

HISTORY
OF
DELAWARE.

1609—1888.

BY

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ASSISTED BY A STAFF OF ABLE ASSISTANTS.

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died in 1713 without children, it passed into the possession of Cornelius Sullivan, who had intermarried with Freeman's sister and his heir-in-law, from whom John Sipple bought it in 1723 and sold to John Bowers, as above noted.

Bowers also bought ninety acres, a part of "Great Geneva," of David Anderson (formerly of Alexander Farquhar), lying west of Tidbury Branch, on the St. Jones' Creek, and February 14, 1734, purchased one hundred acres, part of tract of land called "Brecknock," on which the village of Camden was built.

"Bowers'," recently "Bowers' Beach," is now a thriving village, extending over a space of half a mile on one single avenue, laid out into small lots of several acres. It contains about one hundred and fifty inhabitants, whose principal employment consists in cultivating their lots, in fishing and oystering in season and in a seafaring life. The public improvements comprise a capacious hotel, two general stores, a post-office and one resident physician with a splendid infirmary for invalids who wish to avail themselves of the invigorating effects of the sea-breezes.

Adjoining this tract ("Whitwell's Delight," which extended two and one-quarter miles in a direct line westward from the bay-side), and west of it, lay a tract of nine hundred and fifty acres called "Bartlett's Lot," which was taken up by Nicholas Bartlett, Samuel Burbury and John Nowell, March 9, 1685, and, by the survey of December 12, 1688, is described as beginning at a corner in a savanna (east of where John Saxton now resides, 1887); thence two hundred perches to a branch of Murder Creek, up said branch (Service's Branch), with its meanderings to a white oak; thence west, north-northwest, and north to a branch of Mill Creek, down said branch to a white oak, southeast by east crossing another branch of Mill Creek; then down east side of said branch to the mouth of the easternmost branch, separating it from William Papton's; then up said branch to a Spanish oak nigh head thereof east-northeast; thence south thirty-four degrees easterly to first corner. The three last lines are in line of Whitwell's Delight. There was also surveyed unto the said Bartlett, Burbury and Nowell, the same day, another tract of two hundred acres, called the "Over Plus," lying in the forks of Mill Creek and Skidmore's Branch, and joining Bartlett's Lott on the north. This tract of two hundred acres became the property of Samuel Burbury, but now is owned by Thomas James, a native of New Jersey, who came to this county about fifty years ago and engaged in the raising of sweet potatoes and peaches.

Bartlett's Lott passed in part to Andrew Caldwell, who, October 5, 1774, devised it to his grandson, Andrew Gray, who sold part of it to Richard Cooper and part to John Hunn about the year 1800. John Nowell, February 8, 1692, sold part of Bartlett's Lot called "Second Neck," two hundred acres, to James Maxwell, who, the same day, sold to Thomas Skidmore and to Joseph Richardson.

Bartlett's Lot is now in possession of divers persons, the most prominent among which may be named the heirs of Henry Williams (recently deceased), John Saxton, Thomas James and Jehu M. Reed. The last-named is a lineal descendant of John Nowell, one of the original patentees, and descended from him through Henry Nowell, his son, born in 1741, who "settled on his father's place," and married Margaret Wilson in 1752, by whom was born a daughter Ann in 1768, who in 1786 intermarried with Elias Sipple, whose daughter Margaret married Jehu Reed in 1827, from which union was born Jehu M. Reed, the present owner of part of Bartlett's Lot, and James H. Reed, of Bower's Beach. Jehu Reed, the father, was a man of considerable force of character, and obtained some notoriety in his day. He is said to have been the first person who introduced the culture of the peach in this county for profit by putting out a large orchard in 1830, and adding thereto from year to year.

Jehu M. Reed is descended on his maternal side from John Newell, who, with Nicholas Bartlett, obtained a warrant in September, 1685 from "Wm. Markham and John Goodson, two of ye Commissioners appointed to grant lands by Wm. Penn, Proprietor and Governor of Pennsylvania and Counties annexed," for a tract of nine hundred and fifty acres near the centre of East Motherkill Hundred, adjoining "Whitwell's Delight" on the west, and called "Bartlett's Lot."

John Newell seems to have prospered here as one of the earliest farmers in Kent County, for he eventually owned the most of "Bartlett's Lot," with much other lands, which has since been divided into several farms.

On the tract now owned by Caleb Williams he built his home of brick, with dormer windows, and roof in the style of the old Swedes' Church that now stands in Wilmington, Del. This building which he erected is one of the original houses in old Kent, and is still standing. Here, with his wife, who was a Mary Warren, he lived and reared their children—William, John and Thomas. John Newell, Sr., died January 16, 1739, and is buried in the old Newell burial home garden, about one hundred and fifty yards south of the home building. His grave being marked with a hard boulder stone, the letters J. N. and figures 1739 are yet visible. His will left to his son John, among other lands "where he now lives, Plantation with 150 acres thereunto belonging," one hundred and five acres of which is now part of the valuable farm of the lineal descendant in the sixth generation—Jehu M. Reed.

John Newell, 2d, settled in his father's place, and took for his wife a maiden of Motherkill—Mary Edmons. During a prosperous life of twenty years they lived in the building erected by his eminent father, reared two sons—Henry and William Newell—and four daughters—Tabitha, Lydia, Hannah and Mariam.