CAPSULE SUMMARY
PG:79-22
Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery
14554 Elm Street
Upper Marlboro, Prince George’s County, Maryland
c. 1828
Public

Doctor William Beanes was a prominent physician and planter in Prince George’s County. The Beanes Cemetery in Upper Marlboro, containing the remains of Dr. Beanes and his wife Sarah, serves as a memorial to the doctor known best for his passive role in Francis Scott Key’s penning of the “Star Spangled Banner” in 1814.

A concrete walkway approaches the cemetery, stopping to the southwest of the site. A marble sill plate rests below a single-leaf iron gate, marking the only entrance to the cemetery. The cemetery is surrounded by a masonry and metalwork enclosure composed of six brick piers and an iron fence. Sandstone pavers cap the piers, which each feature a cannonball finial. The box tombs are comprised of a marble tablet resting horizontally on a foundation of stretcher-bond brick. The southernmost box tomb has slightly dislodged from its brick foundation. Small boxwoods line the interior of the cemetery. Memorial plaques are located on the southwest and southeast brick piers.
1. Name of Property
   (indicate preferred name)
   historic Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery
   other

2. Location
   street and number 14554 Elm Street
   city, town Upper Marlboro
   county Prince George's

3. Owner of Property
   (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
   name Prince George's County
   street and number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
   city, town Upper Marlboro
   state MD
   telephone
   zip code 20772

4. Location of Legal Description
   courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse
   liber 4411 folio 183
   city, town Upper Marlboro
   tax map 101
   tax parcel 25
   tax ID number 03-0192302

5. Primary Location of Additional Data
   _____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
   _____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
   _____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
   _____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
   _____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
   _____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
   X Other: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department

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   |          |          | other:          | Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory | 1
Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery is located directly north of the intersection of Elm Street and Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The two box tombs are the only interments in the cemetery. The cemetery is situated at the top of a sloping lot, with grass terraces to the south and east leading to the roadway below. Mature trees and shrubs outline the steep slope of the north side of the lot, adjacent to Schoolhouse Pond. The Old Marlboro Primary School (PG: 79-019-51) is located directly west of the cemetery.

Cemetery

A concrete walkway approaches the cemetery, stopping to the southwest of the site. A marble sill plate rests below a single-leaf iron gate, marking the only entrance to the cemetery. The cemetery is surrounded by a masonry and metalwork enclosure composed of six brick piers and an iron fence. Sandstone pavers cap the piers, which each feature a cannonball finial. The box tombs are comprised of a marble tablet resting horizontally on a foundation of stretcher-bond brick. The southernmost box tomb has slightly dislodged from its brick foundation. Small boxwoods line the interior of the cemetery. Memorial plaques are located on the southwest and southeast brick piers.

The box tomb tablet of William Beanes reads:

William Beanes / Son of / William & Mary Beanes / was born January 24, 1749 / and was married to / Sarah Hawkins Hanson / November 25, 1773 / died 12th October 1828 in the / 80th year of his age

The box tomb tablet of Sarah Beanes reads:

Here lies the body / of / Sarah Hawkins Beanes / daughter of / Samuel & Ann Hanson / born August 12, 1750 / married to / William Beanes / November 25, 1773 / and died 15th July / 1822 / in the 72nd year of her age

The plaque on the southwest brick pier reads:

On the site of the Marlborough High School stood the residence of Dr. William Beanes. Here the General Ross made his headquarters August 22, 23, 1814 on his march to Bladensburg and Washington. Here Dr. Beanes was made a prisoner from instigating the arrest of marauders from the British Army. It was to secure his release that Francis Scott Key visited the British Fleet and being detained during the bombardment of Fort McHenry was inspired by its valiant defense to write the American National Anthem.

The plaque on the southeast brick pier reads:

Within these walls rest the remains of William Beanes, 1749-1828. Prince George's County physician, planter, patriot. Served on the Committee of Prince Georgians to carry into effect the resolutions adopted by the First Continental Congress. Surgeon in the General Hospital, Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War. First Senior Warden of Trinity Church, Marlboro.
The Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery retains a high level of integrity. The box tombs, suffering from vandalism and neglect, underwent extensive restoration efforts in 1914 and again in 1985 by the Prince George’s County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust. The design, materials, and workmanship of the gravesite have not been compromised. Although Doctor Beanes’ nearby residence was destroyed by fire in 1855, because of restoration efforts the cemetery’s sense of setting, feeling, location, and association have remained intact. The gravesite retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a memorial to Doctor William Beanes.
8. Significance

Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below
---|---|---
1600-1699 |  agriculture | economics | health/medicine | performing arts
1700-1799 | archeology | education | industry | philosophy
X 1800-1899 | architecture | engineering | invention | politics/government
| art | entertainment/recreation | landscape architecture | religion
| commerce | ethnic heritage | law | science
| communications | exploration/settlement | literature | social history
| community planning | conservation | maritime history | transportation
| | | | military
| | | | other: Local History

Specific dates | c. 1828 | Construction dates | c. 1828

Architect/Builder | Unknown

Evaluation for:

| National Register | Maryland Register | not evaluated |

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Doctor William Beanes was a prominent physician and planter in Prince George’s County. The Beanes Cemetery in Upper Marlboro, containing the remains of Dr. Beanes and his wife Sarah, serves as a memorial to the doctor known best for his passive role in Francis Scott Key’s penning of the “Star Spangled Banner” in 1814.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery is located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Upper Marlboro, situated in eastern Prince George’s County, was established when the General Assembly of the Province of Maryland passed the “Act for the Advancement of Trade and Erecting Ports and Towns” in 1706 and 1707 in order to establish commercial centers in Maryland.1

By 1718, county residents petitioned to have the county seat moved from Charles Town to Upper Marlboro, which was completed in 1721.2 Chosen for its location on the Western Branch of the Patuxent River, the area was thought to be a convenient trading location. Upper Marlboro, with its designation as the county seat, soon became the social, political, and commercial center of Prince George’s County.

Doctor William Beanes was born near Upper Marlboro on January 24, 1749. He was a respected surgeon, and as his practice grew rapidly. In addition to his practice, Beanes was able to acquire several farms as well as the

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2 Susan G. Pearl, “Early Taverns.” 2.
local grist mill. The land his home, Academy Hill, was located on was conveyed to him by William Sprigg Bowie in 1779. Academy Hill was a 144 acre estate, the finest house in town.

During the American Revolution (1775-1783) Doctor Beanes served as a surgeon to the American troops while in Philadelphia. Beanes treated soldiers injured during combat on Long Island, in the Brandywine Valley, and from the hardships of the winter encampment at Valley Forge 1778-1779. He was later a founding member of the Medical and Chirurgical Facility of the State of Maryland. By the age of 65, Doctor Beanes was the most prominent citizen in Upper Marlborough: a physician, a major landowner, proprietor of the local grist mill, an accomplished scholar, and a popular gentleman.

Beanes is remembered principally, however, for his incidental role in Francis Scott Key's writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." He was taken prisoner by British forces after they had raided Washington, D.C. in 1814. The British took the doctor prisoner after he had a small number of British soldiers arrested as they headed back out of Washington, D.C. These soldiers had enjoyed the hospitality of Doctor Beanes before the attack on the capital city, as he was a Federalist. Why Doctor Beanes had these men arrested is a subject of debate; what is not debatable is the British reaction to what had happened. The British swiftly returned to Upper Marlboro, seeking out Doctor Beanes. "They crashed into the house and pulled Beanes out of bed barely giving him time to dress. Beanes was forced to ride a bare-backed mule the 35 miles back to the fleet anchored in Chesapeake Bay." It is this action that led to the involvement of Francis Scott Key in the War of 1812.

Francis Scott Key was a Federalist living in Georgetown, Washington, D.C. Richard West, a patient of Doctor Beanes, called upon his brother-in-law Francis Scott Key to help ensure the safe return of Doctor Beanes. Key, with the approval of President James Madison, sought out the British Fleet and Doctor Beanes. He brought with him a collection of letters written by British soldiers who had been treated by the doctor and spoke of the fine treatment rendered upon them. The British commander of the North American Fleet, Alexander F.I. Cochrane, upon being presented letters from the wounded British soldiers documenting the superior medical care...
attention of Doctor Beanes released him. It was not without conditions though that Doctor Beanes would be released however. Key and Beanes were held captive until the British forces could carry out their planned attack of Fort McHenry in Baltimore the next day, September 13, 1814. It was during this evening and following morning that Francis Scott Key penned “The Star-Spangled Banner”.

Doctor William Beanes died in October of 1828, at the age of 79. In an article about him, Eugene L. Meyer describes his final resting spot, “True to his wishes, he was buried in his garden with his wife, Sarah.” The estate and land holdings of Doctor Beanes were eventually conveyed in 1841 to William N. Boteler, by the trustee for the estate of John B. Brooke. By this time, the Upper-Marlboro Academy had been established on the property; beginning 150 years of public education associated with the property owned by Doctor Beanes at Academy Hill. The land that the cemetery is associated with was conveyed to the Prince George County Board of Education in 1917.

The box tombs of Doctor William and Sarah Beanes underwent a restoration effort in conjunction with the 1914 centennial celebration of the writing of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” The restoration work was undertaken by the public school children of Prince George’s County, assisted by the National Star-Spangled Banner Centennial Commission. Later restoration efforts occurred in 1985 when the Prince George’s County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust undertook the task of rebuilding a brick wall, replacing a cannonball missing from the top of one of the fence pillars, and preserving the inscriptions on the tablets.

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14 Prince George’s County Committee, Maryland Historical Trust, and Prince George’s Heritage, Inc., Gravesite of Doctor William Beanes, 5.
Jenson, Joseph E. “166 Years Ago This Month...William Beanes: The Doctor Behind ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’” Maryland State Medical Journal (1980): 60.
Pearl, Susan G. “Old Marlboro Primary School” (PG: 79-51) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, 1995.

10. Geographical Data

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery is located on a 3.522-acre parcel. The cemetery is situated at the top of a sloping lot, with grass terraces to the south and east down Elm Street and Governor Oden Bowie Drive. The northern border of the property is Schoolhouse Pond while the western boundary is formed by Old Mill Road. The Old Marlboro Primary School (PG: 79-019-51) is located directly west of the cemetery. The building is associated with Parcel 25 as noted on Tax Map 101.

11. Form Prepared by

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<th>Name/Title</th>
<th>Paul Weishar, Architectural Historian</th>
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<tr>
<td>City or Town</td>
<td>Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>February 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

CHAIN OF TITLE
PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY LAND RECORDS

Deed CC 2:646
August 14, 1779
William Sprigg Bowie to William Beanes, 1 acre adjoining Upper Marlboro together with all dwelling houses, out houses and improvements.

Will JRM 2:167
June 7, 1793
William Beanes, Sr. to William Beanes, Jr., 1 acre adjoining Upper Marlboro.

Will TT 1:432
#1810
October 15, 1828
By second codicil, dwelling house and grounds devised to Phillip Key. After the death of Colmore Beanes should be held in trust for Key, to become his when he has issue. If he dies without issue, property to be sold.

Deed JBB 1:292
January 16, 1841
John B. Brooke, Trustee to sell the property of Doctor William Beanes to William N. Boteler, all the grounds, garden, buildings, and enclosures attached thereto; also the mill, meadows, and lands adjoining.

Deed JWB 5:359
December 5, 1885
Trustees of the Upper Marlboro Academy to the Board of County School Commissioners, part of the Academy grounds on which for some years past the Board has maintained a public school for females.

Deed 4411:183
September 5, 1974
Board of Education of Prince George’s County to Prince George’s Maryland, 6.702 acres, with right to the pond. Known as Bell’s Meadows; same grantors acquired by JWB 5:359, 141:232 and 453:71.
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Photo: Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery, view of the southwest corner, looking northeast. (August 2007)
Photo: Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery, view of the interior of the cemetery, looking northwest. (August 2007)
Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Photo: Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery, view of the southeast pillar plaque, looking north. (August 2007)
Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Photo: Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery, view of the southeast pillar plaque, looking north. (August 2007)
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9  Page 5

Photo: William Beanes Tomb, viewed from the north. (February 2008)
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 6

Photo: Sarah Beanes Tomb, viewed from the north. (February 2008)
TOMB OF DR. WILLIAM BEANES

TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF PRISONER OF WAR DR. BEANES, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY VISITED THE BRITISH FLEET. SEPTEMBER, 1814. DETAINED UNTIL AFTER THE ATTACK ON BALTIMORE. THE TWO WITNESSED THE BOMBARDMENT OF FORT MCHENRY ON THE 13TH AND 14TH, DURING WHICH KEY WAS INSPIRED TO WRITE "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER."

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Photo: Maryland Historical Society Marker, available from FindAGrave.com, credit Ron Williams.
PG:79-22
Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery
14554 Elm Street
Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland
Upper Marlboro Quadrangle
USGS Topographical Map
PG:79-22
Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery
14554 Elm Street
Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County
c. 1828
Tax Map 101, Parcel 25
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Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery, view of southwest corner, looking northeast  
Epson Premium Paper, Epson UltraChrome Pigmented Inks |
| 2. | PG;79-22_2007-08-31_02  
Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery, view of the interior of the cemetery, looking northwest  
Epson Premium Paper, Epson UltraChrome Pigmented Inks |
Doctor William & Sarah Beanies Cemetery
14524 Elm Street, Upper Marlboro
Pr. George's Co., MD
EHT Traceries, Inc.
8-31-2007
MD SHPO

View of the southwest corner, looking northeast

1/2
Doctor William + Sarah Beanes Cemetery
14524 Elm Street, Upper Marlboro
Pr. George’s Co., MD
8-31-2007
EH T Traceries, Inc.
MD SHPO

View of the interior of the cemetery, looking
northwest.

2/2
**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**

**INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY**

**1 NAME**

**HISTORIC**

Dr. Beanes' Grave

**AND/OR COMMON**

**2 LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER**

at Marlboro School, on Governor Oden Bowie Drive

**CITY, TOWN**

Upper Marlboro

**STATE**

Maryland

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

— VICINITY OF

**COUNTY**

Prince George's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**NAME**

P.G. Co. School Board?

**STREET & NUMBER**

**CITY, TOWN**

Upper Marlboro

**STATE, zip code**

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC**

Prince George's County Courthouse

**LIBER #**


**FOLIO #**


**STREET & NUMBER**


**CITY, TOWN**

Upper Marlboro

**STATE**

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE**

**DATE**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

**CITY, TOWN**


**STATE**


### DESCRIPTION

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

This is the tomb of Dr. William Beanes. There are two, above-ground burial vaults, and these are enclosed in an iron fence that rests on brick pillars at each corner and the entrance. There is a marker here and out on Rte. 4, at Western Branch.

---

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**
**SIGNIFICANCE**

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**SPECIFIC DATES**

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Dr. William Beanes (born-1749, died-1828) was a patriot and surgeon during the Revolutionary War. When the British made their headquarters at his house here (no longer standing), in the War of 1812, he was taken prisoner. It was to gain his release that Francis Scott Key visited the British fleet in Baltimore harbor, and subsequently was inspired to write our National Anthem.
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

DATE

4/17/73

TELEPHONE

589-1480

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438
BISHOP THOMAS JOHN CLAGGETT

Thomas John Claggett was born in October of 1743 near Nottingham in Prince George's County. He received his higher education at Princeton University in the early and middle 1760's. Claggett was the first to use the double "g" in spelling his family's name. In 1792 at Trinity Church in New York he became the first Episcopal bishop consecrated in America. In 1800 Bishop Claggett became Chaplain of the United States Senate and in 1810 he founded Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlborough. Bishop Thomas John Claggett died at his home near Croom on August 3, 1816.

THOMAS SIM LEE

Thomas Sim Lee was born on October 29, 1745 near Upper Marlborough and at a young age commenced his public career. From 1767 to 1777 he served as Clerk of the Prince George's County Court which held its sessions in Upper Marlborough. In 1777 Lee was selected as a member of the Maryland Governor's Council and continued in that office until 1779, when he was elected Governor of Maryland. Thomas Sim Lee remained as Governor until 1782; he was elected Governor again in 1792 and served until 1794. Lee was elected Governor yet another time in 1798, but he declined the high office. Other highlights in Lee's public career included: delegate to the Continental Congress from Maryland, 1783 to 1784; Frederick County representative at the Convention of Maryland which ratified the Federal Constitution in April of 1788; and U. S. Presidential Elector from Maryland in 1792. Thomas Sim Lee died in Frederick County on October 9, 1819, but was buried at Mellwood Park, the ancestral home of his wife Mary located several miles outside of Upper Marlborough. Lee's remains were reinterred in 1888 at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery on present day Route 408 in the outskirts of Upper Marlborough.

DOCTOR WILLIAM BEANES

Doctor William Beanes was born in Upper Marlborough on January 25, 1749. Contrary to popular belief he was not a Scottish immigrant, nor were his father or grandfather; all three were born on this side of the Atlantic. Beanes became one of the leading patriots in Prince George's County prior to the American Revolution and during the Revolution he served as a surgeon to the American troops. Later in life Dr. Beanes was a senior warden of Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlborough; however, he is remembered mainly for his passive role in the writing of the "Star Spangled Banner".
It was the safe release of Dr. Beaness that Francis Scott Key sought when he went on board the British flagship in Chesapeake Bay in 1814. Because the British were about to attack Fort McHenry, Key was forced to stay on ship until the siege was over. What Key saw during and after the bombardment inspired him to write the "Star Spangled Banner". Dr. Beaness had been captured by the British following the burning of Washington during the War of 1812, because he and several other Prince Georgians had had the "nerve" to imprison British stragglers in the Upper Marlborough jail. Dr. William Beaness died in Upper Marlborough on October 12, 1828.

REVERDY JOHNSON

Reverdy Johnson was born on May 21, 1796 in Annapolis - the son of John Johnson, a noted Maryland attorney and judge. Johnson was admitted to the bar in 1816 and began his practice of law in Upper Marlborough. His first law office stood on the corner of present day Water Street and Main and was still in existence as late as 1915.

Reverdy Johnson's public career was a long and varied one. He served as Deputy Attorney General of Maryland in 1816 and 1817, was a member of the Maryland Senate from 1821 to 1826, and represented Maryland in the U. S. Senate from 1845 to 1849. In 1849 President Zachary Taylor selected Johnson to be his Attorney General; however, Taylor died after only four months in office and his successor Millard Fillmore chose John Crittenden to replace Reverdy Johnson as Attorney General. Johnson was elected to the Maryland Senate in 1860 and in 1863 he was again chosen by the Maryland electorate to represent them in the U. S. Senate. He remained in the Senate until 1868 when he resigned in order to accept an appointment by President Andrew Johnson as U. S. Minister to England. Reverdy Johnson died while on business in Annapolis on February 10, 1876.

THOMAS GEORGE PRATT

Thomas George Pratt was born on February 18, 1804 in Georgetown. He was admitted to the bar in Prince George's County in 1823 and like Reverdy Johnson commenced the practice of law in Upper Marlborough, where he took up residence. He represented Prince George's County in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1832 to 1835 and was a U. S. Presidential Elector from Maryland in 1836. Pratt served as President of the last Maryland Governor's Council in 1838 and from 1838 to 1843 he held a seat in the Maryland Senate. Thomas Pratt continued during this time to reside in Upper Marlborough, except while the Maryland legislature was in session. He did; however,
formed by present-day Main and Pratt Streets.

5.) The Buck House property was always referred to in eighteenth and nineteenth century deeds as being near the courthouse - meaning near either the first or second Upper Marlborough courthouses and not the present courthouse.

6.) Both John Carroll and his brother Daniel Carroll of Rock Creek were born before their father sold the 4 3/4 acres of ground with a dwelling house to James Wardrop in 1741 - Daniel was born in 1730 and John in 1735.

Following the death of merchant James Wardrop in 1760, the Buck house property changed hands numerous times. Included among its later owners were at least four more Upper Marlborough merchants: John Hodges of Thomas, Horatio C. Scott, Edward Grafton W. Hall, and Harry Buck.

In closing this description of the Buck House, I would like to quote an ad in the August 2, 1787 issue of the Maryland Gazette which describes the property:

"The improvements are very good, and perhaps constructed on as convenient a plan as any buildings in the state. The dwelling house is of brick, 55 front and 35 feet wide, with a passage of 15 feet, four rooms on the first floor, with fireplaces in each, and a number of conveniences - four rooms above, a passage and several very convenient closets - a kitchen under the dwelling-house, with a large cellar, vault, and other conveniences; - a wash house 16 feet by 14 - a dry-well, 40 feet deep; - a milk house 12 feet square; an office or study 17 feet by 14, all brick and well finished; a well built wood stable and carriage house, 30 feet by 18, with several other very necessary out-houses; - a garden and yards well enclosed, and a very good well of water; - a small orchard of apple trees, and a variety of other fruit trees."

4. DR. WILLIAM BEANE'S GRAVE

Doctor William Beanes died on October 12, 1828 and is buried on this site. His dwelling house stood nearby. For more information on Dr. Beanes, see Chapter Two of this guide.
On August 28, after returning to their ships, the British sent a party back to Upper Marlboro to seize Dr. William Beanes, a prominent resident of that town. Along with former governor Robert Bowie, Beanes had led a small force of Prince Georgeans who had captured and jailed several British stragglers. The British, in turn, seized Bowie, Beanes, and several other townspeople as hostages. When the British stragglers were released, so were the Americans—all except Dr. Beanes, who was taken to Baltimore. The government sent Francis Scott Key (a Georgetown lawyer from an old Maryland family) to the British to negotiate for the release of Dr. Beanes. There, with Beanes, he witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry and was inspired to write “The Star Spangled Banner,” our national anthem. This is one of many likenesses of Francis Scott Key; there are no known extant portraits of Dr. Beanes. The doctor and his wife were buried in Upper Marlboro on the schoolhouse hill high above town. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

In 1810, while in command of troops near Natchez, Mississippi, Leonard Covington acquired a plantation he named Propinquity. There he intended to settle permanently; near Covington, Wailes, and Magruder kinsmen from Prince George’s County. His was an old Prince George’s County family; his great-grandfather, Levin Covington, was a justice of the county court and built the first courthouse in Upper Marlboro.

General Leonard Covington (1768-1813), a native of Prince George’s County, was killed during the War of 1812 at the Battle of Sackett’s Harbor, New York. Covington was born at Aquasco, the family plantation on the Patuxent River. After the death of his wife and only child, Covington became an officer in the U.S. Army, serving from 1792 to 1795 and again from 1809 until his death. He was elected to the state senate and the United States Congress during the break in his military career. His was an old Prince George’s County family; his great-grandfather, Levin Covington, was a justice of the county court and built the first courthouse in Upper Marlboro.

In 1861 and published in 1928. Courtesy of C. Segrest Wailes.
DR. BEANES' GRAVE SITE—This site is the “final” resting place of one of early Upper Marlboro’s most notable and interesting residents. Dr. Beanes, despite his accomplishments medically and otherwise prior to the War of 1812, is best known for his role in the Star Spangled Banner-Fort McHenry scenario of American history. It was Dr. Beanes’ release that Francis Scott Key sought when he went to Baltimore to confer with British officers; Key himself was held captive by the British aboard one of their ships while the siege of Fort McHenry took place. During his captivity, Francis Scott Key composed our National Anthem.