

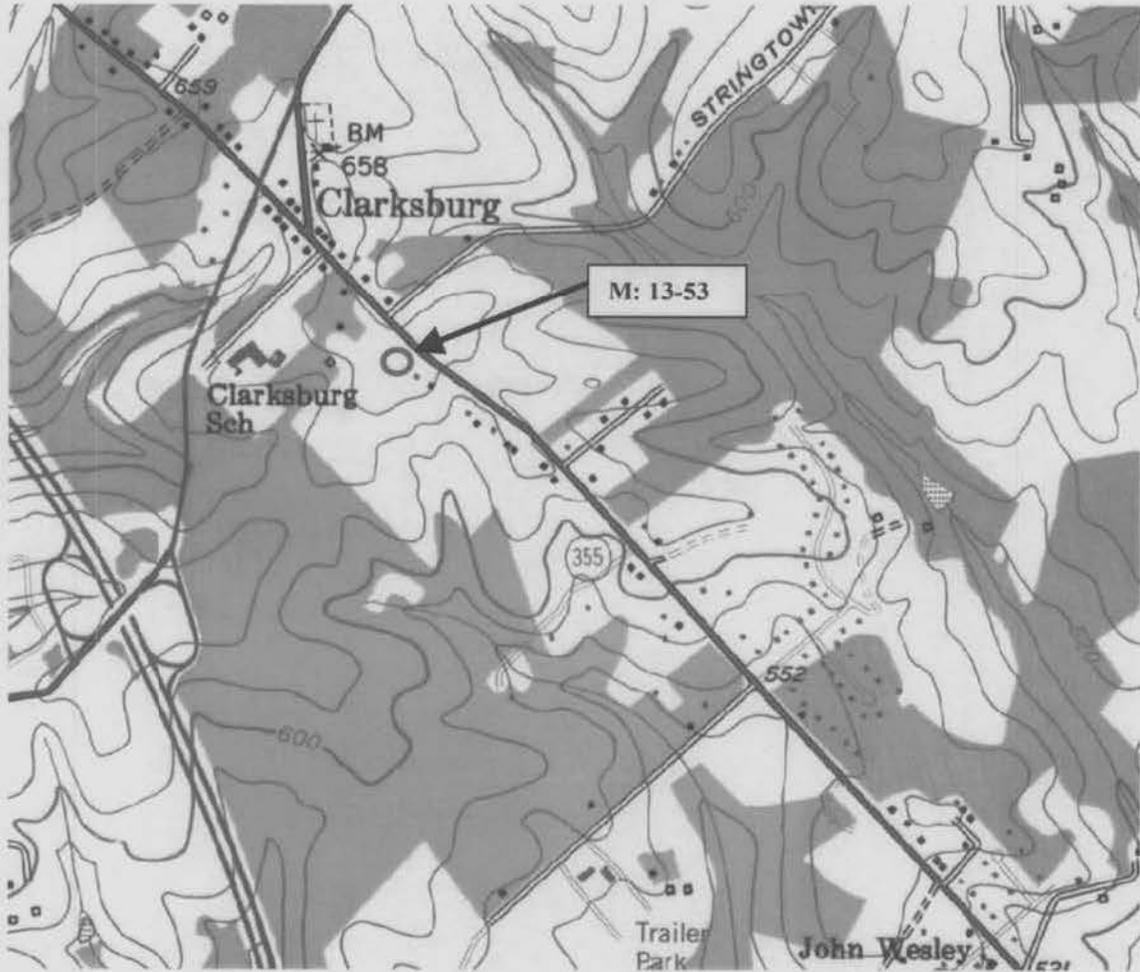
M: 13-53
Dowden's Ordinary, site
(Scholl's Tavern)
23218 Frederick Road (MD 355)
Clarksburg

1750-early 20th century

According to sketches and watercolors (one by Benjamin Henry Latrobe dated 10 October 1811), Dowden's Ordinary was a 1 ½-story log structure, five bays wide with a shed-roofed porch on six or seven posts. The central door is flanked by two sets of 9/6 windows, in irregularly spaced bays. The roof holds two gabled dormers with what appears to be 6-light casement windows. A chimney rises from each end of the gable roof. A small one-story, one bay-wide wing was attached to one gable end. Roger Brooke Farquhar, author of the 1952 *Historic Montgomery County, Maryland, Old Homes and History*, notes that the author "obtained a plain wooden mantel from the ruins" which was then set up "in the little cabin in the meadow at Cherry Grove."

Scholl's Tavern was owned by Frederick Scholl, who had purchased it in November 1800. The inn had been known as Dowden's Ordinary since 1750, when Michael Ashford Dowden received a license to keep an ordinary at his home. Frederick Scholl obtained a tavern keeper's license soon after buying the property, and he and his wife Catherine operated the inn until his death in 1815. The tavern remained in the hands of the Scholl family until 1834. The hill upon which the tavern stood was for many years known as Shaw's Hill, after a later owner of the property.

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23218 Frederick Road (MD 355)
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Germantown quadrangle



Chapter VII

Through Six Wars

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR AND BRADDOCK'S EXPEDITION

COMPLICATIONS arose about 1752 when a treaty was made with the Indians who agreed not to disturb the inhabitants south and east of the Ohio River. The treaty involved land claimed by the French and the establishment of an English Trading Post near the present city of Pittsburgh caused measures of reprisals by the French. Some of the English traders were seized; huts destroyed and other outrages occurred which enraged Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia. He dispatched young George Washington to protest to the French commander. In October, 1753, Washington set out from Williamsburg on his mission. The demands on the French were refused and the Governor of Virginia prepared for war and called upon neighboring states to come to the aid of the English government.

In April, 1754, the French Commander captured a defenseless fort which had been established near the junction of the Ohio and Monongahela Rivers. Washington at the head of a new detachment rushed to the rescue but was repulsed by the French who were joined by the Indians and Washington established a new camp near Great Meadows known as Fort Necessity. Washington then returned to Williamsburg to report to the Governor.

News of this repulse reached Governor Sharpe at Annapolis and the legislature appropriated 6,000 pounds sterling "for his Majesty's use for defense of the colony of Virginia." In December, 1754, a fort was erected and named Fort Cumberland, now the site of the city of Cumberland. About this time by an order of the King reducing the rank of all officers, Washington shared the fate of the others being reduced from colonel to captain and for a time retired from the army in disgust. Governor Sharpe was

then made commander and chief of all the English forces, a temporary expediency. In September, 1754, the command of all forces in the colonies was given to Major General Edward Braddock.¹ Braddock left England in December, 1754, to take charge. Washington was induced to return as an aide-de-camp to Braddock.

About the middle of April, 1755, a council of war was held in Alexandria and the march against the French at Fort Duquesne was started. One of Braddock's detachments started through Virginia by way of Winchester under the command of Colonel Sir Peter Halket, and the other was to march through Montgomery County under Colonel Thomas Dunbar, the two to meet each other at Fort Frederick. When they reached Fort Frederick, Benjamin Franklin took part in a conference.

The detachment headed by Braddock with Washington as his aide-de-camp crossed the Potomac and landed (it seems certain) not at Braddock's Rock as it has been believed, but on the banks of the Potomac just west of Rock Creek in Georgetown. Braddock equipped himself to travel in style with a six-horse coach for himself with aides and out-riders, and the beginning of his ill fated expedition was hailed with enthusiasm. Thus equipped their progress was very slow. They reached Rockville on April 20, after at least two days on the road from Georgetown, and their encampment there is memorialized by a large bronze tablet on a boulder on the Court House lawn. It states that Major General Edward Braddock encamped at Owens Ordinary now Rockville on April 20, 1755.

A day or so later they passed through Gaithersburg, where a tablet has also been erected, and on April 15 and 17 Braddock with his coach and troops arrived at Darden's Ordinary near

¹ J. Thomas Scharf's History of Western Maryland, Vol. I.

Clarksburg. A bronze tablet has also been erected on a big boulder on the south edge of Clarksburg and the picturesque old Darden's log cabin tavern has disintegrated into the earth within memory of the author who obtained a plain wooden mantel from the ruins. This small relic was set up in the little cabin in the meadow at Cherry Grove. It is evident that this historic little souvenir was gazed upon by Braddock and Washington and many other eminent men of the colonial period who stopped at Darden's for refreshment.

The slow progress of the expedition carried them to Frederick on April 24, and by that time the General discarded his chariot. At the same time he impressed horses, wagons, laborers and carriages, and his aide, Captain Orme who wrote daily reports of the expedition, quoted Washington as saying of Braddock, "instead of pushing on with vigor without regarding a little rough road they were halting to level every mole hill and erecting bridges over every brook." At Frederick, Governor Sharpe who met him remarked, "he was extremely angry and stormed like a lion rampant." The men, horses, wagons, etc., which he impressed caused work on a new court house to come to a standstill.

On June 28 Washington was taken with a severe attack of fever and was left behind in the care of Dr. Craik. Braddock had taken eighteen days to march eighty miles and according to Orme's journal his troops marched, on June 24, six miles; and June 25, seven miles; June 26, four miles; June 27, six miles; June 28, only a short distance; June 30, two miles; July 1, five miles; July 2, six miles; July 3, six miles; and July 8, the day before the fateful battle, he was rejoined by Washington where they camped in a valley. July 9, they crossed Turtle Creek and encountered the French forces which had been greatly augmented by Indian recruits, knowing of Braddock's approach. The slaughter followed. The French and Indians concealed themselves behind rocks and trees, the General had four horses shot from under him and finally received a wound which caused his death four days later. Washington was the only one of his aides who survived the terrible conflict, although it is a tradition that his hat and clothing were pierced by bullets.

Of the 1460 troops including women on the English side, 456 were killed, 421 wounded many of whom died later. Eighty-nine were commissioned officers and sixty three officers were wounded. The unfortunate General was buried in a simple grave nearby with services conducted by George Washington himself.

Indian depredations continued unabated and on October 18, Governor Sharpe of Maryland called out the militia. Colonel Thomas Cresap and his son Michael who rendered distinguished service in the War for Independence marched at the head of a detachment and built a block house near Conococheague as a rallying point. Among the distinguished participants in the French and Indian war were Captain Alexander Beall and Lieutenant Samuel Wade Magruder (See Locust Grove, No. 1) who hastened to the trouble points from Montgomery County. There were many others who joined them from the county. This unfortunate conflict between France and England ended with the Treaty of Paris signed on February 10, 1763.²

WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

"THE treaty of Paris in 1763, gave Great Britain all the territory east of the Mississippi River and from the Gulf of Mexico to Hudson's Bay and to the American Colonies peace along the western borders. In their joy the Colonists believed that a brighter day was about to dawn and that happiness and prosperity were opening before them."³ Their hopes were not to be realized however for two years later March 1765, the Stamp Act, which was to throw the colonies into a turmoil, was enacted. Protests soon became general; payment of taxes was refused, and tax collectors were burned in effigy. Maryland citizens who in many ways were in the van of the recalcitrant formed an organization known as "Sons of Liberty" and by a series of bold and defiant acts steadily sapped reverence for the laws of Britain.

On June 11, 1774, the historic meeting at Hungerford Tavern composed of citizens from

² J. Thomas Scharf's History of Western Maryland, Vol. I.

³ J. Thomas Scharf's History of Western Maryland, Vol. I. page 121.

118. "Sholl's tavern Clarksburg"

10 October 1811

Pencil, watercolor

20.4 cm. × 32.2 cm. (8 in. × 12-3/4 in.)

SKETCHBOOK VI

Map reference: Germantown Quadrangle, Maryland

UTM coordinates: Tavern: 18.030346.434522

Orientation: 315°

"View about 10 o'clock of the Elephant, going towards Georgetown. Showing the position of the Comet at the time." (BHL, SKETCHBOOK VI) As shown here, the elephant troupe, which was probably heading south for the winter, traveled at night to avoid spooking horses and providing any free looks at the elephant.

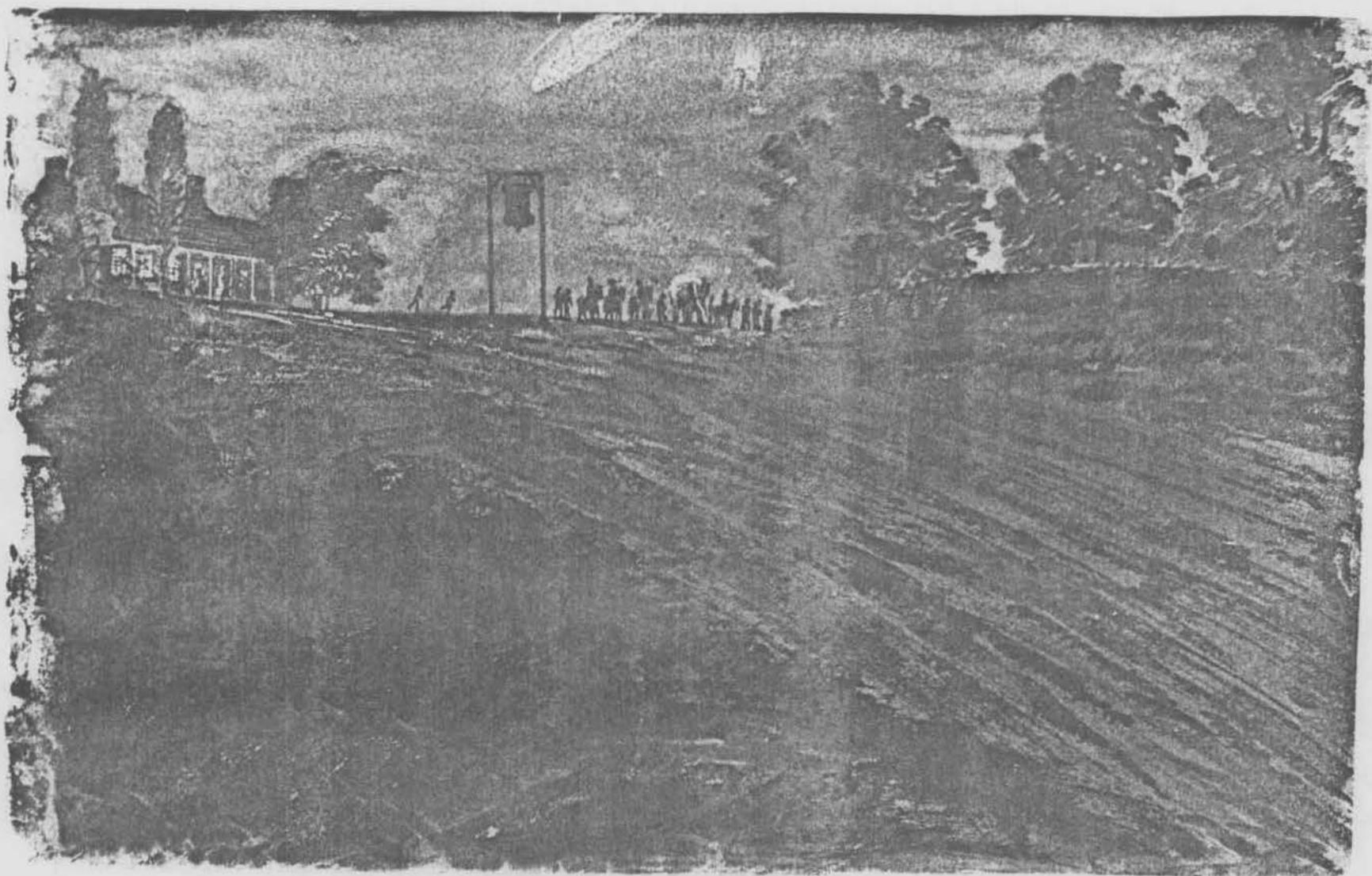
The Comet of 1811 was the first great comet of the nineteenth century. It was independently discovered by Pierre-Gilles-Antoine Honoré Flaugergues (1755–1830), of Viviers, France, and by the young American astronomer and instrument maker William Cranch Bond (1789–1859), of Boston. The comet was visible in the northern skies throughout the night during the autumn of 1811. Because of its unusual brightness, the comet was widely observed in America and Europe. Few other comets have been one-tenth as bright, and only two comets with longer tails have been recorded.

The comet attained some notoriety when London vintners prepared the Comet Wine of 1811. And Napoleon, expecting the imminent

outbreak of war between Britain and America, declared the comet a good omen for his ill-fated campaign against Russia. The comet is the one seen by Pierre in Tolstoy's *War and Peace*.

In a letter to Daniel Carroll Brent of Richland, Virginia, concerning an order for thirty-five cords of hickory, Latrobe wrote: "Pray have mercy upon us as soon as possible for November is at hand and I am unwilling to rely upon the Comet for warmth this winter." (16 October 1811, BHL Letterbooks)

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NO. 118

(1485) Latrobe's View of America, 1795-1820

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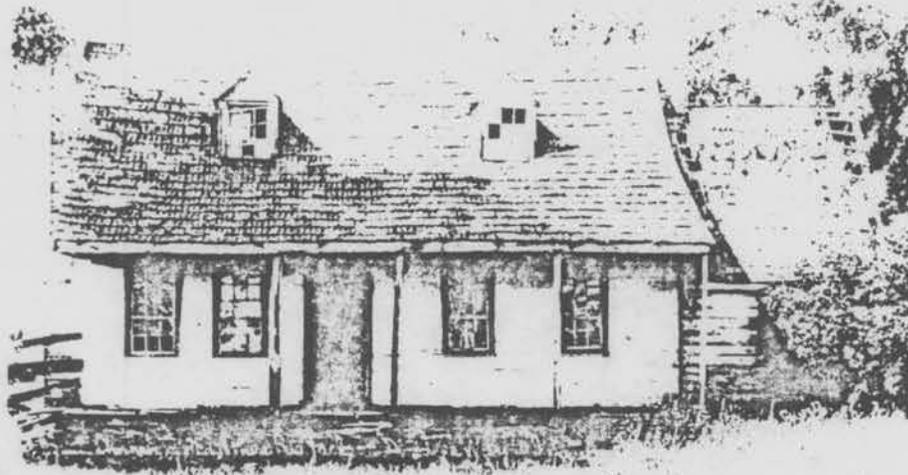
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Poole, Martha Sprigg

Dowden's Ordinary

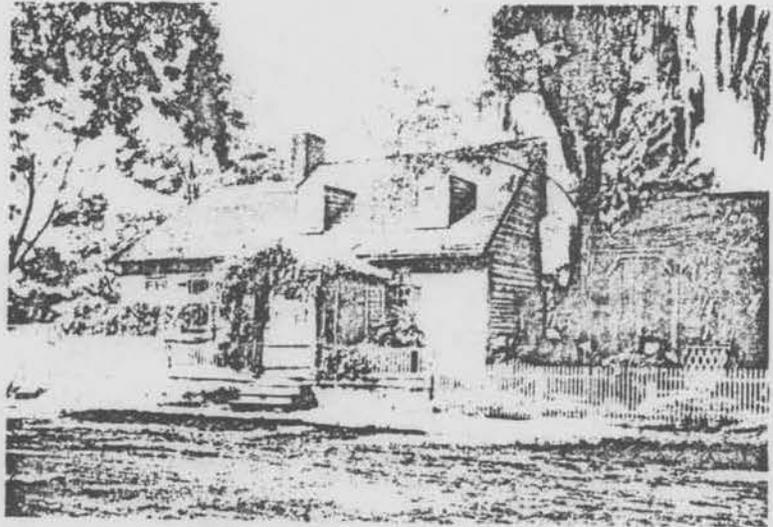
1958 "Early Rockville Taverns." (The Montgomery County Story)

Montgomery County Historical Society. Vol. 1, No. 3.

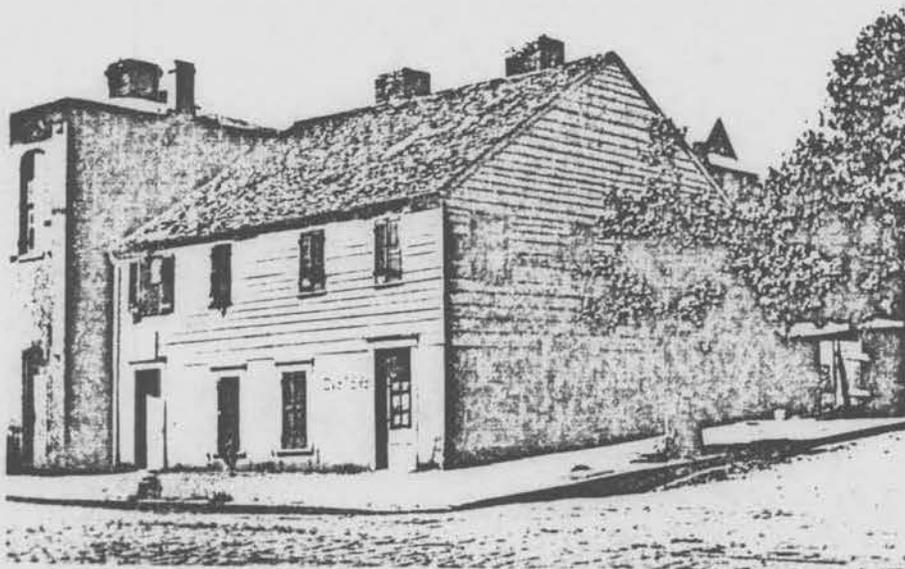


Dowden's Ordinary
near
Clarksburg

Hungerford Tavern
in
Rockville



Suter's Tavern
in
Georgetown



(Courtesy of National
Park Service)