



CAROL STUART WATSON

*The Bell-Dawson House, c. 1815  
home of the Montgomery County Historical Society  
103 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, Maryland*

# THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY STORY

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## HYATTSTOWN, A ROADSIDE TOWN PRESERVED

by Mary Charlotte Crook

In the last twenty years development in Montgomery County has been concentrated along major roads such as Interstate Route 270 and Routes 29 and 97. These are some of the most recent examples of the impetus to development provided by transportation arteries. A century earlier it was the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad that spurred the growth of communities such as Takoma Park, Woodside, Linden, Kensington, and Garrett Park. And a century before it was the "Great Road" from Georgetown to Frederick along which small towns sprang up to serve the traveler. One of these, on the western border of Montgomery County, is Hyattstown. The location of I-270 to the west has allowed Hyattstown to remain a well-preserved example of a self-sufficient, rural Montgomery County town unmarred by modern development.

In 1794, Jesse Hyatt, a native of Frederick County, purchased from John Bordley of Kent County, 207 acres of land, part of tracts of land known as The Principal, Hard Struggle, and Ivy Reach, lying along the Great Road (now Route 355) and bordering Frederick and Montgomery Counties.<sup>1</sup> In 1798, he laid out and offered for sale 105 lots in double rows down each side of the road from Little Bennett Creek north to the Frederick County line. Each lot had a front footage of 66 feet and a depth of 165 feet, approximately a quarter of an acre. At five-lot intervals there were side streets perpendicular to the main road, which he named, from south to north, Gay Street, First Alley, Second Alley, and Third Alley.

Jesse Hyatt was born December 14, 1763, one of fourteen children of Meshack Hyatt by his two wives. Jesse's oldest brothers were named Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego; they left Maryland for points farther west. His brother, Eli, and his sister, Lavinia, and their children were involved in the history of Hyattstown. Jesse married Ann Riggs, daughter of Captain Elisha and Caroline Welsh Riggs. They had six children: Elisha Riggs, Philip, Sarah Riggs, Jesse, Jr., Caroline Ann, and Meshack.<sup>2</sup> Jesse was a well-to-do farmer who, during his lifetime, owned a number of slaves and, at the time of his death on January 12, 1813, owned more than 1200 acres of land.

The first lots sold in Hyattstown were bought by Henry Poole. Other purchasers of lots during the next ten years were James Scott, Adam Ramsower, Frances Puster, Charles Busey, Jr., Jacob Smith, Dr. Belt Brashears, Eli Brashears, Joshua Inman, Charles Mackelfresh, Edward J. Dorsey, William Brewer, Jr., Hezekiah Ward, Lewis Tabler, William Henry, Baruch Hall, George Davis, and Christian Tabler. While Hyatt made money from the sale of his lots, his income from them did not stop with the sales. The deeds provide for the payment "forever" of an annual ground rent of five shillings per lot.<sup>3</sup> This arrangement was unusual in that the ground rents were intended to be perpetual; the typical ground rent was discontinued after a specified time period.

The town was incorporated by the State Legislature in 1809 and named Hyattstown after Jesse Hyatt. By the mid-1820's, the town had a storekeeper, a blacksmith, a carpenter, a tailor, and an innkeeper.<sup>4</sup> By 1815, the town had its own constable, Daniel Collins. Mr. Collins, a tailor, lived in a house where the Christian Church is now located. Henry Poole is believed to have built the first house in Hyattstown; it was located on the west side of the road at Gay Street. He became the town's first storekeeper. Thomas Foster was the first blacksmith. Jacob Smith, the

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1. Montgomery County Land Records, Book E, p. 628.

2. Luther W. Welsh, *Ancestral Colonial Families. Genealogy of the Welsh and Hyatt Families of Maryland and Their Kin* (Independence, MO: Lambert Moon Printing Co., 1928), pp. 106-110 and 125-126.

3. Montgomery County Land Records, Book H, pp. 73, 125, 238, 240, 274; Book L, pp. 282, 304, 389, 422; Book M, pp. 196, 532, 606, 615, 618; Book N, pp. 296, 326; Book O, pp. 51, 71, 260, 384.

4. J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland* (Baltimore, MD: Regional Publishing Company, reprinted 1968), Vol. I, p. 723.

carpenter, owned four lots on the east side of the road in the center of town, later the site of the Hyatt House Hotel. The Hyatt House Hotel was not, however, the first hotel in Hyattstown. Lewis Tabler, originally of Frederick County, operated a tavern at the south end of town. According to local legend General Andrew Jackson spent the night there on his way to Washington, D.C., for his inauguration in 1829. Whether or not this story is true, Tabler did name one of his sons Andrew Jackson Tabler. Andrew Jackson Tabler and his brothers, William Lewis, and Ezra operated the tavern at various times.<sup>5</sup> The hotel was later operated by the Price family; it was torn down many years ago.



Main Street, Looking South, Circa 1908

Jacob Tabler stands in front of the Davis house of which he was then the owner. Note how close the houses are to the road. Their closeness to the road is a striking feature of Hyattstown today.

The occupations of these early settlers not only made Hyattstown a self-sufficient community but also were geared to providing services to those who traveled the Great Road. Actually the road was great in name only. In wet weather the road was muddy and deeply rutted; in dry weather it was dusty. But as Hyattstown's Main Street the road was the life blood of the town and its window on the world. The road had been opened about 1750 to connect the port of Georgetown with Frederick and points west.

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5. T.J.C. Williams and Folger McKinsey, *History of Frederick County* (Hagerstown, MD: L.R. Titsworth & Co., 1910), Vol. 2, p. 1539.

General Edward Braddock's troops followed this early Indian trail in April 1755 to their disastrous defeat at Fort Duquesne in the French and Indian Wars. George Washington traveled it a number of times. The road carried fresh troops and supplies from the west during the American Revolution and served Federal forces sent to put down the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania in 1794. It became even more significant as a link to the federally funded National Road which was pushed from Cumberland to the Ohio in 1818 and later to St. Louis.<sup>6</sup> This activity coincided with the turnpike era in Montgomery County. The Washington Turnpike Company, incorporated in 1805, received the first road charter in the county. The company was to improve the old George Town-Frederick Town Road from the District Line through Rockville and Clarksburg. However, a movement began to move the road east, through Brookeville and New Market, rather than Clarksburg. Hyattstown and Urbana politicians, businessmen, and residents were furious. Newspaper editors fumed at the folly of having the route veer off eight or ten miles from its rugged, but straight, course. Eventually Congress decided to stay with the old route, but the improvements to it were again stalled after President Jackson vetoed several turnpike bills. The road became impassable in some seasons; mail was delayed and stagecoach accidents occurred.<sup>7</sup> The road was not paved until 1925; this was apparently the last major work done on the old Great Road.

During the Civil War troops of both the Union and Confederate Armies moved along the Great Road. Union regiments of General Nathaniel Banks' division were camped at Hyattstown as early as August 1861, before moving east to set up more permanent camps in the Darnestown area. In September 1862, during the Antietam campaign, Confederate General Wade Hampton's brigade of Jeb Stuart's cavalry set up outposts in Hyattstown as part of the cavalry screen stretching from Poolesville to New Market. Union cavalry, probing for General Lee's Army, first encountered pickets in or near Hyattstown, causing a short intermission at a dance Jeb Stuart was holding in Urbana; his troops temporarily abandoned the dance floor to reinforce the picket post and beat back the Union cavalry. After Stuart's withdrawal to Frederick, Union General Sumner's II Corps, Army of the Potomac, passed through Hyattstown on September 11 and 12 en route to the Battles of South Mountain and Antietam. Stuart's forces were once again in Hyattstown on October 12, 1862, on the final day of his second ride around the Union Army. At daylight, Stuart's main column passed through from Monrovia, heading for Barnesville. Confederates were again in Hyattstown on July 10, 1864, after the Battle of Monocacy, when General Jubal Early's troops moved through rapidly on their way to Washington, D.C. On July 27, after Early's return to Virginia, the headquarters of the VI and XIX Corps, Army of the Potomac, were in the town as these forces moved to the Harper's Ferry area.<sup>8</sup>

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6. "Hyattstown Walking Trail," pamphlet published by Sugarloaf Regional Trails, 1978.

7. Ray Eldon Hiebert and Richard K. MacMaster, *A Grateful Remembrance, the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland* (Rockville, MD: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976), pp. 106-107.

8. Charles T. Jacobs, *Civil War Guide to Montgomery County, Maryland* (Rockville, MD: Montgomery County Historical Society and Montgomery County Civil War Round Table, 1983), pp. 14-15.

The last "army" to pass through town was Coxey's Army, a band of disgruntled, unemployed men who marched on Washington, D.C., led by Jacob S. Coxey, a self-made business man. The march advocated the need for economic reform, especially good roads! On April 26, 1894, the town turned out to receive the visitors; a carnival atmosphere prevailed. Some of the travelers were provided meals and lodging, while the rest camped along Little Bennett Creek.

In fact, the road provided constant entertainment as gypsies, drovers with their herds and flocks, and occasionally celebrities made their way through town. General Lafayette is said to have passed by in 1824, and Presidents Elect Andrew Jackson in 1829 and James K. Polk in 1845. More recent presidents, such as Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman, traveled through Hyattstown on their way to the presidential retreat at Camp David.

Hyattstown's economy was not based on serving the traveler only. The town had industrial operations as well as the surrounding farms. A mill owned by William Richards was operating south of the town along Hyattstown Mill Road before the town itself was laid out. Abraham Tabler, son of Lewis Tabler, operated a grist and saw mill on the site in the 1860's. George A. Darby was the miller in 1879 when he listed himself as a dealer in flour, meal, buckwheat flour, feed and grain of all kinds and lumber.<sup>9</sup> The Darby's were among the last owners of the mill. Today the miller's house and a mill building still stand. The mill building, enclosed in metal siding, replaced an earlier structure that burned down in 1918. The building is in a good state of repair, but none of the machinery remains. The miller's house, which predates the mill building, has a white clapboard exterior although a small section of it, with a huge fireplace chimney, may be of log construction. These buildings are now owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission as part of Little Bennett Regional Park.

On the site of the present Fire Department was another of Hyattstown's industrial enterprises, a tannery founded by Lewis Tabler about 1825. Tanning, like milling, was based on local natural resources - in this case, oak bark from nearby forests and hides from upland herds. Continued by two of his sons, William and Abraham, it operated until shortly after Abraham's death in 1868. The tannery consisted of 18 vats, a bark shed, fleshing sheds, an engine house, and other buildings. Water for the operation came from a dam located about a mile up Little Bennett Creek and flowed to the tannery through a canal. Although none of these structures exists today, the canal is relatively intact and clearly visible.<sup>10</sup>

A modern dairy barn across the street from the Fire Department marks the site of an earlier creamery owned and operated around 1900 by W.W. Price. Here cream was separated from the whole milk and then shipped to Baltimore.

Community life in Hyattstown was undoubtedly centered around the churches. One of the earliest buildings in Hyattstown was the Methodist Church. On March 6, 1804,

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9. G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Montgomery, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA, 1879, reprinted by Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975), p. 28.

10. "Hyattstown Walking Trail," *op.cit.*

Eli Hyatt (brother of Jesse) and his wife, Mary Ann, sold one-half acre of land to Charles Mackelfresh, John H. Smith, Joseph Benton, Samuel Hobbs, and Basil Soaper, trustees, with the provision "that they shall erect and build ... thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist episcopal church."<sup>11</sup> The original log structure erected on this site was destroyed by fire in 1852. Four years later, in June 1856, the cornerstone was laid for a new church on the same site. The masonry and stucco building, built by John Gardner, was dedicated in 1857 and is still in use by the Methodists today. North and east of the church is a cemetery; the oldest marked grave is that of Mary Hyatt who died in 1859.

While the Methodist community is united today, for a long period of time there were two Methodist churches in Hyattstown. The Methodist General Conference had split over the question of slavery into north and south branches as early as 1844, but the church in Hyattstown did not split until after the Civil War. On October 24, 1874, Jacob L. Tabler and his wife, Mary, granted to John Lewis, Charles Harding, E.E. Gardner, Edward Lewis, F.L. Windsor and Warner W. Welsh, as a board of trustees, a lot almost directly across the road from the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, "to be used, kept, maintained and disposed of, as a place of divine worship, for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South...<sup>12</sup> The cornerstone of the new church was laid in 1875, and the frame Gothic Revival building was completed shortly thereafter.

The Methodist churches of Hyattstown were reunited in 1939. The united congregation appropriately chose to use the pre-separation house of worship. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, building was sold in 1952 to Frances Maher<sup>13</sup> and has been privately owned since then. At present the building houses the Maryland Gun Works.

The Hyattstown Christian Church was established in 1840. The church was closely connected with the Hyatt family. Among the founders were Lavinia Hyatt Wolfe, sister of Jesse; her children, William Richards, Jr., Eli Wolfe, and Sarah Ann Price; and Jesse's daughter, Sarah Hyatt. The congregation met in the homes of members until a church was built in 1845. The original church building, a log meeting house, was located on the east side of the road, south of Little Bennett Creek. A cemetery, still in use, marks the site today.

In 1870 a lot in the center of town on the west side of Main Street was donated to the church by Jacob B. Thomas, Elder of the Christian Church of Baltimore, and his wife, Elizabeth Ann Norwood, granddaughter of Eli Hyatt. A new two-story frame church built on the site was dedicated on August 20, 1871. At that time Levi C. Zeigler, great grandson of Eli Hyatt, was elected elder and Thomas Price, P.C. Dutrow, C. Harrison, and Luther Norwood, nephew of the donors of the land, were elected deacons. In 1920 two lots adjoining the church property were deeded to the Christian Church by Mr. and Mrs. Bradley H. Dudrow<sup>14</sup> and used as the site of a new parsonage. In 1955, an

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11. Montgomery County Land Records, Book L, pp. 419-420.

12. *Ibid.*, Book EBP 13, pp. 48-49.

13. *Ibid.*, Book 1637, p. 169.

14. Montgomery County Land Records, Book 298, pp. 249-250.

addition was constructed at the rear of the church to house the nursery and meeting and recreational rooms.

The original log Methodist Church served as the first school in Hyattstown with Samuel Soper as the first teacher. In the 1830's a one-room frame schoolhouse was built on a small plot about 250 feet east of Route 355. Because it was located on a low, marshy piece of ground, it was familiarly known as "Swamp College." The school was attended by 60 to 70 pupils in grades one through eight. One of the last teachers, Miss Mary Miller, became famous for organizing evening entertainments, held in the school room by the light of coal-oil lamps, that attracted people from as far away as Frederick. After a half century of service "Swamp College" was finally abandoned; nothing of it remains. It was succeeded by another one-room schoolhouse located on the opposite side of Route 355 up Second Alley. This school, built about 1880, started with two teachers; during most of the period it was in use it housed grades one through seven. Abandoned as a school, it was auctioned in 1947 and is now a private residence.<sup>15</sup> Today the children of Hyattstown are bussed to school in Clarksburg.

There was also a Methodist church for the blacks living in the Hyattstown area. The church, called Montgomery Chapel, was founded in the 1870's. The congregation met in a one-room frame building located on land given to the church by George Butler and his wife, Martha, in 1884.<sup>16</sup> It is believed that the building had belonged to another church and was moved to Butler's property on the east side of Route 355 about a mile south of Hyattstown. The church ceased operations in 1964;<sup>17</sup> the building, which had been vandalized, has recently been demolished. For some of the period from the mid-1880's until 1936, this church was used as a school for black children. School-board records indicate that there was little stability for the Hyattstown colored school. State law required that attendance be not less than 15 scholars. The Hyattstown school was apparently closed repeatedly because the average attendance was too low.<sup>18</sup>

By 1879, the population of Hyattstown had reached 150. This growth in population was accompanied by a growth in commercial enterprises. There were two blacksmiths, Jacob W. and O.W. Dutrow.<sup>19</sup> Jacob Dutrow's shop was located at the intersection of Route 109 and 355 and flourished during the period 1870-1900. O. William Dutrow's blacksmith shop was located on the opposite side of Route 355 at the opposite end of town.

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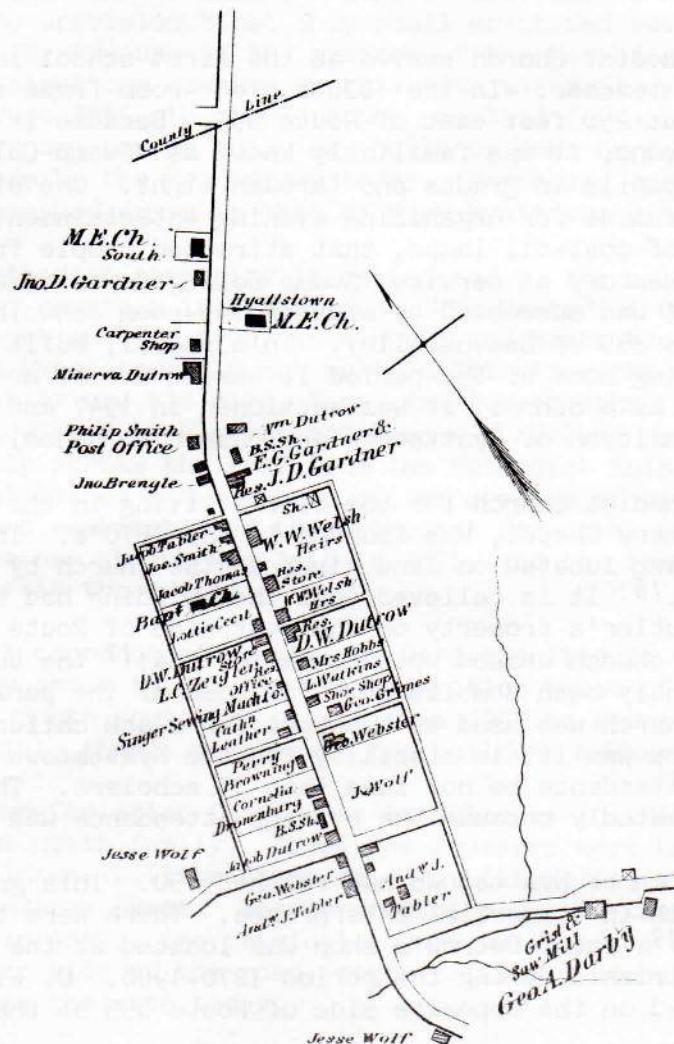
15. "Hyattstown Walking Trail," *op.cit.*

16. Montgomery County Land Records, Book EBP 33, p. 407.

17. George W. McDaniel, *Black Historical Resources in Upper Western Montgomery County* (Sugarloaf Regional Trails, July 1979), p. 87.

18. Nina H. Clarke and Lillian B. Brown, *History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1872-1961* (New York, NY: Vantage Press, Inc., 1978), pp. 1, 2, 15, 35, 37-38.

19. The Dutrow family was one of the German families who settled in the Frederick area. The name has been spelled in various ways including Dutran, Dutrow, Dudrow, Dutterer, and Dotterer. The spellings used herein are taken from the source documents.



Map of Hyattstown Taken from Hopkins' Atlas of 1879

Across the road from William Dutrow's shop was the home of John Brengle, a carriage and buggy maker.<sup>20</sup> Brengle's house, which he bought in 1864, was one of the oldest in Hyattstown. The original house was a log cabin built in the early 1800's by Dr. Belt Brashear and Eli Brashear. It had been enlarged upward and to the rear before it was purchased by Brengle. German siding and other trim were added during the Victorian period by Brengle, who was also a painter and decorator. This house, later occupied by the Burdette family, is still standing today. In 1879, John Burdette was a dealer in saddles and harnesses. It is interesting to note that the Burdettes of today own the automobile dealership in Hyattstown.

20. T.H.S. Boyd, *The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, from Its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879* (Baltimore, MD: Regional Publishing Co., reprinted 1968), p. 132.

George Grimes was the shoemaker. He lived in a brick house on the east side of Route 355 north of First Alley; this house has been torn down. His shoe shop was in a separate building next to his house. Across the road was the tailor's shop, operated in the 1860's and 1870's by William Davis. Davis rented the small, two-story frame building (now sheathed with aluminum siding) from the Leather family. It must have been convenient for Davis to have Levi Zeigler as a neighbor, Zeigler demonstrated and sold sewing machines for the Singer Sewing Machine Company in the 1870's and 1880's. The Singer Company was the first to offer installment buying to its customers.<sup>21</sup>

The town had several carpenters. John Gardner, who built the Methodist church, lived across the road from the church in one of Hyattstown's early houses. The house, built partly of logs, has a large fireplace chimney. His son, Edward Grafton Gardner, acquired a house on the east side of the road in 1862 which he remodeled extensively. He too was a builder. Other carpenters of the period were P.C. Dutrow and J.R. Smith.<sup>22</sup> As was common during this period, the carpenters were manufacturers of coffins, hence the town's undertakers.

The merchants of 1879 were D.W. Dutrow and Wellington Welsh. D.W. Dutrow lived on the east side of the road just south of Second Alley. His store, which burned down some years ago, was across the road from his house. Dutrow was a "dealer in millinery and fancy goods, dry goods, groceries, hardware, boots and shoes, etc."<sup>23</sup>



Dudrow's Store, Circa 1900

21. "Hyattstown Walking Trail," *op.cit.*

22. Boyd, *op.cit.*

23. Hopkins, *op.cit.*

In the block just north of Dutrow's residence were the store and residence of Warner Wellington Welsh. The Welshes lived in a nineteenth-century frame house and operated a store in the old Hyatt Hotel building next door. These lots were originally purchased by Jacob Smith in two separate transactions in 1804 and 1807.<sup>24</sup> In 1816, the lots were sold to Henry Ramsower, Sr., of Frederick County,<sup>25</sup> for \$900, a price which would indicate that substantial improvements had been made. Two years later Ramsower sold the property to Levi Phillips,<sup>26</sup> a veteran of the War of 1812 and a hotel proprietor. At his death in 1844, the property was inherited by his daughter, Mary Ann, who had married Jesse Hyatt's nephew, Asa Hyatt. Asa and Mary Ann moved Phillips hotel into the Hyatt House. When Mary Ann Phillips Hyatt died in 1859, the house went to Warner Welsh, the husband of deceased daughter, Mary Ann. He converted the building into a store and dwelling. His eldest sons, William Wallace Welsh and later Warner Wellington Welsh, continued to operate the store until 1890. Since that time the rambling, weather-beaten house has been the home of the Bowman and later the Price families.



Hyatt House as a Residence, Formerly Hotel and Store

24. Montgomery County Land Records, Book L, p. 282 and Book N, p. 326.  
25. *Ibid.*, Book T, p. 43.  
26. *Ibid.*, Book U, p. 158.  
216.

There are two old brick houses in Hyattstown, located on the west side of Route 355 toward the north end of town. The older of these is the Davis house, perhaps the most handsome building in Hyattstown. Constructed about 1815 by George Davis, a wealthy merchant, the Davis house is one of the finest examples of Federal architecture in the outer county. Abandoned for many years and threatened by neglect, the old house with its Flemish bond brickwork in front, brick dentil cornices and flush fireplace chimneys at each end has found new friends in a citizens' organization known as the Friends of Historic Hyattstown, Inc. With the aid of a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust, restoration of the house has begun. Davis sold the house in 1815 to Daniel Collins, the tailor and the town's first constable, who immediately sold it (and another lot) to Joseph Anderson, a blacksmith.<sup>27</sup> From 1850 to 1868, the Davis house changed ownership several times. During the Civil War, the house was owned and lived in by Nicholas Worthington, his wife and young daughter. Confederate soldiers, in September 1862, commandeered supplies from Worthington, then a wealthy merchant. After the Civil War, Levi Price purchased the house.<sup>28</sup> Price was later to own and operate Price's Distillery on the road outside town that now bears his name. In 1868, Price sold the house to Jacob L. Tabler<sup>29</sup> whose family occupied the house until about 1910. According to local legend Jake Tabler was so proud of his participation in the Civil War as a Union Army captain and a veteran of the Battle of Gettysburg that he dressed in his Army uniform on all special occasions; see the photograph on page 3. In the early twentieth century, Nellie Burdette owned and lived in the house. When travelers inquired for lodging they were referred to "Miss Nellie." It was said that, if you gave her one-hour's notice, she could catch, kill, and prepare a chicken for your dinner.

The other brick house, a few doors to the north, is a Federal-style house built about 1840 by Philemon M. Smith, Sr., who served as postmaster from 1849 to 1853. The brick wing on the south end of the house was used as an office for three different physicians. The house for many years belonged to the Darby family.

Doctors who are known to have practiced in Hyattstown in the nineteenth century were N. Joshua Hatcher (1810-?), Asa Hamilton Zeigler (1839-1882), and Alexander L. Ransone (1847-1899). Dr. Joshua Hatcher was born in Virginia; in 1860 he was living with John T. Fletchall in the Poolesville area.<sup>30</sup> In 1862, he married Sarah Riggs Hyatt, daughter of Jesse Hyatt, who was then 65 years old. They were living in Hyattstown in 1865.<sup>31</sup> Asa Hamilton Zeigler was the son of David A. Zeigler and his wife, Eleanor Ann Hyatt, daughter of Asa Hyatt and grandniece of Jesse Hyatt. David Zeigler was a farmer and saw-mill operator living south of Hyattstown. Levi Zeigler, elder of the Christian Church and sewing-machine salesman, was his eldest son. Asa Hamilton Zeigler married Arra Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Philemon Smith, the postmaster. Alexander Ransone was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and served as a cavalryman in the Confederate Army. After the Civil War, he practiced medicine in Baltimore for

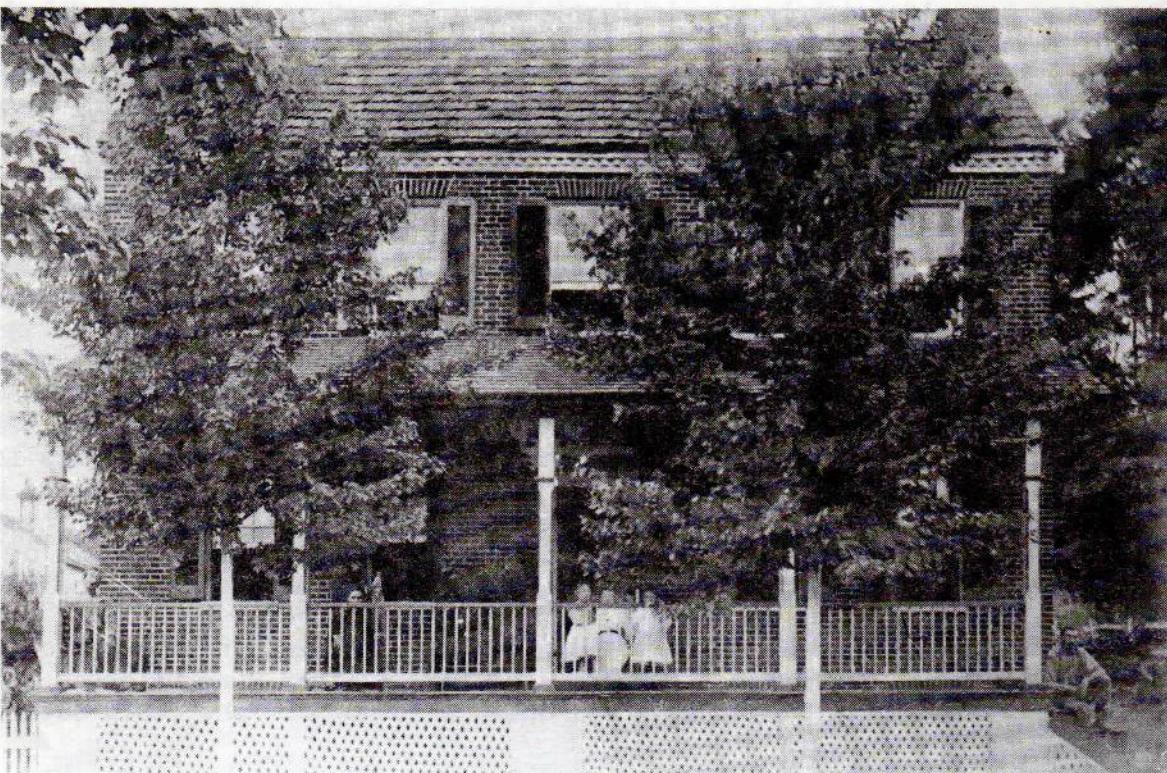
27. *Ibid.*, Book S19, pp. 197 and 198.

28. *Ibid.*, Book EBP 2, p. 589.

29. *Ibid.*, Book EBP 5, p. 86.

30. United States Census, 1860.

31. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1865.



The Davis House in Good Times



The Davis House in Recent Years

several years. He then practiced in Mount Airy and later moved to Hyattstown.<sup>32</sup>

Perusal of old newspapers gives us a glimpse of the recreational activities of the hardworking townspeople. As early as 1860, the town had its own band, which advertised in the *Sentinel*:<sup>33</sup>

"HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE"

The Hyattstown Brass Band

This band being composed of young men, principally mechanics, who have been at an expense of nearly \$1,000 (each having an equal interest, and that at his own expense) for the benefit of our county, are now competent to fulfil any engagement they may be called for, with the

LATEST CHOICE MUSIC - such as -

QUICK STEPS,

POLKAS, WALTZES,

GALLOPS, REELS,

FUNERAL MARCHES, &c.

We trust that the citizens, when they have a call for music, will, as honor due, give us a favorable consideration. Our motto is - *Not to be excelled by any Band in the county.*

U.M. Layton, Leader;  
C.T. Anderson, Director;  
J.C.D. Harriss, Sec'y;  
J.H. Tabler, Treasurer.

Mountain View Park, just to the north of town, was a popular spot for jousting tournaments, church picnics, band concerts, speeches, ball games, and other diversions. A letter in the *Sentinel* reports on the jousting tournament held on July 4, 1872: "At an early hour in the morning the beauty of the village was astir ... and anon the roads were seen filled in all directions with vehicles bringing in their precious freight, to view the manly sport and by their presence give encouragement to the brave Knights there assembled, to thrust a lance in defence of female honor and virtue."<sup>34</sup> Successful knights were awarded the honor of crowning the Queen of Love and Beauty.

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32. *Montgomery County Sentinel*, October 13, 1899.

33. *Ibid.*, April 20, 1986

34. *Ibid.*, July 12, 1872.

Mountain View Park is now owned by the Fire Department and is still in use. The Hyattstown Volunteer Fire Department, organized May 2, 1929, occupies a large brick building, built in 1942, at the south end of town. Unlike the old days when Hyattstown businesses were scattered throughout the town, today's few businesses (an auto body shop and one commercial building) are located adjacent to the Fire Department.

Today Hyattstown still appears architecturally cohesive; there are no architectural intrusions into the feeling of time and place created by the homes close beside the tree-lined Main Street. The lots and alleys are still situated just as they were laid out more than 180 years ago, although some of the alleys are not clearly distinguishable. The through traffic that once swarmed along the Great Road has been siphoned off since the 1958 completion of parallel Interstate 270, half a mile to the west. The town's economy is still geared to the needs of highway users as well as the nearby farm community, while churches and the Fire Department remain centers for community social events. The town of Hyattstown has very recently been officially recognized as an Historic District, an action which should help to safeguard this well-preserved example of a small roadside town.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Story is based on research done by a great many people. Special thanks are due Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, for his encouragement and guidance as well as for his own research and for making available the photographs which appear herein. Other prime sources were the research, primarily on the buildings and industries, done by Sugarloaf Regional Trails and the Friends of Hyattstown, Inc., some of which was printed in the pamphlet "Hyattstown Walking Trail," written by David Kiefer and sponsored by the Montgomery County Planning Board. The information on the doctors of Hyattstown was provided by Marian Waters Jacobs. Genealogical information was taken from Luther W. Welsh's book on the Welsh and Hyatt families; see Footnote 2.