Introduction

The purpose of this report is to indicate the most salient results of recent archival and oral history research. Repositories consulted include: the Library of Congress, the Maryland Room of the University of Maryland, the Prince George's County Courthouse, the Maryland Hall of Records, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill library. Oral interviewees were Harriet "Quinta" Castle, an Addisson family descendant, and Fred T. Newbraugh, a local historian knowledgeable about the family of Col. Samuel Taylor Suit (purchaser of Oxon Hill Manor in 1888).

Recent research helped to clarify a number of points, but did not unveil site-specific information of dramatic importance to site interpretation. The most important finding, to be elaborated upon below, was the positive determination of the occupancy pattern at Oxon Hill Manor during the Nineteenth Century. More specifically, I have at long last proved my suspicion that Thomas E. Berry was not the heir of Oxon Hill Manor in 1845, at the death of his father Zachariah Berry. Rather, the heir was Thomas Berry, Zachariah Berry's son and Thomas E. Berry's father. This finding greatly improves our understanding of who occupied the manor during the Nineteenth Century; details will follow later.

The Oxon Hill Manor House: The Staircase

In a book published by Darlie Norton in 1976 (A History of Suitland, Prince Georges County, Maryland, 1867-1976), the author reports that Col. Samuel Taylor Suit purchased Oxon Hill Manor in 1888 and removed the staircase from the manor house. His purpose in doing so was to move the staircase to a "castle" he had built in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia for his young wife, Rosa Pelham. Norton writes that Suit met the 22-year old Rosa at Berkeley Springs, although a local historian at Berkeley Springs, Fred T. Newbraugh, argues against this interpretation. From a variety of sources, including personal interviews
with Rosa Pelham Suit before her death, Newbraugh points out that Suit met Rosa before their arrival in Berkeley Springs around 1883, the year they were married. Suit did not promise to build her a "castle," as rumor has it, but planned to build a summer home as many other wealthy families had been doing since the Civil War (including three members of Lincoln's cabinet). Local newspapers, Newbraugh reports, wrote about the construction of Suit's "cottage on the mountainside" in the mid-1880s until a local editor, impressed by its size, commented that it was "beginning to look like a castle." Suit probably met his wife, who was the daughter of an Alabama congressman, at a political function in Washington, D.C. According to Newbraugh, the castle was completed in the fall of 1887, at which time Suit and his wife moved in. Suit returned to his home in "Suitland," Maryland late in the year. He died in 1888, soon after purchasing Oxon Hill Manor and presumably after moving the staircase (Telephone interview with Fred T. Newbraugh of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, May 14, 1985).

Norton offers no details on the removal of the staircase. Newbraugh cannot confirm the report, but he has agreed to send me a photograph of the staircase at "The Castle" in Berkeley Springs. I have also written to The Castle, now a popular tourist attraction, for a copy of any publication which may show the staircase. Newbraugh, who has written widely on the local history of the area, informed me that he knows of no one who could verify the removal of the staircase. Since we have a photograph of the Oxon Hill Manor staircase, I hope to make a positive identification (or rejection). Rosa Suit apparently lived at The Castle after her husband's death in 1888, and not at Oxon Hill. She lost the Oxon Hill property in 1891 when the Thomas E. Berry estate sued her for failure to make the payments. Newbraugh reported that Rosa Suit eventually lost most of her worldly possessions. When he interviewed her in the 1930s she was living in a "hovel" in the country near Berkeley Springs under "very poor circumstances." She moved to Wyoming sometime before her death (Telephone Interview, May 14, 1985).
On May 2, 1985 I conducted an interview with Harriet "Quinta" Castle, a descendant of the Addison family, at her home near Oxon Hill. She is also the daughter of Guy Castle, the local historian who has published a number of articles on the Addison family. During the interview I examined a large number of family papers in Ms. Castle's possession and determined that all of the relevant documents had been utilized by her father or by another relative, Elizabeth Hesselius Murray, in her 1895 book, One Hundred Years Ago, or the Life and Times of Walter Dulany Addison, 1769-1848.

In general, it was very evident that Quinta Castle's father, Guy Castle, had searched out Addison family materials at all levels-local, state, and national. He was a zealous and competent researcher. For this reason, I believe most existing Addison family private papers are known to us. Unfortunately, the overwhelming bulk of Quinta Castle's papers deal with the Bayne and Leitch families, relatives of the Castles, in the Nineteenth Centuries. Harriet Quinta Castle's great great grandmother, her namesake Harriet Addison, was the daughter of John Addison, brother of Walter Dulany Addison. Harriet Addison married John Henry Bayne, the physician and agriculturalist who owned and lived in the "Mount Salubria" plantation house to the Southeast of Oxon Hill Manor house. Mount Salubria was built by Bayne's father, Ebsworth Bayne, after the latter purchased 328 acres of Oxon Hill Manor from Walter Dulany Addison in 1817. John Bayne and his wife, Harriet Addison, moved into the house in 1841. Bayne was a fairly prominent local physician who has also been credited with developing tomatoes as a commercially viable field crop in the United States. The house is still standing next to Quinta Castle's small home—a former tenant or slave dwelling—but it is in a state of serious disrepair. Ms. Castle indicated that plans are underway to tear down the house to make room for industrial buildings (Personal Interview, May 2, 1985, Oxon Hill, Maryland).

A note among Guy Castle's papers, written by Mr. Castle from unspecified sources, indicates that the Oxon Hill Manor house may have been occupied by a caretaker at the time of the 1895 fire. Castle
writes that local rumors at the time suggested that the fire had been started by the "lonely caretaker's wife." He was not able to verify the story, but it does offer the possibility that the house was not being rented when it burned. Since Castle has written in his 1957 newspaper article that the mansion house was unoccupied at the time of the fire, he probably meant that it was not being rented or occupied by the owner.

Quinta Castle also informed me that she had in her possession, but could not locate, a photograph of Oxon Hill Manor taken, she believes, shortly before the fire. The photograph apparently shows the house with eight people standing in front. She will contact me should the missing photography turn up. I found no photographs or other visual materials among her papers that I have not already seen.

Library of Congress: Glassford Papers, Prints and Photographs, Manuscripts

Research at the Library of Congress proved largely unfruitful. The John B. Glassford Papers, records of a Scottish tobacco-purchasing firm in Eighteenth Century Maryland and Virginia, revealed almost nothing of positive value. Members of the Addison family did make purchases at the Glassford store in Piscataway, but these involved nothing more than cloth, buttons, ribbon, etc. I found no indication of tobacco sales by the Addisons at Glassford stores in Piscataway, Upper Marlboro or Alexandria. It is possible that the Addisons used a British factor for marketing their tobacco, but they probably shipped directly to Europe from their ferry landing on the Potomac. My research into a variety of secondary sources on tobacco marketing in this part of Maryland turned up no useful data on the Addisons or the Berrys.

I also visited the Prints and Photographs Collection of the Library of Congress. I examined all of the relevant materials, including Civil War photographs and lithographs, and found nothing of value.

A typescript in the Manuscript Collection of the Library of Congress, written by Herbert J. Stoeckel in 1958 and entitled "The Strange Career of John Hanson," reports that the Oxon Hill Manor house was rented to Nathaniel Washington, a relative of George Washington, from 1784 or
1785 until Walter Dulany Addison moved into the house in 1793. Stoeckel also indicates that Rebecca Addison Hanson and Thomas H. Hanson had lived in the house until the time it was leased to Washington (P. 21). This may be the source of Guy Castle's assertion that the house was rented to Washington from 1787 to 1792, although this information conflicts with the lease of 1785-1790 to Leonard Marbury which is recorded in the Chancery Papers 128, 1784-1785 case mentioned in previous reports. Stoeckel also argues that John Hanson, President of the United States under the Articles of Confederation, was buried at the Oxon Hill Manor cemetery (p. 22). Mr. Hanson's burial site, however, has not been located.
As mentioned in the Introduction to this report, my most recent research has clarified the confusion regarding the relationship between Zachariah Berry (1748-1845), the purchaser of Oxon Hill Manor, and the Oxon Hill Manor heirs named Thomas Berry. By examining a variety of Tax Assessments, Distributions, Receipts and Releases, Administration Accounts, and Wills, I was able to settle this matter decisively. The following analysis reveals what I now know (and speculate) about occupancy at Oxon Hill Manor from 1810 to 1888. The analysis includes materials on the social and economic status of the owner and occupant of Oxon Hill Manor when such information is available.

Sources utilized in the following analysis include:

- Prince Georges County Tax Assessments, Real and/or Personal Property: 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1817, 1818, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1835, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1847, 1850, 1861, 1871, 1888
- Prince Georges County Administrator's Accounts: JH 1, Dec. 16, 1856, p.601
- Prince Georges County Distributions: PC 1, April 14, 1845, p.221; WAJ 2 (1851-1887), March 18, 1859, p.135.
- Prince Georges County Receipts and Releases: JH 1, 1845-1851; WAJ 2 (1851-1887), March 18, 1859, p.182-1.
- Prince Georges County Accounts Against Deceased Estates: WAJ 1, 1851-1887.
- Prince Georges County Wills: Index
- Prince Georges County Courthouse, Chancery Papers 1208 (the Thomas E. Berry insanity proceedings)

When Zachariah Berry purchased Oxon Hill Manor in 1810, he was already a well-to-do planter in Collington Hundred, Prince Georges County. He owned 2295 1/4 acres of land in Collington and Western Branch Hundreds (not separated), valued at £5181. This amount of real property made him the second wealthiest landowner in the Collington/Western Branch Hundreds, where average real property was £993. Berry also owned land (242 acres) in New Scotland/Oxen/Bladensburg Hundreds (not separated) in 1810. His personal property at his home plantation in Collington Hundred, called "Concord and Outlet Enlarged," included
57 slaves (£1375) and other property (livestock, securities, plate, gold and silver watches, household furniture) valued altogether at £2519. This total made him the wealthiest householder, in terms of personal property, in Collington/Western Branch Hundreds. The £2519 was over six times the £391 average for the two Hundreds, and his 57 slaves were about five times the 11.6 average. Taken together, his real and personal property made him the second wealthiest individual in Collington/Western Branch Hundreds.

Before Walter Dulany Addison sold the 1328 acres to Zachariah Berry in 1810, he owned 2802 1/4 acres of the original 3663 acres of Oxon Hill Manor. Oxon Hill was located in Piscataway Hundred, although the tax assessments included Piscataway with Hynson Hundred in the first part of the Nineteenth Century. Addison's land was divided by the assessors into an 820-acre unit valued at 92 shillings per acre, and a 1982 1/4-acre unit valued at 46 shillings per acre—totalling £8331. The assessors also listed six individuals who owned a total of 579 1/2 acres of Oxon Hill Manor, bringing the total to 3481 3/4 acres. Adding the 100 3/4 acres held by John Addison, the total was 3582 1/2 acres, close to the 3663 acres of the 1767 survey. The value of Addison's land—£8331—made him by far the wealthiest landholder in Piscataway/Hynson Hundreds.

Addison's personal property at this time included only 10 slaves and various other property, for a total value of £800. This placed him tenth among 332 householders in his district. His 10 slaves were about double the 4.5 average and his £800 personal property was about four times the £201 average for Piscataway/Hynson Hundreds.

In 1810, after the sale of 1328 acres of Oxon Hill Manor to Zachariah Berry and of other Oxon Hill tracts to various individuals, the distribution of the Oxon Hill Manor tracts was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walter Dulany Addison</td>
<td>786 1/4 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zachariah Berry</td>
<td>1328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Bayne</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Beall (&quot;colored&quot;)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Samuel DeButts</td>
<td>257 1/4 (not 40 as reported in Report #4) (Hart Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Kirby</td>
<td>532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Moseley</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt. William Marbury</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Ridout</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Thomas</td>
<td>12 1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3796 3/4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total was 3796 3/4 acres.
I cannot account for the 3796 3/4 acre figure's being higher than the original 3663 acres. It is possible that Kirby's 532-acre figure includes a part of the "Hart Park" tract which was not part of the original Oxon Hill Manor.

Zachariah Berry's property in 1810 was distributed as follows:

**Piscataway/Hynson Hundreds**
- Oxon Hill Manor: 1328 acres

**Collington/Western Branch Hundreds**
- Concord and Outlet Enlarged: 1427 1/8 acres (home plantation)
- Other tracts: 1187 1/2 acres

\[ 2614 \frac{5}{8} \text{ acres} \]

Neither Walter Dulany Addison nor Zachariah Berry owned any personal property in Piscataway/Hynson Hundreds in 1810. Addison had moved to Georgetown in 1809, but the absence of personal property owned by Berry indicates that he did not reside at the Oxon Hill Manor house. Between 1810 and 1816, Berry's tax assessment follows a pattern by which he is shown to own 1328 acres at Oxon Hill and no personal property in the district. During the same period, Walter Dulany Addison held the 786 1/4 acres at Oxon Hill and no personal property.

In 1817 the pattern changed. Most significantly, Zachariah Berry's son, Thomas Berry (1781-1855?), is shown in the tax assessment as the owner of 12 slaves and of a total of £1807 personal property in Piscataway/Hynson Hundreds. Thomas Berry was 36 at this time; his son, Thomas E. Berry, was 5. Since Thomas Berry owned no real property in Piscataway/Hynson Hundreds or anywhere else in Prince Georges County, and since Zachariah Berry owned only the 1328 acres at Oxon Hill, this suggests strongly that Thomas Berry was living at Oxon Hill Manor.

Zachariah Berry's eldest son, Zachariah Berry Jr. (1781-1859?), age 36, appears for the first time in the tax assessment as the owner of 1 slave and £230 personal property in Collington/Western Branch Hundreds. (Note: both Thomas Berry and Zachariah Berry Jr. are listed as age 69 in the 1850 census, indicating they were both born in 1781. Bowie, p.60, indicates that Zachariah Berry Jr. was born in 1785 and that Thomas was the youngest of four sons of Zachariah Berry Sr. Since Zachariah
Berry Sr. bequeathed his home plantation to Zachariah Berry Jr., it seems certain that Thomas was indeed a younger son. Either Bowie or the census, or perhaps both, are in error about ages and birth dates. The evidence that Thomas Berry occupied Oxon Hill from 1817 onward becomes more suggestive when, in 1825, he is shown as the "owner" of the 1328 acres of Oxon Hill Manor. By 1825 Zachariah Berry owned 1665 acres of land other than this 1328 acres at Oxon Hill Manor in Piscataway/Hynson Hundreds, in addition to 3028 3/4 acres in Collington/Western Branch Hundreds and 1649 5/8 acres in Mattaponi/Washington/Prince Frederick Hundreds. For the first time, then, Oxon Hill Manor was separated from Zachariah Berry in 1825 and attached to his son, Thomas Berry. From Zachariah's 1845 will, however, we know that he did not leave the property purchased from Walter Dulany Addison to Thomas until 1845. Clearly, Thomas Berry was either living at the Oxon Hill house or at least managing the property.

Another change occurred in 1825, however, which casts some doubt on, but does not disprove, the certainty that Thomas Berry occupied the Oxon Hill house. In that year for the first time Berry's tax assessment shows his possessing personal property in New Scotland/Oxen/Bladensburg Hundreds, where he had owned 776 3/4 acres of land since 1822. To clarify, Thomas Berry owned only personal property in Piscataway/Hynson Hundreds from 1817 to 1824. In 1825, for the first time, Oxon Hill Manor's 1328 acres is associated with him, rather than with his father Zachariah. From 1822 Thomas Berry owned real property, 776 3/4 acres of land, only in New Scotland/Oxen/Bladensburg Hundreds. Not until 1825 does he show personal property in this latter district. In 1825, then, he is shown as the "owner" of land in both the Piscataway/Hynson district and the New Scotland/Oxen/Bladensburg district and as the owner of personal property in both.

Thomas Berry owned 21 slaves and a total of $2692 personal property in Piscataway/Hynson Hundreds in 1825; he owned 28 slaves and a total of $2422 personal property at his New Scotland/Oxen/Bladensburg property. The fact that the assessment for this latter district showed no "plate," while the Piscataway/Hynson assessment did, however, strongly suggests that Berry resided at the Oxon Hill Manor house. It is possible that
his owning personal property in the New Scotland/Oxen/Bladensburg district indicates that he lived there rather than at Oxon Hill, but that seems unlikely given his previous residence at Oxon Hill from 1817 to 1824.

In 1828 Thomas Berry altered his New Scotland/Oxen/Bladensburg property by combining four tracts of land, totalling 776 3/4 acres, into a smaller 650-acre tract called "Seat Pleasant." At Oxon Hill Manor, the 1328 acres had been reduced to 1315 acres. His personal property at Oxon Hill Manor and at Seat Pleasant remained the same as in 1825.

By 1835, the Oxon Hill Manor tract was divided into a 784-acre unit valued at $30 per acre ($23,500) and a 443-acre unit valued at $6 per acre ($2,658). In addition, Berry now owned a 91-acre tract valued at $7 per acre ($637) and called "Spring Valley." The Oxon Hill tracts totalled only 1227 acres, or 101 acres less than the original 1328. All three tracts in this district—two Oxon Hill and one Spring Valley—were located in what was now called the 6th Election District, or Spaldings District. Berry's 6th district property was valued at $26,815, making him by far the wealthiest landowner in the district.

Berry's New Scotland/Oxen/Bladensburg estate, Seat Pleasant, had become part of the 2nd Election District, or Bladensburg District, which was the same election district into which Zachariah Berry's Collington/Western Branch Hundreds estate had been placed sometime after 1828. Seat Pleasant was now only 511 acres, or 139 acres less than the 650 acres in 1828. Thomas Berry's personal property tax assessment at Seat Pleasant, however, still included no "plate," as opposed to his Oxon Hill property. At Seat Pleasant he owned 30 slaves and $882 in "other" property, for a total of $7147. At Oxon Hill and Spring Valley he owned 29 slaves, $53 plate, and $2534 "other" property, for a total of $8837. Berry's 29 slaves in the 6th district were almost six times the 5.3 average for the district and his $8837 was about six times the average $1325. He was the second largest slaveholder in the district and the wealthiest householder, in terms of personal property.

By 1835 Thomas Berry, his elder brother Zachariah Berry Jr., his father Zachariah Berry Sr., and his uncle Elisha Berry were all doing
extremely well financially in Prince Georges County. Zachariah Berry Sr., Thomas' father and the owner of Oxon Hill Manor, owned 4361 1/4 acres of land in the 2nd district and 540 acres in the 3rd. Zachariah Berry Jr. owned 199 acres at his Warings Grove estate in the 2nd district. Zachariah Berry Sr.'s personal property in the 2nd district included 49 slaves and total personal property worth $12,553. He was the third largest slaveholder and the third wealthiest household in the 2nd district. The average number of slaves for the district was 7.0, the average personal wealth $1782. Zachariah Jr. owned 25 slaves, over three times the average, and $7271 personal property, over four times the average. Elisha Berry, Zachariah Sr.'s brother and Thomas' uncle, owned 51 slaves and $9483 total personal wealth. Thomas Berry's 30 slaves and $7147 personal property also placed him well above the averages in the 2nd district.

Not until 1841 does Thomas E. Berry, age 29, appear in the tax assessments. He was called Thomas Berry Jr. in 1841, rather than Thomas E. Berry as in 1842 and subsequent assessments. Thomas E. Berry's estate was located in the 3rd Election District, or Queen Anne's District, later altered to become the 7th district. He owned 434 acres and called his estate "part of Partnership." It was valued in 1841 at $10,850. Thomas Berry Jr. is not listed in the personal property assessment of 1841, perhaps an oversight in view of the fact that he does appear in the 1842 assessment. In 1842 his "Partnership" estate was evaluated at $17,360 rather than $10,850 (at $40/acre rather than $25/acre). His $17,360 real property placed him 83rd among 283 landowners in the 3rd district. He owned 19 slaves ($6025) and other personal property (livestock, household furniture, plate, etc.) which brought his total personal and real property total value to $24,708. His 19 slaves placed him above the average 12.6 for the 3rd district, and his $24,708 total wealth also placed him above the $14,063 average for the district.

In 1842 Thomas E. Berry's father, Thomas Berry, continued to show real and personal property at both Oxon Hill and Seat Pleasant. He owned 17 slaves and 553 acres at Seat Pleasant, a total value of $16,165. His holdings in the 6th district (Oxon Hill area) were much larger. For unstated reasons, Oxon Hill Manor had become 1308 acres,
up from 1227 in 1835, and was divided into an 865-acre unit valued at
$40 per acre and a 443-acre unit valued at $12 per acre. Berry had
also added a 41-acre tract called "Silver Hills" to the Oxon Hill and
Spring Valley parcels. His real and personal property in the 6th dis-
trict in 1842 were as follows:

Real Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Value @</th>
<th>Total Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oxon Hill Manor</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$34,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>5,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Valley</td>
<td>90 1/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Hills</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1439 1/4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>40,753</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personal Property

- 32 slaves - $9,475
- Private securities - $3,150
- Livestock - $1,489
- Household furniture - $350
- Plate - $132
- Gold and silver watches - $75

**Total** $55,424

Berry's properties in the 6th district made him much wealthier
than the average householder. His 32 slaves were over ten times the
average 3.0 slaves and his $55,424 over seventeen times the average
$3171 for the district.

When Zachariah Berry died in 1845, he left parts of his estate to
his sons Thomas, Zachariah Jr., and Washington (Jeremiah had apparently
died), and to his daughter Mary Beall, and to various grandchildren and
relatives. Zachariah Jr. received the Concord and Outlet Enlarged
homeplace, Thomas the Oxon Hill lands, and Thomas E. Berry, Zachariah Sr.'s
grandson, $3000. At this time Thomas Berry had 11 slaves, 553 acres and
a total wealth of $14,540 at Seat Pleasant and 21 slaves, 1576 1/4 acres
and $51,004 total personal wealth at the Oxon Hill and other 6th dis-
trict properties. He had household furniture in both the Seat Pleasant
and Oxon Hill districts ($150 at Seat Pleasant and $350 at Oxon Hill).
Thomas E. Berry's Partnership estate in the 3rd district showed 19
slaves and total wealth of $25,393, only a slight change from 1842.
In 1847 Thomas Berry's Seat Pleasant estate showed considerable increase over 1845. He had added 658 1/2 acres (Sewalls Enlarged) inherited from Zachariah Berry Sr. and had increased his slaveholdings from 11 to 24. Most of the increase in slaves probably came from the 15 slaves he received from Zachariah's estate. Thomas Berry's total wealth at Seat Pleasant and Sewalls Enlarged was $24,611, up by over $10,000 from the $14,540 in the 2nd district in 1845. His 6th district property was about the same as in 1845. He had 24 slaves, up from 21 in 1845, and total personal wealth of $50,954, down slightly from the $51,004 in 1845. He continued to be the wealthiest householder in the 6th district. Thomas E. Berry's Partnership estate, now listed as being in the 7th district (Queen Anne's), was identical to the 1845 estate.

By 1850, Thomas Berry appears to have divested himself of part of his property. His Seat Pleasant property was listed under the name Mary Berry, probably a relative (his daughter was named Mary Beall), along with 24 slaves. These slaves were probably those Thomas Berry owned in 1847, since he showed no slaves or personal property in this 2nd district in 1850. His total property in the 2nd district, then, was the 658 1/2 Sewalls Enlarged tract inherited from his father in 1845. In the 7th district, Thomas E. Berry had increased his slaveholdings to 21, although his Partnership acreage remained at 434.

In the 6th district, Thomas Berry's property was listed as identical to 1847. The 1850 censuses, however, show Berry as owning a total of only 887 acres in the 6th district (587 improved, 300 unimproved), part of a farm valued at $40,000. I have no explanation for the fact that the tax assessment of 1850 shows 1576 1/2 acres in the 6th district. It is possible that Berry had given up part of his 6th district lands to Thomas E. Berry or other individuals and that the change was picked up by the census but not by the tax assessment. Both the tax assessment and the census appear to list individuals utilizing the land without indicating whether or not they are actual owners.

Berry owned 54 slaves in the 6th district in 1850, apparently employed in raising livestock, producing wool, and growing corn and grain. His farm(s) included 3 horses, 8 asses and mules, 10 milch cows, 8 oxen,
no "other cattle" or sheep, and 100 swine, all valued at $1729. He earned $300 from slaughtered animals and produced 150 pounds of wool. The absence of sheep in the census seems curious if he was producing wool. Berry also raised 1300 bushels of wheat, no oats or rye, 3000 bushels of corn, and 50 bushels of Irish potatoes. He produced 250 pounds of butter and grew 15 tons of hay. It is notable that he raised no tobacco.

Thomas Berry died intestate sometime in the mid-1850s, probably in 1855. He must have divested himself of almost all of his property before his death, since his estate was inventories in 1856 at only $1510. Unfortunately, the distribution of Berry's former estate at his death cannot be determined precisely because no tax assessment records for 1851-1860 have survived for Prince Georges County. In 1861, however, the tax assessment lists Thomas E. Berry as the owner of 1308 acres of Oxon Hill Manor, along with a 600-acre tract called "Thomas and Mary" and a 211-acre tract called "Pleasant Hill," all in the 6th district. He had also inherited the 658 1/2 acres of Sewells Enlarged in the 2nd district. He continued to hold his Partnership estate in the 7th district, now listed as 432 acres rather than 434 as previously.

Determining where Thomas E. Berry was living in 1861 from the tax assessment records is difficult, since both his 6th and 7th district properties list personal property. A listing of Berry's property in 1861 may be helpful:

2nd District (Bladensburg)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sewells Enlarged</th>
<th>658 1/2 acres</th>
<th>$6,585</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No personal property</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6th District (Spaldings)

| Oxon Hill Manor        | 865 acres    | $34,600|
| "                      | 443 "        | $5,316 |
| Thomas and Mary        | 600 "        | 6,000  |
| Pleasant Hill          | 211 "        | 2,110  |
| **2119**               | **48,026**   |        |

| Slaves (55)            | $8,420       |
| Railroad stock         | 8,000        |
| Livestock              | 1,844        |
| Household furniture    | 400          |
| Gold and silver watches| 25           |
| Other property         | 500          |
| **19,189**             | **19,189**   |

**Total for 6th Dist.** $67,215


### 7th District (Queen Anne's)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partnership</td>
<td>432 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaves (46)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private securities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household furniture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold and silver watches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for 7th District</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total value of all property</strong></td>
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The tremendous increase in Thomas E. Berry's wealth since the 1850 tax assessment was the result of his having inherited property from his father, Thomas Berry, and from his uncle and father-in-law, Zachariah Berry Jr. (eldest son of Zachariah Berry Sr.) in 1859. Although the exact inheritance pattern from his father is unclear, we know from the records that he inherited 8 slaves and $33,426 in property (1/5 of the estate) from Zachariah Berry Jr. Zachariah Jr. left property to Thomas E. Berry and to Thomas' wife and Zachariah's daughter, Elizabeth Berry which would later be divided up at the time of their separation agreement in 1874. The bulk of Thomas E. Berry's property, $67,215, was in the 6th district. This value made him by far the wealthiest householder in the district. The 1860 census indicates that he owned 55 slaves in the district, almost eight times the average of 7.0. His 46 slaves in the 7th district was only about double the average of 24 in that wealthier area. Berry's $67,215 personal wealth in the 6th district was over 28 times the average of $2382; his $29,175 in the 7th district was about double the average of $12,090.

A previous report has indicated that Thomas E. Berry resided at his estate in the 7th district, not at Oxon Hill in the 6th. Since the listing of his property in the tax assessments indicates that he owned personal property in both districts, this would be a difficult conclusion to arrive at from only the assessments. The only possible clue might lie in the absence of plate at the 6th district properties, since both districts list household furniture and gold and silver watches.
The 1860 population census, however, does not include Thomas E. Berry in the 6th district enumeration. He appears only in the population census of the 7th district. Both the agricultural and slave censuses list him in the 6th district. Other evidence that Berry did not live at Oxon Hill in the 1850s or later comes from the Chancery Court 1208 insanity case and from the 1871 tax assessment. In the insanity hearings Berry's "homeplace" is referred to as "Ellersbie," located in the 7th district. That this is the same property as "Partnership" is indicated by both the insanity case and by the listing in 1871 of Berry's 432-acre estate in the 7th district as "Ellersbie." This is the same tract which had been referred to as "part of Partnership" from 1841 onward.

Before summarizing my findings regarding occupancy at Oxon Hill by Thomas Berry and his son Thomas E. Berry, a note on Walter Dulany Addison and Oxon Hill Manor should be included. When Addison sold the Oxon Hill Manor house and 1328 acres to Zachariah Berry in 1810, he still owned 2802 1/2 acres of the original 3663 acres. As he sold to Berry, he was selling other tracts, leaving him with only 786 1/4 acres of Oxon Hill Manor in 1810. In 1817 he sold 328 acres to Ebsworth Bayne, thereby reducing his Oxon Hill holdings to 458 1/4 acres. Between 1818 and 1822 he sold this acreage, so by 1822 Walter Dulany Addison no longer held any part of the original Oxon Hill Manor. The 1822 tax assessment lists 9 and possibly omits a 10th individual who owned approximately 2113 acres of the original Oxon Hill Manor. Adding Zachariah Berry's 1328 acres of Oxon Hill brings the total to 3,441 acres. I cannot account for the missing 222 of the original 3663 acres.

It is sufficient to note that the Addison family, some of whom still lived near the Oxon Hill Manor estate, had given up one of Maryland's largest slave plantations in the 30 years between 1792, when Walter Dulany Addison took over the estate, and 1822.

The foregoing analysis suggests that the Oxon Hill Manor house was not occupied by a member of Zachariah Berry's family, namely his son Thomas, until 1817. It appears that Thomas Berry occupied the property from 1817 until his death around 1855, but that the Oxon Hill Manor property did not become associated with his name until 1825. This explains Effie Gwyn Bowie's reference to "Thomas Berry of Oxon Hill" (Across
the Years in Prince Georges County, p.60), the youngest son of Zachariah Berry, and to "Thomas E. Berry of Oxon Hill" (p.61), whose father she does not identify. Zachariah Berry Jr. also had a son named Thomas who appears frequently in the records of the mid and late Nineteenth Century. This most recent research also confirms my long-held suspicion that Thomas E. Berry was not the uncle, but rather the cousin, of his wife, Elizabeth Berry, daughter of his uncle Zachariah Berry Jr.

Thomas Berry did not inherit Oxon Hill Manor until his father's death in 1845, despite the listing of his name with Oxon Hill in the tax assessments after 1825. Again, this explains the reference to Thomas Berry, and not to Thomas E. Berry, in Zachariah Berry's will. Thomas Berry died around 1855, and the low value of his estate ($1510) suggests that he had disposed of his property before his death at the age of 74 (1781-1855?). This may also explain his dying intestate at such an advanced age.

Thomas E. Berry did not live at Oxon Hill. Previous reports indicate that the Oxon Hill Manor property was a valuable one in 1860 ($60,000), and it may have been improved under the management of Berry's son, T. Owen Berry (the T. stands for Thomas, of course) in the 1860s. This argument is based on the fact that T. Owen Berry appears in the 1870 agricultural census for the 6th district as the "owner" of a $100,000 estate.

Although Thomas E. Berry lived at his Ellersbie (Partnership) plantation, he owned a great deal of property throughout Prince Georges County. By the time of the 1871 tax assessment he had 700 acres ("The Manor") in the 2nd district (Bladensburg), 432 acres (Ellersbie) in the 7th district (Queen Anne's), and 2300 acres (Oxon Hill, 1800 and Thomas and Mary, 500) in the 6th district (Spaldings). T. Owen Berry owned $1530 in personal property in the 2nd district and $1445 in livestock in the 6th district according to the 1871 tax assessment, perhaps indicating that he was using Oxon Hill for ranching purposes. The 1860 agricultural census, when Thomas E. Berry was listed at Oxon Hill, showed that he owned 8 horses, 7 asses and mules, 7 milch cows, 8 working oxen, 16 "other cattle," and 100 swine, valued at $3000. He grew 1400 bushels of wheat, 2500 of corn, 300 of oats, and 4000 pounds of tobacco, and 8 tons of hay. By comparison, the 1870 census shows T. Owen Berry as
owning 18 horses, 6 asses and mules, 6 milch cows, no oxen, 12 "other cattle," 150 sheep, and 5 swine, all valued at $3000. The appearance of sheep and the decline of swine is notable. He also owned 2150 acres in the 6th district, 550 more than the 1600 listed for Thomas E. Berry in 1860. T. Owen Berry grew only 500 bushels of wheat, along with 500 of oats, 300 of rye, 2500 of corn, and no tobacco. He raised 30 tons of hay, much more than the 8 tons in 1860, and earned $2000 from "animals slaughtered" (compared to zero in 1860). No Berry is listed in the 6th district agricultural census for 1880 and, since there are no surviving tax assessments for Prince George's County between 1871 and 1888, I am unable to employ this alternative source for information on the Berrys.

The Chancery Court 1208 insanity case referred to in previous reports indicates strongly that Thomas E. Berry was not managing his properties effectively from at least the early 1860s. By 1874 he had already spent several months in an asylum, owing to threats of violence against both his wife, Elizabeth, and himself. Berry and his wife signed a formal separation agreement in 1874, shortly after Elizabeth had petitioned the court for protection from him. She had already moved away from Ellersbie by the time of the separation agreement. In her petition she reported sadly that her husband in the past seven or eight years had ceased treating her with the "kindness and confidence" of their earlier married years, causing her to fear for her own and for his life. She blamed his actions not on malice, but on "mental derangement," and noted that for several years he had been displaying "fits of mental depression amounting almost to absolute insanity." He had become "violent and dangerous," she concluded. In 1876 Berry again visited an asylum, but in 1878 the sons, T. Owen and Norman Berry, formally petitioned the court for a writ of "De Lunatico Inquiriendo" because of his lack of improvement.

After medical examination and a jury hearing, Thomas E. Berry was declared legally insane ("non compos mentis") and his estate entered into trusteeship in 1878. One of the trustees, Joseph K. Roberts, reported that in January of 1878, three months before the insanity declaration, Berry had come to his office in Upper Marlboro and had told him "that he was largely indebted, that he was making little or no money
on his property, and that taxes, interest and expenses were consuming it all." Berry had come to Roberts to arrange to sell parts of his property to cover his own expenses and to properly arrange for his children's inheritances. He informed Roberts that he had already given "a great sum of Money" to T. Owen, that he wished Norman to be on an equal footing with his brother after Thomas E. died, and that he wished Norman to have the Ellersbie homeplace. Roberts refused to make these arrangements because Berry was "incoherent" and his mind "so weak as to render him incapable of making a valid deed."

Both Elizabeth Berry and the two sons believed that Berry was incapable of taking care of either himself or his property. They declared that he had been mismanaging his properties since 1859, in part by timbering certain lands and selling the wood at "grossly inadequate" prices. Elizabeth complained that his actions often left the lands wasted and useless. The family feared that Berry's debts, amounting to over $20,000, would lead his creditors to force sale of his property at considerable disadvantage to its actual value. The estate, they said, could easily cover the debts if handled properly. As indicated in my earlier reports, the Oxon Hill estate was sold piecemeal after Berry's death in 1879, with the bulk of the property and the manor house going to Samuel Taylor Suit in 1888.

Despite his death in 1879, Thomas E. Berry is listed in the 1888 tax assessment as the owner of Oxon Hill Manor. At this time it was shown as 1620 3/4 acres valued at $25 per acre-$38,088 total- and included $5000 "improvements." I do not know the reason for the 1620 3/4 acre total, since the estate was considered to be approximately 1200 acres during these years. Also, Berry's other 6th district property, called "Thomas and Mary" or "Hanson's Quarter," and totalling about 400 acres, had been sold in 1884. When the manor was resold in 1891, it was advertised as 1200 or 1300 acres. It had been advertised as 1422 acres during the 1880 attempt to sell the property.

The $5000 "improvements" may represent various changes made by Berry in the 1870s and by the trustees and the sons during the trusteeship period from 1878 to 1888. The insanity hearings include a variety of receipts and references to expenditures on the "Oxon Hill farm" or
to unspecified properties which may have been at Oxon Hill. In 1875, Berry paid $73.60 for "getting out" the sills and posts 184 feet of sills under a barn, and in 1876 he paid $150 to Davy Miles for a new stable and an additional sum for "shingling and boarding a barn."

During the trusteeship the estate paid William J. Latimer to survey Berry's properties (1879) and provided sums for barn repairs at "Oxon Hill farm" (1880, 1881) and for "raising and repairing barn on Oxon Hill farm" (1884). In 1881 money was advanced to pay for windows, well repairs and cleaning, "Virginia" flooring, well buckets and shingles, and for nails and lumber for a stable. As indicated in an earlier report, in 1884 the court authorized the building of a potato house for an Oxon Hill tenant, estimated to cost $200. In 1885 the estate paid for the digging of a well, probably the new well "nearer the house" referred to in one of my earlier reports. The documents also refer to the purchase of pumping equipment in 1885 and to payments to George W. Lanham, a tenant, for hauling brick. Since well-digging and repairs were being conducted, the brick may have been used to line a well. Finally, the court authorized money to be spent to repair leaks on the Oxon Hill manor house.

Since the documentation on repairs and construction is unsystemmatic and often vague, it is not clear how much money was spent in these years. Certainly the available documentation does not remotely show sums totalling $5000 improvements. Of course, some of the money may have been spent clearing land. Such a figure does indicate, however, that the trusteeship period of 1878 to 1888 was probably an active one at Oxon Hill. Given Thomas E. Berry's insanity and debts, it seems unlikely that he was making major expenditures at Oxon Hill in the years before his death in 1879.

Although Thomas E. Berry's sons, T. Owen and Norman, were active in managing their father's properties after 1878, they do not appear in the 6th district census for 1880. Norman Berry purchased the Ellersbie homeplace in 1880, shown as 312 acres in the 1888 tax assessment. T. Owen Berry disappears from the available records.