

## CHAPTER IX.

# ELTONHEAD MANOR IN THE GOLDEN AGE

There is a tendency to view the decade just before the Revolution nostalgically as the Golden Age of Colonialism, when Chesapeake Society blossomed (Wertenbaker 1949, p. 85-104). Although not quite as immersed in the mainstream of this renaissance as Annapolis was, Calvert County did have its share of culture and an emerging gentry in the late colonial period. Other writers have been openly skeptical about this period (Owens 1941, p.16):

“It was a period when London dandyism was at its height. Dandyism is contagious, and there are records which show that the planters of Maryland and Virginia caught the disease. It was the London credit also which accounted for the great masses of silver plate which the planters gradually collected for their libraries which a few of them built up, for the racing stables they started, and for many of those evidences of aristocratic culture which have done so much to build up the myth of the old South. That there was a culture and that it was essentially a class culture no one can deny. That in the early days it was a culture which went much deeper than the surface may well be doubted. Some of the great lords of Maryland manors in those early days signed documents with a mark, while their servants frequently were able to write their names in a fair hand. The culture that existed was, I fear, more like that of a boom town in the West. It was a boughten culture shipped by the ton from London.”

What was clear is that the leisure time and culture of the Southern Maryland planters was increasingly dependent on the tobacco plant and black slaves (Lee 1994). Although tobacco was undeniably the main cash crop of the region, what was happening quietly was that slaves not only became chattels which provided labor for large and small plantations alike, but also they themselves became another source of wealth. Slaves became an economic investment capable of multiplying the fortunes of many planters.<sup>40</sup> It is perhaps not surprising that the master owner of the largest plantation in Calvert County should involve himself deeply in the slave trade. Not only was Col. Fitzhugh a buyer of slaves-- he was also an importer and sold them wholesale in lots. On July 17, 1760 an advertizement first appeared in the Maryland Gazette that

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<sup>40</sup> If a planter did not expand his slave holdings, disastrous consequence would most likely ensue. Quaker families in Maryland who were beginning to manumit their slaves out of conscience, eventually faltered in the agricultural competition with their non-Quaker neighbors. Often Quakers moved to burgeoning cities like Baltimore and became tradesmen. If they were intent on staying with agriculture, another possibility was to move north to Pennsylvania where slavery was less competitive and eventually banned. The last monthly meeting of the Quakers was held at the Cliffs was in 1782 (Peden 1992).

Charles Graham and he were in the business of selling slaves which had just been transported from Africa on the vessel Snow Diamond by John King (Green 1989 p. 249). On July 29, 1761 another notice appeared in The Maryland Gazette, similar to the one the year before:

**JUST IMPORTED**

In the Snow Africa, Captain William Penhale from Africa

A parcel of choice Healthy Fine Slaves consisting of Men, Women, Boys, and Girls and will be sold on Tuesday the 4th Day of August next, at Lower MARLBOROUGH at Patuxent River, for Bills of Exchange, Sterling, or Current Money by --

Charles Graham  
William Fitzhugh  
Benjamin Fendall

This time, unlike the 1760-advertisement, Benjamin Fendall was included in the partnership. We can only imagine the grim sight of black people in bondage as they were herded down the gangplank in chains off the Africa to be auctioned to Chesapeake planters. The sleepy little town of Lower Marlborough on the Patuxent provided, what seems to us now, an unlikely backdrop for a slave market. We know that Capt. Penhale didn't stay long after he delivered his cargo of Africans, he slipped down the Patuxent as soon as possible to round up tobacco for departure to Bristol, England with the fleet (Maryland Gazette Oct 15, 1761). Judging from his address, at least one of the slave buyers came from quite a distance to attend the sale. In a post script (dated Aug. 6, 1761) to a letter to Robert Cary & Co. in London from Mt Vernon, George Washington, wrote: "I have found occasion to draw a Bill upon you to the amt of £259 Sterg., payable at sixty days sight to Messrs. Chs. Graham, Wm. Fitzhugh, & Benja. Fendall--it being the Considn Money of Sundry Slaves which I bought of those Gentlemen yesterday" (Abbot and Twohig 1990, Vol. 7, p.62).

At first we thought the selection of Lower Marlborough as the site for their slave sales, rather than someplace like St. Leonards, that was closer to **Rousby Hall** and **Eltonhead Manor**, may have been because Col. Fitzhugh did not want it too close to home. However, unlike St. Leonards, Lower Marlborough was quite navigable for ocean going ships and more accessible for Patuxent planters coming from upriver.

Also Charles Grahame (or Graham as it was sometimes spelled) lived in Lower Marlboro. Charles Grahame was older than William Fitzhugh and had immigrated from Scotland in 1721. He had been given the post of Surveyor General of the Province in 1750 and reportedly built a fine brick house at Lower Marlborough known as **Patuxent Manor** or Grahame House (Stein 1976, p. 265). Charles Grahame held numerous offices in Calvert County and acted in some ways as a real estate broker regularly placing notices of property for sale in the Maryland Gazette. While he was serving as Sheriff of Calvert County, he had the occasion to arrest runaway slaves (Maryland Gazette, July 8, 1756). The apprehension and detention of slaves must have given Charles Grahame considerable experience necessary for handling the logistics of slave importation, incarceration and sales at Lower Marlborough in the 1760s.

Charles Grahame first appears linked in the record along with William Fitzhugh as selling copies of Bacon's Laws in Calvert County in 1759 (Green 1989, p. 220, 226), and it is quite possible that their partnership arose from this innocuous association. Moreover, both served in the Lower House of the Assembly representing Calvert County. They most likely developed a working relationship in that capacity. The man who was brought into the enterprise in 1761, Benjamin Fendall, lived across the Patuxent River in Charles County and had one of the most extensive mill works in the region in the 1760s (Lee 1994, p. 31). He operated three watermills and a good sized (30' x 16') bakery at the head of the Wicomico River where ships' bread could be purchased (The Maryland Gazette, Oct. 2, 1763 and May 17, 1764). All three of the partners (Fitzhugh, Grahame and Fendall) had connections to the same prominent London merchant, James Russel, who may also have been involved in this deal.

During the 1760's a glance at the existing Debt Books suggests that this was a decade of relative stability in terms of ownership of **Eltonhead Manor** (Table 2). However, there is a little more going on here than first meets the eye. For example, there was a nominal change in ownership from the previous decade as Benjamin Parran had died by this time and his widow Margaret (who had brought this parcel to the marriage) now was listed with 300 acres of **Eltonhead Manor**. In the 1760s, Margaret Parran also possessed 50 acres of **Bethans Lot**, 75 acres of **Cumpton** and 60 acres of **Rawlings Purchase**. In 1764 she added another 200 acres of **Dear Bought**, so Margaret Parran controlled 625 acres of land in a world supposedly dominated by men. Margaret Parran held the most of this acreage until 1768 when she transferred most of it including part of **Eltonhead Manor** to John Rawlings. We are not sure what was their relationship, but most likely he was her brother or nephew, since she was the daughter of Daniel Rawlings (Papenfuse et al. 1978, p. 636) as noted above and p. 94 above).

**Table 2. The Acreage Eltonhead Manor Owners Listed in Debt Books of the Proprietary, 1761-1768 (Source: MD Hall of Records: Loc.-1-24-02-11)**

Owner	1761	1762	1763	1764	1765	1766	1767	1768	1769
Jacob Bourne	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Jesse Bourne	1167	1167	1167	1167	1167	1167	1167	1167	1169
Isaac Clare	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143
John Clare	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157
Benjamin Elt -T	336	*336	336	336	336	336	336	*336	*336
Col. Wm. Fitzhugh	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
David Hellen of Jn	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	++
T-John Hungerford									200
Mary Ireland	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Margaret Parran -T	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	***	***
John Rawlings								300	300
Daniel Rawlings	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Benj. Sedwick -T	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	***	***
Edmund Clare								200	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>5703</b>	<b>5703</b>	<b>5703</b>	<b>5703</b>	<b>5703</b>	<b>5703</b>	<b>5703</b>	<b>5703</b>	<b>5703</b>

T indicates transfer of property to the person following.

\* listed as "Benjamin Elt heir" and Ann Elt.

\*\* There is an indication in the 1768 Debt Book that Margaret Parran had transferred her 300 a. to John Rawlings.

\*\*\*In a final note in the 1768 Debt Book shows that Benjamin Sedwick sold 200 a. of **Eltonhead Manor** to Edmund Clare, so it must have occurred very recently.

++ Indicates that the transfer to John Rawlings was made in 1770, after the bulk of the Debt Book was compiled. John also received 143 a. of **Jeremia's Quarter** enlarged from David Hellen of John at the same time as the 200 a of **Eltonhead Manor**.

Another death which triggered a transfer of ownership was that of Benjamin Elt. From his will drawn in November of 1760 (Liber 31, folio 236) and earlier Debt Books of

the Proprietary, we know that he and his six children (Benjamin, William, Elinor, Mary, Ann and Rebecca) had been living at **Eltonhead Manor**. When Benjamin Elt's will was probated in April of 1761, the dwelling plantation went to his eldest son Benjamin Elt and his wife Ann was assigned executrix. However what is especially significant about Benjamin Elt's 1761-will is the fact that he specified that he had originally bought this tract from Jacob Bourne. Thus we now know that Jacob Bourne must have had at least 666 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** and the arithmetic suggests that this most likely was derived from dividing a 2,000 acres tract by 3-- possibly the third he was due from his fathers will!

Thomas Ireland's will was probated on the same day that Benjamin Elt's was (Liber 31, folio 235). This accounts for Mary Ireland being listed in Table 2 above with 200 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** beginning in 1761. In her husbands will she was given "the land whereon I live called **Agreement**." We assume that although it was officially part of **Eltonhead Manor** in the Debt Books of the Proprietary, that this parcel was informally known as **Agreement** by the Ireland family. The other property transfer indicated in Table 2 is Benjamin Sedwick's sale of 200 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** to Edmund Clare, the brother of John Clare (see Clare Genealogy above). This left Benjamin Sedwick with only one 475-acre tract, **Bullomers Branch**, which he most likely used as his dwelling plantation during the late 1760's.

Another change in ownership we should mention is the acquisition of 200 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** by David Hellen of John. The latter indicates that he was the son of John Hellen as opposed to David of Peter, or David of Richard; all grandsons of David Hellen the immigrant. The latter had landed in Calvert County as an indentured servant but earned his freedom to become a part of the emerging gentry. Sometime between 1758 and 1661 David Hellen of John had acquired 200 acres of **Eltonhead Manor**. This could only have been the 200 acres previously owned by Benjamin Hungerford (Table 1). However David Hellen of John did not possess this tract beyond a decade. Though not evident in Table 2, David Hellen of John died and his will was probated in August of 1768. Since his will was drawn on October 6, 1764, we have some facts about him and his family a few years after he had first acquired the 200-acre parcel of **Eltonhead Manor**. At that time he and his wife Ann had two young children Benjamin and Basil. Although David Hellen of John had assigned Jesse Hellen (brother?) and his wife Ann to execute his will, his widow declined to administer it.

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In contrast to the property transfers around him at **Eltonhead Manor**, Col. Fitzhugh seems to have not participated in trying to expand his holdings in the area. This seems out-of-character for someone who was ambitious and most likely had the means to buy tracts as they became available. This lack of interest in expanding his local holdings has led us to speculate that he never really accepted the idea that this

was a long term proposition for him. At first he did not really own the land, but was simply holding it for Elizabeth Rousby when she reached maturity. Perhaps he had a notion that he and his wife would eventually move back to one of his properties in Virginia. He seemed content to play the country squire and not the acquisitive personality that characterized past empire-builders like Richard Bennett III of Wye, or his own grandfather William Fitzhugh of Virginia's Northern Neck. He seemed more content with raising race horses and possibly even sheep. In July of 1668 Col. Fitzhugh sent a letter mentioning a gift of some sheep to his cousin George Mason of **Gunston Hall** (Rutman 1970, Vol I, p. 92). Although we can not be sure these actually came from **Rousby Hall**, it certainly presents the possibility that Col Fitzhugh was trying to diversify his plantation produce **Eltonhead Manor** and raising sheep was very fashionable among the elite in Europe during this period. However, the image of well-kept pastures with fenced fields at **Eltonhead Manor** seems unlikely. George Mason only had one fence which kept his animals from roaming off his peninsula and the animals were allowed to graze throughout the woodlands (Copeland and MacMaster 1989, p.106). As mentioned above, this interest in sheep corresponded closely in time to a widespread fervor in agricultural diversification into sheep farming all over western Europe, especially in Merino sheep which had originated in Spain (Fussel 1958, p. 26-28).

By the 1770's Col. Fitzhugh seems to have settled into a very comfortable existence not only as a member of Governor Eden's Council but also as a country gentleman. Perhaps the best description of his life style while entertaining at **Rousby Hall** comes from William Eddis, a royal customs official and a keen observer of the American landscape--political and otherwise. Eddis wrote a series of letters from America which were published as a book after he returned to England (Eddis 1792, p. 27-30) :

*Annapolis, Jan 15, 1770*

Colonel F-----, a gentlemen of considerable property, and a member of the council, early in December, engaged the governor, with a circle of select friends, to pass a few days, during the Christmas vacation, at his seat in Calvert County, about seventy miles distant from Annapolis. Having the honour to be included in the party, I embarked on the twenty-second, with the colonel, on board a schooner which he had fitted up for occasional excursions; and considering the season of the year, we had a pleasant run to the place of our destination, which is delightfully situated within view of the Chesapeake, on the fertile banks of the river Patuxent.

Rousby Hall, which is the name of my friend's hospitable mansion, is as well known to the weary indigent traveller, as to the affluent guest. In a county where hospitality is the distinguishing feature, the benevolent owner has established a pre-eminence, which places his character in an exalted point of view.

The governor, on account of some particular engagements, did not quit Annapolis till the twenty-sixth; and on the thirtieth I accompanied Colonel F----- to the habitation of a gentlemen, about twenty miles distant, where, by appointment we met his Excellency, with a numerous party, who had assembled to bid him welcome. All the good things of a plentiful country decorated the table of our munificent host; the wines were excellent, and various; and cheerful blazing fires, with enlivening conversation, exhilarated the spirits, and rendered us totally regardless of the rigour of an American winter. On the ensuing day, the whole company proceeded to Rousby Hall, where we continued, in full enjoyment of genuine hospitality, till the third of the month; and it was with the utmost reluctance we were then permitted to take our departure.

Since we quitted Colonel F----- we have visited most of the principal families in Calvert, St. Mary's, Charles, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel Counties; and were everywhere received with the most obliging proofs of regard and attention. From the severity of the weather, we occasionally encountered some hardships and inconveniences, but we were amply compensated at the end of every stage, by excellent accommodations, and sumptuous fare. Notwithstanding the dreary season, the eye was gratified with many picturesque and noble objects; we travelled a considerable way on the banks of the great river Potomac, which separates Maryland and Virginia; and though this country is greatly inferior, in its present state, to the highly cultivated parts of South Britain, yet, on the whole, it is well disposed with the utmost regularity, and in very many habitations we found elegance as well as comfort.

Col. Fitzhugh also seems to have developed a passion for horse racing. Indeed horse races by this time had emerged as important social events with a series of races held at Upper and Lower Marlboro, Joppa Towne, Elkridge, Chestertown and Annapolis; not to mention the Virginia circuit, which many horse enthusiasts from Maryland also frequented (Brugger 1988 p. 74). According to William Eddis (1792 p. 54): "there are few meetings in England better attended, or where more capital horses are exhibited". In the Annapolis races on the 28th of September, 1770 Col. Fitzhugh's bay horse Regulus won the purse of £50, distancing four others. Only Edward Lloyd IV's mare Nancy Bywell seemed capable of beating him at the races that week (Culver 1922, p. 117). In May of 1771 Regulus won at Marlborough and was second at Annapolis in September. Regulus threw his rider in October of 1772 at Annapolis, and the next year lost only to Lloyd's Nancy Bywell. By this time Col. Fitzhugh also was running a gray mare Kitty Fisher as well as Regulus. Although, we believe that Col. Fitzhugh of **Rousby Hall** was involved in most of this racing, at times Culver (1922) may be confusing him with his cousin William Fitzhugh of **Chatham** for some of the Virginia Races he cites. (**Chatham** is open to the public and is located across the Rappahannock River from the town of Fredericksburg and was famous for having served as headquarters for two Union generals during the Civil War.) The latter Wm. Fitzhugh was the son of Henry Fitzhugh and was slightly younger than **Col Fitzhugh** of **Rousby Hall**. It is conceivable they may have been partners in some of these horse ventures.

Another mark of a gentleman was having his portrait painted. Fortuitously, Charles Wilson Peale had just returned from England and had set up shop.<sup>41</sup> Col. Fitzhugh's portrait, completed in 1771 (Sellers 1952, #261), shows a very self-assured man of almost 50, with a powdered wig, light gray eyes and a scarlet red military coat (Fig. 16). Although the formal pose is much the same style as Peale painted for other military men like George Washington (whom he painted at Mt. Vernon in May of 1772), Col. Fitzhugh, then almost 50, seems much more relaxed and dashing than his younger friend from Mt. Vernon who was 40 at the time of his portrait. Although Col. Washington would be described as having "an easy, soldier like air and gesture" (Pancake 1977 p. 12), his first portrait by Peale reflected a man ill at ease. Clearly, as Peale himself noted at the time, he did not relish posing for it, but his wife Martha insisted (Sellers 1969). This could have soured his mood and made him a bit stiff.

We also have a view of **Rousby Hall** from William Eddis's description, when he visited with Governor Eden. Although he was evidently impressed with the hospitality of Col. Fitzhugh, he appears to have forgotten the Colonel's last name and writes nothing about the architecture or any particulars about the plantation. This is in contrast to Eddis's vivid description of **Whitehall** (which had been built by Governor Sharpe across from Annapolis) and a glowing description of a large plantation he visited an Island on Maryland's Eastern Shore<sup>42</sup>. We infer from this that although **Rousby Hall** was a comfortable "seat": and no doubt the most elegant plantation in Calvert County, Col. Fitzhugh had not gone to the heights of some of other Marylanders in making his dwelling plantation a spectacular showplace in itself.

Although clearly not quite as wealthy as Edward Lloyd (IV), to whom he lost some races, Col. Fitzhugh had a substantial fortune. On the Rent Rolls of 1774, he is listed as having 3,459½ acres in Calvert County alone. By comparison his business partner in the slave deals, Charles Grahame, had only 841 acres in Calvert County.

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<sup>41</sup> Charles Wilson Peale was born in Queene Anne County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and grew up in Chestertown, where his father was headmaster at the academy there which later became Washington College (Sellers 1969). After his father died, Charles Wilson Peale set up shop in Annapolis as a saddler, but fell into deeply into debt. He was multi-talented and among other things (e.g. repairing watches) began painting portraits. Backed by some of the wealthier citizens of Annapolis, he left Maryland for London in 1766 to continue his training as a painter with Benjamin West (who was born in Pennsylvania but had studied painting in Italy before moving permanently to England). According to an announcement on June 8, 1769 in the Maryland Gazette, Charles Wilson Peale sailed back to Maryland on one of James Russell's ships (see p. 99 above, and p. 111 below) and arrived at Lower Marlborough on the Patuxent, before making his way overland to Annapolis (Sellers 1969, p. 75). Peale seems to have painted Col. Fitzhugh's portrait, most likely in Annapolis during 1771; for in December of that year there is a note in his letter book "The Hon. Col. Fitzchew... pray, did you get the portrait safe down". (Sellers 1952, #261).

<sup>42</sup> Most likely this was either the Edward Lloyd or Beale Bordley plantation on the Wye River.





261, 28. William Fitzhugh. 1771. C.R. (F.A.R.L.)

Figure 16. Portrait of William Fitzhugh by C.W. Peale.

Col. Fitzhugh's holdings in Calvert County comprised 399½ acres of **Miles End**, 150 acres of **Mill Run**, 70 acres of **Hattons Cove**, 70 acres of **Staffords Freshes**, 100 acres of **Round Ponds**, 100 acres of **Leach & Smiths Hills** 70 acres of **The Goare** as well as 2,500 acres of **Eltonhead Manor**. Col. Fitzhugh owned more land in Ann Arundel County, and controlled lands of his step-daughter Elizabeth Rousby before she came of age. In addition, he still had holdings in Virginia. As the only son of George Fitzhugh, who had inherited over 5,000 acres of land when William Fitzhugh, the immigrant died (Fitzhugh 1962), he had received an "embarrassment of riches".

The listings for **Eltonhead Manor** (Table 3) in the 1774 Debt Book (the last the government of the Proprietary completed before the Revolution) reveal eleven other owners with a total of 5,703 acres. The mean holding is 475 acres per owner. Interestingly the Clares and the Bournes (descendants of the elder Thomas Bourne of London) still owned a combined 1,817 acres, although as shown in the third column, this would decline somewhat after the Revolution. In contrast the largest owner, Col. William Fitzhugh's, land holding remains constant through 1782. As we shall see, however, the Revolution took its toll in many important ways to Fitzhugh and most of the other large landholders, of **Eltonhead Manor**. This mirrored what Jean Lee (1994) found in neighboring Charles County, and what she came to call The Price of Nationhood. Ironically, although the Revolution would be widely embraced even by gentlemen entrenched in the old order, such as William Fitzhugh, it would shake this comfortable hierarchy to its roots. Because of a variety of factors including the deterioration of dependable foreign markets for tobacco and inability to either shift crops or industrialize, southern Calvert County settled into an economic malaise. Not only did the prices of land fall significantly, one was lucky to find a buyer at all or to migrate to Baltimore or the western frontier where the future looked brighter.

**Table 3. Owners of Eltonhead Manor Listed in the Debt Books of the Proprietary 1771-1774 (Source MD: Hall of Records, Annapolis)**

<b>Owner: Origin</b>	<b>1770 Acres</b>	<b>1771 Acres</b>	<b>1773 Acres</b>	<b>1774 Acres</b>	<b>1782/1783 Owner</b>
1. Jacob Bourne: to Esther Bourne	150	150	150	150	50 a. ?
Jacob Bourne: to Jesse Jacob Bourne	150	150	150	150	Jesse Jacob held 200a -1783
2. Jesse Bourne: Th. Ireland held it for him	1167	1167	1167	1167	Jesse & Margaret Bourne
3. Edmund Clare: from (f.) Benj. Sedwick, f. J. Clare	200	200	200	200	David Hunter Jr
4. Mary Clare: to John Clare Jr.	157	157	157	157	John Clare Jr (-50 a.)
5. Isaac Clare: f. John Clare	143	143	143	143	David Avis
6. Ann Elt: f. Ben. Elt, f. Jacob Bourne	336	336	336	336	Benjamin Elt
7. Col. William Fitzhugh: m. Ann Rousby	2500	2500	2500	2500	Col. Fitzhugh
8. John Hungerford: f. David of John Hellen	200	200	200	200	? ( had 100a: 1783 Asses.)
9. Mary Ireland: f.Th. Ireland, f. J. Hooper	200	200	200	200	Mary Ireland
10. Daniel Rawlings: f. Margaret Rawlings	200	200	200	200	Daniel Rawlings
11. John Rawlings: f. Margaret R. Parran	300	300	300	300	John Rawlings
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5703</b>	<b>5703</b>	<b>5703</b>	<b>5703</b>	

One change in ownership in the 1770s at **Eltonhead Manor** was the 200 acres listed for John Hungerford in Table 3. It appears that this was the same 200 acres owned by his father Benjamin Hungerford, but held by David Hellen of John until 1768 (see Tables 1 & 2). This suggests that the latter was acting as a guardian for John Hungerford who was 18 when David Hellen of John died. We have a few bits of information on John Hungerford. On July 25, 1776 he enlisted in Capt. John Brooke's Company of the Flying Camp of Maryland (Archives of Maryland Vol. XXVIII, p.33). The Flying Camp was organized as a highly mobile force which would operate in the Middle Colonies to support local militias in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. This, like other Continental arrangements, was conceived to be short term, since enlistments did not to extend beyond December 1, 1776 (Archives of Maryland Vol. XXVIII, p. 29). Both sides in the conflict were expecting a short fierce battle. Instead a protracted struggle lasting over five years ensued. A little over two years later, in November of 1778, John Hungerford married Mary Bowen (indicated erroneously as Cowen) at Christ Church by Rev. Francis Louder (O'Brien 1992, p. 127 &130). The marriage is listed in the D.A.R files. Although not listed in the 1782 Tax Assessment<sup>43</sup>, he is listed with 100 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** the following year. By 1783, John and Mary Hungerford had a household of four, most likely including two children. John Hungerford's total holdings including his four slaves and 100 acres outside **Eltonhead Manor** called **Gunby Quarter Enlarged** were worth a modest £304. This was considerably less than James Hungerford, the only other Hungerford listed in the Calvert Counties 1st District in the 1783 Assessment. He was a bachelor with five parcels of land totaling 339 acres and 5 slaves and was worth an estimated £578. With this much wealth he must have been eyed as a most eligible suitor for a number of the girls in southern Calvert County. As we shall see below, one of these must have been Eleanor Bourne, the daughter of Jesse Bourne of **Eltonhead Manor**.

An interesting aspect of the list of landowners above is that while they didn't control much of the total acreage (15%), fully a quarter were women. Esther Bourne, Ann Elt and Mary Ireland were all widows who were holding plantations as a result of their husbands' wills. For example, as we saw earlier when Jacob Bourne died, his will stipulated that Esther Bourne was executrix. By 1774, his oldest son Jesse Jacob had come of age and he was assessed in the Proprietary Debt Book for 150 acres of **Eltonhead Manor**, while his mother still had control of 150 acres, presumably for Jesse Jacob's younger brother. Ann Elt derived her 336 acres of **Eltonhead Manor** from the will of her husband Benjamin Elt who had purchased the tract from Jacob Bourne (MD Wills; Liber 31, folio 236). This was a part of the real estate Benjamin Elt owned when

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<sup>43</sup>This may be a simple oversight by the tax assessor, or may have been deliberate. Men who could prove they served in the Continental Army for a total of three years were exempt from taxation in 1782. As far as we can tell, neither he nor his widow ever filed for a pension in later years which may indicate that they were not living when the Federal legislation was finally passed to compensate the Revolutionary War veterans and their immediate families.

he died in 1761, leaving behind six children. Benjamin Elt's will named his wife executrix and bequeathed his entire land holding to his son Benjamin. Benjamin had assumed control of it by the 1782 tax assessment.

Mary Ireland's **Eltonhead Manor** holding came from her second husband. Thomas Ireland's estate was probated in April of 1761 (i.e. he was the Thomas Ireland Jr. in Table 1). In his will (MD Wills; Liber 31, folio 235) drawn in December of 1760, he described himself as a merchant and left the land he lived on called **Agreement** ultimately to his two sons Richard and Gideon Ireland (MD Wills; Liber 31, folio 235). Thomas Ireland's will specifies that he bought this land from James Hooper and his wife. We assume this was the **Eltonhead Manor** tract listed above, since it is the only tract in the will that Mary Ireland had control of during her widowhood. Also, because it was called **Agreement**, we thought it likely that it was part of the tract that had passed to Thomas Bourne via his mother Elizabeth Bourne. However, there is another tract called **Agreement** (which was located north of **Eltonhead Manor**) in the patent indices and we are uncertain at this point which is which. Another insight into pre-revolutionary period provided by Thomas Ireland's will is that while he had his dwelling plantation at **Eltonhead Manor**, he had his store and warehouse on a lot in the town of Lower Marlborough. Evidently Thomas Ireland chose his underage son Richard Ireland to continue as a merchant since he bequeathed to him not only the land his father had given him called **Ireland's Hope**, but also the Marlborough business, and a lot in St. Leonard's Creek town (which he bought from John Johnson). Furthermore, Thomas Ireland's will stipulated that his son Richard should stay with Charles Grahame (the business partner of Col. Fitzhugh) until he reached the age of 21 (MD Wills; Liber 31, folio 235). Since the will of Thomas Ireland was probated in April of 1761, it is quite possible that Richard Ireland was busily helping Charles Grahame with the slave sale the following August at Lower Marlborough. Thomas Ireland's hopes for his son Richard Ireland seem to have been realized. After the Revolution, Richard Ireland appears an agile buyer and seller of real estate (including a portion of **The Goare**). He eventually became sheriff of Calvert County and entered the Maryland legislature.