

CHAPTER VIII.

THE OTHER LAND HOLDERS OF ELTONHEAD MANOR IN THE 1750s

One lasting accomplishment of Horatio Sharpe after becoming Governor of Maryland was his updating of the book-keeping of Lord Baltimore's quitrents. To his credit he standardized the collection and maintenance of "Debt Books" for the collection of quitrents which were due from each landholder in the Province. The rents were supposed to be tabulated every year and as such they are enormously useful in understanding land ownership during this period. During the early 1750s Col. Fitzhugh had six other neighbors who each had a share of **Eltonhead Manor**. A review of these owners gives us a snapshot of **Eltonhead Manor** the year after Col. Fitzhugh married Ann Rousby.

The first owner, Jacob Bourne, had 300 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** in 1753 (Table 1). He was the son of Jesse Jacob Bourne (b. 1724) and had a wife named Esther. Although it does not seem like the Bourne's had very much left of **Eltonhead Manor** in 1753, the reality was quite the contrary. It turns out that Thomas Ireland, in addition to 200 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** he himself possessed, was holding another 1167 acres of it for the "Bourne heirs". By 1757 "Bourne heirs" was changed to specifically "Jesse Bourne". This was the grandson of Jesse Jacob Bourne (see Bourne Genealogy above). Jesse Bourne died before reaching the age of 30. He probably died suddenly since he had no will and by 1746 Thomas Ireland Jr. posted a bond for 500 £ sterling to administer Jesse Bourne's estate with Ireland's brother, William and father, Thomas Sr., acting as sureties. Soon after Jesse Bourne's inventory was valued at £401--1--1. By 1748 the accounting of Thomas Ireland Jr. had been submitted and examined by the Prerogative Court (Testimony Proceedings; Liber, 32 folio 33). We have to know a bit more about the Ireland family to understand how they came to control a large portion of **Eltonhead Manor**.

Table 1. The Acreage of Owners of Eltonhead Manor Listed in Proprietary Debt Books 1753-1758 (Source: MD Hall of Records; Loc.-1-24-2-10)

Owner	1753	1754	1755	1755	1757	1758
1. Jacob Bourne	300	300	300	300	300	300
2. John Clare -T	500	500	500	500	500	157*
Isaac Clare	---	---	---	---	---	143
Benjamin Sedwick	---	---	---	---	---	200
3. Benjamin Elt	336	336	336	336	336	336
4. Col. Wm. Fitzhugh	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
5. Benjamin Hungerford	200	200	200	200	200	200
6. Thomas Ireland Jr.	200	200	200	200	200	200
(Ditto for Bourne heirs)	1167	1167	1167**	1167**	1167**	1167**
7. Margaret Rawlings -T	500	500	500	500	500	---
Benjamin Parran	---	---	---	---	---	500
Total	5703	5703	5703	5703	5703	5703

T indicates transfer of property

* The 1758 Debt Book makes reference to "Widow of John Clare".

** After 1755, the Debt Books above specifically indicate Thomas Ireland is holding 1167 acres for Jesse Bourne (presumably the other "Bourne heirs" had all died by this date and Jesse was the remaining heir).

Thomas Ireland Sr. was listed in 1733 as having one slave. From his son's will (MD Wills; Liber 31, folio 235) and an earlier deposition of Thomas Ireland Sr. (Baltimore County Land Records; Liber 7, folio 46), we know the family dwelling plantation was called **Tillington** and he was about 76 yrs old when he died in 1755. His estate was considerable (MD Wills; Liber 29, folio 416). Thomas Ireland Sr. left ten slaves to his children and grandchildren. He left two slaves to his eldest son Thomas Ireland Jr. and two to his son William. In addition, William's daughter, Margaret Ireland received another slave. Most important for us is that Thomas Ireland Sr's. will reveals that he left another slave and half his books to his grandson Jesse Bourne, the son of his late daughter Elizabeth, as well as four slaves to his granddaughter Eleanor Bourne.

Indeed Eleanor must have been the apple of his eye, for he mentions two other grandchildren, Thomas and William Ireland, without giving them any slaves. From this we concluded that Elizabeth Ireland had married Jesse Bourne by the early 1740's and had two children, Jesse and Eleanor. However, by 1746 at least her husband had died and most likely she was dead also. It remained for Thomas Ireland, with the help of his father and brother, to raise the two orphans and also manage the sprawling acreage at **Eltonhead Manor**. Without the evidence of a large number of slaves, the most likely way to put this land into production was to lease it to tenant farmers. But, other than Thomas Simmons mentioned in John Hungerford's 1751 will, we have no definitive information concerning who these **Eltonhead Manor** tenants in the mid-1700's might be (MD Wills; Liber 29, folio 6).

By the 1750s Thomas Ireland Jr. was well established, having served as a Calvert County justice in the previous decade. Unlike many of the smaller landholders of **Eltonhead Manor**, we are fortunate to have a deposition of Thomas Ireland Jr. taken in January of 1748/49 in regard to the behavior of Samuel Harrison, who was then serving as the Clerk of the Calvert County Court (Archives of Maryland Vol. XXVIII, p. 445):

“That in the month of February Last he was in Company with Mr. Samuel Harrison Clerk of the County Court aforesaid at a certain Mary Parker's at Prince Frederick Town when the said Harrison Raised a discourse about Persons under the British Governments Acting in an Arbitrary and unlawful manner, in Particular that a certain Captain Cornish had used a Person that was detained aboard a Vessel he Commanded as a Ransomer very ill, in taking, or suffering his People, to take away all his Cloathes and Expressed himself in the following words as near as this Deponent can Charge his Memory with, that We complained of Our Neighbors being in a State of Slavery, but by God he could not see we were in a better, or where the difference was, only this, if the King of France wanted a Sum of Money and knew his Subjects had it he would Command it from them, and if the King of England wanted a Sum of Money he would make his Parliament give it him and yet We bragged truly of Our Great freedom And farther this Deponent saith not.”

It is interesting that not only did Thomas Ireland Jr. take offense at Samuel Harrison's remarks, but most of the Justices of Calvert County signed a letter asking for the removal of Mr. Harrison from office. According to the most recent account in Stein (1976 p. 271), Harrison had probably come from Charles County (according to G. Ridney Crowther III, documented in the National Genealogical Magazine) and served as Clerk of Calvert County from 1744 to 1749, when he was removed from office. He was replaced by Thomas Ireland Jr.'s brother, Col. William Ireland, who held the office of clerk until his death in 1775 (Stein, 1976 p. 112). Samuel Harrison had been accused of being a closet Catholic. It must be remembered that being a papist was enough to bar someone from holding even the most trivial public trust during this

period. However Harrison was accused of even more egregious offenses, such as attempting to burn the Court House Records to obfuscate the debts that he owed.

The Samuel Harrison episode above is illustrative in terms of the feelings of the Calvert County upper class during the mid-18th century toward British authority. Thomas Ireland Jr. and his fellow justices on the Calvert bench were clearly offended by even mildly critical remarks against the King of England. Samuel Harrison was comparatively lucky. On April 13, 1748, according to the Maryland Gazette, one offender, Bevis Pain, was convicted of blasphemy in Baltimore County and sentenced to be bored through the tongue! However, either due to his innocence or possibly patronage, Harrison seems to have survived the controversy. In 1749 after the well-respected High Sheriff of Calvert County, Col. Gabriel Parker died, Samuel Harrison replaced him in the office of Deputy Commissary (Maryland Gazette, Sept. 20 1749). As we shall see, the lack of toleration for criticism of authority is in stark contrast to the prevailing attitude of colonials a quarter century later. However, at least at this point, Thomas Ireland Jr. seemed oblivious to any radical underlying political re-alignment. Instead he was no doubt more concerned with furthering his financial interests and involved in taking care of his obligations including the Bourne orphans.

By the 1750s Thomas Ireland Jr. was prospering as a merchant and was listed in the Debt Book of the Proprietary as possessing parts of **Timberwell** and **Ireland's Hope** as well as 200 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** in addition to holding 1167 acres for Jesse Bourne's children. Thomas Ireland Jr. became a ship Captain in the mid-1750s, making regular runs to the Caribbean and England throughout the rest of the decade. The Maryland Gazette reported on August 21, 1755 that the Schooner Elizabeth had just arrived in the province from Barbados and the Captain was Thomas Ireland Jr. Since Thomas Ireland possessed most of the easternmost part of **Eltonhead Manor** at this time, it echoes back to the 1660s when **Eltonhead Manor** was owned by another sea Captain, Samuel Groome.

One of the divisions of **Eltonhead Manor** in the late 1750's was due to the death of John Clare I (Table 1). He died in the fall of 1756 (MD Wills; Liber 30, folio 209), leaving his land to his four sons. The witnesses of his last will of September 15, 1756 were his neighbors at **Eltonhead**: Thomas Ireland (he no longer needed the Jr. after his father's death), Benjamin Elt and Jacob Bourne. John Clare I's son Isaac was named executor and he ended up with his father's "new dwelling plantation" on 143 acres of **Eltonhead Manor**. His son John Clare II received another 157 acres. The remaining 200 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** was listed in Benjamin Sedwick's (or Sedgewick as it was alternatively spelled) name, who we assume had married Christiana Clare.

The Clare family seems to be connected to the northern part of **Eltonhead Manor**. In her will of 1719 Elizabeth Bourne (widow and executrix of Capt. Samuel

Bourne) left a portion of **Eltonhead Manor** to her grandson John Clare (I). Stein (1976, p. 250) thought that John Clare was probably son of Mark Clare who had been transported to Maryland as a servant in 1651 and died in 1700. However the will drawn in 1696 by Mark Clare "Of the Cliffs" makes no reference to a wife or children and he does not have any evident connection with John Clare. Instead, Mark Clare appears to have died about the age of 60 (Peden 1991, p. 33), childless, bequeathing his real estate of 100 acres on the upper cliffs called **Clares Hundred** as well as 200 acres of **Lordships Favor** to two married women: Elizabeth Hunt of Calvert County and Mary Wells of Anne Arundel County (MD Wills; Liber 11, folio 78) It would have been very strange not to mention a child or grandchild at this point if indeed they had existed. It seems more likely that John Clare was not the descendant of Mark Clare but had immigrated to Maryland in the early 1700s and was the son of one of Capt. Bourne's daughters [on the latter point we agree with Stein (1976), although there is a remote possibility that John Clare could have been Elizabeth Bourne's grandson through her first marriage].

By 1732 John Clare had come of age and the Calvert County tax assessor, Daniel Rawlings, listed him as living in Eltonhead Hundred and having four slaves (Stein 1976, p. 376). By 1737 Hannah Clare testified that she was about 28 and married to John Clare of Calvert County (Baltimore County Land Records; Liber 3, folio 215). From this we assigned a birth date to Hannah of 1709 (see Genealogy below). From James Hungerford's will, drawn July 10, 1744 (MD Wills; Liber 23, folio 635-637), we learned that Hannah Clare (who had a daughter named Elizabeth and a son named James) was his sister. Also, John Clare was one of the five testators for John Rousby II's 1744 will (Appendix A). Another indication of family relationships is John Hungerford's 1751 will (MD Wills; Liber 29, folio 6) where he made a bequest specifically to "John Clare's children that he had by my sister Hannah, to wit: Sarah, Christiana, James, Elizabeth, Edmund and Hannah". This suggests that of John Clare's eight children, six were from his first marriage to Hannah Hungerford (who had died by 1750).

In the December 28, 1752 issue of the Maryland Gazette, we found the following notice:

Calvert County, December 11, 1752.

TAKEN UP about the 20th of November last, in the Bay, at Cove Point, near the mouth of the Patuxent River, a Schooner of the following dimensions; viz. About 30 feet by the Keel, 14 by the Beam, and 5 and a half in the Hold, she has been raised two Feet, has sheathed Roundhouse, which has been painted red, her Mast and Bowsprit carried off close by the Board, and her Sails and Rigging entirely gone. There was found on board her one small Chest, in which was a Pair of black Cloth Breeches, an old Ruffled Shirt, a Pair of Coarse Yarn Stockings, a new Pair of Mens Shoes, A Pair of Osnabrig Trowsers, a Whitecoat, and some small Lumber; there was also on board one Lopping Axe, one broken Cutless and Pistol, one small Iron Spit, a Barrel, and an emty Tub, some wooden Bowls, and a small Speaking Trumpet.

The Owner on proving his Property, paying Salvage and the Charge of this Advertizement, may have her again, by applying to

John Clare.

This is especially significant since it is the earliest reference we have found thus far linking the name Cove Point with a particular person. Although we may be over-reading this, it certainly suggests that the parcel of **Eltonhead Manor** given to John Clare by his grandmother, Elizabeth Bourne, was near Cove Point! Thus we are particularly interested in the Clare family. (See Fig. 15; individuals who possessed a piece of **Eltonhead Manor** are indicated in bold).

What we have assembled thus far about the Clare family is somewhat sketchy, but intriguing because of the intricate relationships of those involved in **Eltonhead Manor**. John Clare's will, probated Nov. 17, 1756 (MD Wills; Liber 30, folio 209), mentions his wife Betty (most likely his 2nd wife, Elizabeth), four sons (Isaac, John, James, and Edmund) and four daughters (Elizabeth and Hannah Clare, Cristiana Sedwick and Sarah Dare). John Clare's first wife, Hannah, was the daughter of Sarah Harris whose will was drawn in September of 1730 (MD Wills; Liber 20, folio 184). Sarah Harris's will makes reference to her daughter Hannah Clare whose husband was John Clare. Hannah Harris must have been the widow of a Hungerford, and she must have respected her son in law John Clare since she made him (along with Robert Roberts) an executor of her will. However, in May of 1731 John Clare declined this

role. A quarter century later, when John Clare made out his own will in September of 1756, his first wife had died, and he mentions his second wife Betty. From a deposition she gave in the Baltimore County Court Land Records (Liber 12, folio 262), we estimate that Betty Clare was about 50 years old when her husband died. This fits well since two of John Clare's daughters by Hannah (Sarah Dare and Christiana Sedwick) were already married in 1756, while Elizabeth and Hannah Clare were still single. This also accounts for the fact that 200 acres of John Clare's land ended up being listed under Benjamin Sedwick. Benjamin Sedwick must have been holding the property for Edmund and James Clare until they came of age.

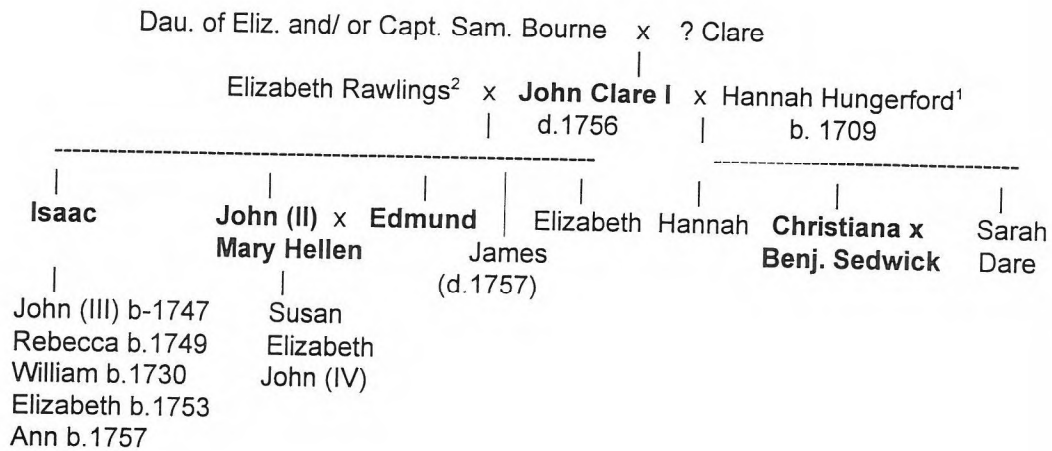


Figure 15. Genealogy of John Clare and his Eight Children.

Benjamin Sedwick also possessed 163 acres of **Prestons Clifts** in 1758 (Calvert County Debt Book) which was near John Sommervell's 200 acres of the **Goare** (adjacent to James Somervell's **Toby's Quarter**). We hypothesize that the plat which arose from a court case involving Sedwick vs. Somervell discussed above, may have involved these men or the immediate relatives. Admittedly the plat could have been made anywhere from mid-18th century through the early Federal Period. Court dockets should be checked to see if any more precise date can be placed on this important document.

Perhaps less is known about the fifth landowner, Benjamin Hungerford, than any other (Table 1). The family is not even in the index of Stein (1976). The earliest mention of a Hungerford in Calvert County in the Provincial Court Records we have found thus far is for Edmund Hungerford who witnessed the will of Samuel Scott in 1698/9 (MD Wills; Liber 6, folio 185). Edmund Hungerford's will reveals that when he died in 1721, he left a wife, Penelope and seven children: James, John, Benjamin, Edmund, Hannah, Susannah and Hellen (MD Wills; Liber 17, folio 41). Although he left

several tracts to his children including **Hodson's Neck, Friendship and Dick's Cabbins**; Edmund Hungerford did not specifically mention anything in connection with **Eltonhead Manor** in his 1721 will. By 1750 there were three Hungerford brothers (John, Benjamin and Edmund) and a sister (Susannah) still living in Calvert County. Most likely their other sister Hannah, had just died, leaving six children from her marriage to John Clare (see above).

Benjamin Hungerford derived half of his 200 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** from the 1751- will of John Hungerford. It seems that the latter died childless, leaving his 100 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** (where Thomas Simmons was living) to his brother Benjamin Hungerford (MD Wills; Liber 29, folio 6). It should be pointed out that Thomas Simmons is one of the few named tenants at **Eltonhead Manor** for which we have any information. How Benjamin Hungerford had acquired the other 100 acres is not clear. The Christ Church Register indicates that Benjamin and his wife Jane had a son, James, in April of 1742 and another son, John, in February of 1750 (O'Brien 1992 p. 17). When he wrote his last will in November of 1757, Benjamin Hungerford mentions a wife and three small children: John, Hannah and Jane (MD Wills; Liber 30, folio 536). His will was probated the following June. In addition to the **Eltonhead Manor** acreage in Table 1, Benjamin Hungerford left **Friendship** and **Jarmin's Quarter** to his wife and children. He appointed his wife guardian of the children and in the event of her death, they should be in the care of his nephew Edmond Hungerford.

Another marriage which nominally changed the ownership in Table 1 in the late 1750's was that of Margaret Rawlings to Benjamin Parran. Thus the 500 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** she had in 1753-1757 ended up in his name in the 1758 Debt Book. According to Papenfuse et al. (1978 p. 636), she was the daughter of Daniel Rawlings (the 1732 tax assessor mentioned above) and died sometime before 1770. Benjamin Parran was the second youngest son of Alexander Parran (1677-1729), who had inherited Point Patience and later had a number of tracts stretching upriver to the mouth of St. Leonard's Creek. Benjamin Parran was born in 1719 and appears to have died by 1761. Although his tenure of part of **Eltonhead Manor** comprised only a few years, the Parrans were an influential family in Calvert County throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Although the couple did not appear to have any children, other descendents of Alexander Parran later became landholders of other parts of **Eltonhead Manor**.

What is of concern to us here is how Margaret Rawlings came to possess 500 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** before she married Benjamin Parran? A key to this (and to the source of John Clare's 500 acres in 1753), lies in the will of Daniel Rawlings which was probated in January of 1726/7. He had a 1000-acre plantation called **Rawling's Choice** at the time of his death (Md Wills; Liber 19, folio 31). Of that large large tract, 200 acres comprised his "dwelling plantation" at the head of St. Leonard's Creek, which he left to his youngest son Daniel Rawlings II. However, the rest of the land seems at least in part to have overlapped the northwestern portion of **Eltonhead Manor**. In his

1726 will, Daniel Rawlings I bequeathed 143 acres of **Rawlings Choice** to his daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law, John Clare, and another 157 acres to his daughter Ann. These two tracts were broken out in the exact amounts of acreage above (plus 200 acres) when John Clare died (see Table 1). This hardly seems a coincidence. However, we do not believe that the remaining 200 acres possessed by John Clare at his death (which went to Benjamin Sedwick) was from Daniel Rawlings. The portion of **Rawlings Choice** seems to have been directly on St. Leonards Creek, and clearly off the boundary line of **Eltonhead Manor** which may have extended as far as the head of St. Paul Branch (Fig. 12). Rather it would appear that John Clare received this 200 acres from his grandmother Elizabeth Bourne (see Chap. VI, above).

In his 1726 will, Daniel Rawlings gave his eldest son, Isaac Rawlings another 500-acre piece of **Rawlings Choice**. We speculate that the latter 500 acre tract was the one that Margaret Rawlings ended up with in the 1753 Debt Book. We have yet to work out how this may have happened. Nevertheless it clearly suggests that we need to consider the Clare family tree along with the Rawlings family tree to unravel the history of the northwestern section of **Eltonhead Manor**. This is especially true since the Rawlings continued to own this land into the 19th century and at some point operated a watermill in this area (see below).