Elizabeth Eleanor Jane Edelen. Her last will and testament, dated August 18, 1865, was probated in Charles County on December 31, following. She named no heirs of her body, but bequeathed a legacy to her friend and relative Fannie H. Johnson and Betty Stone, the daughter of Thomas D. Stone.

George Dent
1773-1833

George Dent was one of the younger children of Captain George Dent and Eleanor Hawkins his wife, and was born about 1773 at the Pope's Creek plantation of his parents. As a youngster he undoubtedly remembered the burning of his father's home by the British in 1781. It was on his father's plantation that he later constructed his home which became known as "Prospect Hill" overlooking the Potomac. The house somewhat modified is now known as "Keechland", one of the show places of Charles County.

He married Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Charles Yates 3d, a descendant of an early planter to Maryland. Charles Yates died testate in Charles County, and by his last will and testament, probated March 1, 1794, he named six minor children among whom was Elizabeth. At the final settlement of the estate on December 31, 1807, his daughter, Elizabeth, was Mrs. Elizabeth Dent, when she received her filial portion of the estate or $392.00.

Children of George and Elizabeth (Yates) Dent

1. Eleanor Jane Dent, died spinster June 11, 1838.
3. Mary Eleanor Dent married Sept. 4, 1832, at Prospect Hill, John Philip Stewart [Stuart], son of Gen. Philip Stuart and Mary Fell Bayne his wife; later of Fayette Co., Tex.
4. Elizabeth Yates Dent.
5. George Dent, born Feb. 29, 1808, married Sophia Ann Ashton. q.v.

The National Intelligencer of April 4, 1833, stated that "George Dent died 27 March 1833, aged 60, late of Prospect Hill, Charles County".

His last will and testament, dated November 20, 1832, was probated in Charles County, on April 25, 1833.


Residuary estate to be divided equally among all children.

Executor—son Charles, but in event that his son died before 21 years of age or was incapable of executorship, then his kinsman, George Dent Parnham.
His spinster daughter, Elizabeth Y. Dent, died testate in 1848, and bequeathed silver plate to her nephew, George Dent of George, and other personalty to her sister, Mary E. Stuart and brother George Dent, but certain articles were bequeathed to her sister only during the lifetime of her husband, John P. Stuart.

**Captain George Dent**

*1758-1813*

George Dent, son of John and Sarah (Marshall) Dent, was born about 1758 at "Windsor Castle", the fanciful English name given to "Clarke's Inheritance" on the Mattawoman in Charles County. After a distinguished career in Maryland where he amply carried on the honours of the house of Dent in public service and gracious living, he sought more virgin fields in the then rapidly growing State of Georgia and there established an aristocratic line unequaled in that Southern State.

At the close of the Revolution he married a maiden of the neighbourhood, Anne Magruder Truman, daughter of James and Elizabeth-Gordon Truman. The progenitor of the Truman family, Henry, arrived in Maryland in the late sixteenth hundreds and allied himself with the best of Maryland gentry houses. Members of his family had preceded him and while the relationship is not known, they saw that he became associated with the right set in Maryland. James Truman, the father of Mrs. Dent, served with honour in the Revolutionary Army of Maryland.

The family was members of the Episcopal Church and several of their children are recorded in the register of St. John's Parish of Piscataway.

*Children of George and Anne (Truman) Dent*

3. Elizabeth Truman Dent, born 1786, died 1789.
7. Mary Ann Dent, died young.

The maternal grandfather, James Truman, made a deed of gift to his two grandchildren, John Herbert Dent and Sarah Marshall Dent, on March 19, 1784, of negroes for the love and natural affections which he
held for the children of his daughter. He died the same day as his granddaughter, Elizabeth Truman, and both were buried in one grave in the old burying ground at "Clarke's Inheritance". The headstone still standing reads "Together are interred the remains of James Truman and his granddaughter Elizabeth T. Dent. He died December 22, 1789, aged 47 years. She departed December 22, 1789, in third year".

The maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Gordon wrote her last will and testament on April 6, 1796, and bequeathed her slaves to her Dent grandchildren then extant, namely, Sarah Marshall Dent, Maria Dent, John Herbert Dent, James Truman Dent, George Columbus Dent and Dennis Dent. The instrument was not probated in Prince Georges County until April 7, 1807.

At the outbreak of the Revolution, George Dent served as First Lieutenant of the Third Battalion of the Flying Camp. He was recommended on February 26, 1776, by the Committee of Observation of Charles County, with his father Brigadier General John Dent, sitting as chairman, and received confirmation of his commission on March 7, 1776. He saw active service in the early campaign around New York, where the Maryland troops sustained the heaviest casualties and many were taken prisoners. After the disbandment of the Flying Camp near Philadelphia in December 1776, he returned to his home in Charles County and was later commissioned a First Lieutenant in the local militia serving under his kinsman, Captain Thomas Hanson Marshall. In March 1778, he subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity before his father, who was then one of the magistrates of the county. On May 9, 1778, he was promoted to Captain and assigned to the 26th Battalion.

From 1782 to 1790 he served in the Maryland State Legislature as a delegate from Charles County, being speaker pro-tempore in 1788 and speaker in 1789. The next year he was unanimously elected speaker. In 1791 he was elected to the State Senate and served as president of the latter in 1792, in which year he resigned his seat to be a candidate for a seat in the United States House of Representatives.

He entered the House of Representatives on March 4, 1793, during Washington's administration and served until March 3, 1801. At one time he served as speaker pro-tempore. On January 7, 1801, the National Intelligencer printed the following "We are desired to inform the citizens of Maryland that George Dent declines a re-election as member of the House of Representatives of the United States". It was the time of the Jefferson-Burr presidential contest and George Dent worked jealously for the election of Jefferson. On April 4, 1801, Jefferson nominated him for the
insignificant post of Marshal of the District of Columbia. He held it for a brief period only. He expected a more lucrative appointment in keeping with his ability and social position. He had actually expected to be appointed the Treasurer of the United States, and in the letters and correspondence of Thomas Jefferson is a letter dated September 14, 1801, from George Dent to Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury soliciting that office. With discuss he liquidated his Maryland holdings and about 1802 he joined his brother in the State of Georgia. He established his seat on an extensive plantation about two miles from the town of Augusta, but which is now within the metropolitan district of Augusta.

On June 14, 1802, before removal to Georgia, George Dent and his wife Anne Magruder Dent, sold “Clarke’s Inheritance”, of 300 acres, and “Dent’s Level”, of 280 acres to Dr. Thomas Marshall, both plantations having been deeded to George Dent by his father in February 1785. Both plantations lay on the north side of Mattawoman Swamp.

On August 18, 1806, Elizabeth Gordon Truman, widow of James Truman, late of Prince Georges County, Maryland, Ann Magruder Dent, daughter of the said James Truman, and George Dent in right of his wife, the said Ann Magruder Dent, all of Columbia County, Georgia, gave power of attorney to Captain James Somerville, of Prince Georges, to convey to John Moran the plantation “Buttenton”, of about 243 acres, lying partly in Charles and partly in Prince Georges. The northern portion was the property of the late James Truman, deceased, and had been surveyed on January 27, 1736, for Henry Truman.

He was thrown from his horse while riding one morning, the injuries of which caused his death on December 2, 1813. He was buried on his plantation near Augusta. His last will and testament was probated at Columbia County, Georgia. He provided for his wife, Anne M. Dent, and sons James T. Dent, George Columbus Dent and Dennis Dent. The latter was not to enjoy his inheritance until “twenty-one years of age”. To his daughter, Sarah M. Fendall, he left “twenty-five cents for reasons she will duly appreciate”. Other heirs were his brother, Thomas M. Dent, and Daphne Hornsby of no stated relationship.

His son, George Columbus Dent, was killed in a tragic duel which took place in the early hours of the morning at Hamburg, across the Savannah River, in South Carolina. It was this duel and his death which inspired Augusta Evans to draw her material for her well-known romantic novel St. Elmo of a generation ago. His last will and testament was probated in Columbia County, Georgia on May 1, 1815, naming his brother, James T. Dent, and cousin, John Dent.
CAPTAIN THOMAS MARSHALL DENT
1761-1823

Thomas Marshall Dent, son of General John Dent and Sarah Marshall his wife, was born at "Clarke's Inheritance" on October 22, 1761, according to the register of St. John's Parish at Piscataway. He married Anne, the only daughter of Alexander Howard Magruder and Jane his wife. The birth of two children are registered in St. John's Parish.

Children of Thomas and Anne (Magruder) Dent
1. John Dent, born Feb. 15, 1792, married Sarah McIntosh. q.v.
2. Mary Anne Dent, born Mar. 13, 1793, died Sept. 1855, in Macon, Miss., married 1813 James Longstreet who died in 1830, son of William and Hannah (FitzRandolph) Longstreet; Mary Anne Dent Longstreet became the mother of General James Longstreet, C.S.A.

On June 18, 1794, Thomas Marshall Dent was commissioned a Captain of the 43d Regiment of Maryland Militia. Better known as Marshall Dent he removed to Georgia where his brothers had settled, and he died at Augusta during August 1823.

GEORGE DENT
1755-181-

George Dent, the first surviving son of Peter Dent by his wife, Mary Eleanor, was born about 1755 at "Whitehaven", then in Charles County. At the census of 1775 for that county taken with the objective of the available men for military service, he was the only son of Peter Dent, so listed, being a resident of Pomonkey Hundred. During the Revolution he settled in Frederick County and for a time lived in the home of James Johnson.

On December 13, 1781, Thomas Johnson, of Frederick Town, wrote to Governor Thomas Simms Lee as follows:

"I have understood that the Office of Surveyor of this County is vacant. I am not very fond of recommending to office but I believe Mr. George Dent who has lived a good while with my brother James would fill it with ability and integrity."

In 1782 and 1783 various sums ordered by the Treasurer were paid to George Dent, of Frederick County, presumably for his services as Surveyor of the County. On December 20, 1783, Samuel Duvall was appointed the Surveyor of the County in room of George Dent who had resigned.
In 1784 he assisted the widow of Joseph Cromwell, a local merchant, in the administration of her deceased husband’s estate. It was not so very long thereafter that the widow removed her mourning and donned a bridal gown, with George Dent as the next husband. They were married on April 28, 1785, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Frederick in the presence of Samuel Duvall and his wife Priscilla, William Ritchie and his wife Frances, Jacob Jung and his wife Eleanor, and Peter Mantz.

His bride was born Susannah Dawson, the daughter of John and Susanna Dawson, a family originally of Prince Georges County. After the marriage he and his wife pushed farther west to the frontier of Maryland and settled near the present town of Cumberland in Alleghany County. If it has not been demolished in recent years, the log house which he first bought for his family still stands in Cumberland. In 1806 as the surveyor of the town he laid out Cumberland into lots.

He alienated all of his landed interests in Charles County and invested heavily in realty in Western Maryland. In 1785 he and John Dawson & Co. purchased a large quantity of merchandise from Abraham Faw, of Frederick County, to the value of £3253/5/6. As security he mortgaged personal property including three negroes, five feather beds, several teams including horses and wagons, and also three lots in Cumberland. It was the time of great economic depression as an aftermath of the Revolutionary War and he had invested too heavily in western lands with no immediate returns with the results that he became an insolvent debtor in 1788. Daniel Stull was appointed trustee by the court and he assigned all assets except the wearing apparel of his family. Among his assets were 2000 acres on the Licking River in Ohio. He was making land transactions in 1810, but after that year he apparently died intestate. No will or administration of his estate is on record in Alleghany County.

The names of the following children are from family records:

1. Frederick Dent, born Oct. 6, 1786, married Ellen Bray Wrenshall.
2. Lewis Dent, later of Muskingum Co., Ohio; in 1814 he sold lots in Cumberland, said to have been killed at the Alamo.
3. Frances Dent married ———— Gwinn.

Theodore Dent
1760-1815

Theodore Dent, son of Peter and Anne Dent, was born about 1760 at “Whitehaven”, at that time in Charles County, which he eventually in-
herited at the death of his parents. The responsibilities of settling his father's estate fell on him as well as the insolvent estate of his brother, Thomas, by which he sustained personal losses.

After October 1792, he married Eleanor Sheid, a maiden of Durham Parish, Charles County, of distinguished lineage, but one who brought him but a small dowry. She was a niece to Captain Joseph Marbury, of the Maryland Line during the Revolution and an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati. He afterwards earned the title of Major and died in Charles County unmarried. She and her brother, Francis Herd Sheid, were apparently left orphans at an early age and were raised by their maternal grandparents, William and Martha Marbury, of Durham Parish. Her father ——— Sheid had apparently settled in Maryland only recently as the records reveal virtually no information about him.

The progenitor of the Marbury family came early to Maryland and became a planter of some substance around Piscataway and Mattawoman where Prince Georges and Charles Counties met. He had at least two wives, and perhaps a third, but the first was a Roman Catholic maiden, the granddaughter of Thomas Green, Esq., Second Governor of Maryland and an Adventurer on the Ark and the Dove in 1633. Although there was an alliance with a strict Catholic house, all of his children were raised in the Established Church. Some distinguished themselves in the legal profession and were raised to judgeships of the higher courts.

William Marbury, the grandfather of Mrs. Eleanor Dent, lived quietly in Pomonkey Hundred, of Durham Parish, where he died testate in Charles County during 1791. He was a son of Francis Marbury, born September 14, 1714, according to the register of St. John's Piscataway Parish, who married Frances Herd. Their son, William, was born on July 2, 1715. William Marbury, the latter failed to name all of his children in his last will and testament of 1791, but did provide for his widow, Martha, with several slaves and all of his moveable goods, naming his son, Major Joseph Marbury, as executor. His widow lived but a short time thereafter and died testate the next year. She overlooked her daughter, Martha Sheid, in her bequests, but she bequeathed her slave Milly to her granddaughter, Eleanor Sheid, and her grandson, Francis Sheid, was to inherit a slave at the death or marriage of his then maiden aunt, Elizabeth Marbury.

Martha Sheid, the mother-in-law of Theodore Dent, as a widow of some maturity married secondly Benjamin Cawood, a widower of Charles County, but before her marriage with the consent of her betrothed, she placed her personal estate which consisted of a slave Peter, livestock, two books of Divinity and household articles in trust with her brother, Joseph
Marbury. The date of the pre-nuptial agreement was July 3, 1798, and she was at liberty to dispose of her estate in trust as she saw fit, but the agreement was not to effect her right of dower in the personal and real estate of her betrothed husband. He died in 1816, and on September 26, of that year, she was granted letters of administration.

Her son, Francis Herd Sheid, was of age in 1795, acquired quite a landed estate through his own efforts, married into the Franklin family of Charles County. One night in a game of chance with William McConchie he lost $800.00. He died testate in Charles County in 1810, naming his two children—Francis James Sheid and Ann Gray Sheid, and made his nephew, Peter Dent, the contingent heir in the event that his children died young. Theodore Dent, his brother-in-law, was named as the executor. His mother, Martha Cawood, assumed the guardianship of the children and was living as late as 1828.

Three children were born to Theodore Dent and his wife, Eleanor Sheid.

2. William Marbury Dent married Henrietta H. ————.

Theodore Dent pursued the life of a tobacco planter on his portion of "Whitehaven" and was the tobacco inspector for his district for several years. He was certainly a planter of some financial standing in the community, as he often became the bondsman for his friends, particularly Samuel Hanson Sr.

In 1788 and 1789 before his marriage he received warrants for the resurvey on his portion of "Whitehaven" which lay partly in Charles County and partly in Prince Georges. In June 1805, his brother, Walter Dent, of Alleghany County, granted him all his rights and interest in "Whitehaven" as heir of their brother, Thomas Dent.

On April 5, 1791, Colonel William Dent, Richard Dent and Theodore Dent received a certificate to resurvey "Whitehaven" with 275 acres of vacant land added which was given the name of "Independency".

On August 21, 1792, Richard Dent, of Prince Georges County, conveyed to Theodore Dent a 32-acre portion of "Independency" on the west side of the Mattawoman, and on the same day Theodore Dent conveyed to Richard Dent a 236-acre portion.

He was the administrator of his brother, Thomas Dent, in 1800, and inasmuch as the personal estate was insufficient to cover the outstanding indebtedness, he petitioned the court to sell the realty.

He died intestate. On September 2, 1815, his widow, Eleanor Dent,
was granted letters of administration. The personal estate manifested an appraisement of some affluence for that day.

Some time after his death and presumably the death of their mother, the children of Theodore alienated the ancestral plantation "Whitehaven" which they then called "Independency". In 1834 Francis L. Rogerson and Martha Anne his wife, of Charles County, deeded to Walter W. Hanson Jr., their undivided third in "Independency", "Cow Penns" and "Snap", containing in all 237 acres which was formally the property of Theodore Dent father to Martha Anne Rogerson. Two years later Peter Dent and Mary his wife and William M. Dent and Henrietta H. his wife, conveyed their interest in the same tracts to Walter W. Hanson Jr.

**William Dent**

17—18—

William Dent, son of Captain William Dent and Verlinda Beall his wife, was born in old Frederick County, but spent some of his youth in Guilford County, North Carolina. Like his father he was actively engaged in the War of the Revolution, and was a member of Colonel Nicholas Long's Battalion of Minute Men and Volunteers from the District of Halifax, Carolina, which marched to Norfolk and was later stationed at Wilmington and Moore's Creek.

He married apparently while he was domiciled in Guilford County, inasmuch as the 1790 census for that district reported him the head of a family with five males under the age of 16 years and three females. He accompanied his father and brothers to Hancock County, Georgia, and according to the 1795 tax list he possessed no land but was taxed for one slave.

**Peter Dent**

17—1822

Peter Dent, son of Captain William Dent and Verlinda Beall his wife, was born in old Frederick County, Maryland, and accompanied his parents to Guilford County, North Carolina, shortly before the Revolutionary War. After the war he removed to Hancock County, Georgia, with his parents, and there according to the 1795 tax list he possessed eight slaves, but apparently lived on his father's plantation, as he was not taxed for land.

His marriage probably occurred after his settling in Georgia, and at the 1802 tax list he had acquired 287½ acres of land on the Shoulderbone and was the master of nine slaves.

He died testate in Hancock County, his will being dated September 25,
1821, and probated on December 2, 1822. He named his wife, Sarah, and the following daughters—Sarah Dent, Polly Finch, Nancy Yarnold, and Eleanor Wilkinson. He appointed his wife and Richard Baugh the executors.

His widow, Sarah Dent, was living in Hancock County in 1827, when she was entitled to the land lottery of that year and drew a specified acreage of former Indian land in Muscogee County.

George Washington Dent⁶
1776 182–

George Washington Dent, son of Captain Thomas Dent and Elizabeth Edelen his wife, was born in July 1776, and certainly was given the name of the leading patriot of the hour. As the then flourishing river-port of Alexandria, Virginia, offered urban opportunities, a number of Southern Marylanders made business connections there—some permanent others not so permanently. In 1792 George Washington Dent was domiciled there when John Hawkins deeded him a negro which had been purchased of William Hunter Jr., of that town.

Prior to 1802 he married Matilda, the daughter of John Bayne, another alliance with that Southern Maryland family which played a very conspicuous role in the early days of Maryland. In that year he and his wife figured in the law suit of Richard Marshall and Margaret his wife vs Joseph Noble Bayne and other heirs of John Bayne, deceased.

His wife was destined to an early grave in Maryland, and by December 4, 1804, she was deceased leaving two young children—John Walter Stoddert Dent and Eleanor Matilda Bayne Dent. Her uncle, Joseph Noble Bayne, wrote his will on that date and made provisions for the minor children of his deceased niece, Matilda Dent.

It was those days when tales of the rich and undeveloped lands of the Lower South, which was bringing wealth within a few years in cotton, were reaching the ears of the Maryland tobacco planters and groups of kindred Southern Marylanders became imbued with the spirit of adventure. Georgia was the magic word of that epoch which extended from the Atlantic Coast to the eastern bank of the Mississippi, and the newly opened up Indian tribal lands could be had almost for the asking. So George Washington Dent after the loss of his wife turned his attentions southward where many of his compatriots had already gone.

Through his deceased wife he had inherited considerable legacies from the Bayne family and besides as the eldest son he became heir to all of his father's plantations. Before migrating South he disposed of most of his
land while other tracts were conveyed after his settlement permanently in Columbia County, Georgia.

On November 22, 1800, he was deeded by his brother, Lewis William Dent, the latter's one-third interest of 339 acres in a plantation on Mattawoman Swamp in Prince Georges County, according to the deed of their father's brother, Peter Dent, of Charles County, in 1770, and which had been devised "to our father by his father Peter Dent".

On March 15, 1806, Edward Edelen, as the executor of the estate of Joseph Noble Bayne, conveyed to George Washington Dent and Philip Steuart for the use of "their children" the plantations "Never Fear", of 18 acres and a lot in Piscataway.

Furthermore, he conveyed his interest in a tract of land patented by their father in 1764 or 125 acres in Frederick County, Virginia, but then in Berkeley County. Their minor brother, Patrick Dent, at that time was then under age and as the deed so stated was incapable of conveying. The land was the Whitehaven Plantation, and on May 25, 1808, being of Prince Georges County, George Washington Dent sold to Philip Steuart, of Charles County, all his interest in "Whitehaven" and "Addition to Whitehaven" as appeared by the deed of partition between Thomas Dent, his father, and his brothers, Walter Dent and Richard Dent. The land had been purchased by George Washington Dent from the trustees of his father's estate.

The will of Joseph Noble Bayne who died without issue in Prince Georges during 1804, bequeathed legacies to the children of his niece, Matilda Dent, but the legacies were to remain in the custody of his executors until the heirs arrived at the age of 21. To his friend and nephew, Colonel Philip Stuart, he willed the china punch bowl which had been bought at the sale of George Washington's effects.

On March 15, 1806, Philip Steuart and Mary Fell his wife conveyed to him, George Washington Dent, all their interest which was vested in Mary Fell Steuart in "Leith" and "Pittsburg", lying in Prince Georges County or one-third of the property belonging to John Bayne. On March 25, 1806, for a consideration of $6123.18, he purchased his father's landed estate described as "Whitehaven" and "Addition to Whitehaven" from Philip Steuart, of Charles County, and Robert A. Beall, of Prince Georges, according to the partition between the brothers Thomas Dent, Walter Dent and Richard Dent.

In the spring of 1806, he removed to Columbia County, Georgia. There he married Anne Hutchison, according to the Frederick Herald, of September 8, 1806—"On August 21, 1806, at Columbia Courthouse, Georgia,