



# Isle of Kent - 1631

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND  
HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

FALL 1990

TO DISCOVER, IDENTIFY, RESTORE AND PRESERVE THE HERITAGE OF KENT ISLAND

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Audrey Hawkins

Welcome to September. The hot summer days are almost over for this year and all that stored up energy is ready to be put to use. First, my special thanks to all who contributed to the success of Kent Island Days June 9 and 10. The weather was perfect, the food delicious, and special events: the "Oyster Shucking Contest" and the "7th Annual Bay Bridge Swim", were new and interesting. All this did not happen of itself. It took the concerted planning and efforts of the directors and members who pitched in to share the work. The Society is so fortunate to have people like these whose interest and performance contribute so much to our success.

Our next Special Project is the library files. The task of coordinating 15 years of collecting data pertaining to Kent Island history has been completed by Mary White and her committee. The Society has been able to realize the dream of permanently housing the collection under proper conditions and for easy access for researchers. Please join us Sept. 20 for the dedication of the files and to acknowledge the great job this committee has performed.

For the membership meeting Sept. 28th at the library at 7:30, Mordie

Gibson and Billy Denny have an interesting program concerning our future search for archaeological sites on Kent Island. Several local guests will display their collections of local historic artifacts.

Your involvement is essential. No organization can survive without the support of its members. Refreshments will be served by Elaine Grollman and Florence Dunn. We'll be looking for you!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Violet M. Harris

Balance: 5/22/90	\$4,903.42
Receipts: 5/22-9/4	7,132.77
TOTAL:	\$12,036.19
Disbursements:	6,546.68
Balance in checking:	5,489.51
Balance in C.D. 6/30	7,640.14
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$13,129.65

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* MEMBERSHIP MEETING CHANGE \* \*  
Tuesday, September .28TH  
7:30 p.m. Kent Island Library

## MINUTES.....

Marilyn Wilderson

The Board of Directors met at Mordie Gibson's Sept. 4th. Pres. Audrey Hawkins, Violet Harris, Willard Thomas, Bill Denny, and Jean Eckstorm attended.

Gil Dunn reported that the Railroad depot restoration begins in earnest this fall. The windows will be secured before winter. Gil said he needs "Painting Volunteers" to begin restoring the original mustard yellow paint color of the old station.



The Circuit Court trial of the young vandals who smashed the station windows in February was attended August 27 by Bill Denny and Mordie Gibson. \$150 will be paid by the vandals to replace the eight damaged windows. The Society will be reimbursed for damages.

Cray House has a new coat of paint. The Island Garden Club plans a kitchen Herb Garden complete with old brick borders and walkways. Flowers will be planted in the front of Cray House. Bill Denny will look into additional heat for Cray House.

Mary J. White and Eva C. Thompson will co-chair the Society's annual Christmas events, December 9th. Watch for interesting new ideas.

Audrey reported on Kent Island Days profits and expenses. Fletcher Hanks sent suggestions for 1991's Kent Island Days.

A proposal to sell our book "Of History and Houses" by the case to Willard Thomas for realtors' promotions was approved.

A suggestion was approved to buy a typewriter for the officers' use with a \$250 limit.

Finally, Audrey said there is a need for revision of the by-laws. Willard suggested comparisons with other historical societies as guidelines.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MARYLAND QUILTS 1634-1934

Mary J. White

Early this year, the Maryland Extension Homemaker's Council, Inc. and the Annapolis Quilt Guild began a statewide effort to identify and document quilts made in Maryland between 1634 and 1934. Documentation sessions were conducted in each county and Baltimore City. Over 2,000 quilts were surveyed.

120 of these quilts, judged by a panel of experts, possessed exceptional artistic and historic merit were elected to be displayed in the first statewide exhibit of historic Maryland quilts: "A STITCH IN TIME - MARYLAND QUILTS 1634-1934" at the Timonium Fairgrounds September 8th and 9th.

Queen Anne's County had 10 quilts selected for display. Four quilts were from Kent Island. These quilts were owned by Julia Eaton, Virginia Donaldson, and the Kent Island Heritage Society.

The Society's "LONE STAR" quilt has an interesting history, having been made by Harriet Waters who married Jacob Franklin Waters in 1809. Her quilt was made sometime between 1820 and 1826 and was passed down to her step-daughter, Rachel Sophia Waters who married Thomas John Hall. It descended to Thomas J. Hall II and then to Thomas J. Hall III who died in 1953. Thomas III was father of Mrs. Mary Esther Hall Dyes and Miss Frances Hall who, generously, gave Harriet's quilt to the Society along with two others, equally as valuable, who whose histories are not so well documented.

We are grateful to the Hall sisters for their generosity and very proud to be the owners of such lovely old heirlooms.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mordecai Gibson, Chairmain

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for 1991:

President	Audrey V. Hawkins
V.P.	Charles Koegel
Correspond'g Sec'y.	Eileen Dadds
Record'g. Sec'y.	Carolyn Koegel
Treasurer	Violet Harris

### Board of Directors

Paul Wilderson	William Denny III
William Goodhand	Robert Williams
John Fountain Davidson	

The By-Laws provide that additional nominations for any position must be made 21 days in advance of the annual meeting by presentation to the Recording Secretary of a declaration of intent to be a candidate, signed by two sponsoring members. The election and installation will be held at the Annual Meeting on Dec. 13th. Additional nominations must be received by Marilyn Wilderson, Recording Secretary by November 22, 1990.

## LIBRARY REPORT

Mary J. White

The library committee has been working diligently all summer to inventory, index, and file the accumulation of many years of research and collection done by several Society members. This activity will, of necessity, be an on-going project as more and more people become aware of the kind of material which is included in the files.

Including the bound copies of the original BAY TIMES, from the first edition Nov. 1963 to May 2, 1974 when Chris and Mary Lou Rosendale ceased publication, our book collection consists of over 50 volumes which will be available on a non-circulating basis to persons interested in local, county and state history.

A complete listing of these books has been compiled by the library staff for distribution.

The History file in the main room at the library includes information of the churches, schools, bridges, ferries, railroads, old homes, towns

and communities, organizations and general Kent Island and county history.

The Genealogy file has over 200 Kent Island Family folders, abstracts of wills, obituaries, cemetery records, church records, burial permits and Bible records. Several complete family histories are included.



Recording local Family Bible records has evolved into quite a project. So far, over 65 family Bibles have been photocopied and filed. They are documented according to family name, date published, date of earliest marriage, earliest birth, other surnames listed, place of residence of the main family and current owner. If YOUR Bible or that of someone you know has NOT been documented, please make arrangements with the library committee to have it done.

Each Bible has a character of its own and displays signs of age, use, or disuse. Some have been professionally restored, while others are held together by string. Some were relegated to the attic while others occupied a place of honor in the family living quarters.

The story each tells along with those stories shared by the owners is fascinating. For instance, Melvin Clark brought in his Bible and we found the following notation: "Polly died." When we asked who Polly was, Melvin gave us this information:

Dr. John R. Benton had a parrot named Polly which most people remembered as a very talkative bird. It seems Dr. Sattlemailer liked to tease the bird. Poking his finger in Polly's cage, he was promptly bitten. There is no record of Doc's reaction. At any rate, when Dr. Benton died, Polly was given to Melvin's uncle, Clayland Clark.



Polly was quite an attraction to the children in town and, of course, a real favorite of Clayland's, so Polly's death was duly recorded in the family Bible even though the bird's language was said to be "slightly unorthodox."

There were several Bibles in which we found a page containing a Temperance Pledge. The Coleman family of Chester so far is the only family who inscribed their names on the appropriate lines.

In some Bibles there was a listing of the births of their slaves or servants. Included in this group were the Brown-Benton Bible owned by Violet Coleman Harris, the Gibson Bible owned by Ida Gibson Denny, and the William H. White Bible owned by Ann Parry Horvath.



The John Denny Bible which records the earliest marriage date, 1807, has an interesting history. It was about to be thrown out in a pile of trash by workmen remodeling an old house on Easton's Aurora Street. It was rescued and sent to the Talbot County Historical Society which, in turn, asked the Upper Shore Genealogical Society to try to find the Denny family to which it might be connected. Walter T. Denny was delighted to get the Bible which had information he had been seeking for years.

The Walter K. White Bible published in 1816, so far the earliest, has the earliest birth- Walter K. born Sept. 6, 1786. Another interesting feature of this Bible is the Title page. Along with the usual: "Translated out of the original Greek and with former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised", it says further: "By The Special Command of his Majesty King James I of England." This particular statement has not, so far, been found in any other Bible. This Bible is owned by the Alfred G. White family.

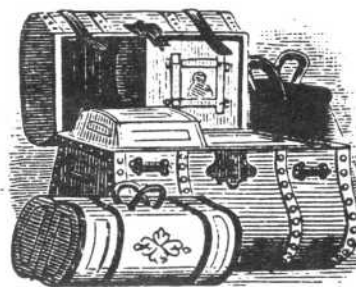
The Gardner Bible, published in 1834 and owned by John A. "Jack" Gardner is also very unusual. It is printed in two volumes and is titled: "The Cottage Bible and Family Expositor; containing the Old and New Testaments, with Practical Expositions and Explanatory Notes--- to which are added The References and

Marginal Reading of the Polyglott Bible." These volumes are very interesting and contain much genealogical information.



Jimmy Ewing brought us another interesting bit of memorabilia with his kind provision of a copy of his ancestor Richard Cray's appointment as Master Surgeon of His Majesty's Sloop "MOUCHERON". It was dated 13 June 1803.

The school records have also received much attention with old pictures being identified and other memorabilia being collected. The most recent acquisition was a copy of the announcement of the first commencement from Stevensville High School. This occurred in 1912 and was held in the Town Hall in Stevensville. There were four graduates: Katherine (Katie) Cray, Anna (Angie) Legg, Anna Porter, and Etta Thomas. Anna Porter was valedictorian and, through the courtesy of her sister-in-law, Evelyn Porter, we have a copy of the handwritten valedictory address.



There are many, many surviving bits of memorabilia in our homes, attics, and basements, which if made available to the library committee, could assist in preserving the history and heritage of our Island. We wish to express our thanks to everyone who has kindly shared their treasures with us and especially to the library staff for their assistance and forbearance.

We urge everyone to attend our opening September 20th, 1990, after which the files will be open to the general public as research tools during library hours.

#### Editor's Note:

One of Kent Island's earliest Bibles is owned by the Caroline County Historical Society and is on display at the Greensboro Museum. (Caroline County was carved from part of Queen Anne's County before 1800.)

This THOMAS EARECKSON Bible was reprinted in "Chesapeake Cousins: Vol. 13, 1986-87:

"Thomas Earickson & Mary Barnes was married in the year 1798 on the 24 December.

\* \* \*

Thomas Jefferson Earickson son of Thomas and Mary his wife was born 14 April 1809.

Thomas J. Earickson and Sarah Jane Harper daughter of William Harper, Sr. was married 12 Feb. 1833."

A copy will be included in the numerous Eareckson/ Earickson family records for our Genealogy files although no Eareckson family members remain on Kent Island.

Interestingly, your Editor found a deed in 1837 (Li. JT 2, 227) showing Thomas J. Eareckson and Sarah Jane selling land to Jacob Bullen- part of "Smithfield" and "Conner's Neck."

The Heritage Society will hold a reception on Sept. 20 between 1:30 and 3:30 P.M. at the Kent Island Library to celebrate the opening of the K.I.H.S. Genealogy and History files to the general public.

#### MILLS - Wind and Water Power

When William Claiborne began his settlement of Kent Island at Kent Fort Manor in 1631, establishing a trading post for England's Cloberry & Co., he apparently built the first windmill in Maryland.



Although the mill at Flowerdew Hundred on the James River near Hopewell, Virginia, built ca. 1621, is generally considered the earliest American windmill, Claiborne, being a Virginian no doubt was familiar with the value of the wind powered mill for his breezy location at Kent Fort.

In 1634 Cloberry sent a windmill and millwrights to Kent Island on the ship JAMES. The mill was completed around 1635 and was known to be standing in 1648.

Two mill styles were in use in the early days: one had canvas sails requiring hand-turning; the other used "spring" sails which were slatted like window blinds, opening or closing as the wind beat against them. Spring sails were as "automatic" in that pre-technological" era as possible. The entire mill had to be turned by man or animal power to face the prevailing wind until the patent of the "fantail" in 1745.

Oddly, the reconstructed 1663 mill at Spocott, near Cambridge, has a design predating the 1621 Flowerdew Windmill which has also been reconstructed. Spocott Mill is similar to the Robertson Windmill in Williamsburg, Virginia which still grinds grain.



*The Spocott Windmill*

Locally we are far more familiar with the water powered mills such as the restored Wye Mill here in Queen Anne's County.

One can only guess at Claiborne's Kent Fort mill design. The Flowerdew Mill appears to have Dutch influences in its design while the Spocott and Williamsburg

mills of earlier design may have been the traditional windmills of Claiborne's era.



#### SCHOOL DAYS

Heralding the passing of the seasons, Labor Day ends. School begins.

In Queen Anne's County the first free school was established in 1724 on the south side of Rt. 18 from Queenstown to Centreville, near Tilghman Neck Road.

John Salisbury was contracted to build the 35' x 20' "one room schoolhouse" by the Visitors of the Free School. The visitor's board consisted of leading Queen Anne's citizens.

Maryland Historical Magazine, March 1911, surveys some of the minutes of the meetings. Sometimes mundane, sometimes amusing, they remind one of the dissensions of certain vestry minutes when the gentlemen took issue with the ministers (here, the school masters) they hired, dictating their wishes as to curricula and salary levels. The visitors even appointed the children, called "foundation pupils" who were to be taught. In order to survive on 20 pounds annually, the master could take paid pupils plus cultivate the few acres on the school farm!

Among the foundation pupils of 14 boys was one girl! Anne Lily Heath must have been an exceptional child, for her era with no female rights.

The minutes indicate that getting the foundation pupils to attend became a problem with notices sent to parents requiring explanations for students' absences. This might be blamed on the visitors' arbitrary schedule: April 1st to Sept. 30 from 7 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 5 p.m. October 1 to April 1 shortened the day by an hour in the morning and an hour in the evening. No vacation was mentioned until May 1775 when Christmas, Easter and weekends were declared holidays.

Like perennial watchdogs, the visitors took one master to task for teaching dancing two days a week! Another was admonished for allowing target shooting on school grounds. Guns were thereafter forbidden at

school.

Perhaps the most famous master was Charles Peale, father of the great American portrait painter, Charles Willson Peale. Mr. Peale and his family left Queen Anne's in 1742 to teach in Kent County.

Other than an historical marker at Rt. 18 and Tilghman Neck Road, there is no present indication of the original site of the county's first free school.

(As a footnote, Charles W. Peale in Philadelphia in the 1770's met former Queen Anne's countians who had moved there. Among them was Mary "Polly" Wrench whose portrait Peale painted. She later married attorney Jacob Rush, brother of Benjamin Rush, Signer of the Declaration of Independence.)

Another school little is known about is the Female Academy which was established in Stevensville by 1866 when the Strong map was published. There is no sign of it on the 1877 Atlas map, perhaps replaced by numbered schools located in communities throughout Kent Island, prior to the 1909 establishment of Stevensville High School at today's Schoolhouse Commons.

So far, no research has turned up on Stevensville's "Female Academy". Would someone like to look into this? It IS interesting that prior to women's rights, females on Kent Island and the county were deemed worth educating. (See The Library Report on the first graduates of Stevensville High School in 1912- all girls!)

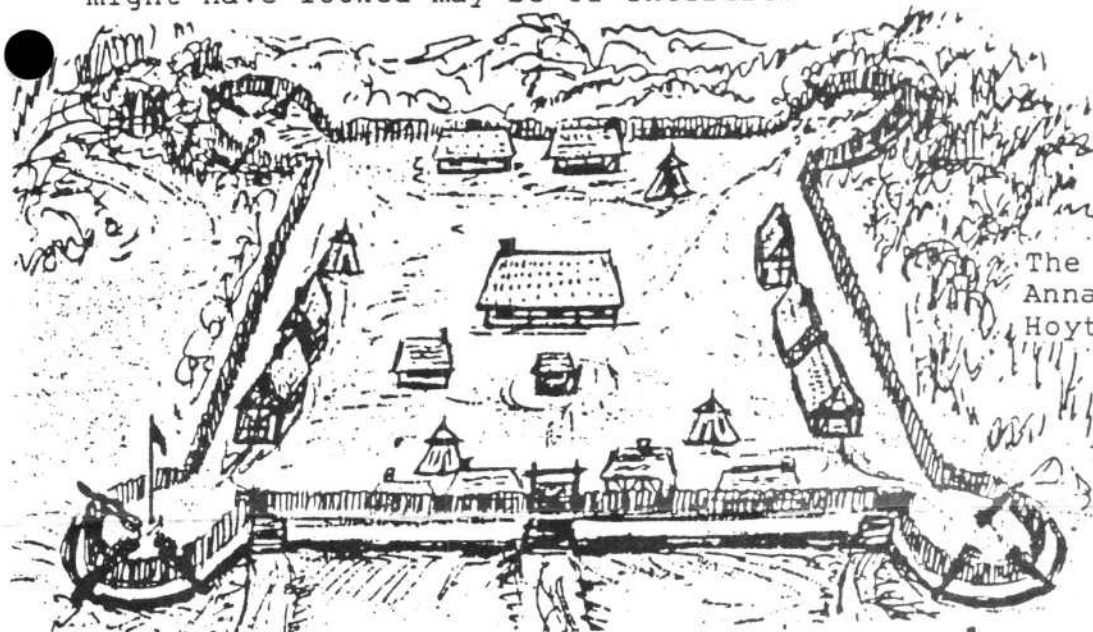
High School,  
Stevensville, Md.





## ARCHAEOLOGY

Since the Society's Membership Meeting will deal with Kent Island's archaeological sites, these views of how William Claiborne's Kent Fort might have looked may be of interest.



The Yachtsman's Guide to Annapolis used by Ralph Hoyt in a 1966 Bay Times.

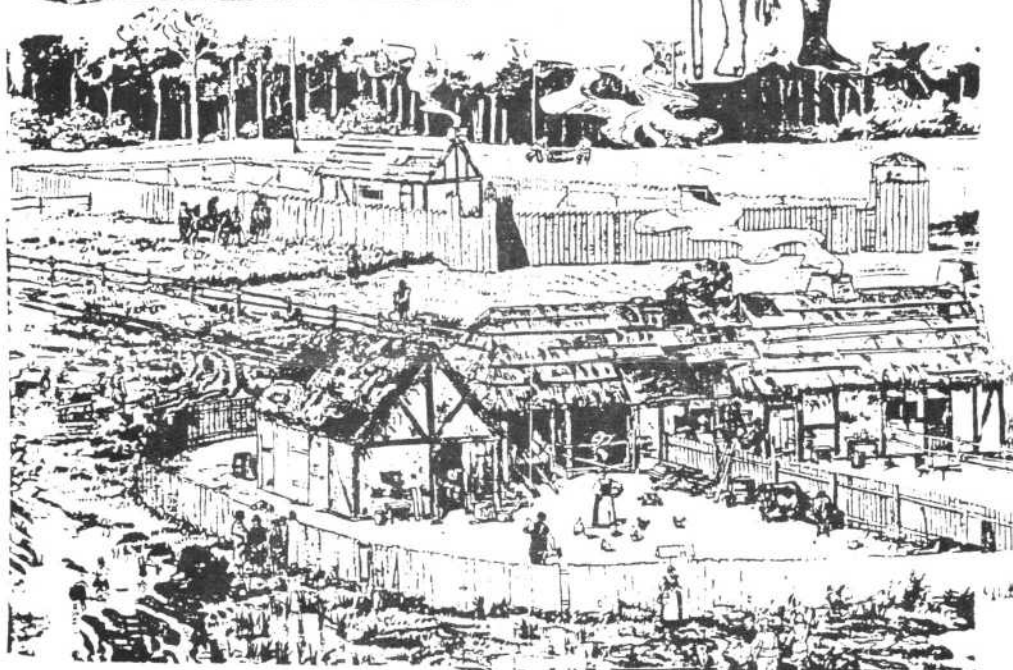


A fort resembling this stood at the lower part of Kent Island, March 24, 1634, the day before Maryland was founded.



National Geographic artist Richard Schlecht's rendering of the fort and settlement at the excavation of Martin's Hundred (founded 1619) at Carter's Grove, Virginia. Williamsburg's archaeological team under the direction of Ivor Noel Hume made a thorough search for settlements after the property was deeded to Colonial Williamsburg.

(The Leader of the post probably lived in the house within the Fort.)



Hume's team worked for five years discovering six sites and a wealth of shards, artifacts, and bones. Through these they pieced together the story of the 1622 Indian Massacre of Virginia's early settlements, even recreating how the settlers looked and who they were.

For the fascinating study of their discoveries, I highly recommend Hume's book, "Martin's Hundred, The Discovery of a Lost Colonial Virginia Settlement", published by Delta Books in 1979. It was in Centreville's Corsica Bookshop last winter. Hu Corsica Bookshop last winter. Hume's National Geographic article was published in June 1979.

# 1850 Census Kent Island

(continued from summer 1990)

Pere Brown	30	B Laborer
Rhoderick Earickson	26	W Physician
Tristram Weedon	58	W Merchant
Greenberry Baxter	27	W Laborer
William Earickson	46	W Farmer
Henry Lewis	37	W Farmer
Caleb Frazier	21	B Laborer
Delia Counils	35	B
John Cockey	80	W Farmer
Edward Cockey	39	W Farmer
Harris Legg	27	W Farmer
Hannah Clayton	5	B
(Rebecca	25	B)
Thomas Cockey	31	W Farmer
William Wilson	60	B Laborer
Nero Turner	37	B Laborer
John C. Legg	36	W Farmer
Jacob C. Legg	41	W Farmer
Thomas Carvill	25	W Farmer
Elfred Price	49	W Farmer
Henry Bordley	45	B Laborer
Henry Potter	30	W Sailor
William Robinson	50	W Miller
Thomas Carter	60	W Farmer
Samuel Carter	26	W Farmer
Catherine Brown	25	B
(Free Children)		
Woolman Gibson	46	W Farmer
Noah Bullen	24	W Farmer
James Cockey	37	W Farmer
David Moore	60	B Laborer
Esther Wilson	40	B
Richard J. C. Jones	34	W Farmer
Thomas Tanner	40	W Farmer
James Bright	40	W Farmer
John Hampton	27	W Farmer
Thomas Tolson	27	W Farmer
Stephen W. Bryan	28	W Merchant
Robert Gardner	50	W Laborer
Henry Weedon	59	W Farmer
William Earl	30	W Shoemaker
John C. Bryan	42	W Farmer
Pere Anderson	24	B Laborer
Pere Granger	60	W Merchant
John W. Matthews	26	W Tailor
William H. Stevens	29	W Farmer
James H. Phoenix	30	W Sailor
John W. Legg	34	W Sailor
Thomas Weedon	32	W Farmer
Henrietta Crowner	60	B
Henry Crowner	80	B
Moses Jeffers	40	B Laborer
John Merchant	56	W Carpenter
John W. Merchant	28	W Carpenter
Franklin Bright	26	W Farmer
Margaret Stansbury	20	B
Charles Baxter	46	W Sailor
Deborah Gardner	30	W
Jacob Hoxter	28	W Farmer

John Tolson	65	W Farmer
John W. Gibson	26	W Farmer
James M. Bryan	43	W Farmer
James R. Walker	25	W Farmer
William E.V. Newnam	28	W Merchant
Jonathan Downes	40	W Shoemaker
Mary Legg	40	
James A. Boyer	17	W Blacksmith
Rachel Boyer	60	
William Legg	31	W
Wheelwright		
Charles Wickes	55	B Farmer
John Nelson	45	B Farmer
James Griffin	45	B Laborer
Moses Legg	29	W
Wheelwright		
Mary A. Robinson	55	B
John R. Jeffers	29	W Farmer
Mary Bell	35	B
Elizabeth Jeffers	40	W
George Lewis	44	B Laborer
Nelson Gardner	28	W Farmer
Thomas Sanders	35	B Farmer
James Lloyd	70	W Sailor
Samuel D. Coursey	32	W Farmer
Henry Legg	35	W Farmer
Holton Legg	40	W Laborer
Thomas Baxter	38	W Farmer
Jacob Baxter	44	W Farmer
John Young	44	W Sailor
George Merrick	40	W Sailor
James Goodhand	73	W Farmer
James Ringgold	67	W Farmer
James Barton	50	B Farmer
Francis Gardner	60	B Farmer
Walter K. White	27	W Farmer
William Lewis	50	W Farmer



1850



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