

Suburban Baltimore

Quaint And Historic Ellicott City, Founded By A Quaker Family More Than A Century Ago. Its Business Interests.

By EMILY EMERSON LANTZ.

But the city, of the city—the square with the houses! Why? They are stone-faced, white as a curd, there's something to take the eye! Houses in four straight lines, not a single front away; You watch who crosses and gossips, who saunters, who hurries by;

What of a villa? Though winter be over in March by rights, 'Tis May perhaps ere the snow shall have withered well off the heights— You've the brown-plowed land before, where the oxen steam and wheeze, And the hills oversmoked behind by the faint gray olive trees.—Robert Browning.

Is there any charm that quite equals the charm of the unexpected? In drama and literature the unforeseen denouement of a plot, in traveling the sudden happening upon a bewitching landscape or unlooked-for vision of the sea!

Of all the environments of Baltimore, Ellicott City breaks upon the stranger within her gates as the most utter and complete surprise and so charming a one that he feels a grudge against circumstances that have conspired to keep him so long in ignorance of the existence of so unique a spot.

Ellicott City can be reached by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, by the Frederick turnpike, which passes through it, or the Columbia and Washington turnpike, which terminates there; but from any point of Baltimore it is easy to transfer to the Ellicott City cars of the United Railways and Electric Company. The ride thither upon an autumn afternoon lies through one of the very prettiest of Baltimore's suburban sections. The trolley follows the finely macadamized length of Edmondson avenue for a distance of 10 miles. On either hand is beautiful woodland and peculiarly attractive country homes. The mellow October sun slants through the crimson and gold, bronze and green leafage lending the rich colors of cathedral windows to forest glades. On every side the eye is charmed with glimpses of little roadways that lead to country homes—to Uplands, the country residence of Mrs. Henry Barton Jacobs; to Hunting Ridge, the old Tasker and Dulany estate, now the home of Mr. E. Austin Jenkins; to Mount de Sales, the Visitation Convent and Academy, with its somber-veiled and gentle nuns; to Catonsville and its pleasant Country Club. At every turn some point of local interest, some old family estate, but all now part of the active, up-to-date world of the present.

Suddenly the way narrows, the tree tops close in an opalescent curtain to shut off the view, a bridge lightly spans the rapid current of a river, and, lo! Ellicott City is revealed! Ellicott City, quarter than the quaint—finished 100 years ago and seemingly flung into a gorge of the Patapsco river between cliffs that rise abruptly 230 feet above the water that brawls and bubbles at their base. A population of 2,000 souls is found there, many of whose homes cling like eagles' nests to the face of granite rocks or perch like signal stations on the tiptop of rocks that jut out and apparently overhang the one long main street that begins at the river and climbs over the hills and far away into the green heart of Howard county.

From these cliff tops, overlooking thickly wooded ravines, one needs only to hear the harsh burr of the Welsh tongue to fancy oneself in that north country. The habitations below the rocks suggest a German village and the residences above a group of Swiss chalets.

The main street is a picture. Since granite is the chief commodity at Ellicott City most of the stores and houses that line the narrow defile and compose the chief street are built of stone. From appearances their back walls must frequently be the solid rock that rises precipitately behind them, and far over their heads wind other roads cut in the cliff like Alpine passes. Instead of cross streets, flights of steps mount from the level to plateau above, and those accustomed to these ascents use them as short cuts from the business center to their homes. Occasionally in the lower street and upper roads great bowlders, instead of houses, jut out to the narrow sidewalk, and trees have struggled to maturity between fissures in rocks that have tried to impede their growth.

Against the uniform gray of the stone, great baskets standing without the shops overflow with red tomatoes and peppers, with pink and purple-tinted turnips, with the luscious red and yellow of apples or the dull green of cabbages, and have almost the gay color of beds of variegated flowers.

There are numberless old men passing to and fro, hale and hearty old men who speak to every passer-by or sit in groups on the hotel porch discussing politics. It was this hotel, the Howard House, where a stranger once arrived after nightfall for lodgings and was shown to a room upon the third floor. The next morning, upon looking out of his window, he perceived that the bedroom was apparently on the ground floor, with happy children passing gayly on their way to the village school. The astonished traveler could not imagine under what optical or mental delusion he was laboring until he was told that the third floor of the hotel, if entered from the lower street, was level with the second street in its rear.

Everyone knows everyone else along that lower river street, and of the 57 places of business of the town only 27 have signs to indicate what manner of wares are sold. What need for signs, forsooth, when business has generally been conducted at the old stand for half a century!

But Ellicott City is no Sleepy Hollow—far from it. On the contrary, it is the great artery from which is distributed the products of Howard and even adjacent counties to the corners of the earth. Ellicott City is the terminus for the Columbia and Washington turnpike, and the Frederick turnpike passes through it from east to west. Along these great wagonways pass an apparently endless procession of teams bearing produce of all sorts and descriptions. Splendid horses as strong and large of limb as the famous horses of Normandy wind between the cliffs or tramp ponderously over the echoing planks of the old-fashioned covered wooden bridge, where the crack of the whip and revolutions of wheels is softened into music by the singing stream beneath.

On court days there is bustle and stir enough there—for Ellicott City is the county seat of Howard—to satisfy the cravings for excitement of Browning's prisoner "Up in a Villa," who sighed for the changing pageant "down in the city" streets. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad ran its first trains between Ellicott City and Baltimore, and the first railroad advertisement ever published was by that railroad advertising four "brigades" of cars that were to run between Baltimore and Ellicott City, and that transported folks between these points for 25 cents. The Baltimore and Ohio has always counted Ellicott City as one of the most important stations along its route. From the enormous output of grain and flour for which Ellicott City has always been the distributing station it is said that at one time the receipts for freight over the Baltimore and Ohio from that place exceeded those of any point, save Washington, between Baltimore and Cumberland.

To see a touring car clambering up the stone-paved street of Ellicott City only adds to the impression that the place is a bit of Alpine territory that has slipped from its snow-clad cradle in Switzerland to Maryland. There are, however, other indications of progress that improve the place without detracting from its quaintness. The city is lighted with electricity and Belgian blocks are replacing unsightly cobblestones. The Patapsco National Bank, one of the best-known financial institutions of the State, has erected an imposing red and black brick banking house, with marble foundations and pillars, but the building is Colonial in architecture and in complete harmony with its surroundings. There is an excellent newspaper published in Ellicott City, the Ellicott City Times, established in 1840, the Democratic organ of the county, now under the management and proprietorship of Mr. W. S. Powell. Governor Warfield was once editor of this paper, and Mr. Powell, who has recently assumed its control, has traveled all over the world and brings the knowledge resultant to such travel to the direction of the paper.

Ellicott City has its own fire company and engine house, such modern conveniences as the telephone, and expects soon to have very complete waterworks. There are good public schools and agitation in progress for still higher grades of instruction. There are private schools as well, and Rock Hill College, one of the notable educational institutions in Maryland, is within the city limits, while St. Charles' College, five miles distant from Ellicott City, in Howard coun-

ty, has the honor of being the home and field of instruction of Father Tabb, one of the truest gentlemen and most gifted poets of the Southland.

From the day in 1772 when Joseph, Andrew and John Ellicott, worthy Quakers, of Bucks county, Pennsylvania, emigrated to Maryland and purchased land to the extent of four miles on either side of the Patapsco river, at "The Hollow," 10 miles from Baltimore, milling has been the chief industry



WEETHOLM
The summer residence of Mrs. A. Marshall Elliott (nee Tyson). The last residence to be erected at Ellicott City by a descendant of the founders.

of that place, first known as Ellicott's Mills and now as Ellicott City.

The four mills of the C. A. Gambrill Manufacturing Company are known all over the United States. There are also the noted Oella Cotton Mills, controlled by W. J. Dickey & Sons. The Albertson mills, represented by James S. Gary & Sons. Not far away near Ilchester, are the "Thistle" mills, for the manufacture of silks, wholly as fine in texture, durable in quality and reasonable in price as the Japanese, Chinese or Italian silks on the American market. The mill imports the raw silk from Italy and the Orient, and the successful operation of this manufactory might suggest a local revival of the mulberry culture, that for a brief season, years ago, was a flourishing industry in Maryland. Gray's mill furnishes electric light and power to Ellicott City, and with its numerous home industries, the stone quarries that are unrivaled in the vicinity, combined with stock raising and extensive farming, the residents can truly follow the Biblical injunction and so far as dependence upon the outer world goes, take no heed what they shall eat, what they shall drink nor wherewithal they shall be clothed. They are amply provided for within their own territory. The place is an incorporated city, with Mr. Robert Yates as Mayor. It has a City Council and Mr. Richard Jasper is recorder. There is a local police force and a jail. The courthouse is a square granite building that carries with it the dignity of years.

The granite quarries at Ellicott City are conducted by Mr. Albert Weber, and Oppenheim, Oberndorf & Co. have a large shirt factory, a branch of the Baltimore one.

Of churches there are not a few. The gray stone Quaker meeting-house, the first place of worship to be built at Ellicott City by the Ellicott family, more than 110 years ago, still stands, in stern isolation, but perfect preservation, upon a rocky summit. Divine services are, however, no longer held there. "The still and quiet company" of Friends is long since scattered, and in the Ellicott City of today—a place founded and peopled by Quakers whose descendants have been the strength and sinew of Baltimore—not one of the faith remains. The Hartley family, recently removed from the locality, was the last of Quaker faith within its gates.

The meeting-house has descended by inheritance to Mrs. A. Marshall Elliott (nee Tyson), who permits the children of Ellicott City to enjoy as a public playground the green hillside surrounding the meeting-house, up whose grassy slopes has wound many a happy wedding party or solemn funeral procession. Nearby is the Ellicott family graveyard, where the founders of the city and their descendants rest in peace. It is surrounded by a granite wall and entered through stone gateways, and the place is kept in the beautiful order that bespeaks Quaker management. It is unique in that such maintenance is secured by a family endowment.

St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church is a beautiful English-looking edifice just beyond the city proper. There is also the Presbyterian Church, of which Rev. D. Henry Branch is pastor. There is also St. Peter's Catholic Church and Methodist and Lutheran houses of worship.

Close by the Presbyterian Church is the

town and wooded valleys, the winding river and distant plains and looks almost like an ancient fortification. Patapsco Female Institute, built in 1837 by the State of Maryland, was erected upon land given by the Ellicott brothers, of Ellicott City, who also gave the rare yellow-tinted granite of which the institute was built. The structure is purely Colonial in design and approached by mammoth stone steps through a portico supported by four huge columns. The institute, in which the State reserved the right of several scholarships, was first in charge of Mrs. Mary Norris, of England (grandmother of Mrs. M. N. Perry, of Baltimore), by whom it was successfully conducted. Later the school was directed by Mrs. Phelps, mother of Judge Phelps. Next it passed into the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Archer, the site of whose earlier school is now amid the ruins of the great fire of 1904. Last to conduct it as an educational

City, and Mr. Joseph H. Leishear is president of the Patapsco National Bank, established in 1888. Mr. Thomas H. Hunt, one of the most representative merchants of Ellicott City, is its vice-president. Mr. Harold Hardings is cashier and the directors are Messrs. Joshua W. Dorsey, John G. Rogers, Samuel S. Owings, John L. Clark, William Clark of T., Joshua N. Warfield, John S. Tracy, John M. Delashmutt, William H. Forsythe and Hon. John Lee Carroll.

The last residence of note to be built in Ellicott City was erected, strange to say, by a descendant of the Ellicotts. Mrs. A. Marshall Elliott, wife of Professor Elliott, head of the department of Romance languages of the Johns Hopkins University, has recently completed Westholm, a charming summer home. It is adjacent to Berg Alnwick and looks westward over a magnificent stretch of country. A sun parlor, enclosed in glass, is built to enjoy this outlook, and the chief feature of the room is a great stone chimney-place, about which are hung the old flintlocks and powder horns that have been in the family for generations. The mantel shelf is a rough-hewn bar of granite 10 or more inches thick and wide in proportion.

The Ellicotts, descended from an ancient and honored Devonshire family of England, and coming from Bucks county, Pennsylvania, into Maryland, not only made the wilderness of The Hollow blossom into the rose of civilization, but were the pioneers of one of the most important industries of the State. The fixed plan of the Ellicott brothers was to establish flour mills and raise wheat for home consumption rather than tobacco for foreign exportation, as was the custom of the Maryland planters. The record of their transportation of mechanical, agricultural and household implements from Philadelphia by water, wagon and handbarrows through the wilderness to the gorge of the Patapsco river is among the finest examples of courage and skill that honor the history of Maryland. The family was a remarkably inventive one and all the mechanical inventions produced by the genius of the three brothers were united to make the work of milling rapid, labor-saving and perfect in results. They built a storehouse 100 feet long and of proportionate width, with spacious chambers for the storage of grain (the first grain elevator in Maryland), which was equipped with machinery for the manufacture of the finest flour. The erection of other mills followed in quick succession, together with a saw mill, and quarries were opened for the digging of granite. At their own expense the Ellicotts built a road for wagons from their mills to Baltimore. Important innovations besides the cultivation of grain were introduced. Having already built handsome mansions, commodious stores, and school and church buildings, nurseries were add-

ed to their gardens and fruits not native to Maryland propagated. Plaster was first introduced in this country as a fertilizer by them and the irrigation of their hilly domain by a series of ditches and canals is said to have suggested the Erie canal to its constructors. Such mechanical improvements as hopper boys and elevators were used by the Ellicott brothers in their mills. Stencil plates used for branding were first made there, and it is said that the break to check the speed of vehicles descending a hill was first made in the United States in the shop of Benjamin Palmer at Ellicott Mills and first used on the wagons there. The first steamboat that ever floated upon the waters of America was propelled in triumph along the millrace at Ellicott City and was the invention of a John Ellicott. It was on a small scale, built merely for the purpose of experiment and exhibited in

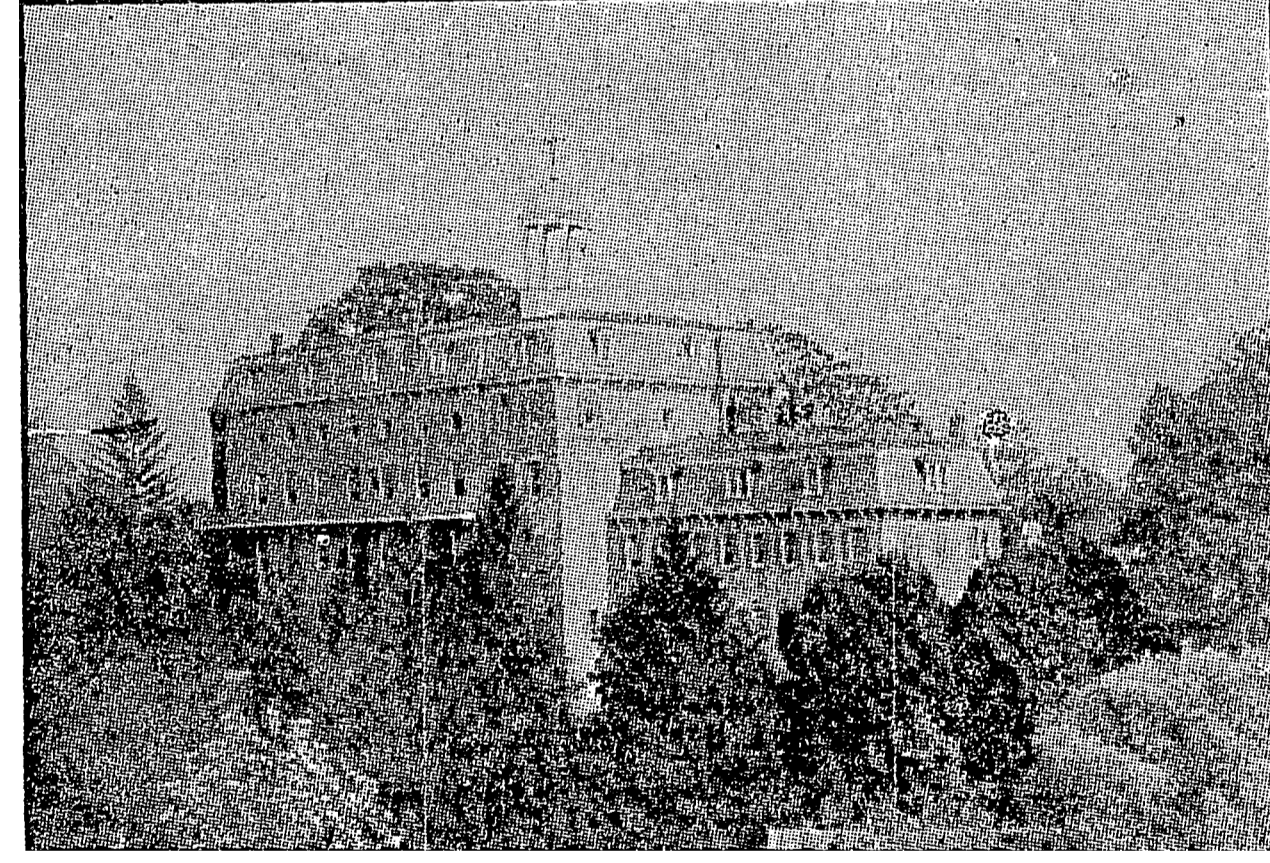


MOUNT IDA
Colonial homestead built by the Ellicotts and bought by Mr. John S. Tyson. Until this fall the residence of Miss Ida Tyson, but now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Powell.

was long conducted as a hotel by the McLaughlin family, the head of which was a son-in-law of the Mr. Barnum, who kept Barnum's Hotel, the historic hostelry of Baltimore city. It is now the property of the Hunt family and is rented in lodgings, but its walls are still marked by the ravages of the great flood of 1868 that swept through the gorge and destroyed many of its most historic landmarks.

Socially, Ellicott City is, perhaps, the most exclusive city in the world. Each residence with any pretension to elegance is built on a separate spur of the Patapsco Hills and creates its own environment. Each family is the leading and, incidentally, the only family of its immediate neighborhood, but seriously speaking the locality boasts of being the cradle of much of the bluest blood of Maryland. There are some lovely old residences in its immediate

vicinity. Doughoregan Manor, the beautiful Colonial estate of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, is near Ellicott City, and is now the home of ex-Gov. John Lee Carroll. Holly Quarter, another noted Carroll estate, is hard by, as the English would say. Mount Ida, the Colonial home of the Ellicotts and Tysons, is still owned by their descendant, Miss Ida Tyson, though at present occupied by Mr. W. S. Powell. Gov. Edwin Warfield's family is among the most notable of Howard county. In the vicinity, too, is the home of ex-Governor Ligon and ex-Gov. William M. Merrick, and among the leading county families are the Dorsey, Fulton, Roger, Johnson, George, Carter, Hanson, Herbert, Winter and others. Mr. Gerheart Entke is president of the Washington Trust Company, of Ellicott



ROCK HILL COLLEGE, ELLICOTT CITY

original stone building erected by the Ellicott family 100 years ago for the instruction of their own and their neighbors' children. To this school (gorgeously appareled in a blue velvet jacket and possessed of that remarkable luxury, a gold watch) came the Baltimore lad, Nathan Tyson, and it was here he first met his child sweetheart, Martha Ellicott, who afterward became his wife. The Ellicotts were deeply interested in the Christianization of the American Indian, and to this school were brought for education perhaps the first Indians who ever received definite instruction in Maryland. The ancient school building is now somewhat frivolously adorned with a mansard roof that presents much the incongruous effect that might be expected had a sober and stately Quakeress of 1775 laid aside her quaint gray bonnet and donned the picture hat of her debutante great-great-granddaughter of today.

One of the first cares of the Ellicotts was the intellectual and moral training of the rising generation around them. By grants of land for the erection of churches and schools they encouraged every Christian denomination in the town that was numerous enough to need schools and places of public worship. Among these was a grant to the Roman Catholics, whereon was erected the parish Church of St. Paul's, and from the little stone Quaker school-house before mentioned grew the Rock Hill Academy, which was finally purchased by the Christian Brothers and is the Rock Hill College of today. Bunker, the famous African astronomer, was born in Ellicott City and received from George Ellicott the early instruction which has placed his works in the Academy of Sciences in France.

Berg Alnwick, recently restored to its Colonial glory by its present owner, Mrs. A. Marshall Elliott, is one of the most beautiful architectural monuments to be found in the State of Maryland. It was formerly Patapsco Female Institute, and stands at an altitude of 330 feet above the sea level. It crowns a height overlooking



BERG ALNWICK, FORMERLY PATAPSCO HEIGHTS INSTITUTE