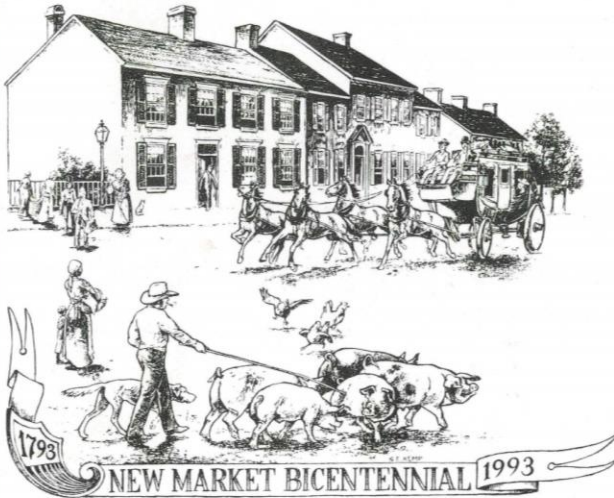


BICENTENNIAL HISTORY

of



THE TOWN of NEW MARKET

FREDERICK COUNTY MARYLAND

by
Kathleen Snowden

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May 5, 1993

This is a brief history of the Town of New Market, Maryland.

The New Market Bicentennial Committee, a committee appointed by the Mayor and Council of the Town of New Market, has critiqued this document and has given its vote of confidence.

This compilation of researched material was authorized by Mrs. Kathleen Snowden. The Mayor, Council, and the Bicentennial Committee extend their sincere thanks to Mrs. Snowden for a job well done.

We want to gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Charles C. Keller, Clerk of the Frederick County Circuit Court, Frederick County Historic Society, C. Burr Artz Library and citizens and friends of New Market.

Given the limited space allowed for this abbreviated version, all homes and shops could not be included. However, we believe that it provides an excellent cross section of New Market history.



The Nicholas Hall House just south of New Market



*The William & Margaret Plummer House
Drawing by Ina Prosser*

Town of New Market Mayor and Council

Mayor	Franklin M. Shaw
Council	W. Franklin Smith, President Terri Houston Nancy Fleshman Jesse Sutton Howard Wilson

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THE BEGINNING

On March 8, 1791, William Plummer, a Quaker, and Nickolas Hall, of English lineage, drew boundary lines at what is now Fifth and Sixth Alleys, thereby setting into motion their plan to establish a town beside a rough wagon trail, called the Baltimore Turnpike. Plummer's part of the town laid west on Hunting Lott, a tract of land granted to his father, Thomas Plummer, on June 28, 1743. Hall's section ran east on Dorsey's Partnership, a large mass of land originally patented by John Dorsey, an Englishman. The latter tract became part of the land that Hall renamed the New Market Plains.

William Plummer laid out the first 36 lots in what he called the "*Town of New Market*," on August 1, 1792. These parcels were to be sold with a 99-year ground rental. Two of these lots (4 and 22) were already occupied by Plummer and his family. He had moved into his log house on lot 4, fronting the north side of the turnpike, shortly after marrying Margaret Jones, on November 28, 1778. (William and Margaret Plummer's house stands at 51 West Main Street.)



Main Street 1880's

Approximately seven months later, on January 29, 1793, Hall divided his section into 134 lots that were also subject to ground rent. The town was now complete and its streets and alleys deeded "*for the use of the public*." Plummer and Hall fully realized the commercial value of the Baltimore Turnpike and therefore made a half mile section of the road New Market's Main Street. These astute men knew the town's location, toll-free roadway and ample water supply would attract enterprising men and women to develop a place where travelers could rest, eat, shop and trade.



Front of National Pike Inn

THE FOUNDING OF NEW MARKET

On June 1, 1793, the Town of New Market officially began when Nicholas Hall held a public auction and sold the first 19 lots. While Hall continued to sell and rent, Plummer was busy in his part of town building homes for two of his daughters, Ursula and Ruth. His brother, Jesse, also moved into the town. On March 17, 1795, William Plummer recorded his first sales.

George Smith, a German who purchased four lots at Hall's first sale, had the distinction of erecting the first house in the newly established town. The house was used as a tavern and soon became one of the favorite stopovers along the turnpike that was destined to become the National Pike, one of the most famous and well-traveled highways in America.

George Smith Tavern
Drawing by
Ina Prosser



Taverns played an important role in the development of this nation and Smith's place was no exception. It was not only a place to eat and drink whiskey: the tavern was used by officials to post public notice, hold sales, provide lottery information and served as a gathering place to talk business and make deals. The locals and travelers could drop by Smith's Tavern to view the stagecoach schedules and purchase the weekly newspaper. (The George Smith Tavern, at 17 East Main, is now the Federal Street Antique Shop, owned and operated by Jim Higgs, a retired Educator and Military Officer.)

GROWTH

The Town of New Market did not suffer slow growth as did many other small villages. It grew quickly as men with foresight immediately built homes, churches and set up businesses to meet the needs of travelers moving along the difficult trek to and from Baltimore and beyond.

As early as 1797, the town had a number of one and two-story log and brick homes. The rapid construction was mainly due to the large labor force of servants. New Market had a number of indentured servants bought off the ships in Baltimore and Annapolis. These people usually worked from three to seven years to reimburse those who paid their passage to America. The indentured servants were white and often well educated. Some served as bookkeepers, clerks and teachers and teachers or tutors. Others were skilled laborers who taught or apprenticed as carpenters, furniture makers, harness makers, blacksmiths, tailors, overseers and other more technical jobs.

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Convicts were another source of labor. They served from seven to fourteen years. Some had committed serious crimes, many however were sentenced for menial offenses or had simply upset a government official. The convicts were employed building roads, felling trees, mining and other laborious and dangerous work. Many of these people later became some of the town's most upstanding citizens.

Slaves were the town's largest and most important labor source. They served in almost all skilled and unskilled jobs. Many residents of New Market and the surrounding area became off slave labor. The human beings sold on Main Street drew large crowds and boosted the economy.

By 1803, there was a number of free African Americans in New Market. In the late 1800's, almost half of the town's population was African American. Several owned homes in the center of town and many lived along East Main Street. Others lived on Federal Street and the northern and southernmost alleys. However, most of these citizens lived on Bye Alley.



Aunt Ann

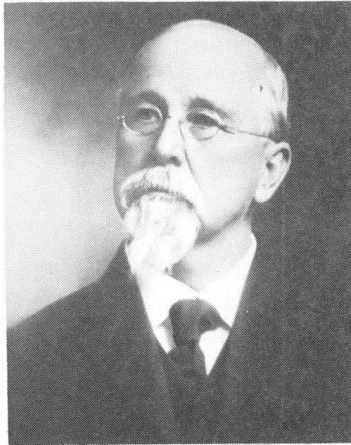
RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

On June 6, 1794, the Bus Creek Society of Friends purchased one half acre of land from Nickolas Hall to establish New Market's first religious institution and school. The meeting house was built of logs on North Alley. Years later, the Quakers deeded the property to the African American citizens who began the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church and cemetery. The church was also used as the first school for these residents. The small building was torn down in 1948 when the congregations erected the present Simpson United Methodist Church on East Main Street.

Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America bought a lot to erect a house of worship on March 17, 1801. The church was built on the east side of Prospect Alley (New London Road). The old log structure was removed and the present church established in 1821.

The Methodist Protestant Church was built in 1831 and the Methodist Church South was erected in 1867. The latter church burned down in 1918 and was never rebuilt.

In 1872, the Grace Episcopal Church was built on East Main Street. This building was destroyed by fire in 1902, but rebuilt a year later.



*Melvin P. Wood
Member of Philanthropic
Lodge No. 168
Member Maryland House of
Delegates 1885 & 1895
Session*

FATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

The first Masonic Lodge was Philanthropic Lodge No. 50 that began in the 1700s. Philanthropic Lodge No. 168 was organized in 1815. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Fidelity Lodge No. 4 began in 1847. The African American Lodge, Tabernacle No. 50 of the Galilee Fishermen was established in 1903.

TRADE CENTER

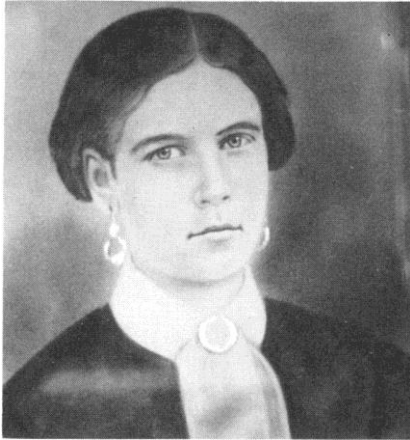
New Market soon became an important center for wagoners and other travelers. The two streets and 19 alleys were lined with homes, mainly used for businesses, and buildings specifically erected for trade. In 1799, John Roberts built the first hotel. The home of Dr. John Smith served as the

first Post Office. By 1812, the town had a button factory, nail factory, wheelwright shops, blacksmith shops, tanneries, dry goods and grocery stores, inns, taverns, livery stables, wagon stands, two distilleries and a “*House of Entertainment for the Genteel.*”

Business was so brisk, the Steir Brothers, who manufactured their own ploughs and wagons, opened a blacksmith shop beside their wheelwright shop and wood/iron yard. It didn’t seem to matter the shop, at the southwest corner of Federal Street, was located directly across the street from Henry Smith’s blacksmith shop. On May 15, 1815, John Hall followed the same pattern when he sold his tavern to Joseph Talbott then moved across the street and opened an inn on the same day that Talbott opened his tavern.



The Utz Hotel, now Mealey's



Margaret Burgess (Hammond)

WOMEN

Beginning in 1793, women purchased land to build homes and businesses in New Market. Among the first were Mary Ballanger, Clara Mobberly, Mary Poultney, Lydia Gaither, Elizabeth Coo, and the Plummer sisters, Ursula and Ruth. Several of these women taught private schools in their homes.

In the early 1800's, Elizabeth Stoner owned and operated a tavern, wagon stand and livery stable on Main Street. Susannah Poultney, widow of Anthony Poultney, sold her mill at Monrovia and operated a button factory in New Market.

African Americans, Elizabeth Hall (Cook and Baker), Murrier Howard and Milly Watkins also owned homes.

Rachel Smith was one of the town's largest land owners and slave traders. She set up residence in the house built by

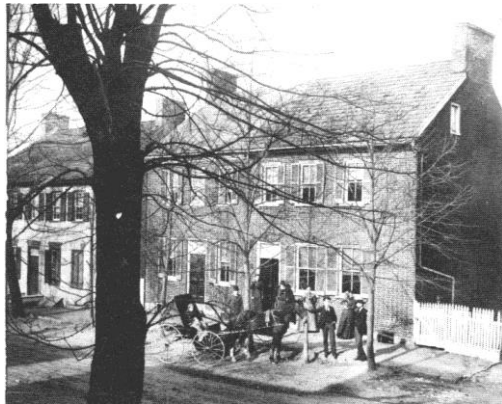
Richard Roberts in 1795. Henry Maynard used the house for his dry goods and grocery store from 1817 to 1819. Jesse Wright Jr., purchased the property in May of 1819 and built his tannery shop on the lot behind the house. When Rachel Smith acquired the property in 1837, she used the tannery shop as slave quarters. The large number of slaves held and sold by Smith caused considerable unrest in the town. (The Richard Roberts and Rachel Smith house, at 25 – 27 West Main Street is now the Mymanor Antique Shop, owned and operated by Richard and Susan Buckel.)



Main Street

NATIONAL TURNPIKE

In 1818, the Baltimore Turnpike became the eastern section of the National Turnpike that extended to West Virginia, Ohio and beyond. The Town of New Market was now an integral part of the western trade route and the multitudes who opened America's new frontiers passed through the center of town. The first stagecoaches carrying mail traveled Main Street. Over the road came heavy freight and conestoga wagons loaded with grain, whiskey, tobacco, lumber, iron, furs and other products. Passenger coaches and fancy buggies stopped at the hotels, inns and taverns. Herds of cattle, sheep and pigs were driven through to market. Peddles came with carts and many traveled afoot carrying all they owned on their backs. The heavy volume of traffic played havoc on the roadways. The deep ruts, mud and animal waste were a serious problem for the town residents.



National Pike Inn

THE GOLDEN YEARS

The heaviest migration West occurred between 1819 and 1852. To meet the demands, New Market reached its peak with four hotels, eight taverns, five inns, two tailor shops, five dry goods and grocery stores, three tanneries, a number of wheelwright and blacksmith shops, wagon stands, livery stables and livestock pens.

African Americans operated several of the blacksmith shops. Over the years some of the town's most skilled craftsmen have been African Americans. Among them were blacksmiths Alfred and Dorce Thomas and broom maker Frank Sewell.



Dr. H. Hopins, 1890

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Medical doctors began to set up practices in New Market shortly after the town was founded. They included

doctors Peregrine Warfield, Belt Brashear, John H. W. Smith, Eldred W. Mobberly, Bradley Mobberly, Isaac N. Wood, Hanford W. Hopkins, Bernard O. Thomas and E. P. Roop. The town's last physician was Dr. Ralph Michels whose office was located at 22 West Main Street. (This house is now owned by Mayor Franklin Shaw and his wife Shirley.)

During the early years midwives and/or practical nurses were the mainstay for the health of most communities. These women, usually African Americans, delivered babies and attended the sick, aged and infirmed. Sarah Lee, who lived at No. 4 8th Alley, was the town's last midwife. (The Lee house is now owned by her niece, Majorie Hoy.)



Dr. Harry Dorsey's House

ENTERTAINMENT

The residents of New Market entertained themselves with horse races, fox hunts, balls and community picnics. However, the favorite pastime was simply getting intoxicated. To get drunk and be carried home by servants seemed to be fashionable. It was also not unusual for crowds to gather and cheer as men settled their differences by fist fights.



Hammond's General Store

THE BEGINNING OF CHANGE

The railroad reached Wheeling, West Virginia and Ohio by 1852. Heavier loads could now be hauled easier over the rails and at a much faster pace. By 1867, passengers could eat and sleep in Pullman cars with reasonable comfort.

The National Turnpike was no longer the mainstream for travel. Although traffic would continue to flow through New Market for years to come, the hustle and bustle of the golden years began to slowly decline after 1852.



Horse and carriage in front of the National Pike Inn

On October 25, 1899, the *Frederick Daily News* reported an automobile had passed through New Market. Unfortunately, this had occurred after 10 p.m. and only a few people had the opportunity to see it.

The coming of the automobile and motor trucks brought many changes in the town. It has been estimated that only about 4,000 automobiles were in the state of Maryland by 1909, but the town's location immediately put it in the position

to play host to the new form of travel. The town passed a law that set the speed limit for automobiles at six miles per hour.

When Maryland began paving the National Pike, it ran to the corporate limits of towns and stopped unless that section of the road was given to the state for public use. On May 19, 1914, the town officially relinquished Main Street to the state as part of the National Turnpike. A year later the first gasoline pumps were installed on Main Street in front of Mr. Reid's General Store.

CIVIL WAR AND THE RECONSTRUCTION

During the Civil War, most of the town's sentiments were with the south and many of the white citizens joined the Confederacy. On June 2, 1862, three residents of the town were arrested for using a double barrel shotgun to threaten members of New York's 8th Cavalry. The Provost Marshall confiscated 70 to 80 rifles which had been acquired under the pretense they were needed to prevent a slave insurrection. However, the rifles were being used to threaten the Union soldiers.



William Downey, 1885

African American men, freed and slaves, joined the Union Ranks and were manumitted on the day of enlistment. More than thirty of Harry Dorsey and William Downey's slaves joined the army in July of 1863. Within a short period, the town was almost devoid of able bodied men of color.

On January 1, 1863, a special service was held in the African Methodist Church to celebrate the Emancipation Proclamation. But it was not until November 1, 1864, when the state adopted its new constitution that slavery actually ended.

On March 23, 1868, the Freedmen's Bureau gave \$450 to the Town's African American citizens to construct a new school. The town was healing its wounds and moving toward a community in which all people could peacefully coexist.



Downey's Corner Store, 1885

TOWN INCORPORATED

An act to incorporate the Town of New Market was passed by the Maryland Legislature and signed by Governor John L. Carroll on March 28, 1878. In the same year, Isaac Russell became the first elected Mayor. The Commissioners (Council) were J. T. P. Mount, Harry W. Doresy and H. H. Hopkins.

The first governing bodies spent years enacting ordinances for animal control, lighting and upkeep of the streets, alleys and community wells. Stepping stones across the street were now being replaced by wooden sidewalks in several sections of town. By 1886 the tax levy was \$.10 per \$100.

NEW DAY

On May 10, 1934, a resolution was passed giving women the right to vote for the first time in the town's election.

Three years later, all peddlers were charged \$.25 a day or \$5.00 yearly to sell on the streets of the town. Residents selling their wares were exempt. The town was moving toward stabilizing its autonomy.

In 1936, Stoll Kemp opened his antique shop and began what has become the town's main trade. The Town of New Market now has 40 shops where visitors and buyers can browse and purchase antiques, items of yesteryear, arts, crafts and collectibles. There are two B&B and breakfast Inns, a Village Tea Room and the General Store. Mealey's Hotel, originally owned by John Roberts, is still open on the town's Main Street. (The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Jose Salaverri, operate one of the State's finest restaurants in this grand old hotel.)

On December 6, 1975, the Town of New Market was placed on the National Register of Historical Places under the supervision of the Department of Interior.

The Town of New Market still welcomes travelers and extends its hospitality to all who come. The old homes and shops stand as monuments to the town's 200 years of existence.

NEW MARKET DAYS





Isaac Russell, First Mayor of New Market

MAYORS - TOWN OF NEW MARKET

Isaac Russell	1878-1880
John Smith.....	1880-1882
Frances W. Waltz	1882-1883
Edward Houck	1883-1884
Frank Downey	1884-1885
Edward Houck	1885-1895
George M. Smith	1895-1898
Thomas M. Waltz	1898-1903
J. F. Zimmerman	1903-1904
George W. Taylor	1904-1907
Charles C. Ridgely	1907-1911
Charles M. Utz	1911-1914
George W. Taylor	1914-1930
W. E. Falconer	1930-1931
E. R. Roop	1931-1940
Bernard Shelby.....	1940-1957
W. Franklin Smith	1957-1969
Franklin Munroe Shaw	1969-1998
Terri Houston (acting mayor).....	1998
Richard S. Fleshman	1998-2001
Winslow F. Burhans III.....	2001-present





Main Street