

## CHAPTER II.

### “THE GOAREY DETAILS”

Thomas Trueman's original 1653 survey (see above) of **The Goare** was somewhat confusing. Since the survey makes reference to the “West Side of Chesapeake Bay” it is understandable that Stein (1976) on a quick reading assumed this was a waterfront property. In addition, there is little to really fix its position other than the southwest corner of **Thepbush Manning**. However, plotting of the original surveys and analysis of the later plat (Fig.3) in relation to a recent U.S.G.S. quadrangle clearly revealed that **The Goare** is not a waterfront property. Instead it lay just to the west of the “headlines” of the bayside properties: **Fuller**, Leonard Strong's land (most likely **Elizabeth**), **Norwood** and **Thepbush Manning**. The designation of “headline” in the later patents of **The Goare** may have been another source of confusion for Stein (1976). It appears to be commonly used in early Calvert County land records in opposition to the term “footlines”, which would run along the shorefront of the Bay. Thomas Manning (designated as Guy Manning in his will) retained the property until his death in approximately 1670.

Although Thomas Manning was a Puritan, served as the foreman of a jury and in addition had served as one of the early justices of Calvert County, we must point out that he was involved in what must be one of the earliest cases of child abuse in Maryland by one of his neighbors on the Cliffs (Semmes 1970, p.144): “In Calvert county, Thomas Manning was accused by William Dorrington of assaulting his daughter Sarah, aged twelve, or as Dorrington alleged, Manning “did by force of arms assault, wound, beat and evil treat Sarah,” and does still threaten to do so. As a result his child was “afraid of her life or loss of limbs.” The sheriff of Calvert county was ordered to require Manning to give security for his appearance to answer this suit and hold him in prison until he gave the necessary security.” (See also Archives of Maryland Vol. LI, p. 332-333).

Thomas Manning's final will, drawn in October of 1666, directs a part of **Thepbush Manning** known as **Elton Plantation** (which may have led to additional confusion with **Eltonhead Manor** for Stein [1976]) and the 300 acres of woods called **The Lear** (most likely **The Goare**) to his oldest son, John Manning, who was then under

age (MD Wills; Liber 1, folio 420). The will was probated in March of 1670/71<sup>7</sup>, and his two younger sons, Thomas and Nathaniel, were given 400 acres each of an 800-acre tract in Somerset county called **Mannings Resolution**. Within five years of inheriting the property, John Manning sold **The Goare** to James Moore. However, John Manning seems to have regained possession of the middle 100 acres of **The Goare** in July of 1681 when he leased it to his younger brother Nathaniel for three years. The latter was a plaintiff against Walter Smith in a case heard in 1683 in Provincial Court (Archives of Maryland 70: 304):

“And Whereupon the said Nathaniel by Charles Boteler his Attorney complayneth that Whereas the said John Manning the first day of July in the year of our Lord 1681 at the Cliffts in Calvert County aforesaid did Demise unto the said Nathaniel the aforesaid Messuage and One Hundred Acres of Land being the Middlemost hundred acres of a parcel of land Conteyning three hundred Acres Called **The Goare** Lyeing in Calvert County aforesaid near the Cliffts aforesaid Holden of the mannor of Ann Arundell To hold him the said Nathaniel and his Assignes from the feast of the Anuntiation of the blessed Virgin Mary then past unto the end and Terme of three years following to be Complete and ended, by vertue of which said Demise the said Nathaniel Manning into the Tenement aforesaid with the appurtenances did enter and thereof possessed, And being so thereof possessed Afterwards (to wit) the said first day of July in the yeare of our Lord 1681 the aforesaid Walter Smith into Messuage Lands and premises aforesaid which the said John Manning in forme aforesaid the said Nathaniel had Demised for a terme which is not yet passed, did Enter, and him from his farme aforesaid did eject and other enormitys to him did doe to the greate damage of him the said Nathaniel and against the peace of the Right honorable the Lord Proprietary and etc. And Whereupon he sayeth he hath Loss of value of Twenty thousand pounds of Tobacco and thereupon he bringeth his suite”

By 1683 it appears from the Provincial Court Record that for whatever reason Walter Smith did not appear in court to contest the case. In addition, his tenant at **The Goare**, William Harris, wasn't around either. When neither appeared in court in April of 1683, the court ruled in favor of Nathaniel Manning. Thereafter (Archives of Maryland Vol. LXX p. 447) the sheriff of Calvert County, Henry Jowles, was ordered by the court to deliver possession of the premises in question to Nathaniel Manning who was furthermore awarded 1,332 pounds of tobacco from the goods and chattels to be seized from William Harris (should they be found in his Bailiwick). The Sheriff reported back to the court that he had carried out the writ on June 26, 1683 and the Mannings retained control of **The Goare** for a little longer. However, the Rent Rolls maintained by the Maryland Proprietary (to keep track of annual quitrents due to the Lords Baltimore) indicate that soon after the case in Provincial Court was settled, the original 300 acres

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<sup>7</sup> Prior to 1752, the new year did not start until March 25. In order to reflect this, we have opted to use the designation of 1695/6 to indicate to the reader that the modern calendar would include dates falling between January 1 and March 25 as 1696, although the original record specified them as 1695.

of **The Goare** (patented by Thomas Manning) was split into two parts ( Rent Rolls: Calvert County; Liber 3, folio 11)<sup>8</sup>. By the first decade of the 18th century, 200 acres were in the possession of Thomas Howe and the 100 acres were possessed by Gabriel Dimenian.

According to Stein (1976), John Manning's seat, **Thepbush Manning**, would be maintained as the dwelling plantation for later generations of this family for the rest of the colonial era.<sup>9</sup> However, the Mannings did not have complete possession of **Thepbush Manning** during the colonial period. The Rent Rolls for Calvert County (Liber 3, folio 13) indicate that of the original 600 acres patented by Thomas Manning, only 300 were retained by the Mannings circa 1700. The other 300 acres were split between Daniel Phillips (170 acres), Richard Dallum (100 acres) and James Roberts (30 acres). **Theobush Manning** had other owners in the second decade of the 18th century. On June 21, 1721 John Mackall purchased 105 acres from John Bromwell, William Young and John Darrimple. He was known as Col. John Mackall (1669-1739) and was the son of James Mackall (who had immigrated from Scotland and had settled at the Cliffs of Calvert) and Mary Grahame also from Scotland (Mackall 1946 p. 10). Col. John Mackall had married Susanna Parott Parker in 1713, and served as a member of the House of Burgesses from 1704 to 1739. He was speaker of the House when he died (Papenfuse et al. 1985, p.564). In June of 1729 James Humes transferred 100 acres to Martin Driver. Mary Mackall was listed in the Calvert County 1774-Debt Book<sup>10</sup> as having 100 acres of **Theobush Manning**, from James John Mackall, (the grandson of Col. John Mackall). James John Mackall owned two dozen plantations in the 1760s (Proprietary Debt Books), including 617 acres of **Godsgrace** at the mouth of Hunting Creek where a stately mansion once stood before destroyed during the war of 1812 (Hutchins 1992, p.1-14) .

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<sup>8</sup> Available at Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis (see Index 56): Microfilm No. 4377-2.

<sup>9</sup> After the Revolution, the Manning family lost complete control of **Theobush Manning** which was by then divided into pieces. Part of **Theobush Manning** and adjoining **Gunnisby** were owned by John and Joshan Montgomery and Benjamin Sedgewick. In 1807 the three were living in Frederick Co. MD, and they sold 158 ½ acres of the above tracts to Margaret Bourne (Calvert Co. Land Book I, folio 293). In 1811, William Sedgewick of Frederick County also conveyed his interest in **Theobush Manning** and **Gunnisby** to George Bourne, Margaret Ireland Bourne and Drusilla Bourne (Calvert County Land Book I, folio 411). A year earlier another portion of **Theobush Manning** was sold to Mary D. and Sarah Ireland by Jane and Samuel Gray. The latter portion adjoined **Norwood**, and had been bought by John Gray of the Cliffs from Benjamin Griffin (Calvert County Land Book I, folio 395). In 1812 George Bourne and his wife Sarah sold portions of **Theobush Manning** and the **Goare** (which they bought from the heirs of John Gray) to James E. Bourne for \$2400 (Calvert County Land Book I, folio 451). Thus, most of **Theobush Manning** was owned by members of the Bourne family by the war of 1812.

<sup>10</sup> The original is at the Maryland Hall of Records in Annapolis: Deck 1, Range 24, Section -02, Container -12.

Another owner of **The Goare** appears to be Rev. Thomas Laudet who was listed as having 50 acres of it (along with 239 acres of Prestons Cliffs) in the 1774 Debt Book (JJH.COM) for Calvert County. One of the problems with the word “goare” is that it was often corrupted as “gore” a term frequently used for a triangular tract of land. As such, it was used often enough in the land records to be confusing with the definition of “goare” given by Stein (1976). An example of this confusion is in the will of John Pollard from Taylor’s Island across the bay, within sight of the Cliffs.<sup>11</sup> He also owned **Sharpes Outlet**, described as “on the Cliffs” (but not on the bayside) in Calvert County. It remains to be seen whether he owned a piece of **The Goare** we are concerned with. Other tracts of the named Goare can be found in Calvert, Prince Georges, Anne Arundel, and Kent Counties.

In the 1782 Assessment of Calvert County, **The Goare** is listed under property owners in three hundreds (reflecting its location on the borders of each). Isaac Hooper in St. Leonards Hundred, was assessed for seven acres of **Narrow Neck & Goare**. His other land included 6 acres of **The Swamp** and 79 acres of **Toby’s Quarter** (originally patented by John Pardoe). From the 1782 assessment above, it also appears that Isaac Hooper’s modest dwelling plantation (valued at only £30 out of a total assessment £ 417) and family of five whites and two slaves were most likely centered at **Toby’s Quarter**.

In contrast, Alexander Somervell was assessed £1,086 in 1782 for 25 slaves and 100 acres of **The Goare** and 300 acres of surplus land in the Lower Cliffs Hundred. Col. William Fitzhugh<sup>12</sup> (whom we shall cover in more detail later) of the Eltonhead Hundred was also assessed for 70 acres of **The Goare**. Therefore, at least 177 acres of **The Goare** is accounted for and possibly as much as 477 acres, if the surplus land of Alexander Somervell is included. Surplus land is that which was added to a tract to make up for a deficiency of acreage in the original survey.

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<sup>11</sup> John Pollard listed his occupation in the historical records as a wine cooper (meaning he could make water proof barrels which were higher quality than dry casks for shipping tobacco), and had numerous properties in Dorchester County.

<sup>12</sup> Col. William Fitzhugh was the grandson of an influential merchant planter of the same name, who had left over 54,000 acres in his 1701 will to his five sons (Fitzhugh 1962). Col. William Fitzhugh’s grandfather’s seat (**Eagles Nest**) was in Stafford County, Virginia, but he also had a tract called **Bedford** consisting of over 21,000 acres (Dabney 1978 p. 74). The first William Fitzhugh of Virginia left over 5,000 acres of land and seven slaves to his underage son George Fitzhugh in 1701 (Fitzhugh 1962 pp. 373-385). The latter eventually married Mary Mason and had two sons, George and William, before dying in 1722. William was the only son to reach maturity and should not be confused with his contemporary cousin, William Fitzhugh of **Marmion** (1725-1791) who was the son of Major John Fitzhugh and served in the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1761 to 1765 (Tyler 1915 p. 234-236).

In any event, immediately following the Revolution, Alexander Somervell was the largest single land owner of **The Goare**. We think that this is verified by the plat discussed earlier which was presented in a court case of Sedwick versus Somervell. Alex Somervell was the youngest of three sons (and an older sister, Jesse) of Dr. James Somervell, from Scotland. The latter had served with the ill-fated Bonnie Prince Charles and was sent to America after being captured at the Battle of Muir in 1715 (Stein 1976). Although immigrating as an indentured servant, Dr. James Somervell eventually rose to prominence in Calvert County, serving as a Justice and High Sheriff before his death in 1751 (Prerog. Court Wills; Liber 28, folio 40). A mark of his importance is an obituary dated February 20, 1751 in the Maryland Gazette in Annapolis, a rarity for someone living in Calvert County (Barnes 1973, p.171). His wife Sarah was also accorded an obituary in the Maryland Gazette on May 25, 1755, and reference was made there that she was "a relict of the late worthy Dr. James Somervell" (Barnes 1973, p. 171). Their youngest son, Alexander Somervell was born in 1734 and married Rebecca, the daughter of William and Dorcas Mackall Dawkins (Stein 1976). Alexander Somervell and his brother James<sup>13</sup>, were named executors of their mother Sarah's estate which was probated in September of 1755 (MD Wills; Liber 29, folio 526). The will of Sarah Somervell stipulated that both brothers shared the proceeds of the estate with their under-age niece, Sarah Bourne, whose mother (Jesse) had died. Their oldest brother, John Somervell, is not mentioned in the will and may have gotten his share of his father's estate before his mother's death.

Alexander Somervell became a colonel in the Calvert County militia in 1758, later was a member of the Continental Congress, and served in the Revolutionary War (Stein 1976). He died the year after the 1782 Tax Assessment, where he was listed with assets in two other hundreds in addition to the Lower Cliffs Hundred. An additional £394 was assessed to Alexander Somervell for three slaves and 200 acres for tracts in the St. Leonard's Hundred named **Smiths Purchase**, **Bartholemew's Neck** and **Wolf's Hold**, and 30 lbs sterling for his lot in St. Leonards in the Eltonhead Hundred. Alexander Somervell had received the lot and a warehouse in St. Leonards Creek town from his older brother John's will (probated in 1763 (MD Wills; Liber 31, folio 814)). John described himself as a merchant when he made out his last will in December of 1762. He seems to have died a bachelor, leaving one slave to his housekeeper Jannett Kent. The year before John Somervell's death in 1761, he had 200 acres of **The Goare** according to the Debt Books of the Proprietary (at MD hall of Records in Annapolis).

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<sup>13</sup> According to Hutchins (1992), Alexander Somervell's brother James married Susanna Dare and they had two sons, James and John, who inherited **Stoakley** and **Gunderton** from their father in the Hunting Creek Hundred. Although their father had died, their mother was still living in 1782 and was listed as owning seven slaves, but no plantation. Her son James had been severely wounded, eventually losing an arm, while serving with the Sixth Maryland Regiment under General Smallwood in the Carolina Campaigns during the Revolution. His brother John was the assessor of the Hunting Creek Hundred in 1782.

With no wife or children and his parents dead, John Somervell named his younger brothers James and Alex as executors of his will and they split the two hundred acres of **The Goare** between them. In addition, James Somervell received an extra 18 acres of the **Narrow Neck of the Gore**, possibly to compensate for the fact that Alex received the lot and warehouse in St. Leonards. By 1768 (see Calvert County Debt Books), James Somervell had disposed of his 100 acres of **The Goare**, but he still retained 18 acres of the **Narrow Neck of the Gore**.

From the valuations reported in the 1782 tax assessment, it appears that **The Goare** could have served as Alexander Somervell's main (dwelling) plantation, and that the other tracts served as out-plantations. It is not evident what use he was making of the lot in St. Leonards. This port had a tobacco warehouse which was raided by the British in 1780 and Alexander Somervell may have lost a considerable amount of property in the raid. Subsequently the location of the town of St. Leonard's seems to have shifted to its present location. According to (Shomette1995) the location of the town had already been shifted once before. The second location was near, and possibly even adjacent to **The Goare**. One of the reasons for shifting locations seems to have been due to siltation-- the opposite problem of erosion we are concerned about on the bayside side of the county just south of the Cliffs!

According to the 1782 tax assessment, the second largest owner of **The Goare** was Col. William Fitzhugh. Col. Fitzhugh's dwelling plantation was at **Rousby Hall** and it seems from the assessment that the 70-acre piece of **The Goare** was used as an out-plantation. We will address Col. William Fitzhugh further, when we discuss the landholders of **Eltonhead Manor**.

We have some idea of what happened to **The Goare** after Alexander Somervell's death (see Hutchins 1982, p. 11-13). On May 17, 1793 John Somervell sold 132 acres of it to John Brooke (for £ 247) and 114  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres of it to Richard Ireland (for £258--3--0). Shortly thereafter, in July of 1793, Richard Ireland sold 32 acres of **The Goare** to Samuel Johnson for £72. Ireland and Johnson also exchanged lots in St. Leonard's Creek town the same year. In the 1790's Richard Ireland was the Sheriff of Calvert County (Stein 1976, p. 140-141). By the early 1800's Richard Ireland served in the Maryland General Assembly (Stein 1976 p. 144). The last 18th century transfer of **The Goare** we have record of is on January 13, 1795, when John Somervell sold another 102  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres of it to Dr. Barton Tabbs of St. Mary's County for £230. John Somervell may have needed the money to pay for his acquisition of **Stoakley** and **Gunton** on the east side of Hunting Creek, which he bought from James Somervell of Prince Georges County on May 17, 1793 (for £1,000).