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(\*This article was previously published by the St. Mary's County Historical Society).

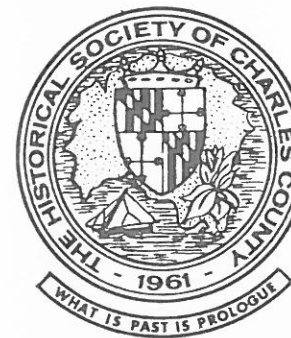
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# The RECORD

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Dr. Lloyd S. Bowling, *President*

Mr. Philip Griffith, *Editor*

## ALEXIUS LANCASTER 1794-1856

*Mr. William E. Simpson, a Charles County native, now living in St. Mary's County, provided this material from his great-grandfather's diary; he felt that since Alexius Lancaster was a Charles Countian, excerpts from his diary would interest our Society. We thoroughly agree, and are much indebted to him for this un-filtered primary history.*

### Farm Life in Southern Maryland Circa 1818-1856

#### INTRODUCTION

by William E. Simpson

Alexius Lancaster, a native of Charles County Maryland, was born in 1794 near the little town of Newport. He married Leticia Jameson of Bryantown, Maryland on August 14, 1821. He lived on a farm approximately 3 miles from Newport and his property adjoined that of St. Mary's Catholic Church. There were 8 children in the family - 5 girls and 3 boys.

He was a farmer all his life and was very active in church and civic affairs. He was a trustee at the church, wrote and witnessed wills for people, assisted in the settlement of estates and division of slaves amongst the heirs. He also owned slaves who worked on his farm and over the years he was continuously buying, selling and renting slaves.

Alexius was a good manager and kept adding land to his farm until it was approximately 200 acres in size. As the family grew in size it was necessary to plant larger crops and provide food to feed the family and slaves. He planted corn, tobacco, wheat, cotton, flax, rye and large quantities of pumpkins and garden vegetables, especially turnips, potatoes and cabbage. He maintained cattle, sheep and large numbers of hogs, in addition to chickens, turkeys and geese. To supplement the winter food supply he was able to catch many bushels of perch in the Wicomico River in early spring and salted them down. In addition, he would buy several thousand herrings and put them up in brine.

The method of farming was primitive compared to present day farming. Plowing was done with horses and oxen. Tobacco beds (at least 3) were prepared in new woodland each year. Corn was dropped by hand. Wheat was planted each year and was harvested by hand with the use of cradles. When the wheat was threshed it was done by treading it out on a firm piece of ground with the use of horses or oxen. The straw and chaff were swept away by hand and the wheat was gathered up. At first most of the wheat was saved for seed the next year. In later years more wheat was planted and at times over 200 bushels would be harvested. Later on when the first threshing machine came

into being around 1849, and in the year 1853 over 400 bushels would be threshed. The cutting of the wheat was still done by hand.

Alexius maintained a detailed diary of his life on the farm covering the period 1818 to 1856. The book is about 2 inches thick. All writing was done in ink with the use of a quill pen. The Hall of Records in Annapolis was loaned the diary by its present owner, William E. Simpson of Avenue, MD, and its contents are recorded on microfilm.

In order to share some of its most interesting comments with the public, excerpts have been extracted and are hereby printed in the *Chronicles*.\* The spelling and use of some words are somewhat different but understandable.

Dec 11, 1828 - This day buys at Wm Platers sale a horse for \$27.25.

Dec 13, 1828 - Bought a yoke of oxen from John M. Posey for \$25.

Dec 16, 1828 - This day sells to Benedict Jameson two negroes, Francis and Henry for \$690.00

Dec 29, 1828 - This day kills a bald eagle which measures from tip of one wing to the other 7 feet 6 inches and weighed 10½ lbs.

May 5, 1829 - This day takes the first swarm of bees.

May 25, 1829 - This day gets a barrell of flour from Baltimore - cost \$8.00

Aug 25, 1829 - This day buys of Benedict Jameson 25 Bushels wheat for seed at 80¢ bushel

Nov 2, 1829 - Gets my wheat out and makes only 57 Bushels

Dec 17, 1829 - Commenced getting wood for Thomas Turner at \$2.50 a cord

Dec 25, 1829 - This day received from Cohen 2 half tickets in the Maryland State Lottery.

Feb 18, 1829 - This day buys and gives to my negroes a blanket a piece at \$1.50.

March 31, 1830 - This day plants in the yard a plum tree - the Green Gauge from Geo. Painhams - the kind brought by his father from Edenborough.

May 8, 1830 - This day gets my fish home 4 Bbls which cost me \$11.60

10th Sept 1830 - This day called on by Thomas M. Simpson and old Alexius Procter as a witness to the renting of a piece of land. Old Procter is to pay Simpson the first year four hundred pounds of tobacco and a third of what he makes the next year.

Feb 18, 1831 - This day engages with William Stonstreet to build a barn 24 x 32 - 14 feet pitch with a shed at one end. I have to furnish the plank and if shingles for \$75. If he has to get the shingles it will be \$85 Note (Barn was finished May 9)

Feb 28, 1831 - This day hires of Betsey Simmes a negro woman for the present year for \$17.00 and 6 yards? to make her a bead.

March 13, 1832 - This day my two children commenced going to school to Mr. Adams at rate of 10\$ a year.

1833 - one negro slave rented at \$3.50 a month with a suit of clothes.

Nov. 22, 1834 - This day hires of Joseph L. Boarman a negro woman named Celia for the year 1835 for which I give my note to pay 18\$, a good winter and summer suite of clothes, shoes and stockings.

Nov 23, 1834 - This day hires of Martha Wood a negro girl about 11 years old named Ann for the year 1835 for which I give my note for 6\$, a good yarn winter suit and a summer do, a pair of shoes and stockings and her shoes mended this winter.

March 25, 1835 - Buys and gets home from William Swann 6 ewes and lambs & 4 ewes without family making 16 heads for which I paid \$22.50 that is \$2.50 for the ewes with lambs, \$2 a piece for 2 young ewes & \$1.75 a piece for 2 old ewes which had lost their lambs.

March 28, 1835 This day buys a negro man named Bill from Benj. W. Boarman for 105\$

April 11, 1836 Gets from Popes Creek 4000 Herrings at \$2.50 per thousand

Nov 23, 1837 -Wathen finishes making my negroes and childrens shoes a pair at 40¢.

1838 - A receipt to make a Cheap Composition for preserving the roof of a house or any Weather-boarding from the Weather and from fire. Take one measure of fine Sand, two measures of Wood Ashes well Sifted, three of Slacked lime ground up with oil, laid on with a painters brush, first coat thin and second thick.

I painted on a board with this mixture and it adhered so strongly to the board that it resists an iron tool, and put thick on a shingle, resists the operation of fire.

June 8, 1839-Receives as a present from M. Briscoe

half dozen silk worms in their cacoons-on the 19th 3 came out and lay eggs on the 21st.

Nov 8, 1839-Pulls up one patch of my turnips and put in garden 28 bushels common and 21 bushels rutabaker-and let Mr. Edelen have about 12 bushels (in all 61 bus)

Nov 16, 1839-This day the commission contracted with Dr. Stouten W. Dent for the building of the schoolhouse to be 16 x 20 feet for \$30.

March 9, 1840-This day tread out my oates and make 97 bus.

June 11, 1840-This day plants 4 1/2 bushels Irish potatoes.

April 25, 1840-Finish delivery of my entire crop of tobacco to Mr. Latimer-7000 pounds @ \$6 per hundred.

|            |                        |                 |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1840- Made | 11168 lbs tobacco -    | \$600           |
|            | 100 barrels corn @ \$3 | 300             |
|            | 3000 lbs timothy       | 26.25           |
|            | 20 loads pumpkins      | 10              |
|            | 2 barrels cotton       | 2               |
|            |                        | <u>\$938.25</u> |

Made the above crop with  
 1 vary old decrepid negroman  
 1 negro man about 51 years old  
 1 lad about 18 years old  
 2 negro girls  
 5 slaves

May 18, 1841-Goes to the dentist and had my teeth cleaned and two taken out-cost \$6.

Aug 29, 1841-This morning Mr. Swann has 7 of my cows, 3 young steers and three of Leonard Edelens cattle of 2 cows and 1 young bull impounded. He released them on my paying him \$1 in Silver

April 8, 1842-This day gets my fish home from Popes Creek-5000 at \$2.50

June 27, 1842-This day commences my harvest. 4 cradlers-finished on 1 July

Oct 4, 1842-Finish getting out my wheat-Total make 210 bushels.

May 10, 1842-Planted cotton and Seeded Flax seed.

Aug 11, 1842- This day send to Baltimore by Capt. Herbert 38 1/2 Bus wheat to sell and get 92 cents per Bushel.

Aug 17, 1842-This day gets from Baltimore 500 lbs Indian Meal-the first corn and meal bought this year.

Feb 9, 1843-This day finish hanging up our Bacon-65 pieces and has this day in the meat house 22 middlens, 22 shoulders, 21 hams (one used) and 27 pieces of beef.

April 27, 1843- Get my fish home from Popes Creek (5000) which cost me (by bad management) \$3 per thousand.

June 4, 1845-This day I hire Mr. Wood Townly to plough at 25 cents a day.

June 25, 1845-This day pay Henry Freeman (Free Negro) \$2.50 for cutting wheat for two days.

Oct 17, 1845 - This day finish treading my wheat out af-

Jan 5, 1855 - This day give my note to hire a boy Henry - to Thomas A. Simpson for \$30 & clothes payable 1 Jan. 1856.

April 25, 1855 - This day we take up the fish nets and caught 3 1/2 bushels as large nice white perch as I ever saw & which made 44 bushels of white perch caught in all.

June 9, 1855 This day Joseph finished planting tobacco making in all planted to this date 64,000 hills.

June 16, 1855 Jane & Amanda had to this day put out 494 chickens.

Aug 30, 1855 - This evening about 7 o'clock Henny has a girl child. Ms. G. H. Simpsons old woman delivered her.

Oct 16, 1855 - This day Joseph seed some samples of wheat which we got last Spring from the Patent office part of which was Gerlings Prolific wheat from England.

Nov 7, 1855 - This day the Democrats or anti know nothings had a breakfast at my cool springs, had 3 muttons and I beef all well done & a plenty of coffee - Lomax was cook & Philip Simpson attended to it - had about 50 or so voters.

Jan 7, 1856 - Such cold weather I never felt in my whole life. Water frized last night in a tumbler at the head of my bead by the side of the fire and fire was burning all night - Chamber lye also frized under the bed by the fire.

Jan 14, 1856 - This day we kill our beef - weight two fore quarters 182 pounds and the weight of 2 hind quarters 152 lbs plus beef got from Kinam amount to 482 pounds put up.

Feb 3, 1856 - This day clear but as cold a day as any we have had this winter. Cold ground entirely covered yet with snow and now hard & road nearly all ice, hardly any travel except in sleighs and rough shod horses.

Feb 24, 1856 - It did not frize any last night for the first time since the 5th of January last - good day today but most awful travelling for the depth of mud and quantity of water from the thawing ground and melting of snow and ice.

Feb 26, 1856 - This day Letty finish having all her Beef Tallow molded in candles & counted 107 candels or say 9 dozen or 18 pounds, and we have also a box of sperm candels of 30 pounds in the Box just opened but not yet used and 1 dozen of them Blessed on Caldlemas day (2nd Feb) and gave the church 4 of them and now have the 8 which is blessed.

March 18, 1856 - This day Letty seed her forward square of Peas and come to snow about 3 o'clock.

W.E.S. Note: (Last entry in the diary written by Alexius Lancaster)

March 24, 1856 - This night my dear Pa was- taken with his death sickneys and continued ill for three weeks - Cousin Edward Edelen was his Doctor.

April 15, 1856 - This day about twelve o'clock my dear and devoted Father breath his last having all his children around him and Father Vicinary to say the parting prayers and close his eyes, and many others of his friends were here also. He was buried on Wednesday evening 16 at 4 o'clock. May my dear Pa rest in peace. Amen.

Jane Marie Lancaster

Part of a page from the Diary of Alexius Lancaster

1847

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> This day I get from Baltimore a Wheat Fan (Cost 25¢) and a bbl flour cost \$7 & expens

Tuesday Sept 7<sup>th</sup> This day I get (M Watson to White wash my house (4 rooms for 2¢) & dry some other little patch. <sup>had to pay him in cash 30¢</sup>

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> This day get a bbl flour & begin using the same

Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of Sept. This day write to Bath for the following article viz to Pike & Penn for 30 Feet of Lin in 5 Feet sheets 1 foot in width & 5 Boards of Potomac or plasters

cut at Stoney Gate, Ice House & at new barn.

Sept 24, 1852 - We also finished Prizing tobacco this day, we have prized 16 Hhds Tobacco and 4 Ground Leafs the children saved.

Oct 13, 1852 - This day Edward get home from Baltimore & John Boarman bring the carriage home from Benedict. Carriage cost in Baltimore \$205 and with extras total cost was \$258.50.

June 25, 1853 - This day we finish cutting wheat - We hired this harvest, Joe one day at \$1.50 & Matthew one day \$1.50 & Oswald Edelen 5 days at 37½, Tommy 2 days at 37½ and Free girl Betty 4 days at 37½ & Kinney Boy 4 days at 37 & 5 gal whiskey & 1 new cradle \$2.75 was the cost of my harvest - say total cost expenses \$13.25.

July 3, 1853 - This day Mr. Burges put up our new organ. The price of the organ was \$400 but the Rev. got the organ man to deduct \$100.

Sept 2, 1853 - This day we send to Capt. Dents for James Oliver Thrashing Machine - We get it time enough to get set down this evening.

Sept 3, 1853 This morning about 9 o'clock we get to work and thrash out 4 stacks of wheat.

Sept 5, 1853 We finish thrashing out all my wheat and help Mrs. Lancaster with 6 hands and 4 horses one day & a half and she help me 3 days with 3 hands & 2 horses. She finish 8 Sept.

Sept 16, 1853 Finish shipping my wheat made in all this year from 80 bushels seeded was 587 bushels.

Sept 21, 1853 Edward and Jane get back from the city by Steam Boat. They carry Caroline to the Academy of the Visitation. I got her in for \$140 cash paid down for the whole year, Board, Tuition, pen with copy books & also if she wish to learn it French, Music, or piano.

Oct 4, 1853 - We cleaned our Rye out the 4th & find we made 20½ bushels. I have to pay for mashine thrashing out 576 bushels wheat and 20½ bushels rye at 4¢ a bushel is \$23.86.

Nov 9, 1853 - This morning about 10 o'clock my son Edward Departed this life - He was taken sick to his Bed on Friday evening - called in Dr. Edward Edelen on Saturday morning & on Tuesday morning Doc. Queen was called in as a consulting Physician and staid until he died & was buried Thurs about 10 o'clock, a number was at his burial.

Nov 21, 1853 - Mr. John Boarman took in his carriage Jane Lancaster and Jane Edelen to Washington & Georgetown to pay what I was owing the Nuns for Carolines many clothes and also carried a Pot of Butter (13 lbs) to old Sister Maglin.

March 28, 1854 - This morning find the ground entirely covered with snow and all the trees and looks vary like the middle of winter & although the peaches are all entirely destroyed still they are yet in full bloom but nearly singed up like fire or heat had been under them and now covered with snow and looks pitiful indeed.

March 29, 1854 - This morning clear but vary cold,

frize last night in our Long room (when two negro girls sleep & where a good fire was kept until bed time 9 O'clock). A wash tin bason which was left half full of water was so hard frozen this morning that it had to be carryed & heated at the fire to get it out.

This morning find the ground & trees all covered with snow and snowing very hard.

March 30, 1854 This morning find the ground & trees all covered with snow and snowing vary hard.

March 31, 1854 Frized vary hard last night but clear and vary cold - so cold had to put the men to cutting and mauling rails till after breakfast. It has frized vary hard every night when it was clear for the last 18 days, the cold and severe weather at this season of the year I ever saw in my life, every thing looks drary like the winter.

April 17, 1854 - This morning find the ground covered with snow at least 4 inches and all the trees weeping down & still snowing vary fast & like the vary depth of winter & vary cold.

June 30, 1854 - This day about 12 O'clock we finish cutting our wheat & rye and shocking it up - We had 62 shocks hire no hands this year except part one evening pay one man 62½ cents. Cutting rye - used 4½ gal whiskey @ 40¢.

July 13, 1854 - This day Caroline get home from the Academy. We send the carriage and meet them in Port Tobacco. Caroline get 5 Premiums & crowned in the June class. The books are vary pretty and good, iz: Mission of Deth - all for Jesus, & Prince of Japan - Legans of the Blessed Virgin - Lt Vincents Manual

Sept 2, 1854 - This day we begin using the flour I had ground at Burches Mill from 4 bus wheat we get a level barrel full of first flour.

Sept, 1854 We owe Mr. Oliver for getting (thrashing) out our grain - 392 bushels @ 4¢ - \$15.68

Oct, 1854 It is the dryest weather at this time I ever did see in my life - the dust flying everywhere - water mills all dry and have been for months, the only way meal can be got at all is from the Steam Mill and I have sometimes to wait there for two days before we can get any meal - such a crowd - Have no water for horses & cattle - had to make a pond below the coolspring and turn in them.

Nov 20, 1854 - This day hire from Henrietta Lancaster her negro girl Celia for the next year 1855 for \$10.00.

Dec 5, 1854 This day the clock cleaner call and make out clock strike.

Dec 6, 1854 This day we cut up and salt our meat (we killed yesterday - 20 hogs weighing 1863 pounds)

Dec 20, 1854 - This day I get home a barrel of Macharel from the fresh @ \$8.75. In getting it home Nace is thrown from the cart and draged down the hill. His back was torn and otherwise bruised.

Dec 21, 1854 - This day I buy from Mr. Jameson 5 hogs weighing 647 pounds at \$6 - Total meat 2510 pounds.

ter treading 4 days. Made this year 190 bushels.

Receipt 1845 - To join glass together - melt a little isin-glass in spirits wine adding thereto about a fifth part of water and using a gentle heat when perfectly melted and mixed, it will form transparent glue, which will unite glass so that fracture will hardly be perceived.

(Taken from the National Intelligence of the 26th of August 1845)

October 20, 1845 - This day Benedict and Edwards get a boat from Baltimore which cost \$19.23 with 4 oars. Freight to be added.

Nov 4, 1845 - This day finish hauling in our Pumpkins - 13 heaping oxcart loads, as much as 4 steers could haul each load - but most of them much injured by frost and not all ripe.

Nov 4, 1845 - This day also pen our fattening hogs - 14 in number and the 2 jocks make 16 to kill.

Dec 4 & 17, 1845 - These days kill all our pork - 16 in all which weighed 1846 lbs.

Jan 10, 1846 - This day purchased from Henry Kenamion a quarter (hind) of beef - 69 lbs at 40¢.

Jan 20, 1846 - This day Joseph finish netting a perch net 1½ inches in size mesh & 52½ yards in length and 127 mesh in depth.

Jan 29, 1846 - This day get from Mr. Hancock 18¼ yards twilled yam for negro mens clothes and 24½ yards plain striped do for negro girls - in all 42¾ yards

Feb 4, 1846 - This day get part of family vaccinated, myself, Maria, Amanda & Charica and Nick, Bill, Eliza and Henry.

Feb 4, 1846 - Joseph, Edward & Jane get Dr. Calistus to vaccinate them

Feb 5, 1846 - Get Dr. Calistus to vaccinate Mary and Milly, two negro girls.

Feb 7, 1846 - This day Dr. Dent vaccinates Lilly, Negro Nace and Edward vaccinated over again in same arm.

March 2, 1846 - This morning 6 o'clock find dreadful weather as I ever saw. Wind blowing a gale from N.E. and snowing vary fast & wind blowing the snow in every direction - drifts getting as high as 3 to 4 feet from about 8 o'clock change from snow to hail and rain & continue first to hail and then snowing & blowing a gale all the time till night.

March 19, 1846 - This day Letty seed a square of forward peas (9 double rows) and 3 rows of bunch do and also 4 rows of beans and 2 rows of beats.

March 19, 1846 - Joseph and Edward bring home to night (Nick and Horse) 2 bushels of as fine large white perch as I ever did see.

March 31, 1846 - This day Letty and Elizabeth go in the carriage to see her sister Sally Edelen and returned on 1 April.

April 7, 1846 - This day myself and Joseph set the shad nets and we ketch 4 vary large fine shad and get 7 eat up by the eels.

May 9, 1846 - This day get from Mr. Latimer 100 lbs Brown Sugar at 10¢ pound.

May 12, 1846 - This morning Mr. B. H. Jameson, John M. Latimer, Henry A. Hayden, Mr. Write and Alexius Lancaster go in a body to Dr. Carmmucks House and there inform him of their dissatisfaction in the manner of his keeping school and tell him plainly, should he not do better from that time, they and each of them will take their children home & not pay him a dollar, (except what they are bound for) they request and demand of him to open his school at 8 o'clock in the morning 1 hour or 1½ hours for play time and Break up school at 6 o'clock in the evening. October 12, 1846 - Joseph get his gun from Balto. - New stock and changed to a Percusion Lock which cost him \$6 and commission of 15 cents.

October 20, 1846 - This day at 8 o'clock at night our negro Eliza has a girl child born and do not get entirely releaved from danger until Wednesday evening about 2 o'clock (by an adhesion to the right side) the Dr. remaining with her all day until he releaves her.

Nov 6, 1846 - This day write an advertisement for the renting of Mrs. Elizabeth Stonestreet Land and send it by mail to be published in the Port Tobacco Times twice.

Dec 10, 1846 - This day Edward while going on a fox chase go through his Uncle Calistus's woods and hear a cutting and come on William Oliver who had cut a nice young hickory & was making a maul.

Feb 25, 1847 - This day the girls sell turkeys to a man by the name of Harris from Washington city at 62½ cents for hens and 75 a piece for the turkey cocks and 5 dungle hens at 20¢ a piece and 4 doz. eggs at 11¢ a dozen.

March 6, 1847 - This day Wm Calista Lancaster & son George take the stage from Newport for Alexandria (fine morning).

March 12, 1847 - This day we finish putting up stakes for the fence from the main road gate up to Edward Edelens Hill & Join my hedge at the head of the gully it being 117 pannels or 1170 rails & poles & 468 stakes.

Easter Sunday April 4, 1847 - This day Joseph & Edward caught in their nets about 2½ bushels of large white perch. I measured one perch the boys caught which had been laying all night out of the water and it then measured by the rule good 13 inches in length and 10 inches around the belly. It was the largest I ever saw.

April 7, 1847 - This day I meet Francis Simpson at the farm residence of Raphael Boaing Deceased & divide the negroes (12 in number) between the 3 Heirs. We first valued them agreeable in Judgement which amounted in all to \$2400 - Just \$800 a piece.

April 20, 1847 - This day Edward go to try to get some fish from Virginia. He carry with him \$11.40 in Silver, \$5 in gold (1 piece) and \$2 in paper money.

April 25, 1847 - This day Edward get home from Virginia with 4 barrels of fish for which he paid \$4 a barrel and 25¢ freight making \$4.25 per barrel. We count one barrel and find in it 544 fish.

May 25, 1847 - This day Edward get for his sister Eliz. a white robe in Port Tobacco and leave it at Mrs. Stuarts to make - cost \$4.75, he also get for his sister Jane a dress, 10 yds which cost \$3.62½ - get himself a vest at Allens fresh & pants which cost \$4.50. Same day get from Baltimore 2 Bonnets for Eliz. and Jane which cost \$12.63 & freight 60¢.

June 7, 1847 - A man by the name of Thos. E. Matthews with a yellow woman child & small boy encamp at my cool springs & remain there until Thurs. morning. He was a negro purchaser from Richmond Va (as he said) offered me for 3 girls \$1550.

Aug 29, 1847 - Sell the Pews in our church the whole amount to \$222.75. One pew cost \$12.75.

Sept 6, 1847 - This day I get from Baltimore a wheat Fan (cost 25¢) and a Bbl. of flour cost \$7 & expenses.

Sept 9, 1847 - This day first use my new Fan. We clean one bead of wheat - 31½ Bus. She cleans fast and well & turns easy.

Sept 17, 1847 - Ship by Capt. Herbert I Hhd Tobacco & 64 Bus wheat to Pike & Penn wheat sold for \$1.07½.

Oct 12, 1847 - This day buy my negroes shoes from George Latimer - pay for Naces (extra) \$1.50 Nick and Bills 1.25 each and Henrys 1.25 and the negro woman I pay 1.12½ each.

Nov 13, 1847 - This day I purchased from Doct. Lancaster Feathers to fill Bead, Boalster & 2 Pillow cases - in all 50¢.

Nov 23, 1847 - This day Elizabeth was married. We had a large company, 52 Grown Persons viz. 25 Ladys & 27 Gentlemen & 6 Boys & girls.

Friday Dec 10, 1847 - This day we finish getting in our corn from the field and get 94 Heavy cart loads, all with side boards up - Total amounted to 301 barrels.

March 29, 1848 - Joseph and Edward ketch & have brought home last night from the nets 4 Bushels vary fine perch & several rocks which they ketch above the cat hole in Allens Fresh.

March 3, 1848 Joseph and Edward caught in all 16½ bushels perch.

April 28, 1848 This day the boys planted for Letty 1131 Hills of Sweet Potatoes and 250 for themselves.

April 29, 1848 This day Joseph & Edward plant their second watermillon patch - 81 hills and some cantaloupes.

July 5, 1848 - Our daughters Clarisa, Amanda, Caroline, Maria and little son Thomas Alexius were taken with the measles - Jane has it too.

Aug 8, 1848 - This day execute my will which I had previously written at or in the church acknowledged in the presence & signed by Calistus Lancaster, Gustavous Simpson, & Benj. H. Jameson as witnesses thereto being called to the church on this day on church business & having my will wrote & in my hat was why I happened to have it executed then & there.

Oct 16, 1848 - This day all the commissioners meet on the Land of Walter Bowman deceased and were unanimous of the opinion that the land (110 acres) would not divide to advantage for the heirs (7) and the land as it stood was worth Five dollars an acre.

Nov 2, 1848 - Edward go with John M. Latimer to Baltimore on yesterday on Board the Colomba Steam Boat.

Dec 12, 1848 This day we kill the balance of our meat - Total 2660 pounds.

Dec 19, 1848 This day we find our meat which was salted on the 8th was spoilt and we carried out and buried 31 pieces hams & shoulders.

April 25, 1849 - This day we salt and put up 1½ barrels of white perch, making in all fish salted up 6 barrels perch, ¾ barrels shad, ½ barrel large cat fish.

May 28, 1849 - This day Edward get his double Barrel Gun from Baltimore, Birdshot & shot pouch which cost \$28.70.

July 18, 1849 - This day Joseph Turn his hogs in the Wheat field & Corn field next the swamp - 32 Head with sows, hogs and shoats and 24 pigs - 56 total.

Nov 12, 1849 - This day Mr. Baley get Mr. Mattingly's Thrashing machine to get his wheat out & my rye. Just fix it up and put it in to run but a few minutes before they brake several cogs out one of the wheels & have to take it home again.

Dec 14, 1849 - Killed 29 hogs which weighed 2455 lbs.

Jan 16, 1850 - We hang in the meat house to smoke a total of 204 pieces of meat.

Jan 23, 1850 - This day we shell and send to the mill 13½ Bushels new corn the first this year.

April 3, 1850 - This day the children has goslins hatched and the first goslin was set with 11 eggs and hatched and put out all 11 goslins.

May 2, 1850 - Mr. James Powers called on the Trustees with obligation for them to sign, obliging said Trustees under their hand and seal to pay unto said Powers for his services or any other Priest he might send for giving mass & performing the other dutys of minister in the congregation once a month, \$160 annually & that he be paid quarterly and the first quarterly to commence from the first day of January 1850 & payable on the first day of April and so on which will be \$40 quarterly and also to furnish or see that it is furnished food for his horse and fire wood. The said instrument was signed by Alexius Lancaster, Benj. H. Jameson, Calistus Lancaster, Francis Simpson, Benedict Simpson and Gustus Simpson

(Catholic Church at Newport - Charles County MD W.E.S.)

July 6, 1850 - This day about 12 o'clock we finish cutting & shocking our wheat & finish our harvest - but we had not finished one hour, before a gust cloud came up & gave us a severe storm of wind & rain which busts and scattered almost every shock we had, more or less which was 62 shocks, some scattered 20 yards about (wheat none tied up)

and also blew down our rye which was siting up in shocks, what was still worse blow our corn down & break off more of our best corn than I ever did see before in my life (It made me feel melancholly to look at the destruction by the wind).

Aug 3, 1850 - This day we finish prizing our tobacco crop - 11 Hhds prized.

Aug 10, 1850 - We weigh our sheep wool which has been washed & dried which was shared off 24 head of sheep. The wool weighed 72 pounds.

Aug 14, 1850 This day 29 years ago I was married.

Aug 17, 1850 This day we send for Mr. Joe Haskins thrashing meshene and get it set down. Make arrangements to thrash by getting, horses and hands together. Start to work about 7 o'clock 4 mules & 4 horses and 15 hands with Joseph & Edward.

Sept 12, 1850 - I hired of George Simpson a negro man named Lias for the year 1851 for \$60.00 (verbal contract in his store)

Sept 26, 1850 - This day vary warm and we have the severest hail I ever did see in my life. The hail stones were the largest I ever did see in my life. The hail stones were as large as partridge eggs and larger. It fell without much wind and did not destroy any of my windows but injured all my tobacco which I had out about 20,000. John W. Boarman had about 100 panes glass destroyed in his house.

Oct 12, 1850 - This day Edward and girls go on our hill in the cornfield and get 1½ pecks of chestnuts. We counted 1140 chestnuts in one peck.

Nov 20, 1850 Edward brought home from Baltimore shoes for our negroes at \$1 each - good shoes.

Jan 31, 1851 This morning clear but dreadfully cold & windy N.W. frized harder last night than any onenight last or this present winter. Our hands are cutting and mauling some rails - the boys knitting on their perch nets.

March 7, 1851 - This day cloudy and rain all day & occasionally hailing - tobacco not in order to strip. Nick mending Lettys shoes, Lias and Nace making baskets, the women spinning and washing. Old Bill tying up corn brooms, Little Bill & Boy Henry cleaning fish & getting and cutting up wood, picking wool, Edward painting the upstairs - Joseph attending to the hands and reading - myself reading the papers - Letty cutting out pants for me and drawers for Tom and attending to house affairs - Jane, Maria & Clarica sewing, making shirts, pantalons etc, Amanda winding up cotton yarn to send to the weavers, Caroline also winding yarn.

Nov 20, 1851 - Get account sales balance my tobacco crop the whole 12 Hhds made ir; 1850 & nowsold weighed only 8957 pounds which netted all around whole crop \$5.30 per hundred.

Dec 22, 1851 - B. H. Jameson came to my house and pay me \$335.29 money for my wheat & the boys and girls G. L. Tobacco. There tobacco came to \$170.00. I give the boys \$75.00 and the girls \$65 which they divide among themselves.

Jan 1, 1852 - Clear and vary cold day (New Years Day) Ice not yet out the river - It has frized the Wicomico nearly

up. Last night Mr. Jamesons scow gets mashed up by the ice.

Jan 20, 1852 - This morning clear and vary cold. Last night was coldest night we have had this winter. Water froze in tumblers I had kept by head of my bed & next to fire, not more than 2½ feet from the fire & fire was kept all night.

Jan 24, 1852 - The ground is still covered with snow and ice nearly ankle deep. The Wicomico is frozen up entirely & the Potomac as far down as Cobb Neck, if not farther. Can do nothing but get wood & hardly can cart that.

Jan 27, 1852 - This evening the carpenter set down our Prize at the new barn cost \$8.00.

Jan 27, 1852 - I hired a boy named George which I am to pay \$25 - a summer and winter suite of clothes for which I give my note payable on the first day of January 1853. I also give my note for a Horse bought by Joseph at the sale for \$45.25 payable after 6 months bearing interest from the day of sale which will make in all due Mr. Posey \$70.25 besides the interest on the horse.

Feb 6, 1852 - This day we seed our first Tobacco bed and put 184 pounds Guano on the Bed. (Turned out to be a vary good bed)

Feb 10, 1852 - Our negro woman Henny was married to Mr. Baileys Nace on last Sunday in time of Mass.

Feb 26, 1852 - This day, 20 minutes after 12 o'clock our old man Bill died.

March 30, 1852 - This day the boys ketch & bring home in oxcart 9½ Bushels vary large white perch. This makes 50 bushels as fine large white perch as I ever saw. We have put up 8 Barrels, two of which are whiskey and 6 Herring Barrels all full and repacked several times.

April 6, 1852 - This day we purchased from Colonel Merick half dozen Turkey hens which I pay 62½ cents a piece (\$3.75)

April 30, 1852 - This is the first day I put my foot out of the house for 9 weeks & this day I walked a little way in the Garden & rode to the corn field and back.

June 14, 1852 - This day dig a hole in the ground and bury a barrel perch, which is so spoiled can't be used.

June 21, 1852 - This day Bishop Kernick confirm in our church 218 persons by the tickets taken in by the priest from all as they were confirmed & afterwards counted by Jane and Edward. We had 4 priests.

Aug 24, 1852 - This day A. Lancaster & Doc Calistus Lancaster has a full settlement of all medical & all other accounts to this date. The Dr. agrees to attend my family by the year for \$25.

Sept 14, 1852 - This day we finish taking from the scaffold & fill our new barn all to about 60 sticks and have cut & now got hung on the scaffle at old barn about one thousand sticks of tobacco - vary large scaffle.

Sept 24, 1852 - We cut the tops and pulled the blades from the piece of corn on the hill next to Wm Lancasters and this time cut the tops and get the fodder from the small