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VOLUME 2

PAGE 1042-1050

History of Del., Schart'

Duck Creek and Mispillion, and one for each of the other hundreds, Little Creek and St. Jones.

An amendment February 9, 1796, provided that every freeman over twenty-one years of age shall be rated, in addition to his amount of other tax.

An amendment January 19, 1797, authorizes the court to raise money to maintain the poor and build poor-houses, for laying out and repairing, amending and erecting bridges, causeways and public roads.

The Levy Court records of Kent County are not to be found in continuous record until 1851. A few of the members are here given :

John Martin.....1798	Major Anderson.....1798
John Pleasanton.....1798	Jonathan Hunn.....1798
John Stewart.....1798	Caleb Sipple.....1798
Nimrod Maxwell.....1798	Benjamin Burrows.....1798

The following list is from the Levy Court records. The members in office in 1851 were as follows :

John Bell.....1851	James Longfellow.....1851
William Collins.....1851	John Hopkins.....1851
James Knight.....1851	John Thompson.....1851
Samuel McGougal.....1851	John Reynolds.....1851
Daniel George.....1851	

From this date the names of the members elected every two years are given.

Henry Pratt.....1853	David Reese.....1871
Philemon C. Carter.....1853	Wm. H. Hobson.....1871
Thomas H. McIlvaine.....1853	James Williams.....1871
Wm. H. Powell.....1853	John S. Herrington.....1871
John S. Bell.....1855	Charles H. Register.....1873
John Eaton.....1855	Wm. G. Postles.....1873
Andrew N. Harper.....1855	George H. Gildersleeve.....1873
Chas. M. Wharton.....1855	James K. Burnside.....1873
Clement L. Sharp.....1855	Wm. L. Morten.....1873
John C. Pennewill.....1857	Nathaniel H. Griffin.....1875
Ambrose Broadway.....1857	Henry M. How.....1875
William C. Brown.....1857	Philemon Scotten.....1875
Llewellyn Tharp.....187	James A. Marlin.....1875
John M. Voshell.....1859	Joseph Moore.....1877
Thomas H. Denny.....1859	Ezekiel C. Frazier.....1877
John Slay.....1859	John Harrington.....1877
S. M. Collins.....1859	Zebulon Hopkins.....1877
Robert Hill.....1861	Charles H. Register.....1877
Thomas Pestles.....1861	Peter E. Lowber.....1879
Wm. Slay.....1861	Daniel V. Hutchins.....1879
Robert W. Reynolds.....1861	Silas T. Jenkins.....1879
John Booth.....1861	David S. Wilde.....1879
Stephen M. Collins.....1863	John Farrell.....1881
Henry Pratt.....1863	George W. Collins.....1881
Wm. Duhamel.....1863	Joseph S. Burchenal.....1881
John M. Voshell.....1863	John P. Curtis.....1881
David S. Wilde.....1865	Peter K. Meredith.....1881
Wm. Duhamel.....1865	D. M. Cloude.....1883
James D. Kinney.....1865	B. C. Cabbage.....1883
Richaball Allaband.....1865	J. W. Kirby.....1883
Roe.....1865	D. S. Wilde.....1883
.....1865	John Farrell.....1885
.....1867	Wm. Fisher.....1885
more.....1867	Peter K. Meredith.....1885
.....1867	Charles C. Case.....1885
.....1869	Jacob S. Graham.....1885
.....1869	Thomas A. Rees.....1887
.....1869	David M. Cloude.....1887
.....1869	Ezekiah Masten.....1887
.....1869	Charles C. Case.....1887
.....1869	

Treasurers.

b, 1744	Benj. Vining.....1774
	Wm. Jordan.....1780
769-79	John Baning.....1784

Joseph Taylor.....1788	John M. Voshell.....1869
Ebenezer Blackiston.....1797-1800	Robert Wilson.....1871
Gideon Cullen.....1809	Wm. C. Brown.....1873
Wm. Keith.....1853	Thomas H. Dorman.....1875
George M. Manlove.....1855	Wm. E. Hall.....1877
Wm. Satterfield.....1857	Benj. C. Cabbage.....1879
Wm. Satterfield.....1859	David Rees.....1881
Henry Whitaker.....1861	James R. Powell.....1883
Martin Harrington.....1863	Eben Hughes.....1885
Whitely W. Meredith.....1865	Wm. R. Dickson.....1887
A. J. Wilson.....1867	

CHAPTER LV.

DOVER.

THE town of Dover enjoys the distinction of having been projected by William Penn, the next year after his arrival in this country, although it was not laid out until 1717. The settlements in 1683 were mostly along the streams, and "Towne Point," near the mouth of St. Jones' Creek, was the place where the courts were held, but, as settlement in the interior was rapidly increasing, Penn conceived the idea of creating a town for a county-seat for St. Jones' County (Kent) and on the 11th of the Sixth Month (August), 1683, he issued a warrant authorizing the surveyor to lay out, for the Governor, a town to be called "Dover," a copy of which is here given :

"William Penn, Proprietary & Governor of ye Province of Pennsylvania & ye Territories therunto belonging.

"I do hereby order thee to lay out, or cause to be layd out, in ye land appointed for ye town of Dover, in ye county of Kent, one high street one hundred and fifty feet wide, and two back streets each sixty-six feet broad, to run from ye water side throughout, and one cross street one hundred and fifty feet broad where ye high road crosseth ye said Town land, & to lay out ye Lots in ye ad Town so as each may contain one acre and a half of land, to grant to any person, upon application to thee for a Lott, one Lott in ye ad Town, they building forthwth on ye same & paying unto me as a Ground Rent yearly one bushel of good winter wheat or four shillings, &c.

"I do also order y^t ye Court House and Prison be built in ye cross street of ye ad Town. Given at Philadelphia ye 11th of ye 6th mo., 1683.

"WM. PENN.

"To WILLIAM CLARKE,
"Surveyor of ye counties of Kent and Sussex."

Endorsed as follows,—

"The Govern^r war^t to lay out the Town Lotts and Streets in the Town of Dover, Kent County."

On the same date William Penn issued the following warrant :

"These are to will and require thee forthwith to lay out or cause to be layd out one of ye corners of ye cross streets in ye towne of Dover, in ye county of Kent, containing eight Lotts for my own use, and make returns thereof into my Secretary's office."

In the warrants issued by Penn during the years 1683-84 he provided that the quit-rents on land in this vicinity be paid at the "town of Dover." It was not at once laid out, probably owing to other business of moment in the province. The history of the county seat and courts of Kent County contain an account of the trouble in locating the town, but upon the decision of the justices that it be upon the land of William Southebee, all controversy ceased. The two hundred acres of land purchased in 1694, was part of a larger tract called "Brothers' Portion," containing

eight hundred acres, which John and Richard Walker took up under a warrant in 1680. On the 20th of February, 1682-83, they purchased the Indian right of this tract of Christian, *alias* Petogogue, owner of all the land between the Murther Kill and Duck Creek, for three match-coats, twelve bottles of drink and four handfuls of powder. On the 16th of February, 1684, John Walker, then sole owner, sold the whole tract to William Southebee, of Philadelphia. It may be well here to state that John Walker and William Southebee were both members of Penn's Council from Kent County, and after the sale of all this land by Southebee, he removed to Philadelphia and became a member of the Council from that county.

Richard Wilson and William Morton were authorized to purchase two hundred acres of William Southebee, which Wilson bought November 23, 1694, for twenty-five pounds, and on the 4th of February following, conveyed it to the county of Kent. It was a tract one hundred perches on Dover River by three hundred and twenty perches westward. The court-house was built about 1697 where the present court-house stands. At that time there was no village or settlement of considerable proportions in the limits of Kent County, and the inhabitants, realizing the necessity of making the place where the courts were held of some importance and convenience, also for the transaction of other business than the public, united in the year 1699 in a petition to the Council at Philadelphia, which was read before that body May 15th. John Curtis and Griffith Jones, residents of the county, were members of the Council, and John Walker, Thomas Bedwell, Samuel Burberry and John Bradshaw, of the Assembly, were also residents of Kent. The petition set forth—

"that yras [whereas] there is a certain peece of land in ye sd County of two hundred acres, on the south side of dover river neer the bridge in the King's Road, upon which the court-house now stands, wch ye sd Inhabitants Latelee pchased from Wm. Southebee for the publick use of the sd County; and yras [whereas] ye sd Land being conveniently accomodated in all respects for ye good and benefit yrof, and it being highee necessary that a township, with all other privileges and benefitts, be erected and established for the good of the said county, with fairs att convenient times, &c., and the sd Land being conveniently situated for ye purpose; and yrfor Requesting yt ye sd Land may be from henceforth erected into a township and called by the name of Canterbury, & that they have a fair yrin [therein] twice a year, and that the same may be laid out into Lotts, a comon and market place, as the county court and Grand Jury shall order and appoint, with streets and publick Landings, & ye freeholders of the said countie may have their Lotts proportionable to what they have paid towards itt, and that whatsoever else may be necessary and convenient for ye good and benefit yrof may be left to the court and grand jurie, from time to time, as ye same shall be needful to be done."

The petition and all its provisions were granted except the name, which was declared to be called "Dover" after the 20th of June next (1699).

The records of the court of Kent County are not to be found; therefore the action of the grand jury or the court is not known. It is evident that even with the approval of the Council, the town was not laid out for several years after. It has not been ascertained whether fairs were held. James Maxwell's tavern, where the courts were formerly held, was not very far away. John Walker, who originally owned

the land on which Dover was laid out, also kept an ordinary on his other land. Certainly no title was in any of the two hundred acres bought for the county of Kent. It is evident that from the time of the answer to the petition, the place became known as Dover, for in the act of assembly passed in 1717, before it was yet laid out, the place is mentioned as being commonly called the town of Dover. Early in the term of Sir William Keith as Governor of Pennsylvania and the provinces in 1717, an act passed the Assembly of the three lower counties appointing persons to lay out the land in lots and streets adjoining to the court-house in Kent County, and to sell the lots. The preamble recites:

"Nothing being of more consequence to a country than the improvement thereof by the addition of tradesmen, and others, in such measure as may not be of great expence to the new settlers; Therefore be it enacted," etc.

Section 1 provided

"that it shall and may be lawful, and it is hereby made lawful, for Benjamin Shurmer, William Brinkloe and Richard Richardson, or any two of them, to survey and lay out into lots a certain tract of land in the county of Kent, adjoining to the court-house of said county, and purchased by the people thereof and commonly called the town of Dover. In such measures and proportions as to them shall seem meet and convenient, and the said lots so surveyed and laid out as aforesaid, to dispose of and sell to such persons as are willing to purchase and buy. . . .

"Sec. 4. That the said survey and allotment and laying out shall be finished and completed at or before the tenth day of March next."

The commissioners laid out the town-plot one hundred perches wide, the width of the tract, and two hundred perches westward, embracing one hundred and twenty-five acres, leaving seventy-five acres on the west end of the tract. The King's Road, leading from Philadelphia southward to Lewes, passed through the plot and is the present Main Street. At right angles with this road is another road or street, which is mentioned in early deeds as Long Street, was located, extending from Dover River westward, passing in front of the residence of Hon. John A. Nicholson, the court-house, office of the *Delawarean* and the residence of Chief Justice Comegys.

At the intersection of these two roads a square was laid out, twenty-two perches on each side, exclusive of the roads. Penn in his instructions directed that the court-house be built at the intersection of the two main streets, and the commissioners, in laying out the town, laid the Long Street in such a way that the court-house occupied that position, and it was in the southeast quarter of the Public Square, where the present court-house now stands. Two other public lots were laid out, one called "Church Square," the other "Meeting-House Square."

It will be noticed that the town-plot was to be completed by March, 1718, and it evidently was at that time or soon after that the plot was made one hundred by two hundred perches, leaving about seventy-five acres to the westward not laid out. On the 13th of May, 1718, John Miffin bought of the commissioners sixty-nine acres of this tract, which, after passing through several owners, on July, 1748, with some other land adjoining, came to Nicholas Ridgely, whose descendants still own it. It is known as the Ridgely farm.

Ephraim Emerson purchased the remaining portion of the tract outside of the town-plot as laid out. On August 7, 1718, Richard Richardson, one of the commissioners, purchased a lot "beginning at the north-west corner of a square laid out by the authority aforesaid and designed as a place for a court-house and other public services for the use of the said County of Kent, and running thence east by north eleven perches to the corner laid out for a street, and also for the King's road; thence north and by west along the western side of the same street seventeen and a half perches to a stake; thence west and by south twenty-eight and a half perches to a stake; thence south and by east twenty-eight and a half perches to a stake in the line of another space laid out for a street, proceeding from Dover Creek through the body of the said tract; thence down the side of the said street east and by north seventeen and a half perches to the western side of the said square; thence north by west eleven perches to the place of beginning."

In this description the square is mentioned as laid out "and designed as a place for a Court-House and other public services for the use of the said County of Kent," and that the land purchased by Mr. Richardson is eleven perches on the north and west sides of the square; that his south line extends to "another space laid out for a street, proceeding from Dover Creek through the body of the tract," which clearly proves that the street, as originally designed in the plot, ran from Dover Creek in front of the present court-house, through the tract westward, and on the south side of the present Public Square.

On the day of Commissioner Richardson's purchase, Absalom Cuff, of Saulsbury (now Duck Creek), bought a lot containing thirteen acres at "the southern end" of the town, and on the 16th of August the same year Samuel Greenwood purchased thirteen and eight-tenth acres of land on the southern side and western end of the town-plot. The names of John Hefflin and Ephraim Emerson are mentioned as owning lots adjoining Absalom Cuff, which were probably purchased the same day, but they are not of record.

In several deeds made to Benjamin Shurmer, May 20, 1719, by which he bought the lots of Absalom Cuff, Samuel Greenwood, Ephraim Emerson, and later the sixty-nine acres of John Mifflin, mention is made of the land as lying along Long Street, laid out from Dover Creek through the body of the town land, the land and lots all lying south of Long Street. Mention is made in several other early deeds of Long Street, having reference indisputably to the Street that was abandoned about 1722 when the court-house lot was sold to John Lindsay.

No other deeds are recorded until February 12, 1722, when John Lindsay purchased of the commissioners a lot of land "whereon the old court-house now stands," and which at the time of sale was in his possession. The lot is described as "beginning at a stake at the corner of the now court-house green,

and running thence east by north along the line of the said green twenty-seven perches to another corner post; thence south by east twelve perches; thence west by south twenty-seven perches in a line of the east by north side of the chief street of the town called King Street; thence north by west along the line of said street to the place of beginning" laid out for two acres of ground.

It is evident from the sale of this quarter of the square that the original idea of the public square was abandoned, as the sale of this lot and an additional perch on the south side disposed of the whole of it. The square was doubtless intended to be nearly in the middle of the town, but the change makes the block from the present square to Water Street, nearly as large again as from the square to North Street. The street mentioned in the Richardson deed is found entirely closed a few years later as far as running through the town is concerned by the sale of the lot, now owned by the State, by the commissioners south of the State-House. It was sold March 12, 1729, to Francis Richardson, of which more hereafter.

The next purchaser after John Lindsay was Thomas Wells, of Murtherkill, who on February 10, 1724, bought two lots; one on the north side of Church Square, the other on North Street, each containing one acre. On the 16th of February he purchased two more lots; one being No. 32, on which the Capital Hotel now stands, four perches on the square and extending along King Street to North Street. The other lot was on North Street eight perches, and on East Street fourteen perches.

On August 12, 1727, John Bell bought a lot on High Street, fourteen by twenty-two perches on the south-east side of Church (Meeting-House) Square containing two acres. February 12, 1729,¹ Thomas Tarrant bought two lots, one of which was No. 31 on the north side of the Court-house Square, adjoining a lot of Charles Hillyard on the east and on the west, a lot "designed for Andrew Hamilton," seventy-seven feet by two hundred and thirty-one feet, extending to North Street. The other lot was on North and High Streets, fourteen by eighteen perches.

On November 12, 1729, Francis Richardson, of Philadelphia, who was a large land-owner in Kent County, purchased lot No. 26, fronting on the east side of the public square one hundred and ten feet, and extending three hundred and sixty-three feet eastward to East Street. This lot takes up the street laid out originally from Dover Creek westward. The south line was irregular and joined the Linsey or Lindsay lot, and on the north line was also irregular, as lot 34, ninety-seven feet in depth, on which the State-house now stands, was part of the original lot No. 26. This lot No. 34 was evidently in the second laying out of the town reserved for the court-house. Lot 33, on which the office building now stands, was

¹ The dates here given are dates of deeds. It is evident from them that Articles of Agreement had been made prior as reference is made thereto.

originally part of lot No. 27, and was also ninety-seven feet in depth. In the map made by Thomas Noxon in 1740, No. 31 is marked as court-house, and No. 33 as office.

Francis Richardson on November 12, 1729, also bought three and one-half acres of land in the Town Plot lying on the east side of East Street, opposite the south corner of his other purchase; thence along East Street ten and one-half perches; thence east by south fifty-four perches to the back of Dover River; down the same ten and one-half perches; thence west by south to beginning.

August 12, 1729, Waitman Sipple and Joseph Booth, Jr., received a deed for two lots on the south side of Water Street, forty perches by one hundred and thirty-two perches containing, two acres, called "Elinor's Dowry."

The same day Charles Hillyard received deeds for two lots, one of which began "at the north-westerly corner of the prison in the Court-House Square, thence thirty feet west along the square to the lot of Thomas Tarrant, No. 31; thence north to North Street, along line of said street, east by north sixty-six feet to corner betwixt North and High Streets;¹ thence along west side of High Street, south by east forty feet to a corner of prison lot; thence along lower line, west by south thirty-six feet to corner of said lot; thence south by east by the line thereof to beginning."

The other lot began on the southeasterly corner of High Street, where it intersects the line of South Street; along the line of the street east by north twelve perches to corner on South Street; thence north by west twenty-two perches to corner; thence west by south twelve perches to corner on High Street; along the street twenty-two perches to beginning line, and for two hundred and sixty-six square perches. August 16 following he also bought a lot beginning at western side of High Street and the northern side of the Church Square (Meeting House Square); along High Street three perches; thence west by south twelve perches; south by east to corner of the square, three perches and along the square to beginning, containing twenty square perches.

On the 10th of November, 1729, David Rees bought a lot on King Street, sixty-six feet south by east of John, south of Bell's lot, formerly the Court-House lot and Linsey lot, fifty-three feet front by twelve perches deep. On April 10 the next year he bought the lot south, sixty-six by one hundred and twenty-nine feet extending to Water Street, and on the 14th of May following he bought a lot nine by fourteen perches, containing one hundred and twenty-eight square perches lying on the west side of High Street at the intersection of South Street. The house now owned and occupied by Mrs. Thomas G. Murphy stands on the lot. The house is solid, sub-

stantial, and built many years ago. McKimney Smack kept a tavern in this house at one time.

On May 13, 1730, Robert Bohannon purchased two lots, one on the west side of King Street, adjoining a lot of Charles Hillyard; the other west from the Meeting-House Square to West Street, eighty feet by twenty-seven perches. He was one of the founders of the Presbyterian church and one of the first trustees. Daniel and Niel Books each bought lots, the deeds bearing date May 12, 1730, lying on the west side of King Street.

The same date Joseph Booth, Jr., purchased two lots at the corner of High and Water Streets, now the property of Thomas Draper and Mrs. Stuart.

The first lot was purchased, it will be remembered, by Richard Richardson, one of the Commissioners, but for some reason that was given up by him and was deeded by the Commissioners to several others. The lot No. 82, in the corner of the Square, fronting both on the north and west sides, extended back to North Street, and was sold to Andrew Hamilton. By agreement a deed was not made until May 15, 1760, when James Hamilton, his son, represented to the Commissioners that his father was deceased and had left the lot mentioned to him and requested a deed, which was given upon that date.

On February 4, 1731, William Rodney, grandfather of Caesar Rodney, and at the time an official of the County, purchased a lot fronting on the west side of the public square, adjoining the lot of Andrew Hamilton, extending to North Street, High Street and Court-House lane (now Bank lane). The same day he sold it to Thomas Nixon, a tailor, who built a house in which he resided. Owing to some irregularity in this deed it was confirmed by the Commissioners January 10, 1739.

Other sales were made by the Commissioners but not recorded, and the Rodney deed was the last one issued by the first commissioners. Benjamin Shurmer was the last survivor, and died in 1736. By the terms of the original act, the power of the Commissioners were not left in trust to heirs, and accordingly about 1737 or 1738, an act of General Assembly was passed, appointing John Halliday, James Gower and Thomas Skidmore, Jr., commissioners with power to sell lots and confirm titles to those already disposed of.

The first deed recorded of the new commissioners is the confirmation of Thomas Nixon's purchase, which was the lot bought by William Rodney, but the deed was made from Benjamin Shurmer to Thomas Nixon.

On June 10, 1741, Robert Willecocks bought four lots, No. 38, 39, 40, and 41, on Water Street, from the Church Square to King Street, and sixteen perches on King Street. August 15th following he also bought lots east of East Street, and west of Front Street. August 14th, the same year, John Houseman, who was recorder of the county many years, bought six lots, No. 14, lying on South Street from

¹ This discrepancy cannot be reconciled, as by all known plots High Street was on the west side of the town.

Front to East Street, and lots 15 to 20, fronting on East Street from South Street to the Church Square. The same date Thomas Noxon, then surveyor of the county, and who the year previous made the plot now preserved in the recorder's office bought lot 93 on Water Street from Queen to High Street.

Cornelius Empson, who came from New Castle at the same time, bought three lots, Nos. 87, 88, 89, on North and Queen Streets and adjoining the Meeting-House lot. On May 12th, 1742, Margaret Caton, daughter of John Caton, one of the magistrates of the court, bought a lot on the north side of South Street, and August 14th Samuel Dickinson bought lots on the north side of South Street and east side of King Street. In 1747 and prior to that time, Cornelius Empson was a merchant in Dover and kept store on the lot east of the Morris lot on the public square, which had formerly been sold to Charles Williams. This lot, as the property of Cornelius Empson, was sold by Caesar Rodney, sheriff, March 3, 1758, to John Clayton, Jr., on a mortgage to the Trustees of the Loan Office.

The Presbyterian Church was erected on Meeting-House Square before title to the land was obtained. On May 12, 1748, one acre and eighty-five perches was conveyed to Robert Jamison, minister; John Caton and Robert Bohannon, elders, of the Presbyterian congregation in and about Dover, for the use of the congregation, it being "all that lott or parcell of Ground within the town of Dover, whereon the Presbyterian meeting-house now stands." It is described as being on the west side of High Street.

Mention is made in the deed of Thomas Tarrant of the lot "designed for Andrew Hamilton," as adjoining his lot on the west. It was not taken by Hamilton, but was sold prior to 1729 to Thomas Parke, who resided there in that year. In the deed of January 30, 1730, to William Rodney, he stated that the deed from the commissioners was never recorded. Errors were made in the document, which were corrected in a deed of November 2, 1731. In the mean time, Rodney sold it, August 14, 1731, to Thomas Skidmore, innkeeper. A portion of the lot had been reserved, whereon the widow of Thomas Parke lived in 1735.

John Brinckloe, on May 3d, 1735, by an article of agreement, became owner of this lot, which was not conveyed by deed during the life-time of Skidmore. After Skidmore's death, May 14, 1760, Daniel Robinson, as administrator of the estate, gave deed to John Brinckloe for the property, who, on the 28th of August, 1760, sold it to Nicholas Loockerman, who, May 23, 1769, conveyed it to Charles Ridgely, by whose descendants it is still owned. The lot lies east of the Capital Hotel, and the old house upon it, long known as the Ridgely House, is probably the oldest in Dover. A brick in the building bears date 1728. Thomas Parke owned the lot at that time and stated in 1730 that he lived there at that time. The original house contained but two rooms, and was added to on the west end and the rear to its present size by the Ridgelys.

About the year 1739 an act was passed establishing a market at Dover, to be held upon a market-square selected by the magistrates, until a market-house should be erected. Markets were to be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Bakers were required to stamp every loaf of bread with some mark. Bread was to be of three kinds, white, middling or brown, and the size and weight of the loaves were to be regulated by the magistrates.

Thomas Nixon was appointed clerk of the market.

No attention appears to have been paid to this act, and, between 1748 and 1754, another was passed which recites:

"Whereas, the said act hath been found insufficient so far as it concerns the town of Dover in regard that no place within the said town hath yet been laid out and called by the name of a market-square, nor any place yet allotted for building a market-house, or appointed where provisions may be bought and sold on market-days, until such house shall be built; for remedy whereof" it was enacted that Nicholas Ridgely, Esq., Andrew Caldwell and Thomas Alford, of Kent County, "lay out with all convenient speed a square plot of ground in or near the middle of that part of Dover commonly called the Court-House Square, which said plot of ground shall be called the Market Square." They "shall also allot and describe some spot of ground within the market-square for building a market-house upon," and to have the oversight of the erection of the building.

Thomas Parke was by the act appointed clerk of the market and empowered to set up stalls or booths and rent them for such an amount as three of the justices should decide upon; the clerk to have the fees for his compensation.

No account of the market or market-square has been obtained from any records, and a square probably was not laid out or house built.

In 1750 Benjamin Chew, James Gorell and Robert Willcocks were appointed commissioners to sell lots in the town, and in 1764 Caesar Rodney, Charles Ridgely and Thomas Parke were appointed and made the last sale of records by Dover commissioners to Simon W. Wilson, December 23, 1783, (who was at that time recorder of the county.) The purchase was two acres "lying on the west side of town and without the bounds as laid down by Thomas Noxon in plan, but within limits as first directed to be laid off," adjoining the lots of Absalom Cuff and Samuel Greenwood.

In 1763, the people of Dover and vicinity petitioned Governor James Hamilton, asking the liberty and privilege of keeping a public fair twice a year in the town. This was granted September 12, 1763. The first fair was appointed to be held October 12th, and to continue that day and the next following, for the purpose of buying and selling horses, cattle and all kinds of goods and merchandise. The governor was to be paid yearly, and on the 1st of March forever

one peppercorn if demanded. No account of any fairs under this permit is found.

On November 15, 1754, Nicholas Ridgely bought a lot of the commissioners that had been known as the jail lot and is laid down on the plan of 1740. It fronted on the east side of the public square, and extended north to North Street and is still owned by the Ridgely family. That portion of the lot on the square was without doubt, the location of the first jail of Kent County, as special mention is made of it in the deed to Charles Hillyard in 1729. In 1753, trustees were appointed to sell the old jail and jail lot, and this lot was sold the next year to Mr. Ridgely.

The Capital Hotel property passed August 4, 1781, from Thomas Wells to Timothy Cummings, and in 1745 James Byrne was an inn-keeper and kept tavern at the place. He also kept store, and a few years later sold to John Clayton, who May 15, 1765, conveyed it to Vincent Lookerman, who is mentioned as a merchant. The tavern was rented to French Battell, who on March 10, 1774, became the owner of the property. He kept the tavern during the Revolution and died about 1781, bequeathing the business and real estate to his widow Elizabeth. It was at this place of public entertainment that in June, 1782, was held the feast ordered by the General Assembly in honor of the birth of a Dauphin of France, the young prince who disappeared after the execution of Louis XVI., and whose fate is still one of the deepest mysteries of history. The tavern property remained in the hands of the Battell family until 1829, when it was sold to John Reed. In 1818, the house was kept by Joseph Buckmaster, and when the sale was made the inn-keeper was Jacob Biddle, who removed to the house where Benaiah Watson now resides and there continued his business until Reed erected a new tavern on the Battell land. Biddle then became his tenant, and was succeeded from 1840 to 1852 by Joseph McDaniels.

The hotel was kept by many hosts from that time until it was destroyed by fire, in February, 1881, when in charge of William Fountain. It was rebuilt at once and is now kept by George A. Millington.

The Andrew Hamilton lot on the northwest corner of the square was later owned by Charles Ridgely, who was a merchant in Dover, and on December 26, 1787, sold it to Nicholas Ridgely, his brother, who was an attorney-at-law and had filled important offices of the State. Charles Ridgely was one of the commissioners to build the new court-house, and was killed at the building during its erection. The property a few years later passed to Dr. William Winder Morris and remained in possession of the family until recently and is now owned in part by Dr. L. A. H. Bishop.

The lot of Charles Hillyard, now occupied by Kirk & Son's printing office, was owned in 1782, by Edward Tilghman, who February 11, sold it to James Sykes. At that time Hon. William Killen owned the Tarrant's lot and next north from Mr. Bonsell's.

The property south of the state-house on which Hon. John M. Clayton resided, now owned by the State but still best known as the Clayton house, was sold by Francis Richardson, March 26, 1730, to Benjamin Shurmer who died in 1736, and left it to his son William, from whom it is thought to have passed to Samuel Chew, as tradition sometimes calls it the Chew house. About 1777, it came into possession of James Sykes, who was that year elected Prothonotary. He filled many important positions and was a member of the House of Representatives when he died in 1794. His son, James Sykes, was prominent as a physician and surgeon, and in 1812, built the residence of Hon. John A. Nicholson, with an office in the east part and a dissecting room on the second floor. His son James, also a physician, occupied the office. John M. Clayton opened his first law office in this place. The old house remained in possession of the Sykes family until November 5, 1824, when it was sold to Mr. Clayton and was his residence until his death, when it passed to Dr. Isaac Jump, and now belongs to the State. The old court-house lot that was sold to John Linsey in 1722, was conveyed by him April 27, 1724, to John Curtis, who sold to John Rees, "Innholder," soon after. November 17, 1727, Rees conveyed it to John Bell, in whose family it remained over a century. On this lot was the old-time tavern that had for a sign a portrait of George III. After the Revolution the portrait of George Washington was painted over it, and as time passed and colors faded both portraits could be indistinctly made out. James Wells was landlord in 1766, and John Bell during the Revolution. The latter's son-in-law, Jacob Furbee, was his successor, and was followed by Elizabeth Cook. In 1818, the inn keeper was Thomas Coombs, and in 1820, Marshal Grouchy, who failed to support Napoleon at Waterloo, and was in part the cause of his defeat, was for some time a guest at the house, and spent his time hunting.

The old hostelry was headquarters for the Democratic party and also the place where for many years gubernatorial receptions were held. It was used as a hotel until destroyed by fire, Nov. 10, 1863. Captain William Mullen became the landlord in 1859 and died July 5th, preceding its destruction. His widow remained in charge and lost much by the fire.

John Baning, saddler, on the 10th of June, 1766, bought of the Dover commissioners a lot on King Street to South Street and east to East Street, where he built a dwelling, in which he also kept a store during the Revolution, and June 18th, purchased thirteen lots south and east of Rev. Charles Inglis. He was a member of the Council in 1791 and died in that year. His dwelling became the Dover Academy and is now the carriage-shop of W. A. Reilly.

In 1818 the hip-roofed house north of the Baning house was owned by the Lookerman estate and occupied by John Christfield, a tailor. A two-story house next east was used as a wheelwright-shop by Benjamin Gould.

Rev. Charles Inglis, who was rector of Christ Church from 1758 to 1764, bought a lot of Vincent Loockerman, where he resided during his pastorate here. His wife, Mary Vining, a step-daughter of Nicholas Ridgely, and a sister of Chief Justice John Vining, died here and lies buried in the churchyard, near where she lived. The lot is on the east side of King Street and extended eastward on Water Street to the church lot. He sold it to John Pryor, a merchant in Dover, February 10, 1762. Mr. Inglis also owned thirteen lots and a messuage and fenement lying between King, South, Front and Water Streets, which he sold June 18, 1766, to John Baning.

Hon. John Dickinson owned land in the southeast part of the town prior to 1766, which passed to Hon. William Killen, who, August 14th in that year, sold lot No. 10, containing six acres, to Andrew and Richard Butler, and August 16th, lot 9, five acres, to James Wells, who is mentioned as an innkeeper of Dover. These lots were on Water Street between East and Front. The Butlers later owned lots 100 and 101, on the southwest part of the town plot.

A large lot fronting on the west side of King Street, and extending along the south side of the Public Square and through the Governor's Avenue, at an early date not known, came into possession of Richard Richardson, who, in 1718, purchased the land on the northwest of the Public Square. On May 2, 1775, it was divided into two lots, and John Richardson, son of Richard, received the north lot fronting on King Street and the Square, and Ann, the wife of James Townsend, was given the south lot, bounded south by the lot then owned by Hugh Parke. In the survey dwellings are shown on both lots as fronting on King Street.

The north lot was sold, November 28, 1783, by John Richardson to Mark Coudright, who erected the present office of the *Delawarean*. The land lying on the Public Square, except the corner lot, was seized in 1788 by Ezekiel Anderson, sheriff, who divided it into six lots and, February 5th, sold lot No. 1 to Stephen Allston; Nos. 2 and 3 to Purnell Lofland and No. 4 to Joshua Fisher. The remainder, through to High Street, soon after passed to Stephen Allston, who, in 1790, sold lots 5 and 6 to Joshua Fisher, who built the present residence of Chief Justice G. P. Comegys.

The lot formerly owned and occupied by James P. Wilds and now by Miss Manlove, was in the Long Street that was originally laid out to run from Dover Creek through the town plot. It was originally bought by Thomas Nixon, who owned all the land north of it to North Street in 1730. He left it to his son, Thomas Nixon, who was a physician in practice in Dover. He sold the west part of it, now belonging to the bank, August 4, 1783, to Richard Bassett, then member of the Council and later chief justice and President of the State. On November 30, 1787, Mr. Bassett bought three lots of Charles Nixon, executor of the estate of Dr. Thomas Nixon, lying west of his residence and in rear of the bank lot, then owned by Fidelio Rodger-

son, to Governor's Avenue, and bounded south by the lots of Eleazer McComb. Until his departure from the town Miers Corson owned the lot on the Square south of Bassett's residence, which Mr. Bassett bought and owned in 1790.

Charles Kimmey, in 1806, opened a store in the south part of King Street, in the house now occupied as the parsonage of Christ Church. The public printing was done in the town for many years by the following persons: 1806, Wooten & Allen; 1807-12, John B. Wooten; 1813-16, Augustus H. Schee and again in, 1835-36; 1837-52, Samuel Kimmey; 1853-60, William Sharp; 1863-75, James Kirk & Son, and at the office of the *Delawarean*; from 1875 to 1883 the printing was done at Wilmington, but since the latter year it has again been performed by J. Kirk & Son and the *Delawarean* establishment.

King Dougall, in 1797 and to 1819, was a merchant in Dover and kept a store. His day-book is in possession of Thomas O. Culbreath, and contains many curious entries, some of which are for spirits, rum and wine furnished to Assemblymen at Miller's. Samuel Miller, in 1798, kept one of the taverns. Dr. Jacob Jones, a native of Smyrna and a student under Dr. James Sykes, whose sister he married, was practicing medicine in Dover in that year, and about that time entered the navy of the United States, where he rose to the position of commodore. The State honored him by a portrait painted by Thomas Sully, which hangs in the chamber of the House of Representatives. At the same time Dr. John Horn was in practice in the town.

The Ridgely family, that for over a century and a half have resided in Dover, were first represented by Nicholas Ridgely, who was born in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in 1694, and resided there in early manhood. He came to the town of Saulsbury (now Duck Creek) about 1732, where he lived for a year or two, removing thence to Salem, N. J., where he married the widow of Benjamin Vining. In 1738 he settled in Dover and became one of the magistrates of the court, and in 1740 one of the provincial justices of the Supreme Court. July 15, 1748, he bought the farm in the original Dover tract still held by the family, and four other lots of land in the town plot as laid out. In 1754 he purchased the "jail lot," and died the next year, and was interred in Christ Church burying-ground. He left one son, Dr. Charles Ridgely, and several daughters.

Charles Ridgely, in 1769, purchased what is known as the Ridgely House, on the public square, where he died in 1785. He left sons,—Nicholas, who was member of the Council in 1788, and filled other important offices in the Government; Abraham; Charles, a Dover merchant, who was killed during the erection of the present State-House; George W., who was a midshipman in the navy and was lost at sea, on board the "Insurgent," off the coast of Peru; and Henry M., an attorney-at-law, whose sons, Dr. Henry and Edward, are still residing in Dover. The

daughters of Dr. Charles Ridgely were Wilhelmina, Mary (wife of Dr. William Winder Morris), and Ann.

The Loockerman family, for over a hundred years prominent in the county, were first represented by Nicholas Loockerman, who settled on the "Range," known in later years as the Drew Farm, and was married in 1721. In 1722, Vincent Loockerman was born, and upon reaching maturity he settled in Dover, and purchased, about 1742, a lot on the north side of King Street, and built the residence where Mrs. Thomas B. Bradford now has her home. He left a son Vincent who was born in 1747, and in 1774 he married, Elizabeth, the daughter of John Pryor, a merchant in Dover, by whom he had two children, Elizabeth and Nicholas. He was at one time a member of the General Assembly of the three lower counties, and a prominent Whig during the Revolution. He died at his residence, on King Street, in Dover, August 26, 1785, aged sixty-three years, and with his wife, Susannah, is interred in the family burial-place, on the "Range." Vincent, his eldest son, died April 5, 1790, aged forty-three years, and is also buried in the family ground.

Nicholas, son of Vincent, born in 1789, was in 1808, a member of the House of Representatives, and died unmarried in 1850. Elizabeth was born in 1779, and in 1805 married Thomas Bradford, LL.D., of Philadelphia, counselor-at-law. Her father died in 1785, and left her a large estate, which, after her death, in 1842, was divided among her five children,—Vincent L., Elizabeth L., Benjamin R., William and Thomas B. Vincent L. adopted the profession of his father, and became a noted counselor. He removed to Michigan in 1835, and in 1837 was elected to the State Senate. He returned to Philadelphia in 1843, and resumed practice. Elizabeth married Rev. William T. Dwight, D.D., of Portland, Me., son of Rev. Timothy Dwight, former president of Yale College, New Haven, Conn.

Thomas B. Bradford became a Presbyterian minister, and after the death of his mother returned to the paternal mansion in Dover, where he resided until his death, March 25, 1871. The property in and near Dover was left to his mother by will, March 9, 1784, and by lease and release came into the possession of Rev. Thomas Bradford, who, in 1852, laid out Bradford City, now the new part of Dover.

A number of lots lying just outside the town were bought by citizens of Dover as out-lots for pasturage and other purposes. The four hundred acres of the "brother's portion," bought of William Southebee by Richard Wilson in 1699, were later owned by Hon. John Dickinson and passed to William Killen. A tract of land, part of the above, containing one hundred and ten acres lying south of and close to the town plot, between St. Jones' Creek and the road that leads from Dover to Lewes, was laid out by William Killen, August 13, 1766, into lots long and narrow, each having a front on the creek and on the King's

Road. Lot No. 1, containing ten acres, next the town, was sold to John Pryor, a merchant in Dover. At the foot of it, on the creek, near where the tan-house ditch enters it, was a place called William's Landing, now known as the ship-yard, where, in 1831-32, James Waples built two schooners and a sloop. No. 2 was taken by James Maxwell and contained five acres; No. 3, of five acres by James Morton; No. 4, of five acres by George Goforth; No. 5, of five acres by Matthew Boggs; No. 6, of ten acres by Caesar Rodney; No. 7, of twenty acres by Samuel McCall; No. 8, of ten acres by Hugh Parke; No. 9, of five acres by James Wells; No. 10, of six acres by Richard and Andrew Butler; No. 11, of twenty-eight acres by Thomas Nixon. The lands are now owned by Manlove Hayes, James M. Kerbin, George Parris and James Slaymaker.

The first addition made to the town was by the selling of a few lots north of North Street and on the King's Road or King Street. This land was part of a tract of four hundred acres known as "Morgan's Calf Pasture," and also "Lassene," which is given as the north boundary of the town plot in 1694. It was taken up by David Morgan in 1679 by warrant from Whorekill Court, and February 27, 1681-82, he bought the Indian right of Christian, the Indian owner of all the land between the Murder Creek and Duck Creek. Two hundred and fifty-four acres of it was sold to William Annand, who, by his will dated December 26, 1714, devised it by the name of "Bellyhill" to Andrew Hamilton, who retained it until August 23, 1775, when it passed to Vincent Loockerman. In 1777 he sold a few lots along the east side of the King's Road leading through Dover to John Bell, who, in 1782, sold to Peter B. Fury. They passed to William K. Boyce, and, February 21, 1816, were sold to James Kirbin, in whose family they still remain.

On October 21, 1779, there was surveyed from part of the "calf pasture" three lots on the north side of North Street. The first contained one acre on the corner of North Street and the King's Road, and was sold to John Bullin. In 1783 this lot was divided, and William Howell purchased the corner, forty-four feet on King Street, running along North Street. The next lot north, forty-four feet front, was sold to John Bullin, Jr., also fronting on King Street, and improved by a house. The rest was the estate of John Bullin, deceased. North of this was property owned by John White.

The second lot was sold in 1779 to Rev. Samuel Megaw, rector of Christ Church. It was west of the Bullin lot on North Street and contained one acre. West of this lot and on North Street was four acres bought by James Cookley. The north lines of these lots is now the south line of Loockerman Street.

These lots were sold and built upon within a few years after 1780. In 1818 Thomas L. Hillyard and Martin W. Bates kept a store on the northeast corner of King and North Streets. Joseph Harper, an old Revolutionary soldier, and clerk of the peace from

1792 until after 1805, resided a short distance above.¹ Miss Martha Allman, a widow, taught school several years in an old house that stood on the site of the present Methodist Church. Chief Justice J. P. Comegys and William J. Clark learned their alphabets in the old house, under the teaching of Widow Allman. Widow Eunice Biggs was her neighbor on the north, and next was a store-house, both on the site of the present post office. The Kirbin house and blacksmith-shop were next north. A school-house that had formerly been kept by Stephen Sykes was between the Kirbin house and the old Hillyard house. On the northeast corner of the lot Jacob Stout had a large tannery in 1818, and for several years later.²

On the west side of King Street, where David Barton's drug-store now stands, Jeremiah McKnott, a Revolutionary soldier, lived in a two-story house.³

Next was the residence of Myers Casson. The house, now the property of Edwin M. Stevenson, presents about the same appearance now that it did in 1820. The parlor was occupied as the office of the Secretary of State, and the rest of the house was used by a Frenchman, who taught language and drawing. A few small dwellings other than these were on King Street and upper side of North Street, and in one of them Mrs. Betty Riley had a cake and candy shop to draw the pennies from the children.

It was not until some years after the removal of the Rev. Thomas B. Bradford to Dover that the land from the new part of Dover was offered for sale. Early in 1852, Mr. Bradford laid out "Bradford City" into lots and streets, set out many trees along the streets, and offered lots for sale, since which time it has grown rapidly, and at present this new section is much larger than the original town. Mr. Bradford built the houses on State Street now occupied by Samuel W. Hall and J. A. Fulton. He also erected three cottages on Bradford Street, and moved two houses from old State Street to Loockerman Street, and made many other improvements. Samuel Culbreth soon after built the store on the corner of Loock-

erman and State Street, and the dwelling north. David F. Barton and the Hon. Eli Saulsbury and Geo. B. Dickson each erected the dwellings where they now reside. In 1857 Andrew Smithers and Richard M. Jones built the houses where Andrew Smithers and Edward Ridgely now live, and N. B. Smithers the residence now owned and occupied by George V. Massey.

One of the most thrifty and energetic merchants of Dover was John Reed, a native of Mispillion Hundred. He descended from John Reed, who settled in the county about 1700. John Reed, the merchant, came to Dover in 1825, and bought the two corners of King Street facing on the north side of the public square. In 1831 he erected a large brick store, now occupied by the First National Bank, and the same year erected the Capital Hotel. He became the first merchant in the place and owned several vessels that ran from Leipsic. He was also an extensive landholder in different parts of the county. His wife was Mary, daughter of Judge Jacob Stout, and granddaughter of Hon. William Killen. His daughters were Angelica K., wife of John A. Nicholson, and Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Cowgill.

The town⁴ of Dover grew but little for many years; the powers of the commissioners were extended from time to time, and on July 16, 1829, an act was passed authorizing them to cause additional wells and pumps to be put down; to provide buckets, hooks and ladders for fire purposes; to lay pavements and gutters; and to erect a market-house not to exceed the cost of four hundred dollars. All previous efforts to get a market-house failed and so did this one.

The town⁴ of Dover was incorporated by act of General Assembly February 16, 1829. It provided for the laying out of certain territory by metes and bounds and for the election of town commissioners and other officers. The officers were elected in March following, and the first meeting of the town commissioners was held March 24th, when Henry Todd was chosen surveyor to define the boundaries of the town. On the 28th of April in that year contract was made to lay a pavement in front of the State-House. August 31st, John M. Clayton was ordered to lay a pavement of brick, twelve feet in width, in front of his property on the square (now owned by the State), and at the same time Nehemiah Clark and Samuel M. Harrington, tenants of Kent County, were ordered to lay down a pavement of brick, twelve feet wide, "in front of their offices," (or the "old jail," as then commonly called).

The beef-house of Daniel W. Duhamel being declared a nuisance, it was ordered to be removed.

On September 29, 1829, it was ordered that two pumps be settled in the town, and Abel Harris was appointed to superintend the work. The locations were not mentioned at that time, but one was for

¹ Joseph Harper died at Dover, June 9, 1824, aged sixty-eight years. He was in blue engagements in the Revolution, among which were the battles of Trenton, Princeton, White Plains and Long Island. He was a resident of Dover forty years, and held office under the State and county from the close of the Revolution until within two years of his death.

² Governor Stout was running the tannery while he was Governor, and at one time, when stooping over testing some liquor in a tan vat, a pet ram, noticing a favorable opportunity to exercise his propensity, butted His Excellency and landed him in the vat. The Governor, dripping with the liquor, called out to Betty, the housekeeper, to "look at the impudence of the d—d ram to butt the Governor of the State of Delaware into a tan vat."

³ An incident of the War of 1812-14 is of interest, and is taken from a Wilmington paper of the date given:

"At Dover on Sunday, March 21, 1813, in consequence of the movements of the British up the Delaware, the drum beat to arms. The whole population, of all sects and persuasions, religious and political, capable of shouldering a musket, assembled. Arms were distributed, and in three hours three hundred and fifty men were ready for service. All the soldiers of the Revolution in the neighborhood were present. Jeremiah McKnott, an old Revolutioner, tottering on his staff, received a musket and with hearty will entered the ranks. He was a strict Methodist, and, Sunday as it was, immediately after the drill he returned home and set himself to work making ball cartridges and teaching the boys how to make them. The force mustered frequently after with him in the lines."

⁴ The town did not cover the plot originally laid out, and for many years remained the same. It was not until the agitation for a railroad through the town that there was any effort made to extend its limits.