

HISTORY OF SELBY ON THE BAY

History of the Mayo Peninsula

Mayo Peninsula Economic History:

Shellfish

For centuries the Chesapeake Bay and its many estuaries have been this area's livelihood, though she is showing signs of damage from the constant withdrawal of her treasures. Local watermen still use the Bay for their livelihood, but many watermen must supplement their income with part-time trades to make up for the smaller harvests and dramatic fluctuations in the health and production of sealife in the Bay. Our Chesapeake Bay's seafood has long been recognized as some of the finest in the US.

Tobacco

Besides the harvests of the Chesapeake Bay, our area is well known for a product that was given to us by the native Indian tribes of North America - Tobacco. Maryland has long been famous for the quality and fertility of her soil to produce the finest tobacco around and it has been shipped around the globe. Tobacco, known as the "Golden Leaf" was used as money for trade and purchases for over 150 years in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. With the diminishing profit in tobacco growth, many new crops have become popular to the area such as corn, soy and various fruits. Most of the farms on the Peninsula are long gone today.

Real Estate

With the number of legal professionals and government leaders in our area, Annapolis and the surrounding waterfront areas have become the residential oasis for some of the most influential business people and politicians in our country. This growth has put premiums on the waterfront property and isolated vistas in our area and has put Anne Arundel County on the Real Estate sales fast-track. Property values in our area have been historically more stable than any other county around us.

With the advent of the automobile and fast, new interstate highways, our area became a full-time suburbia for our two closet major cities: Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland starting in the 1960's.

Much of the real estate sales in this area began to take off after the rebuilding of the US economy after the stock market crash of 1929. With rejuvenated economic-growth in the US in the 1930's, successful businessmen and families from Washington and Baltimore began to look for summer vacation cottages to invest in while enjoying their new-found wealth. Many city-folk ventured out to the countryside (areas like the Mayo Peninsula) and found real estate building lots for very fair prices.

The salesman had many gimmicks and incentives to sell, what at the time was mostly swampland, to prospective buyers. I have heard from several elderly friends in Herald Harbor that they received their building lots in Herald Harbor (near Crownsville) free, in exchange for purchasing subscriptions to the Washington Herald Newspaper in the 30's.

Most of the old beach communities had makeshift beaches for bathing and a very laid-back

social climate that attracted the busy city buyers who wanted a little peace and quiet, as well as the peace of mind for investing in "vacation" homes.

Most of Selby on the Bay's lots were bought up by individuals seeking a cottage by the beach in a communal setting that was rural, but not too secluded and loaded with the simple pleasures of peninsula life. Approximately a 60 minute drive (way back when) down Central Avenue from DC, and a little less to Baltimore, families could visit on the weekends and possibly a few weeks at a time over the summer months and forget about the smog and the hustle of the city.

Because the original homes built here were not four season homes, many of the original cottages in the area had little to no insulation or heating systems. Many had very little closet space and most had screened-in porches because they were not designed for "all-season" living.

When you brought family and friends down to stay at your cottage, you would open the windows and air-out your cottage and if you had indoor plumbing you would turn on the water pump and fill the "winterized" water system. If you had power to your cottage you would install the fuses, test them and then survey your cottage for any winter damage.

Boating

Here on the Mayo Peninsula, where the watermen have made such an impact on the stable economic growth of our area - it is sad to see the watermen unable to make a consistent decent living. The cost of equipment and the radical swings in production are sending the independent waterman looking for other means of making a living. The working boats of yesterday are now far out-numbered by the pleasure and luxury boats we now see traversing Selby Bay.

Decades ago, pleasure boating was a rich man's sport that the average family simply could not afford. In the past few decades, with the advent of cheaper, more cost-effective means of manufacturing pleasure craft - boating popularity has grown tremendously. Along with this increase in boating popularity has come an increase in boating-related businesses that have been very helpful for the economic growth of our area. The pleasure boating industry (sail or power) has made its economic mark on Annapolis and the many marinas that are scattered throughout the rivers converging on the Chesapeake.

Big Business

A luxury boat has always been the ideal place for big business to get a favor done or corner a deal, boating - predominantly sailboating has become the mainstay of the deal-makers in our area. The sailboat and powerboat sales shows clog the streets of Annapolis in a yearly ritual that would have one wondering if the President was in town.

In the "Sailing Capital of the World", boats of many types are sold, traded, bartered and leased to some of the most powerful people in the world. Many people in our area love boating so much that they live on their crafts all year long - it makes sense when you think that many of these boats cost more than some of our residences in our area.

Reference: Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland & reference text "History of Mayo, Maryland", see below

History of Mayo, Maryland

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Much of the historical data/ information used in the history section of our website comes from "The History of Mayo, Maryland" a book written by a local resident, Caroline L. Britt Mullins.

The author has recently written another book, named "Coming Into Her Own", 1998.

Caroline L. Britt Mullins has lived in Anne Arundel County for fifty years. Her roots on her grandfather's side date back to the 1600's (the beginning of AA Co., Annapolis, St. Mary's City and Kent Island's First Settlement. Her great-grandfather came from Germany and settled in Mayo in the late 1800's in the section that is now called Germantown on Whitemarsh Creek. Her grandfather and relatives built the home that her mother still lives in today. She is proud to be from that area of Mayo and of her roots.

Ms. Mullins also specializes in Genealogy Research for families.

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History of Selby on the Bay

Beginning in 1652 - Captain Edward Selby

Our close locality to Annapolis, a very early American settlement, has given our peninsula a very rich and colorful history. The first documented owner of the peninsula was Captain Edward Selby in 1652 or 1658 in a land grant of 490 acres, which came to be known as "Selby's Marsh" from the Second Lord Baltimore, Cecilus Calvert. Though, not accurately documented, Selby's Marsh appears to have consisted of a large section of the Mayo Peninsula that includes the existing communities today from Selby on the Bay, Holly Hill all the way to Carr's Wharf. "Selby Marsh" was either a descriptive name, pointing out this "tidal" area's main feature or a combination of Edward Selby's and Thomas Marsh's last names.

In those times, several other gentlemen had also obtained ownership of small parcels of the Peninsula: Edward Lloyd, Thomas Meeres, Richard Day, Thomas Marsh, George Kemp and John Norwood all left Virginia with Captain Selby for Maryland in search of religious freedom. In 1665 and 1688, Edward Selby added contiguous tracts to expand his estate, they were known as "Popular Hill" and Selby's Stopp".

Captain Selby thrived in this area - his wealth from tobacco and his prominence in public affairs helped to make him one of the most important gentlemen in the region. It also helped him to acquire most of the Peninsula up until his death in 1688, when, at that time he owned 1400 acres of the property between the Rhodes and South Rivers.

Before his death, Edward Selby leased property to John Gresham II in or around 1686. On that property still standing today is the residence that John Gresham II had built there. Surely one of the first fine homes in the area. "Gresham" is possibly the oldest structure in the area outside of

Annapolis and is located in the woods across Mayo Road from River Club Estates. The Gresham estate is also referred to in old documents as "Love Neck".

1693 - The Gassaway's and William Cotter

Upon the death of Captain Edward Selby, Sr., "Selby Marsh" was divided (250 acres each) between his son, Edward Selby Jr. and his daughter Thalmon (Selby) Clarke, who was the wife of Benjamin Clarke. After some financial failure in 1693, a portion of Edward Selby, Jr.'s property was sold to William Cotter who was the husband of Jane Gassaway, daughter of Colonel Nicholas Gassaway of Birdsville.

William Cotter, apparently was a very elegant gentleman and won over the aristocratic Gassaway family easily. "Old Rough and Ready" Colonel Gassaway, a powerful Anne Arundel County political figure and prominent local aristocrat, surely must have felt Cotter to be a decent husband for his daughter to allow them to marry after courting for such a short period of time. Colonel Gassaway died shortly after his daughter's wedding and never learned of his son-in-law's illegal maritime hobbies. Colonel Gassaway's Tombstone Marker was discovered at the Gresham Plantation being used as a footstep - it was moved to St. Anne's Church in Annapolis, Maryland in the 1960's.

In 1696, a ship from England landed and moored at the Port of Annapolis and secret conferences were held in the city. News traveled through the countryside that the English official's were searching for pirates in our region. The locals were surprised when the pirates were taken into custody by the Englishmen and the pirates were discovered to be locals John Blackmore and Selby's own, William Cotter.

The two men were sentenced and released *"To stand and be indebted unto our Sovereign Lord William, the third, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland in the sum of five hundred pounds sterling each... That they, the said John Blackmore and William Cotter shall personally appear and be forthcoming whenever His Majesty's pleasure is known concerning them, in the meantime to be of good behavior as to any acts of Piracy."*

After 1698, John Blackmore and William Cotter purchased the parcel of Selby closest to Loch Haven, "Bessendon" from John Purdy. At his death in 1702, William Cotter, Sr.'s land transferred to his younger son William Cotter, Jr. the eldest son having died before his father.

After a dashing bachelor's life and increasing his family's fortune, William Cotter Jr. died without ever marrying and without any direct heirs in 1749. His property went to his nephews, the sons of his sister Sarah and her husband and cousin, Captain John Gassaway, the grandson of "Old Rough and Ready".

A widely respected politician as "High Sheriff" and "Keeper of the Public Gaol" in Annapolis in 1753, Captain Gassaway was elected to the Lower House of the General Assembly of Maryland to represent "Ann Arrundl Covnty." The fine Captain had his son's, William, Thomas and Henry Gassaway inheritance land surveyed in 1750. The resurvey or consolidation of "Selby's Marsh, Popular Hill and Selby's Stopp" renamed their part of the peninsula to "Cotter's Desire", probably after their renowned pirate grandfather.

Cotter's Desire remained in the Cotter and Gassaway family's hands for the next 121 years.

1765 - Admiral Joseph Mayo, U.S.N.

Around 1765, Joseph Mayo bought 622 acres of the peninsula, which included the Gresham Plantation for \$10,000 in silver. By the time of the American Revolution of 1776, Benjamin and John Selby, probably grandsons of Edward Selby Jr., owned the remainder of Selby's Marsh that

had been in their family since their great grandfather had been given the original land grant from Lord Baltimore.

In 1814, Joseph Mayo deeded the Gresham Plantation and parts of the area in Cotter's Desire (that would later become Selby on the Bay), to his nephew Commodore Isaac Mayo.

More so than any of his ancestors who owned large parts of the Mayo peninsula, Commodore Isaac Mayo is responsible for the notoriety of his family's name in our area and why this area became known as the Mayo Peninsula.

Commodore Mayo was an intelligent, adventurous sailor, as well as a family man. In 1835, Mayo married Sarah (Battaile Fitzhugh) Bland the daughter of Chancellor Bland, Consul to Brazil. Within a few years of their marriage Sarah gave birth to a daughter, Sarah Battaile Mayo. Having fought and commanded naval battles around the world, Commodore Isaac Mayo was a highly-decorated and respected naval officer of the United States Navy. It is said that his influence helped to determine the use of the Fort Severn site as the new United States Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1845.

In 1850, Mayo was named Commander-in-Chief of the US Naval Forces in the Mediterranean and off the West Coast of Africa, his flagship being the USS Constitution.

Commodore Mayo sympathized with the south at the start of the Civil War and in turn directed his resignation to President Lincoln protesting the Union's policy of coercion. The president refused his resignation and dismissed Mayo and six other officers of similar rank for their support of the Confederacy. After a long and revered naval career, serving in the War of 1812, receiving the Medal of Valor, commanding for the US in the Seminole & Mexican wars, and being appointed a Commander in Chief for the US Navy, Isaac Mayo left the service shunned by the American Government.

Commodore Mayo died shortly after his disgrace and his name was never cleared by the United States Navy.

A portrait of Commodore Mayo "in his finest" hangs in the Legislative Office Building in Annapolis, Maryland.

1865 - End of the Mayo Peninsula Landlords

Sometime near the death of Commodore Mayo in 1865 Thomas H. Gaither, Sr., the son of John and Jane Gaither, (who owned property at the head of the South River) married Sarah Battaile Mayo, daughter of Commodore Mayo. On February 26, 1878, Commodore Mayo's grandson and trustee of his estate, Thomas H. Gaither, Jr. donated property on old Turkey Point Road for the then Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church which is now known as the Mayo United Methodist Church in Turkey Point.

By 1878, Joseph Buick owned 267 acres of Selby and Judge Harry Jones Tuck owned part of Selby near the Gresham Plantation. Judge Tuck was the son of Washington Greene Tuck, a physician at St. John's Medical School of Annapolis and Lucie Ann Jones. He was the reported builder of the Birch Manor House on Hillside at Sixth Avenue in Selby on the Bay.

Birch Manor was named after a later owner, Thomas S. Birch the husband of Dr. John Collison's daughter. Thomas Birch obtained the 268 acre property from his father, James R. Birch, who had purchased it from William H. Turk in 1865.

The manor was originally a plantation house for the tobacco and tomato farming land that today makes up Selby on the Bay. The estate originally controlled all of the land in Selby and where the American Legion Post 226 stands and supposedly maintained a large peach orchard as well. Serving as a boarding house in the 1930's & 40's, Birch Manor acts as a private residence today

remaining with the iron rings on the walls of the basement, in the slaves quarters. Though always considered part of Selby's Marsh and Cotter's Desire, this area was also known as Brown's Discovery.

The remainder of Cotter's Desire that was owned by the Gassaway's was sold and transferred to various individuals by William Stewart, the trustee of Dr. John Gassaway's estate, the last remaining Gassaway.

The remaining property of Commodore Mayo stayed in the Mayo Family's hands until Thomas Gaither Jr. sold it to Oscar Keys in 1915.

In 1916, Cotter's Desire received its first division when Mr. Keys sold 8-acre parcels to Albert Bull, Leander Jackson and John Evans. The balance of Cotter's Desire was sold in 1920 to Maurice Ogle, a descendent of Maryland Governor, Samuel Ogle.

The area now known as Selby Beach, was the most popular swimming and picnicking spot around the area in 1920, and was called "The Cedars" because of all of the beautiful cedar trees that scattered the waterfront- it later would be called "Cedar Grove".

Much of the Birch's property in Selby on the Bay was cleared land for farming tomatoes and tobacco. In 1923, Mr. Birch sold 254 acres of his plantation in Cotter's Desire to Enoch P. Johnson. Just prior to 1923, Mr. Birch sold a total of 13 acres on the east side of Winding Road to seven newcomers to Selby on the Bay. In 1928, Captain F.S. Crismond purchased a large tract in Selby, including Selby Bay Yacht Basin, an icehouse and three tenant houses for marina workers.

Mr. Crismond developed the Cedar Grove portion of Selby, located on Cedar Grove Road near Selby Beach. The Selby Bay Yacht Club, would not be founded until 19 years later in 1947, by Walter Podrog of Washington, D.C.

Mr. Dewitt Knickerbocker and his wife, arrived to Selby around 1930 and stayed here seasonally, using his cabin as a hunting lodge in the Winter months, and as a vacation home for his wife in the Spring and Summer. His cabin was located on Beach Drive Boulevard and faced Selby Bay, in Selby Proper. He and his wife spent all of their summers in Selby until his death in 1965.

1930 - The Beginning of Selby on the Bay

The beginning of real growth in our community came when developer's Otis L. Williams, Jr. and Alvin G. Branham purchased 206 acres on Selby Bay in 1930 from Enoch P. Johnson of Baltimore and started the Selby on the Bay Properties Company, Inc., 1121 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington D.C. Phone: NAtional 4933-34.

Mr. Williams and Branham purchased the large tract of our community from Central Avenue (Mayo Road) up to Selby Bay and began platting the Selby on the Bay community into building lots and using a sales concept that was relatively successful.

From its start the "company" knew the best way to sell the marshy property was to give the buyers something for their money. The Selby on the Bay Properties Company dredged the point off of the current Holiday Point Marina and dumped the murky sand onto what is now Selby Beach. The company also built a picnic pavilion, which it also used as a sales office to sell the lots on which families could build their dream summer vacation cottages. The sales method they used was known as a "Lunch and Lecture" seminar, where salesmen would perform their sales pitch while invited guests and other prospective customers stared out at lovely Selby Bay and had a free picnic lunch.

Imagine what in 1930, the view that they were lured by must have been like; a very serene and welcoming waterfront on Selby Bay. Most of the Selby on the Bay Properties Company's

customers were Baltimore-Washington middle-class looking for the quiet and calming effects of private beach community life.

Along with their purchase, was the verbal promise from Branham and Willimas of each new property owner's exclusive use of the developing Community Beach, Pavilion and Park.

Historical Facts about our Area

These little known facts about our area come from various history books and local historians.

Maryland -

Or what became Maryland, was given to the First Lord Baltimore, George Calvert in 1632 by the King of England, Charles I. George died before he received his charter and it went to his son, the Second Lord Baltimore, Cecilus Calvert. Cecilus Calvert received the charter from the King, but never saw the colony develop before he died - his son inherited it.

Declaration of Independence -

Four Marylanders signed the document: William Paca, Thomas Stone, Samuel Chase, Charles Carroll.

Our National Anthem -

The "Star Spangled Banner" was written by Francis Scott Key, inspired by our American Flag flying over Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor, after a battle with the British in the War of 1812.

Our State Capital -

Was moved from St. Mary's City in southern Maryland to Annapolis in 1695.

Indentured Servants -

Many of the original settlers in our area came over from England on boats as servants to rich Lords and Dukes. They pledged their allegiance for a period of time (usually 7 years) to their master in return for a parcel of their Lord's acreage. Many of these indented servants were tricked and never received the promised freedom and property, but at the time its was probably still better in this new abode. The appeal of the new land, America and the possibility of being able to leave the harsh, restrictive treatment of the Royalty of their mother country was not a tough decision for our forefathers.

Local Materials and Livestock -

Used to arrive and leave the Mayo Peninsula by the steamboat ferry "Emma Giles" at the old pier that sits at the end of Carr's Wharf Road. Before the advent of cars and the construction of bridges, ferry travel was the best mode of transportation. Ferry service used to run 3 or 4 times a week and ended at Carr's Wharf in 1926. The hotel next to the ferry ramp closed when the ferry discontinued service. The ferry also used to land at the South River Landing at Londontowne Public House.

Camp Letts -

In 1920, John Letts donated the funds for a purchase of 219 acres off of the Rhode River to be used as a permanent resident camp for the YMCA, today that property is still a functioning YMCA camp named after the donor Letts.

Camp Wabana -

Located on old Calawasee Road in Beverly Beach, it was named for an Algonquin Indian Princess Calawasee. Calawasee had been a vacation retreat consisting of five cottages and a lodge when it went up for sale. Calawasee was sold in 1942 and Camp Wabana was founded by Reverend W. A. Emmans, Pastor of the Maryland Avenue Baptist Church, and his wife. The pastor had longed searched for a place to begin a camping ministry in the area and Calawasee provided a perfect setting. An interdenominational Christian boys and girls summer camp, it is still going strong today. Wabanna is an acronym for Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis. The camp is located at 101 Likes Road, Mayo, Maryland 21106. You can contact camp personnel at (410) 798-0455 or Fax (410) 798-1214.

Legalized Gambling -

In the economic resurgence Post WWII era, Beverly Beach, North Beach and Chesapeake Beach were the gambling hot spots of Maryland. As popular as Atlantic City, New Jersey is today, our area was the place to go for seashore fun for the family with slots machines just off of the sand. The old pavilions stood in Beverly Beach for many years after legalized gambling was ended in Maryland, as an eyesore for some while bringing back fond memories for others. The area has been cleaned up and revitalized now, but the pavilion still stands as cover for beach functions.

Civil Rights -

In as recent as the 1960's, certain ethnic groups were forbidden to use many of our community beaches. As in most parts of the US, Deeds of Title for property sold had wording banning ownership of property by Negroes and Italians. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 leading to an Injunction against racial discrimination at Beverly Beach and the outlawing of slot machines by the General Assembly closed the popular private resort in 1968.

Floating Home -

The sailboaters weren't the first to discover the floating residence. In 1932, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Goetz floated their home into Selby Bay by tug-boat on a steel barge. Moving their Baltimore home by water to Selby on the Bay in that era of time must have been a phenomenal feat. The home they loved so much is located on Beach Drive Boulevard at Arundel Avenue in Selby on the Bay.

The Beverly Beach Peninsula -

Known for Steiner's Warf, Cadle Creek, Dutchman Point and Saunder's Point this area was named Scrabbletown in 1892. In 1895, it was known as "Jamestown", named by a local schoolteacher for the first English settlement of America in Virginia.

Loch Haven -

Served as a United States Naval Submarine base during the 1930's and WWII. President Roosevelt docked here once when traveling to visit dignitaries in Annapolis.

Travel to Annapolis -

By horse and buggy from the peninsula in 1900 it was an all day ride with ferries and Indian paths to maneuver. Travel by water to Annapolis in those days was much quicker and safer.</p>

American Legion Post 226 -

Cummings-Behlke Post 226 was first organized in 1947. Named for three local sons that paid the ultimate price in World War II for the freedom that we all take so easily for granted. The post now maintains about 700 active members and it certainly has been a proud part of all of the local communities history for the past 50 years.

MCA Hall -

Built in 1898 by the Mayo Beneficial Association, or Modern Woodsman's Association. The original builders donated the building to the community association in exchange for life membership. The original association was created to help local families of people who were unable to work and widows of its members to help get along after their passing.

South River High School -

Completed in 1978, along with Central Elementary, Special, Middle and the Vocational Tech school, they were part of the largest public educational complex in Maryland. Before 1979, Southern High School ran two shifts (7am-12pm & 12pm-5pm) daily to accommodate all of the local area high school students. The new Annapolis High School opened 1979, moving from the city to its current location in Riva.

Holiday Point Marina -

The property where the Holiday Point Marina sits in Selby on the Bay used to be an old tomato cannery. When the Maryland seafood industry took off in the 1940's it was converted to an oyster house to package the widely renowned delicacy. The popularity of Maryland Blue Crabs did not become widespread until better ways to transport them and keep them fresh were developed.

Annapolis Mall -

The grand opening of the Annapolis Mall in 1980 marked a beginning of a major economic boom for the City of Annapolis and added great convenience for local shoppers. The previous local shopping megaplex was Parole Plaza, which was closest shopping Plaza from southern Maryland to Severna Park.

Tastee Freeze -

Many younger locals may think that the Hardee's on Route 2 was the first franchised fast-food restaurant to our area when it opened in 1979. I bet there are a few locals that remember the first-franchised fast food store to the Edgewater area - Dairy Queen, which used to be where the new Kentucky Fried Chicken is now located. How about Beverly Farms, Collison's, Gatt's Corner

Store or Dave's Corner? None were franchises but all were a big part in supplying the area in the 1950-60's expansion of our area.

Newspapers -

Before the USA Today there was the old Washington Herald, The Washington Star, and The Evening Capital. In the early 80's the predominant local paper became the Capital, which had dropped the Evening in its title and started printing in color. The Capital is still delivered in the afternoon as it has since its start.

US Naval Academy -

The United States Naval Academy opened in 1845. Originally developed from the premier sailing school in the country, the US Government realizes its value in training some of the greatest Naval Commanders in US History.

Slavery -

At the start of the Civil War in 1861 Annapolis was pro-south and state legislators are imprisoned in northern prisons until they swore oath of loyalty to Union.

A Book Report from the Fifth Grade Class at Mayo Elementary School

A Mayo Elementary Book Report from the kids of Mayo, 1952

Transcribed to MS Word 8.0 document by Martin O'Callaghan, April 12 1999.

(This is an old book report that I recently found while organizing and filing some old SCA files. It is a report that appears to be from the entire fifth grade class of Mayo Elementary School in the 1952-53 school year. I wonder how many kids were in the fifth grade class and who they were? Most of them probably still live around here. I think Mrs. Taylor was principal at Mayo when my brother Kevin and I attended in the late 1960's.)

DISCOVERING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

By GRADE V 1952-1953

Mayo Elementary School

Mrs. Emily Taylor/ Teacher

Mrs. Margaret Johnson/ Principal

Mrs. Dorothy Kirkley/ Supervisor

DISCOVERING OUR COMMUNITY

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I. GEOGRAPHY-

Mayo is located on a peninsula on the western shore of Maryland between Rhode River on the southwest and South River on the northeast, and bordering the Chesapeake Bay. It is on Maryland Route 214, eleven miles southeast of Annapolis, the Capital of Maryland. It is convenient to the capital of the United States, Washington, D.C., which is twenty-nine miles to the southwest, and to the largest city in Maryland, Baltimore, which is thirty-five miles to the north.

According to the 1950 census, the population of Mayo is nine hundred people ¹. Mayo is not incorporated and has no set boundary by land. The approximate area is one thousand two hundred seventy-five acres, or two and one-half square miles. The average temperature for Mayo in the month of January is 35.30 . The average temperature for July is 77.5 o. The temperature has been as high as 106 o and as low as 6 o below zero during the past forty years. The annual precipitation for this vicinity is 44.72 inches and statistics show that during the past forty years the heaviest rainfall is during the month of August ².

Footnotes: ¹ World Book M by Field Enterprises ² Climate of the States - Maryland and Delaware - Agricultural Yearbook Separate No. 1839 - U.S. Department of Commerce - Weather Bureau

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In the summer our area is cooled by the "bay breeze." Our class feels that in winter the warm air of the bay causes our precipitation to be mostly rain when other areas in nearby Maryland are having snow.

Mayo has a growing season of two hundred and five days. The last day of frost occurs about April 10th and the first frost in the fall comes about November 1st.

Mayo has always depended upon her natural resources. In the rivers and bays that wash her shores are caught hardhead, rock, perch, spot, flounder, eel, sunfish, bluefish, pike, carp, catfish,

herring, shad, oysters, manoes, crabs and turtles. In the lowlands around the shores are found many muskrat homes.

During the winter many waterfowl feed at our shores and provide food during the hunting season. In the fields and wooded area rabbits, squirrels, pheasants, quail, opossums, raccoons and foxes are hunted during the open seasons.

The soil of Mayo is the sandy clay type and has proved especially good for growing tobacco. Mayo was once covered by trees and even now has stretches of spruce, pine, gum, oak and maple trees. There are also holly, dogwood, cedar, hickory, walnut and chestnut trees.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Settlement began in Mayo on July 26, 1658 when Cecilus Calvert, Lord Baltimore, granted a tract of four hundred ninety

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acres of land between South River and Rhode River to Captain Edward Selby, which the captain named "Selby's Marsh."

Captain Selby kept two hundred sixty acres for his own plantation and put the rest of the land out on rent roll for nineteen schooling a year.¹ In 1665 and again in 1688 he added more tracts of land to his estate until he had acquired something like one thousand four hundred acres. With his wealth from tobacco and his prominence in public affairs, Captain Selby became one of the most successful and important gentlemen of the Rhode River area. It is for him that the present shore development, which is part of Mayo, gets its name. He died in 1688 and, by his last will and testament, left his plantation to his only son and heir, Edward Selby, Jr. Young Selby had several financial reverses and in 1693 he sold to William Cotter, who had just recently arrived upon the Maryland scene.

Legends have come down to us that the dashing William Cotter made quite a favorable impression upon the social life in the Rhode River area. Within two years of his august arrival, he married Jane Gassaway, a leader and one of the political bosses of Anne Arundel County. He died a short time before his daughter's marriage.

Footnotes: ¹ From an interview with Mrs. Genevieve Von Aschenberg, Gresham Farm, Edgewater, Maryland.

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In 1696 a vessel arrived unexpectedly from England and anchored at the Port of Annapolis, which is now a part of near-by Woodland Beach, with an agent of the King of England on board. Secret conferences were held with certain provincial officials and it soon leaked out that one-time pirates were reported living in the Rhode River area. Excitement ran high. The pirates, much to the surprise of everyone, turned out to be none other than William Cotter and his fellow countryman, John Blackmore. They were immediately placed under bond and "to be of good behavior as to Acts of Pyracy." Richard Beard, the surveyor who laid out the port of Annapolis, was then High Sheriff for Anne Arundel County. It was his duty to tell the officials "that by virtue of His Excellency's proclamation for suppressing Pyrates, he has taken into custody Mr.

John Blackmore and William Cotter, who went out from the Isle of Jamaica in the West Indies under the command of one George Rainer, returning two years later."

They were released "To stand and be indebted unto our Sovereign Lord William, the third, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland in the sum of five hundred pounds sterling each. That they, the said John Blackmore and William Cotter shall personally appear and be forthcoming whenever His Majesty's pleasure is known concerning them; in the meantime to be of good behavior as to any acts of Pyracy."

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William Cotter lived only four years after his pledge of good behavior, for he died the latter part of March 1702 and was buried on March 28. At the burial the clergy spoke of him as a "good housekeeper of this Parish."

The elder cotter son died unmarried and the younger son, William, fell heir to the entire estate. After a gay bachelor life at his plantation home and adding further to the Cotter wealth, he died in 1749, leaving his estate to his nephews, William, Henry and Thomas, sons of his sister, Sarah. Sarah had married her cousin, Captain John Gassaway, a grandson of "Old Rough-and-Ready" Nicholas Gassaway. In the following year of 1750, Captain John Gassaway had a resurvey made of their entire estate and named it "Cotter's Desire" in memory of either his father-in-law, the old pirate, or his brother-in-law who had made his sons heirs to the Cotter's fortune.

Captain John Gassaway followed in the footsteps of his grandfather and became quite an important political figure in the county. He was High Sheriff and Keeper of the Public Goal at Annapolis, and in 1753 he was elected to the Lower House of the General Assembly to represent Anne Arundel County.

Cotter's Desire remained in the Cotter and Gassaway families for one hundred twenty-one years or until 1814 when William Stewart was appointed by the court as trustee to sell the property of Dr. John Gassaway, deceased. The property

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was transferred to various individuals between July 1814 and January 1835, at which time Cotter's Desire was deeded to Commodore Isaac Mayo, U.S.N., for whom the community of Mayo and Mayo Road are named.

Cotter's Desire continued in the Mayo family for about eighty years. On June 29, 1915, Thomas H. Gaither, grandson of Commodore Mayo, conveyed Cotter's Desire to Oscar Keys for a valuable consideration.

In 1916 or two hundred twenty-three years after Edward Selby sold his domain to the ex-pirate, William Cotter, Cotter's Desire was first divided when Mr. Keys sold about eight acres on Mayo Road to Albert bull, Leander Jackson and John Evans.

About four years later, Mr. Keys sold the remainder of Cotter's desire to Mr. Maurice Ogle who received the title on December 1, 1920. Mr. Ogle is from an old Maryland family, a descendent of Samuel Ogle, colonial governor of Maryland.

In 1950 Mr. Paul Crandall of Washington bought about one hundred two acres of Cotter's Desire and is developing it as a shore colony named Ponder Cove.¹ There are no remains of the Cotter home.

Footnotes: ¹ Ponder Cove - pamphlet by Paul D. Crandall, present owner of Ponder Cove, who gave us permission to reprint this material.

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Of those who rented land from Captain Selby, we have record of John Gresham II, who was attorney to Captain Selby and who rented 80 acres. His father, John Gresham I had come to this country from England in 1640 and had settled on the island of Kent. Gresham I was the nephew of Sir Thomas Gresham who had founded a college in England. Due to religious troubles, the first John Gresham's land was taken away from him and he fled to Virginia. Later his lands were restored and he returned to Kent Island. John Gresham II built a house in 1686 on his "50 and 30 acres" which was then called Selby's Marsh. This house is still in use and, as far as we can find, is the oldest house in Mayo. Gresham II died in this house in 1713 and left it to his son, John Gresham III. In 1723 John Gresham III made a will leaving to his wife the home which he calls "my father's late dwelling."

In 1765 Joseph Mayo bought six hundred and twenty-two acres of what was still called Selby's Marsh. This included the Gresham property. He paid ten thousand dollars in "Philadelphia money," which was the term given to silver money at that time. However, it was not until 1810 that the boundaries were finally set because of the rent roll property which was involved. The name was changed to Gresham.¹

Footnotes: ¹ From an interview with Mrs. Von Aschenberg, present owner of Gresham Farm, Edgewater, Maryland.

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During the nineteenth century, Gresham was the home of Commodore Isaac Mayo, who served in the United States Navy for more than fifty years. It was during his cruises on the seven seas that he collected the trophies which he used to decorate the grounds of Gresham - broken segments of two marble columns, one inscribed with the words, "From the Temple of Apollo, the Grecian Island of Delos", the other inscribed with the words, "From the Temple of Diana"; an old iron urn placed on a square of marble and marked "From the Island of Delos"; iron guns and an iron cannon.

Commodore Mayo was a descendent of Joshua Mayo of South River. In 1809, as a midshipman, he joined the sloop-of-war, Wasp, and for three years served under the command of Captain James Lawrence. During the War of 1812 he was placed on board an English vessel taken as a prize by the U.S. Navy. During the voyage home he defended her from soldiers who boarded the vessel in the harbor of San Salvadore, where Commodore Mayo had put in to get supplies. Later in the same war he volunteered for service under command of Stephen Decatur in defense of Washington, our capital city.

He served with Commodore Stewart in the Pacific and was sent home by way of Panama with

dispatches in April 1823. He relates that he was "chased into Campechy by a pirate and narrowly escaped capture."¹

Footnotes: ¹ American Motorist Magazine - Gresham on South River\par July 1931 - Pages 11-13.

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In 1830 he sailed on the U.S.S. Brandywine, frigate flagship of Commodore Morris, with "good Lafayette on board." On the Brandywine, he cruised in the Mediterranean.

Commodore Mayo was married in 1835 to Miss Sarah Bland, daughter of Chancellor Bland, consul to Brazil.

In 1840 he was in command of the steamer Poinsett and a squadron of gunboats during the Seminole War. He captured "Mad Tiger" and ten Indian warriors. Three years later, he was in command of the U.S.S. Macedonian, frigate flagship of Commodore M.C. Perry, U.S. Navy. While he was serving on the Macedonian, Commodore Mayo was sent to protect a schooner which was returning freed slaves to a settlement on the coast of Africa established by the American Colonization Society. One native tribe, the Berribees, had captured and put to death by torture the crew of another schooner, Mary Carver, returning freed slaves. While with a landing party, Commodore Mayo had an encounter with King Crako, the leader of the Berribees, and was severely burned on the face by a discharge of Berribian muskets.

In 1845 the question of a naval school similar to West Point Military Academy was before the Secretary of the Navy. To determine the best site for the school for naval cadets, the Secretary appointed a commission of officers, among them Commodore Mayo. Two sites were especially favored, ¹

Footnotes: ¹ American Motorist Magazine - Gresham on South River, July 1931 - Pages 11-13.

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one at the Naval Asylum at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the other at Fort Severn in Annapolis, Maryland. It was because of Commodore Mayo's influence that Fort Severn was finally selected for the establishment of the Naval Academy.

During the Mexican War, Commodore Mayo was in command of the naval battery near Vera Cruz when that city surrendered. Later he was appointed Governor of Alvarado. It was during this time that he sent home to Gresham the old guns and cannon balls, engraved with the name of "San Juan de Ulloa" the palace at Vera Cruz, where the American forces had their headquarters after the fall of that city. The guns and one cannon ball can still be found at the entrance of Gresham. That is why the farm has been called "Cannon Ball Gates" by its neighbors.

In 1850 Commodore Mayo was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the United States naval forces in the Mediterranean and on the west coast of Africa. His flagship was the Constitution. At the beginning of the Civil War, Commodore Mayo was at Gresham on leave. He wrote to President Lincoln offering his resignation as an officer of the United States Navy, saying: "In adopting the policy of coercion, you have denied to millions of freeman the rights of the Constitution and in its stead you have placed the will of a sectional party and ¹

Footnotes: ¹ American Motorist Magazine - Gresham on South River, July 1931 - Pages 11-13.

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now demand submission in the name of an armed force! As one of the oldest soldiers in America, I protest in the name of humanity against this war against brethren'. I cannot fight against the Constitution while pretending to fight for it."

Commodore Mayo's resignation was not accepted by the President and he was dismissed with six other officers of his rank for their sympathy with the cause of the Confederate States. Soon after this Commodore Mayo died, leaving Gresham to his daughter, Mrs. Thomas H. Gaither. He also left her the sword that had been given to him by the State of Maryland and the Medal of Valor given to him by the Congress of the United States.¹

At Mrs. Gaither's death, the estate was left to her daughter, Mrs. Georgie Mayo Bailliere, of Baltimore, Maryland, and she rented Gresham to a family who cultivated its many acres. It was from Mrs. Bailliere that Mrs. Von Aschenberg, its present owner, bought the farm.

Driving in to Gresham from Mayo Road, one turns at the "Cannon Ball Gates" and goes up a lane bordered by cedar trees and fruit trees. The lane continues past the house and goes down to Selby Bay, a small body of water off South River near the point where the river meets the Chesapeake Bay. The long frame house has dormer windows and two old brick chimneys.

Footnotes: ¹ American Motorist Magazine - Gresham on South River, July 1931 - Pages 11-13.

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Around it are a few old trees, veterans from Gresham's early days. Cottonwoods and sycamores shade the broad lawn, and a large walnut tree stands near the old well in the rear of the house. The interior of the house was changed as the years passed. The central part is the oldest and to it additions were made on both sides. On entering the house, one is attracted by the old grandfather clock made by Jacob Gardner in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1776. It is understood that Mrs. Von Aschenberg its owner, that there are only two of its kind in existence today, the location of the other clock being unknown. ¹

The neighborhood folk tell an old legend handed down about Gresham. It seems that pirates were connected with the farm and are supposed to have buried treasure there. During the full moon a rider on a white horse is supposed to enter "Cannon Ball Gates" evidently in search of the treasure. Some folks say that while hunting through the woods of Gresham they have found holes shaped like a chest, as though treasure had been removed. ²

Footnotes: ¹ From an interview with Mrs. Genevieve Von Aschenberg, Gresham Farm, Edgewater, Maryland. ² A report by Harry Alvey, Fifth Grade Pupil, Selby, Edgewater, Maryland.

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III. PEOPLE FROM EARLY SETTLERS TO PRESENT POPULATION

Mayo was inhabited by the Susquehanna Indians before the white settlers came. Many

arrowheads, spearheads and bone knives have been plowed up and even now some Indian relic is occasionally uncovered. The development of shore property in this area has uncovered many buried oyster heaps that were possibly accumulated by the Indians.

The early white settlers came from England and were very few. As far as we can tell there are only two houses in this area that date back to pre-Revolutionary days. One is the Gresham Farm and the other is the Brick House Farm, near the entrance of what is now Shoreham Beach. The house at Brick House Farm was built by a bachelor. He had the bricks brought over from England. He died before he was able to live in the house. A number of families have owned the house. It has been remodeled and additions have been made to the original structure.

From this small beginning, several other estates grew. There was Birch Manor, located about one-half mile from Gresham near Selby Bay, which was built by Judge Tuck. There were Old 96 Farm, near what is now Shoreham Beach; Stiener's Farm; Cloverlea; and Ivy Neck, which was not in Mayo Proper but just across Rhode River.

The earliest records of Ivy Neck go back to 1688 when a grant of six hundred ninety acres of land was made to John

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Watkins. Also belonging to the estate was a little island called Bachelor's Retreat which was granted to John Ridout by Governor Sharpe in 1762. This little island covering about an acre of ground, was sold to Mr. Cheston in 1790 by the owner. ¹

Ivy Neck was well documented. It held the original contract, dated 1787, made by James Cheston, wealthy planter, with Leonard Harbaugh, a carpenter of Annapolis, and Andrew Green, bricklayer, for the construction of Ivy Neck. The house contained furniture and silver brought from England. There was a wharf at the foot of the bluff on which Ivy Neck was built, at which all the steamboats that ran from Baltimore to West River stopped. Unfortunately, was destroyed by fire a few years ago and all the documents, furniture, silver and a fine collection of old portraits went with it. ²

In its early years, Mayo was strictly a farming community, but with its growth the seafood industry became equally important. With the growing population, the farms became smaller in order to provide land on which to build houses. The occupation of most of the people was in the seafood industry. This provided year round work. Oysters were caught during the winter and sold. Crabs and fish were caught during the summer.

Footnotes: ¹ Tercentenary Edition of the Maryland Gazette - 1949 ² Baltimore News Post - "Day by Day" - Carroll Dulaney

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In the early 1920's began the development of shore property in Mayo. This has continued up to the present time and has changed Mayo into a resort community. The shore property has brought many people from the Washington area and some from Baltimore. These residents live at Mayo and commute to their places of employment in Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis. A very small per cent of the present population is employed in the Mayo area.

IV. PEOPLE AT WORK

Today Mayo has a variety of work for the few people who earn their living in this area. There are three farms in the community on which the owners earn their living raising tobacco and some corn.

In February the farmer begins his tobacco bed. He hoes and rakes a small portion of ground in a sunny and protected part of his farm. He mixes fertilizer in the ground and plants the tobacco seeds. He puts logs or boards around the bed and covers it with thin white cotton cloth. While the young tobacco is growing, the farmer plows and discs his field and gets it ready for planting. In May the tobacco plants are taken out of the bed and planted in the open field. A tobacco planter does the planting. Two men sit on either side of the planter, which is pulled by either tractor or horses. The machine digs a hole for each plant and fills it with water. The men put a tobacco plant in the hole and

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the machine covers it up. While the tobacco is growing, the farmer cultivates it either by cultivator or by hand.

During the summer, after the tobacco blooms, it is topped by cutting the bloom from the top of the tobacco. The largest blooms are saved for seed for the next year. Late in the summer the tobacco is cut. The plant is with a big knife and put on tobacco sticks. It is taken to a tobacco barn and hung to dry. After it is dried, the leaves are stripped and assorted as to the size and color and put into bundles. The bundles are packed into baskets or barrels and taken to the tobacco market in Upper Marlboro, Prince George County, Maryland.

Although tobacco is the money crop, the farmers raise corn, mainly for the animals and poultry, and raise vegetables for their own use.

There are two oyster houses in Mayo. One is owned by Mr. John Collison and has been in operation for more than fifty years. It was owned by Mr. Collison's father before him. The other oyster house was built by Mr. Lawrence Blair in 1912 for tomato canning. He operated it for about two years and sold it to William Numson of Baltimore. He enlarged the business to the canning of string beans, pears, blackberries, peaches, apples and, later steamed oysters. In 1935 it was bought by Mr. William Dawson, a local resident, for an oyster house.

Oysters in this area are caught with tongs, The handles or shafts, of the tongs are from twelve to twenty-six feet

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long, depending on the depth of water where the oysters are being caught. At the bottom of these shafts are the tongs that are shaped somewhat like two garden rakes that fit together and hold about a peck of oysters, depending upon the size of the oysters. The oystermen go to the oyster beds in their boats which are about forty feet long. Near the stern of the boat is a small cabin that houses the engine and steering wheel. Oystermen lower their tongs into the water and sound the bottom for oysters. The tongs are worked back and forth until they are filled. As much mud is washed from the oysters as can be before they are dumped on a culling board, which is about two feet wide with sides built so the oysters will not fall into the boat. This board is placed across the

width of the boat. On this board the oysters are culled or separated, the small oysters and shells being thrown back overboard and the oysters of legal size being dropped into the boat. The oysters are now taken to the oyster house where they are measured into half-bushel baskets and wheeled into the first room. From here they are taken to the shucking room where people remove the oyster from the shell by opening it with an oyster knife. This process is known as shucking. The oyster is put into one of two cans, depending on its size; the selects, or large ones, are put in the one can and the standards, or small ones, are put in the other cans. After being shucked, they are taken to the skimming room where they are dumped on a washing table and sprayed with cold

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water. The oysters are then put in an electric blower where they are washed again. Soon after this operation, the oysters are scooped up and put on a draining table; later to be placed into cans, sealed, packed in ice and made ready for market.

Oysters are caught from September to the middle of April. During the rest of the year, fish and crabs are caught. A few men in the neighborhood fish during the whole year, weather permitting, by using fishnets, called seines. These seines have corks at the top and sinkers at the bottom and are pulled through the water to catch the fish. This kind of fishing is done in shallow water. Another kind of fishing that begins in early spring and lasts until late fall is hook and line fishing. Some men with small cabin cruisers take out fishing parties who come from the surrounding cities. They go out in the Chesapeake Bay and catch fish for a day's recreation. The fishing party takes home fish and pays the boat owner a certain rate for the day. Since Mayo has become a resort community, this business is growing.

Hard shell crabs are caught during the summer with trotlines and hand lines. A trotline is rope whatever length desired, with an anchor at each end. A few feet from the anchor an empty bottle is tied to mark the beginning and end of the line. Baits of salt eel, horsemeat or chicken feet are tied at spaces of two feet over the entire rope between

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the floats. After the trotline is left in the water a few minutes, it is slowly pulled to the surface and the crabs, clinging to the baits, are dipped up with a net. A hand line uses the same principal as a trotline, except there is only one line with bait instead of many.

Soft-shell crabs are caught in very shallow water by dipping them up with a net.

Another kind of employment in Mayo is provided by the three beaches, Beverley, Triton and Mayo. These beaches charge admission for parking and swimming. Many people are employed to prepare and sell food, collect admissions, take care of the bathhouses and game rooms, park cars, sell souvenirs, etc. There are nurses and lifeguards employed for the safety of the visitors. These beaches open the week before Memorial Day and close the week after Labor Day. On any hot Sunday during the summer about thirty-five hundred cars come down Mayo Road headed for the beaches.

Beverley Beach was organized in 1924 by Mr. Edgar Kolb. In addition to the public beach, it is a summer colony for private residents who are given free privileges to the beach itself. In 1942 Mr. Kolb bought adjoining Ford's beach and built what is now Triton Beach. Together they form the

largest summer resort on the Chesapeake Bay.

Mayo Beach started in 1939 when Mr. Charles Trabing of Baltimore bought the waterfront property at the point where the South River meets the Chesapeake Bay. During the few years

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that it has been in operation, it has grown to be a favorite resort of many Washington residents. Mayo has six general stores, five of which are open the year round. They sell a great variety of merchandise. The stores do most of their business in the summer season when people from the cities come to their summer homes and to the beaches.

Four restaurants are in Mayo, two of which are open the year round. They, too, do most of their business in the summer, serving meals to visitors at the beaches.

Mayo has a third class post office which serves about a third of the community. The rest of the area is served by Rural Free Delivery from the Edgewater Post Office.

The first postmaster in Mayo was Mr. John Tucker. The post office was in his home on Little Island in the year 1883. Later he moved to Mayo Road, built a store and house combination, and the post office was located there.

The next postmaster was Thomas J. Jackson who owned a store on Cadle Creek. He was postmaster in 1900.

H.F. Himburg was the next postmaster appointed on June 1, 1914. He had the post office in his store on Mayo Road. Later he sold the store to Mr. Parks and built a small post office on an adjoining lot. During all this time the post office was fourth class. On January 3, 1940 Golda Himburg was appointed in her father's place and is the present postmistress.

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On July 1, 1943 Mayo Post Office became third class. ¹

Four Marine Railways are in Mayo; one at Dawson's Oyster House; one on Rhode River and two on Cadle Creek. Any repairs to boats which cannot be made while the boats are in the water are done at the railway. These include such things as painting, caulking, removing barnacles and any carpentry work needed.

There is one garage in Mayo. At Bert's Garage any repairs on cars, bicycles, outboard motors and any kind of welding can be made.

V. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Before the white settlers came to Mayo, the Indians traveled by canoe and on foot. With the coming of the white man, another method of transportation was added, that of horseback travel. Because of the lack of roads and the rivers that had to be crossed, travel by coach developed slowly. The people in this area depended mostly on boats to travel any distances. During the winters when the Bay and the rivers were frozen, the people walked to Annapolis when necessary to go there on business. With the building of a bridge across the South River in the early 1800's, travel by horse and carriage became more extensive. Roads became wider, but travel

Footnotes: ¹ From an interview with Miss Golda Himburg, postmistress, Mayo, Maryland

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was extremely rough. In the winter only necessary trips were made because the freezing and thawing of the ground made travel almost impossible. The trip to Annapolis took approximately two hours.

After steamboats became numerous on the Bay, travel to and from Baltimore and Annapolis was easier for Mayo residents. A steamer, the most well known being the Emma Giles, came from Baltimore and stopped at two wharves in Mayo; Carr's Wharf in Rhode River and Birch's Wharf in Selby's Bay. Freight and passengers were both carried. Trips were made three times a week. The steamer made stops at Annapolis and West River also. Gradually, with the coming of automobiles and trucks, the number of trips decreased, until finally in the 1920's service was discontinued.

Automobiles came to Mayo in the early 1900's. The first automobile was bought by Leander Jackson in March 1915. It was a black Model T Ford with a brass front. It costs three hundred and sixty dollars. Two months later another car of the same make was purchased by Mr. David Collison. In cases of emergency or of business, the neighbors felt free to call on Mr. Jackson or Mr. Collison for the use of their cars. During the next year Mr. Thomas Dawson bought a Ford. His was a newer model with a black front. By 1927 one out of every ten families in Mayo owned a car.

The roads were greatly improved when the state took over the main road in Mayo and hard-surfaced it. This was in 1930.

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With the improvements in the roads and the growth of the community, ninety eight percent of the residents today own automobiles.

During the summer when the beaches are open, buses travel between Washington and Beverley Beach. They pick up passengers along the route. They travel on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

As yet there are no airplanes in Mayo.

VI. HOUSING

All the houses of Mayo are the individual type. Most of them are built of wood. Some of the newer homes are of brick or cinder block. Houses in the past were built on the two-story plan, but now the trend in building seems to favor the one-story plan. Most of the houses have good size porches. A few have basements, but the present practice seems to be that of building a utility room adjoining the house. The houses are heated with either oil space heaters or furnaces. Some houses have fireplaces, but these are not depended upon as the main source of heat in cold weather.

All the homes are equipped with electricity and many of them have telephones.

Most of the houses have modern plumbing facilities. The water is piped into the houses from driven wells. The kitchens are equipped with either gas or electric stoves for cooking.

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Most of the homes are owned, but there are a few shore homes that are rented to different families during the summer.

In Mayo there is one housing project going on at the present. Mr. T.E. Collison has brought a strip of land on Carr's Road, and is building a number of one-story frame houses for sale. There is a housing project completed on the road to Shoreham Beach. These brick houses are built by Mr. Hedin and are for rent. At the present, all the houses are occupied.

One of the most pleasant features of all the houses in the Mayo area are the roomy lawns which enable the residents to enjoy the outdoors.

VII. COMMUNITY SERVICES

In the middle of the nineteenth century there were two doctors who served Mayo, but who did not live in the immediate vicinity. They were Dr. Weems and the elder Dr. Collison who lived at what is now known as Glebe Heights. These doctors had their offices at their residences and came down to Mayo by "horse and buggy." The elder Dr. Collison had a son who studied medicine. When his father passed away, he inherited his practice and he also took over Dr. Weem's patients. For a number of years he was the doctor in this area and continued living at his father's residence. After the death of Dr. John Collison there was no doctor near Mayo, but Dr. Hay's

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from Davidsonville became the principal doctor. During Dr. Hay's practice automobiles became more plentiful and some of the people began to go to Annapolis for professional service.

Dr. Vincent Gould opened the first doctor's office in Mayo in 1950. He serves this area and is associated with Anne Arundel General Hospital. Dr. Gould has his office at his home.

Some doctors from Annapolis also come to Mayo.

We have no local dentist. The people in Mayo go to Annapolis, Washington or Baltimore for dental service.

The closest hospital is the Anne Arundel General Hospital in Annapolis. Although we have no local ambulance service, we are fortunate to be able to use the Woodland Beach Ambulance which is stationed about five miles distant. The ambulance from the U.S. Naval Academy Hospital is on call for the Navy personnel who live in Mayo.

Although the health center is not located here, our community enjoys the services of the Davidsonville-Mayo Health Center located in Davidsonville. This center has the services of the Anne Arundel County Public Health Organization.

The Health Center was first started in 1939 and was sponsored by the Davidsonville P.T.A. Miss Katherine Watkins, principal of the Davidsonville School, was the first president. A building on the main road in Davidsonville was rented. Much remodeling was done in order to make it suitable for a clinic.

During the years that followed, many Mayo residents became interested in the services of the center and gave their

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support. On November 6, 1947, on a notion by Mrs. Nick Bottner, and in recognition of the help Mayo had given, the name was changed to the Davidsonville-Mayo Health Center.

The services of the Center have expanded until the area now covered extends from South River Bridge to Birdsville, and from Chesapeake Bay to the Prince George's County line. Miss Arlene Duval is the nurse in charge of the clinics and Mrs. Benjamin Popham, a Mayo resident is president.

With the growth of the Center, there is great need for a larger and more centrally located building. Mr. James Stuart has offered to donate a piece of ground on Mayo Road in Woodland Beach and funds are being raised to erect a permanent center. On the building committee are Mrs. St. George Barber and Mrs. Ben Hundley of Davidsonville, Rev. Mrs. Orra Brant and Mrs. George Villeneuve of Woodland Beach and Mrs. Z. Garner Jones, Mrs. Robert Nimon and Mrs. Popham of Mayo. ¹

Anne Arundel County has charge of the garbage disposal in Mayo, except in the case of people living on private roads. The collectors come for garbage every Monday and Thursday. The bill for this collection is added to each person's property tax.

Although Mayo has no fire department of its own, it has the services of the Galesville Volunteer Fire Department,

Footnotes: ¹ From an interview with Mr. Benjamin Popham, Mayo, Maryland.

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which is about eight miles distant. If the fire is serious enough the Woodland Beach and Riva Fire Departments can also be called.

The nearest police station is in Edgewater, which is about six miles away. These police patrol this area and also furnish road protection for the school. The police are employed by Anne Arundel County.

VIII. DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGION

Until after the Civil War the people of Mayo attended church at Hope Chapel, which was a Methodist Church about three miles from Mayo on the road leading to Annapolis. This church had a slave balcony so that plantation owners could take their slaves there.

After the Civil War a small wooden building was erected on the old county road that led to Big Island, now known as Turkey Point. This building served as both a church on Sundays and a school during the week. It was also used as a meeting house and a place to hold social affairs. In 1878 the congregation had grown so that a new Methodist Church was built on the main Mayo Road. This was a small one-room building which seated about sixty people. The Reverend D.B. Winstead was pastor. He also served the following churches: Davidsonville, Birdsville, Taylorsville and Edgewater. The church was called the Mayo Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church.

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In 1892 the building was enlarged to its present size. In 1921 remodeling on the interior was done. Stained glass windows were donated by members of the congregation, and a Delco system,

which generated electricity for the lighting of the church , was installed. In 1941 an electric organ was purchased. In 1948, during a heavy wind, one of the drafts in the two oil heaters caused the interior of the church to be ruined with smoke. Services were interrupted and moved to Mayo Hall while the interior was completely refinished. New broadloom carpet was laid inside the pulpit and around the altar rail. Tile was laid on the rest of the sanctuary. In 1950, due to the growth of the Sunday school, there was a great need for enlarging the church. It was decided to raise it and built a basement underneath, to be used as Sunday school rooms and a place to hold social affairs. This was done and one large room, two small rooms, two lavatories and a kitchen were made. A new central oil heating plant was installed. The Reverend Paul Cummins was pastor at this time. He also served the Davidsonville and Edgewater churches, Hope Chapel and Birdsville having long since discontinued. Today in addition to all church affairs, the Boy Scouts, the 4-H Club and the Homemakers Club use the church basement for meetings. In 1952 the congregation of the church had grown, along with the growth of the whole community, and the need was felt for a pastor to serve Mayo alone, instead of one connected with

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a circuit. Ground for a parsonage was donated by Theodore Entwisle and Mr. Earl Brashears. A furnace for the parsonage was donated by Mr. Brennaman of Baltimore, who is a summer resident at Turkey Point. The parsonage was built on the Turkey Point Road a short distance in back of the church.

In June 1952 Mayo Memorial Methodist Church withdrew the South River circuit and became a station church. The Reverend Robert C. Nimon was sent as first pastor. In November 1952 Reverend Nimon and his family occupied the new parsonage.

At present there are two hundred and six active church members, an active Women's Society of Christian Service, a large Sunday school and a Methodist Youth Fellowship. A burial ground is adjacent to the churchyard and recently more ground has been added to enlarge it to twice the original size.

The only other church in Mayo was the Church of St. Andrew. It was built during the rectorship of the Reverend C. J. Curtis of All Hallows Episcopal Parish (1892-1899). It was built with funds contributed by both former and present residents of Mayo and was aided by the Episcopal Church Building Commission.

The first structure was merely an outside shell with the inside left unfinished. It cost five hundred dollars. The opening service was held about 1895, conducted by the Reverend Curtis, Archdeacon Gambrell and Reverend Dr. W.L. DeVries.

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The congregation, though small, finished the interior of the church and added many improvements. A Sunday school was regularly held. The successive rectors of All Hallows Parish continued to serve the church, generally giving the fifth Sunday (when it occurred) for a morning service. For a number of years a layman, Mr. Norris, worked faithfully as a lay missionary, conducting public worship, visiting among the people and teaching and training the children.

In 1935, due to a faulty electrical wiring, St. Andrews Church burned to the ground. The burial ground adjoining the church is still being used for deceased members and is given perpetual care by the living.

Plans are now being made among the Mayo members of All Hallows Episcopal Church to build another chapel on the old site.\

IX. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Shortly after the close of the Civil War, a small wooden building was erected on the old county road leading to Big Island at a place called "Schoolhouse Field." The structure served, as previously stated, both as a place of worship and as a school. After the Methodist Church was built in 1878, the other building was used exclusively as a school. It was the only one in Mayo at that time and children had to walk two or more miles to get there. Mr. Frank Owens was the first teacher of whom we have record. He was succeeded by Mr. Henry Jones in 1879.

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By 1891 the enrollment had increased to a daily attendance of fifty children, and a new one-room school was built in the lower part of Mayo to accommodate the children in that section. Miss Mary Ford was appointed first teacher in the new school.

About 1907 a new three-room building was constructed midway between the two one-room schools and they were consolidated. Mr. Jackson bought the building at "Schoolhouse Field" and moved it to become part of his store. Mr. D.W. Collison bought the structure in lower Mayo and converted it into a dwelling. Both are in existence today. Miss Sedonia Collison was the first principal and Miss Lillian Carr was assistant. There were just two teachers. In January or February of 1911 a third teacher, Miss Isabel Harvey, was added to the faculty.

In 1922 the building was enlarged by combining two of the small rooms and adding a new room. It had outside water facilities and was heated by large coal stoves.

The nearest high school was in Annapolis and those wishing to attend were compelled to board away from home. In 1925 the first high school bus, driven by Mr. Howerton Alvey, began service from Mayo to Annapolis.

The beginning of a steady growth at Mayo school came when No.11 School at Woodland Beach was closed and those children were transported by bus to Mayo. This was in 1928 and Mr. Edward Owens drove the bus. This consolidation was the beginning

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of bus service to the school.

In 1939 a new brick building was constructed across Mayo Road from the old building, which was sold to Mr. Bradley Alvey. The new school is modern, with three large classrooms that have adjoining cloakrooms, and a small auditorium with a stage. This auditorium was made so that it could be easily converted into a classroom if the need arose. There is an office for the principal, two large lavatories and a basement in which is a central heating plant. There are drinking fountains in the hall and an electric bell. In each classroom is a built-in bookcase, much blackboard space and a bulletin board. Miss Mildred Kolb was the first principal with Miss Helen Dawson and Mrs. Emily Taylor as assistants. Mr. Howard Porter was the first janitor at the

new school.

In September 1942, due to increased enrollment, the auditorium was converted into a fourth classroom.

When the county initiated the Junior High system the seventh grade was taken from Mayo and sent to Annapolis, leaving the school with six elementary grades.

Even with one less grade the school continued to grow by "leaps and bounds" and by 1948 it was necessary to rent the wooden school building, which had been sold to Mr. Alvey, to provide classroom space for the children. One room was used in 1948, another was used in 1949 and the third room was occupied in 1950, the building reaching full capacity at that time.

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In 1951 Miss Mildred Kolb retired from the school system after thirty-five years of service at Mayo. The principalship was changed to that of supervisory principal, and Mrs. Margaret Johnson was appointed in that capacity. There were seven assistants. In this year playground equipment consisting of two giant slides and two senior horizontal ladders and a duplicating machine were given by the P.T.A. Bus service also increased, the Woodland beach bus making two trips instead of one.

Because of the steady growth in enrollment, plans were begun for the building of a new school in the Woodland Beach area as this seemed to be the center of the greatest growth.

At the opening of a school in September 1952 the stage at Mayo was converted into a classroom and a fifth-grade class was taken to a vacant room in the school at Galesville. Two teachers were added to the staff and a secretary was employed.

In this year an electric clock was installed to operate the bells.

The P.T.A. save a Bell and Howell Movie Sound Projector and large screen to the school.

The present staff of Mayo School is as follows: Mrs. Margaret Johnson, principal, Mrs. Mary Jane Coker, secretary, Mrs. Lelia Alvey, primary teacher, Mrs. Ruth Brennan, primary teacher, Mrs. Mable Zumwalt, primary teacher, Mrs. Emma Burgess, primary, Mrs. Eloise Glenn, primary, Mrs. Lydia Gass, primary, Mrs. Emily Taylor, intermediate, Mrs. Ida Dixon, intermediate, and Mrs. Jean Willard, intermediate. Mrs.

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Dorothy Kirkley is supervisor of the elementary schools in this area.

The Parent-Teacher Association, which was organized in 1923, has always rendered invaluable service to the school. Mrs. Katherine Collison was the first president of whom we have record.

The P.T.A., over a period of thirty years, has done much toward bringing the home and school into closer relationship. It has provided social activity for the children, it has given many materials for enrichment of the program for students and it comes to the aid of any needy causes in the community. The present officers are: Mrs. Bowers Coker, president, Mr. John Eisenhart, vice president, Mrs. John Eisenhart, secretary and Mrs. James Riley, treasurer.

X. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The girls' 4-H Club of Mayo was organized on April 30, 1948 with Mrs. Isabel Brashears as the local leader. It was given the name of the Mayo Hustle Bustle Club. There were eleven members.

Mrs. Bernice Cummins is the present local leader and there are now eighteen members. The club meets twice a month in the basement of the church. ¹

On March 6, 1953 a boys' 4-H Club was begun with nine boys joining under the leadership of Mrs. Frances Witt. It, too, meets at the church twice a month.

Footnotes:\par 1 From an interview with Mrs. Bernise Cummings, Mayo, Maryland.

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In 1949 a Boy Scout Troop was organized under the leadership of John Barge. There were eight boys who joined. The club has grown to a membership of twenty-three and meets in the church basement every Friday night. Mr. Eugene Lofgren is the present leader. The Troop number is 453 and it is divided into two patrols, the Eagle and the Wolf.

The Bookmobile from the Public Library in Annapolis comes once every two weeks. It stops at eight different places in Mayo including the school.

The Selby Bay Yacht Club was organized in August 1947 and incorporated in that year at Selby-on-the-Bay, a short distance from Annapolis. Mr. Walter Podrog of Washington, D.C. was founder of the club. Mr. F. S. Crismond gave the club its home when he offered his pier and dockage facilities. There were seven boat owners who became charter members the first set of officers elected was Walter Podrog, Commodore; L. H. Johnson, Vice Commodore; Walter Wilson, Rear Commodore, F. S. Crismond, Fleet Captain and Arthur B. Cook, Secretary-Treasurer. Alvin Dickinson and L. J. Johnson were elected trustees. The club holds dinner dances, oyster roasts and cruises. The official flag of the club is a blue field with a red border and a white comet star. ¹

Footnotes: ¹ Tercentenary Edition of Maryland Gazette, 1949.

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The club has now grown to a membership of twenty. The same men hold office.

The Beverley Ski Club was founded in 1950 by Raymond Jennings, Tom Emrich and Harry Smith, Jr. for the purpose of making water skiing and sailing possible to a select group, without having to purchase the expensive equipment necessary. The club originates from a similar club consisting of a small group of international airline pilots who flew during and after the war. They used the club as a means of keeping in excellent physical condition and for recreational enjoyment. This sport was introduced to them while they were on the French Riviera.

Comprehensive courses of instruction have been set up in line with the requirement of the American Water Ski Association, in view of eventually sponsoring a National Water Ski Meet at the club, by putting on water ski shows with members participating. This department of the club is known as the Parker Ski School. The cost of instruction for a complete season is one hundred eighty dollars.

There are overnight accommodations and meals available to members at extra cost.

The club is called upon from time to time by various chambers of commerce to put on water shows celebrating certain occasions. The membership has proven itself quite capable of putting on a thrilling two-hour show. During the Galesville

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Tercentenary the performance was excellent. Raymond Jennings is president of the club. ¹

XI. CIVIC GROUPS AND GOVERNMENT

Mayo has no local government. Its leaders are those who actively participate in the affairs of the church, school and community organizations.

The American Legion Post was organized in October 1947 with fifteen members. Mr. M. D. Schaumlaffle was the first commander. The post was named the Bernard H. and Howard E. Cummings Post 226 in honor of two native boys, who gave their lives in World War II. In 1950 the name was changed to the Cummings-Behlke Post 226 in order to honor Ellsworth Behlke, another native son who was killed in World War II.

At present there are fifty members in the post. This is the largest membership up to this time. It was incorporated in 1953 under the leadership of Mr. C. R. Bennett, present post commander. ²

The American Legion, with the auxiliary, sponsors a party for the community children at Christmas-time. It has also collected toys and clothing and sent them overseas for war orphans.

Footnotes: ¹ From a pamphlet published by the Beverly Beach Ski Club. ² From an interview with Mr. Lester Jackson, Mayo, Maryland.

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The auxiliary was organized March 2, 1949 with Mrs. Lucille Jackson as first president. There were eleven members in the group. At the present time the membership has grown to twenty-one. Mrs. Gelene Melchoir is now president. ¹

Mayo has a local lodge, the Mayo Beneficial Association. It was organized in 1896 to benefit members who were sick and unable to work, and to give the widows of members who died a sum to help them defray burial expenses. The M.B.A. Hall was built in 1898 by the lodge as a place to hold meetings and social affairs. The lodge is still active, but the membership has decreased with the death of the older members and the lack of interest on the part of the younger people. We feel this is because of the many health benefits and insurance's that are available today, together with the retirement plans and social security program of the government. At this writing, the future of the M.B.A. is uncertain.

XIII. OUR COMMUNITY LOOKS AT THE FUTURE

The future of Mayo seems to toward an expanded residential shore community. In fact, during the summer months Mayo becomes almost a suburb of Washington, as the residents

Footnotes: ¹ From an interview with Mrs. Lucille Jackson, Mayo, Maryland.

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from that city move to their own summer homes or rent beach cottages. On weekends or holidays the public beaches are filled with day visitors. However, we do not know whether or not the Chesapeake Bay Bridge will divert vacationers to the Eastern Shore. When the bridge opened

last July there was a decided decrease at the public beaches in this vicinity. Whether or not this will be just a temporary trend, because of the newness of the bridge, remains to be seen.

The seafood industry, which once played a big part in the economy of Mayo, is on the decline. There is, at present, a scarcity of fish, oysters and crabs; therefore, people are unable to earn a living from this work alone.

The church and the school are growing rapidly along with the increase of new residents. The church, which has recently doubled its capacity, already is feeling the need for still more space. Plans are also going forward to build a new church of another denomination.

At present, all indications point toward Mayo growing as a residential center with most of the people earning their living elsewhere in nearby towns and cities.

There are no indications at present that Mayo will become an industrialized area.

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XIII. STRANGE DISCOVERIES - "BELIEVE OT OR NOT"

When Mrs. Von Aschenberg brought Gresham she found, at the back door, a stone slab used as a step. Upon investigating she discovered that it was the tombstone of Colonel Nicholas Gassaway. She contacted some descendants of "Old Rough-and-Ready" and they moved the tombstone to St. Anne's Churchyard in Annapolis, where it can be seen today. ¹

Colonel Gassaway was buried somewhere on the vast estate of Gresham. ²

No one knows how the slab came to be Gresham's doorstep.

The End.

Footnotes: ¹ From an interview with Mrs. Von Aschenberg, Gresham Farm, Edgewater, Maryland. ² American Motorist Magazine - Gresham on South River, July 1931 - Pages 11-13.

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