who was winning his spurs in the military but more especially in jurisprudence. A romance developed and they were married at candle light at the home of Madam Fowke on February 8, 1684/5.

The following is from the minutes of the county court; though not recorded until "May ye 28-1689."

"I doe hereby certifie that on the eight day of Feby 1684 at the house of Mrs. Anne Fowke at Portobacco in Charles County I joynd together W^m Dent & Elizabeth Fowke Daughter of ye said Anne Fowke in the Holy Estate of Matremony in ye presents of ye sd Mrs. Anne Fowke, Coll. Wm Chandler Mad'm Mary Chandler Mr. Gerard Fowke Mrs Mary Fowke Owen Newen & Divers others Witnesses. I having Received a Lycense from the Hon'ble W^m Diggs Esq., to doe ye same."

By John Turlinge,
Presbet'n Anglican Ecclesiac.

His early seat was at his Portobacco Quarters for there his three oldest children were baptized, according to court records "the said three children were all baptized at ye dwelling house of ye said William and Elizabeth Dent near Portobacco". Between February 1689 and September 1690, he had moved farther up the river bank to Nanjemoy, for there his fourth son was baptized.

This marriage in Colonial America united two ancient and armorial families of Old England and it was perhaps the most promising and advantageous of all the marriages of the sons of Judge Thomas Dent.

Gerard Fowke, the father-in-law of William Dent, later earned the title of Colonel. He was brought to Virginia before 1654 by his brother, Thomas Fowke, Merchant, who received 3380 acres of land in Westmoreland County for transporting, that is, financing the passage of 27 persons. Thomas and Gerard were the sons of Roger Fowke, Esq., of "Gunston, County Stafford and Parish of Brewood", as he styled himself in his last

will and testament of 1649. He referred to his ancestral estate received from his father, John Fowke, and among his children, he provided for his sons, Thomas and Gerard, presumably then in England.

Gerard Fowke became the proprietor of thousands of acres along the south bank of the Potomac, and by marrying the wealthy widow of Job Chandler, he increased his estate considerably. Besides being a Magistrate of the County Court of Westmoreland, before his removal to Maryland, he represented that county in the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1663. Thomas Fowke, his brother, also represented Westmoreland County, but died at a comparatively young age in 1663, naming his brother, Gerard, the executor of his estate.

Job Chandler, of Portobacco, was first in Accomac County, Virginia, but settled in Maryland, acquired an estate, and married Ann Thorowgood, the daughter of Adam Thorowgood, of Lower Norfolk County, also a prominent gentleman of Virginia and a member of the House of Burgesses. Chandler died testate in 1659 at Portobacco and it was not so very long thereafter that his widow married Colonel Fowke.

On February 12, 1661/2, Colonel Fowke wrote Robert Slye, Merchant, of St. Mary's County and referred to the orphans of Job Chandler. It was furthermore announced that "Colonel Gerard fowke of the County of Westmor Land, Gent., for and in consideration of a marriage lately had and consummated with me and the mother of the children above mentioned". Shortly after the marriage, Colonel Fowke removed to Maryland and thus established himself in Portobacco Hundred.

Continuing his public service in Maryland, he was elected a delegate from Charles County to the General Assembly. He died intestate, leaving several young children. Letters of administration were issued to his widow on October 30, 1669. Madam Fowke, though certainly in young womanhood, did not remarry, and at the time William Dent wrote his will she was living with him and her daughter at Nanjemoy.

To William Dent and Elizabeth his wife were born nine known children, several of whom predeceased their parents.

1. Thomas Dent, son and heir, born Nov. 15, 1685, bapt. Dec. 19, 1685, married Anne Bayne. *q.v.*
2. William Dent, born Dec. 13, bapt. Dec. 25, 1687, died Nov. 18, 1695.
3. Elizabeth Dent, eldest daughter, born 1688, died 1699.
4. Gerard Dent, bapt. Feb. 3, 1688/9, died soon afterward, buried in Durham Churchyard.
5. George Dent, born Sept. 27, 1690, bapt. April 16, 1696, married Anne, daughter of William Harbert, Gent. and Mary his wife. *q.v.*

6. Anne Dent, born Mar. 1692, bapt. Mar. 16, 1692/3, died unmarried, buried in Durham Churchyard.
7. Peter Dent, named after his great-grandfather, born 1693, baptized Jan. 13, 1694/5, married into the distinguished family of Robert Brooke. *q.v.*
8. Philip Dent, namesake and godson of Philip Lynes, died in his youth.
9. Elizabeth Dent, married Richard Tarvin and left by his many descendants.

It has already been stated that at a comparatively young age in 1686 William Dent was made Clerk of the Lower House and there he had the occasion of meeting the representative men of both houses of the General Assembly from all counties of the Province and also to learn at first hand the parliamentary methods of law making and procedure. He was rewarded in 1692 when he entered the Lower House as an elected delegate from Charles County. He received the confidence of the electorate at each succeeding election and on April 26, 1704, a short time before his death, he was elected the Speaker of the House.

It was in the science of law that he excelled and received many honours from Francis Nicholson, the Royal Governor, during twenty or more years that Maryland remained a Royal Colony after the Revolution of 1689. Colonel George Plater, the Attorney General for the Crown from 1692 to 1698, complained on November 13, 1694, that "there is so much King's business that he can not possibly discharge his duty without further help". Thereupon, William Dent was made his deputy and from all circumstances acted in that capacity until Plater resigned to become the Naval Officer of the Patuxent and Tax Receiver for the same. Dent's commission as Attorney General, was dated October 20, 1698, under the signature of Governor Nicholson and he was again appointed by Governor Seymour and continued to serve until his death.

At the time that he was serving as Attorney General, Governor Nicholson conferred another honour upon him by "constituting Mr. William Dent His Majesty's Advocate of the Admiralty Court" on October 21, 1698. He took the accustomed oath the following day.

On May 20, 1695, under the patronage of Governor Nicholson, he was sworn in as Their Majesty's Solicitor General. During his tincture of office, he made the important decision in 1696 that "His Majesty held no land in the Province but His Majesty's Agents may make leases" from the landed proprietors who held technically tenancy under the Lords Baltimore.

Although there is no record of his having been appointed to the Pro-

vincial Court or the Court of Chancery, yet he drew up the Rules for the former and for his services he was allowed 120,000 lbs. tob. out of the Public Treasury. He appeared, however, frequently before the court to represent his many and varied clients.

On November 19, 1694, by Governor Nicholson he was appointed the Naval Officer for Upper Charles County from Portobacco to an undetermined point or all the settlements along the Potomac until the frontier or wilderness was reached. As the plantations became more thickly seated along the Potomac and the inlets, his duties and responsibilities multiplied, so in 1697 he was authorized to appoint his half-nephew, Mr. Thomas Addison, his deputy. In 1700 he turned over to the Commission of Accounts for the Province as Naval Officer £21/18/—collected as duty on the importation of rum. The period which it covered was not disclosed.

Like his father, he engaged in trade, but perhaps not so extensively. Anyhow on October 14, 1693, "William Dent, Gent., of Charles County, having sent for a parcel of Indian goods which are now arrived and being desirous to carry on a small trade with the Indians prays a license which was granted."

Among his many duties both legal and legislative he found time to devote himself to the militia and defence of the Province. Before 1694 he was addressed as Captain. By 1694 he had been advanced to Major. In 1704 when he was commissioned His Majesty's Attorney General, he was addressed as Lieutenant Colonel William Dent. In the same year he was styled Colonel when he attended a session of the Privy Council.

Having been reared in the traditions and faith of the Established Church of England with several ancestors ordained to the Clothe, he was prominent in the life of the community and when the Anglican or Episcopal Church was instituted the Established Church of Maryland, he and his brother-in-law, Gerard Fowke, Esq. were elected members of the vestry of Nanjemoy Parish, now called Durham Parish.

On May 1, 1694, styling himself as the son and heir of Thomas Dent, Gent., he deeded to Kenelm Cheseldyne, of St. George's Hundred, Gent., "principall Vestryman" "Jenifer's Gift", of 100 acres, on Herring Creek which "was made over and conveyed to the said Thomas Dent in nature of a Trustee and for the use of the minister or ministry of Popular Hill Church and so to remaine forever" by Daniel Jenifer. Thereupon, William Dent conveyed to the vestry for "good and pious intent" and the further consideration of five shillings.

At the organization of King William School at Annapolis in 1696, now St. John's College, he served on the first Board of Visitors. His educa-

tional responsibilities and interests were not only confined to the welfare of King William School, for he was on the commission to erect schools and foster education throughout the Province.

When Governor Francis Nicholson assembled the Privy Council prior to his acceptance of the Governorship of Virginia he advised that body that he was delivering the government to his Excellency Colonel Nathaniel Blakiston who His Majesty had appointed Governor. He recommended to his successor all persons whom he had left in the various offices, but "particularly Major William Dent and William Bladen whom he had always found very loyal to His Majesty and ready in their duty."

That the Colonial Courthouse at Portobacco displayed the Royal Arms of England is evidenced by the fact that Major William Dent underwrote it and ordered it from Britain. At a court held in Charles County during March 1701/2, the High Sheriff was ordered to pay Major William Dent 1250 lbs. tob. for sending for "ye King's Arms for the Court House."

His wife, Elizabeth, whom he referred to as "my Dear and most respected wife" was alive when he executed his last will and testament on October 2, 1702. But before its probate a little more than two years thence, she had passed on and he had married Sarah Brooke, a daughter of Thomas and Anne Brooke and step-daughter to his sister Barbara (Dent) Brooke. Their nuptial life was necessarily brief and no issue resulted.

On June 14, 1704, Thomas Brooke assigned to his daughter, Sarah, a tract of land called "Dan" on Rock Creek. This was definitely her marriage dowry and her marriage to Colonel William Dent certainly followed shortly thereafter.

There are all reasons to believe that he presided over the closing session of the Lower House on October 3, 1704, certainly on September 30, according to record, but when the Lower House re-convened on December 5, 1704, he was deceased. At the opening session of that date, Henry de Coursey, Robert Goldsborough, Colonel Smallwood, Elias King and James Philipps were appointed to acquaint the Governor "that they were Come . . . to inform his Excell of the death of Col W^m Dent their Speaker and desired his Commands to make Choice of another."

At the time of his death he was handling the affairs of Sir Thomas Lawrence, Bart. Her Majesty's Secretary of the Province who was then in England. The Council reported that "it is thought fitting that the Council give order to some person to take care of Sir Thomas' interest". William Bladen was thereupon appointed.

His will with a codicil dated March 1, 1703/4, was probated in Charles County, on February 17, 1704/5, by John Beale, Gerard Fowke, William

Lock and Samuel Luckett. No provisions were made for his newly wedded wife who by law at his death was entitled to her thirds.

In his will he styled himself as of Nanjemoy and devised his dwelling-plantation including the land on the river called "St. Barbary", of 500 acres, "Wheelers Palme", adjoining of 150 acres, "Thompkinsons Long Lookt For", likewise adjoining of 200 acres to "my dear and most respected wife Eliz's Dent during her natural life and noe longer". To her "as a Token of the Sense I have of her virtue and worth", he bequeathed all his English servants, four negro slaves, one-half of the cattle and sheep on the plantation and all the household furniture in the house except the furniture which he would thereafter will to his children.

After his widow's decease, the dwelling-plantation and the land taken up at Mattawoman, the upper side called "Whitehaven", of 894 acres, he willed to his son, Thomas, also six negro slaves, silver plate, his pistols and sword, and one-half of the books in the study. Furthermore, Thomas was willed one-half of the cattle and hogs at both quarters at Mattawoman.

To his son, George, he devised the plantation and land at Portobacco where Richard Edgar lived and all the adjoining land of lots in 300 acres, 109 acres, 118 acres, 118 acres, and 125 acres, also the other part of "Harrison's Gift" containing 880 acres lying in Pope's Creek, also five negroes, livestock, silver plate, table linen, "best bed and furniture above Stairs", one-half of the books in the study and all the livestock at Richard Edgar's.

Peter, his son, was devised one-third of the land taken up with Colonel Addison and Mr. Hutchison in Prince Georges County of 1569 acres called "Friendship" and the tract of land which "fell to me by the Death of my brother George Dent" called "Gisborough" of about 400 acres.—also five negro and Indian slaves, furniture, silver plate, table linen and one-half of the stock at the Mattawoman Plantation.

To his "little daughter Eli'z Dent" he willed the lower plantation at Mattawoman of 500 acres including "Laurell Branch". She also received five negro slaves including "mulatto boy Robbins to serve till thirty one years", table linen, silver plate, household furniture and one-half of the stock on the said plantation. She was furthermore to receive £150 Sterling from the money in the hands of Mr. Jonathan Matthews, of London.

The land called "St. Barbary", "Wheelers Palme" and "Thompkinsons Long Lookt For" willed to his wife for her natural life was to revert to his youngest son, Philip. The latter also received four negroes, household furniture, table linen, silver plate, and all the stock of cattle between William Bishop and "St. Barbarys."

The remaining portions of his land at Mattawoman known as "Lawrell

Branch" and that which had been bought of Mark Lampton, he devised to his sons, Thomas and George, equally. The money to be drawn from Mr. Jonathan Matthews, his English agent, and "what parte of Shippes I have let Mr. Matthews sell" were to be used for his debts, but whatever remained was to be divided equally between his wife and five children, each child receiving a sixth portion at the age of twenty-one with the exception of Betty who was to receive her share at 18 or marriage.

To Nanjemoy Parish Church he bequeathed £5 to purchase necessities or ornaments for the Church. Mr. Matthews was to buy five mourning rings to be engraved "Prepare to follow Me W D" of 20 shillings each, one for Mr. Matthews, and the other four for his friends, Phillip Hoskins, Esq., Mr. Richard Harrison, Mr. Gerrard Fowke and Mr. Thomas Stone.

The land called "The Lodge" where Thomas Perry lived was devised to his son, Thomas. Peter and Phillip were to have their land at 19 years, but Thomas and George were to possess theirs at 17. The boys were not to have their money in England until 21 "to the intent that if they Take loose and Idle courses as too many has done before them and Spent what to play by which time may see their former folly and amend". Of the residuary estate one-fourth he bequeathed to his wife and the remainder was to be divided equally among all his children.

He appointed his wife, Elizabeth, and his sons Thomas and George the executors, while Phillip Hoskins, Richard Harrison, Gerard Fowke and Thomas Stone were to act as trustees. His son, Thomas, was to assume the executorship immediately and George when he qualified, that is, when he attained sufficient age.

The children were to be kept in school as much as convenient during their minority. "I hope I need not bespeake them to be loveing kind and Tender to one and other especially the eldest to the youngest but that I may not be wanting in anything that may them stronger I desire and request them in these last words to them nay I charge and require them as they will answeere the Contempt and Disobedience of the last words of a Dyeing father that they fear God and Keep his Commandments be just in their Dealings Dutiful to their Mother and be just and careful tend and kind one towards another allways takeing my friends and trustees advice I speake more especially to the elder in respect of the younger who may be under their Care."

By a codicil of March 1, 1703/4, he bequeathed his son, Thomas, the land which he had bought recently of Peter Achilles adjoining the dwelling-plantation. The land purchased of William Matthews at Popes Creek called "Huckleberry Branch" he gave to his son George.

From the bequests to his dear wife, Elizabeth, she was to give to "Mrs. Ann Fowke her mother" 1000 lbs. tob. as long as she lived and to have accommodation in his dwelling-plantation during her life. He added his friend, Captain Benoni Thomas, to his list of trustees. The goods at Liverpool in the hands of Mr. Richard Haughton were to be divided equally among his wife and children.

As mentioned previously the wife, Elizabeth, in his will was his first wife and not his widow who had been born Elizabeth Brooke his sister's step-daughter.

His widow soon married Captain Philip Lee, of Prince Georges County, a scion of the Lees of Westmoreland County, Virginia, and had issue by him. The rent roll of 1707 recorded that "Whitton Ditch", of 150 acres, was possessed by Captain Philip Lee of Prince Georges County in right of his wife the Relict of Coll. W^m Dent. Part of her dower was a portion of "Gisborough" which Peter, the son of Colonel William Dent on February 14, 1715/6, conveyed one-half to his cousin, Thomas Addison, for a valuable consideration, and attached to the deed was the release of dower by Philip Lee and his wife Sarah.

His will and the inventory of the personal effects after his death bespeak of the grand manner which he lived at Nanjemoy and also his business relations with the mother country. Among the items willed were a silver Bowle with a cover and Draggon or Serpent on itt, his Pistolls and Sword, always the mark of a gentleman, books, Silver tankard and flat silver. There were negro and Indian slaves and white indentured servants. Mourning rings were provided for his friends enscribed "Prepare to follow me W D". Of particular note was a "silver Montieth bowle with my Coate of Arms and Inscription Ingraven", given him by Governor Blackistone.

At his country seat at Nanjemoy were eight pictures, as expressed previously no doubt family portraits, and in the "closett" were 9 large books in folio, 9 large books quarto, 40 books in octavo, 67 small books and 28 "other books", making a private library of 153 volumes. There was a map of the world and one of Maryland and Virginia. Among the rooms were the hall chamber, porch chamber, the nursery, and the "room chamber". Inventory was taken of the stock in the store which had a loft, as he maintained a merchandise establishment which were carried on by most of the gentry and actually the only source of wealth in that day for the colonials.

At Nanjemoy were also 9 negro slaves in addition to an Indian boy and man held in bondage, and a white indentured servant who was his overseer. At the Mattawoman Quarters were 4 indentured white servants and 12

slaves and at the Portobacco Quarters were 12 slaves and much livestock.

His silver plate was valued at £69/13/1. Other interesting items were a pendulum clock and many looking glasses—all rare and expensive articles of that day. The total value of his personal estate was in excess of £1,1667 Sterling. Gerard Fowke and Edmund Howard, his two brothers-in-law, approved the appraisal. It was recorded at court on August 1, 1705. At an accountancy filed in 1724 by his son, for his estate was still unsettled at that time, the value of the personalty had increased to £2,728/19/9.

At that time Thomas Dent, the executor, recorded a legacy of £5 to Durham Parish, £6 for six mourning rings, £258/12/6 to George Dent, £257/18/3 to Richard Tarvin who had married a daughter, £328/19/9 to Peter Dent, and £344/19/9 to Captain Philip Lee "in part of his wife's third". A balance remained at that time of £783/9/3.

PETER DENT, GENT.²

16— - 1711

Peter Dent, the second surviving son of Judge Thomas Dent and Rebecca his wife, was born presumably at Westbury Manor in St. Mary's County. By the will of his father in 1676, he received "Gisborough" and "Brothers' Joint Interest" jointly with his brother, George, who died unmarried and without issue.

What factor turned his attention to the Lower Eastern Shore of the Province is not known, certainly the land was not as fertile and productive as the land in Southern Maryland of which he was a native. His sister, Margaret, and her husband, Edmund Howard, Gent., had settled there and perhaps that was the incentive. In fact the marriage of his sister, Margaret Dent and Edmund Howard probably occurred in Somerset County on May 26, 1681. After having served as Magistrate of the county court for Somerset, Edmund Howard returned to Charles County where he died testate in 1713.

In 1686 Peter Dent took out his first patent for land which was "New Wood Hall" of 200 acres which later fell into Sussex County, Delaware. This patent perhaps approximates his settlement in Somerset.

He followed in the footsteps of his father and brother, Colonel William Dent, but while his honours and dignities were not negligible, they did not surpass his brother's. In 1692 he was chosen the assistant clerk of the Lower House of the Assembly which was apparently his first public office. He was outspoken in his protest against the removal of the capital from St. Mary's City to Annapolis on the Severn in 1694, and in politics followed

Upper Marlborough for a Presbyterian Meeting House. A newspaper article of 1904, states that when the remains of Colonel Ninian were removed from his home plantation now within Georgetown of the National Capital, "it was found that he was six feet, seven inches tall, and his Scotch red hair had retained all of its fiery hue".

Children of William and Verlinda (Beall) Dent

1. Mollie Dent married ——— Campbell and Smyth Moore.
2. William Dent. *q.v.*
3. Peter Dent, born Mar. 16, 1761, married Sarah ———. *q.v.*
4. Anne Dent, born Dec. 10, 1767, died St. Clair Co., Ill., married Dec. 5, 1790, Guilford Co., N. C., by license Risdon Moore, born Nov. 20, 1760, in Delaware; died St. Clair Co., Ill.
5. Samuel Beall Dent.

William Dent was first of his family to manifest the spirit of adventure by removing to new and unsettled lands in the South. Perhaps the frontier of Maryland where he first settled was an incentive, but before the Revolution he removed with his young family to the western portion of North Carolina, then being developed with settlers from Virginia, Maryland and other Colonies.

In 1773 he purchased a 320-acre tract of land on Reedy Ford Creek in then Orange County, North Carolina, later to become a part of Guilford County. The purchase therefore approximates his removal from Maryland. He was there definitely by October 17, 1774, when he and his wife, of Guilford County, conveyed their Maryland plantation "Grubby", of 73 acres, to Henry Watson, of Frederick County.

He vied with his brother, Captain Thomas Dent, for public recognition as one of the leading citizens in his community. While in Maryland he was addressed as Captain William Dent, but any commission from official sources has yet to be found, but in Guilford County, he was a delegate from that county to the Provincial Congress of North Carolina held at Hillsborough on August 20, 1775. The same year he served as a member of the Committee of Safety for the District of Salisbury. When the Provincial Congress of North Carolina met at Halifax the next year, he was again a delegate.

On December 11, 1776, he was commissioned a Captain of the Revolutionary Army and was Commissary Officer of the 9th Battalion of North Carolina Troops.

His work in the Commissary Department and his furnishing provisions to the Army during the Revolution are amply demonstrated by a letter

dated Georgetown, March 4, 1781, from Thomas Beall of George to Governor Thomas Sims Lee, of Maryland, enclosing an order from Brigadier General Morgan in favour of "Mr. William Dent formerly a resident of this County [Montgomery]". At that time William Dent had driven up from North Carolina with his wife and "many small children".

Quoting from the communication, as follows:

"William Dent of Guilford County and State of North Carolina having furnished the troops of the United States with 2000 lbs. of salt pork, 200 bushels of Indian corn and 10 bushels of meal on condition of being furnished with the like quantity on his way to Maryland or in that State, I do heretofore hereby request all Commissarys and forage masters to issue to the said William Dent or his order (not exceeding the quantity above mentioned) taking his receipt for what each may issue and certifying the same on the back of this order. . . . Given under my hand at Guilford Court House in the State aforesaid, this 6th Feb. A.D. 1781".

On March 7, 1781, the Council of Maryland replied to Mr. Thomas Beall:

"Whenever a detachment of continental troops are obliged to remain in Georgetown and are without provisions and forage we think it necessary that you should supply them with so much as will serve them until they can march to the next place where provisions are regularly issued. We think the provisions ought to be returned to William Dent agreeable to the General Morgan's order and request you to deliver what may be due him after deducting the quantity he has received; but as it may be attended with inconvenience to deliver the whole immediately, you will deliver it to him at different periods most convenient to yourself and as he may want it".

After the Revolution he served as a Magistrate of the County Court, an office which he resigned on November 9, 1790, the resignation being presented to the Carolina House of Commons by John Hamilton. At the first Federal Census he was a slave holder with a moderate number of seven.

What induced him to leave Guilford County where he had won distinction in public service and was one of the leading patriots of the county during the Revolution is a matter of conjecture. It may have been sheer adventure, but the undeveloped and newly opened lands of Georgia called and by 1792 he was seated on a plantation bordering the Shoulderbone in Hancock County.

In Guilford County he found a strong and forcefull group of provincial Quakers and while it is not believed that he became a convert to their strict and unorthodox teachings, for he certainly did not refuse to bear arms during the Revolution, yet at least two of his children married into that sect and apparently became firmly convinced of its dogma. The reason

4. Augustus Sheid Dent married Rosina V. Conington and Annie R. Sibley. *q.v.*
5. Simon Magruder Dent, born circa 1841, married Florence Parker and secondly Laura Virginia Gwynn. *q.v.*

Thomas Rogerson, the father of Mrs. Dent, was born about 1759 in England and came to America with his father, George Rogerson, who settled in Providence, Rhode Island. About 1785, Thomas removed to Alexandria, Virginia, where he was engaged in business until 1804 at which time he settled in Port Tobacco, Charles County. He married first in Rhode Island Anstis Olney, who became the mother of Mrs. Peter Dent. His second wife was a Widow Taney of Charles County by whom he had a son, Francis Louis Rogerson. The latter married Martha Ann, daughter of Theodore and Eleanor (Sheid) Dent. From 1818 to 1830 Thomas Rogerson served in the Maryland State Legislature as a delegate from Charles County. He died in 1834, aged 75 at Whitehaven, the residence of his son-in-law.

At the 1850 census his widow, Mary B. Dent, aged 44 years, was the head of a family in the Middletown District of Charles County, with the following comprising her immediate household: Theodore, aged 21; Thomas, aged 18; Shade, aged 15; and Simon aged 10.

HUTCHISON DENT⁶

1809-1870

Hutchison Dent, son of George and Anne (Hutchison) Dent, was born May 21, 1809, in Columbia County, Georgia. About 1833 at Augusta, Georgia, he married his cousin, Anna Longstreet, born about 1836, the daughter of James and Mary (Dent) Longstreet. They lived for a time in Trinity, Morgan County, Alabama, but later settled near Macon in Noxubee County, Mississippi. According to the family historian his wife died in 1839 and he survived until 1870.

Children of Hutchison and Anna (Longstreet) Dent

1. Mary Ann Dent, born Mar. 7, 1834, died Feb. 22, 1883, married first 1885 Dewitt Kinble, M.D., and secondly 1865 Henry Augustin Minor, M.D., and had issue. Their daughter, Anna Dent Minor married Albert Tatum Dent. *q.v.*
2. George Dent, died in infancy.

GEORGE FAIRFAX DENT⁶

1803-1873

George Fairfax Dent was born November 21, 1803, in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, the son of Richard Dent and Ann Thomas his wife.

About 1836 he married his cousin, Frances E. Thomas, born about 1812, a daughter of Stevens Thomas and Elizabeth Cary his wife. He died on May 11, 1873, and his widow on December 6, 1877, in Athens, Georgia.

Children of George and Frances (Thomas) Dent

1. Eliza Cary Dent, born 1837 Athens, Ga., died 1921, married Lucian Dawson and Barnard E. Bee, and left issue.
2. Stevens [Stephen] Thomas Dent, born Jan. 10, 1840, married his cousin Kate, daughter of William Smallwood and Martha (Stringfellow) Dent, and left issue; served in Co. H, Cobbs' Legion of Ga., C. S. A.
3. Alexander Thomas Dent, born Jan. 13, 1842, married Louisa Leeke.
4. John George Dent, born Sept. 14, 1851.
5. [Malcolm Dent].

WILLIAM SMALLWOOD DENT⁶

1809-1877

William Smallwood Dent, the son of Richard and Ann (Thomas) Dent, was born December 21, 1809, in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. He married first Martha Stringfellow, of Pickens County, Alabama.

Children of William and Martha (Stringfellow) Dent

1. Kate Dent married her cousin Stevens Thomas Dent, son of George Fairfax and Frances (Thomas) Dent.
2. Frances Dent, born July 6, 1849, died July 20, 1909, married C. N. Boyce [Boyle] and Louis Edward Zepernick, and had issue by both marriages.

After the death of his first wife at an early age, he married secondly Mary Cooper Witherspoon, born October 29, 1830, in Hale County, Alabama.

Children of William and Mary (Witherspoon) Dent

3. Emmet Cooper Dent, born Oct. 11, 1857, married Anna Lane Scott.
4. Dayton Witherspoon Dent, born Mar. 28, 1859, married twice.
5. Pinkney Alexander Dent, born June 11, 1861, died 1866.
6. Albert Tatum Dent, born Mar. 25, 1863, married Anna Minor. *q.v.*
7. Quintall [Quntilla] Dent, born Feb. 8, 1865.
8. William Earle Dent, born Nov. 26, 1867, died May 14, 1924, unmarried.
9. Velma Dent, born Aug. 17, 1869, died unmarried June 12, 1929.
10. Leon Frierson Dent, born May 21, 1872, died Mar. 30, 1947.

He died on December 29, 1877, in Macon, Moxabee County, Mississippi, and his widow survived until December 8, 1894.

Captain Gwynn was revered in Spartanburg, where he spent the major part of his life and was active in the religious, cultural and business development of the town. Fairly close relatives of the Gwynn family to live in Spartanburg for a period of 15 years up to this time, 1963, is the Frederick Baily Dent family, including Mrs. Mildred H. Dent, his wife, and five children. Mr. Dent is President of Mayfair Mills in the nearby village of Arcadia, and the Dent family has been of important influence in the community development.

Other children of Captain Gwynn who had outstanding recognition in South Carolina and elsewhere were the Rev. Andrew Keene Gwynn, a Roman Catholic priest, who was advanced to Monsignor after forty years or more service to his country and Church, and Mary Gwynn who married Christopher Cashiel Fitzsimmons Hammond, of Beech Island, South Carolina, son of Major Harry Hamond and his wife, of Redcliffe Beach Island, about fifteen miles from Augusta, Georgia, in South Carolina.

ALBERT TATUM DENT⁷
1863-1929

Albert Tatum Dent, son of William Dent by his second wife Mary Witherspoon, was born March 25, 1863, at Macon, Mississippi. On September 8, 1887, at Macon, Mississippi, he married a kinswoman, Anna Dent Minor, born August 8, 1866, the daughter of Dr. Henry Augustin Minor and Mary Ann Dent his wife.

Children of Albert and Anna (Minor) Dent

1. Henry Minor Dent, born Jan. 4, 1889.
2. William Dent, born October 1890.
3. Albert Tatum Dent, born June 30, 1892.
4. Mary Cooper Dent, born October 1894.
5. Frances Washington Dent, born Jan. 1896.
6. Emmet Cooper Dent, born and died 1898.
7. Launcelot Longstreet Dent, born Sept. 1902.
8. Lucian Witherspoon Minor Dent, born 1904, married Phoebe Paxton, and left issue.
9. Emmet Roy Dent, born 1906.
10. Anna Louise Dent, born 1909.

He, a lawyer by profession, served two terms in the Senate for the State of Mississippi, but declined reelection at the expiration of his term of office in January 1908. He died at Macon on December 17, 1929, and his widow on July 22, 1956, in Memphis, Tennessee.