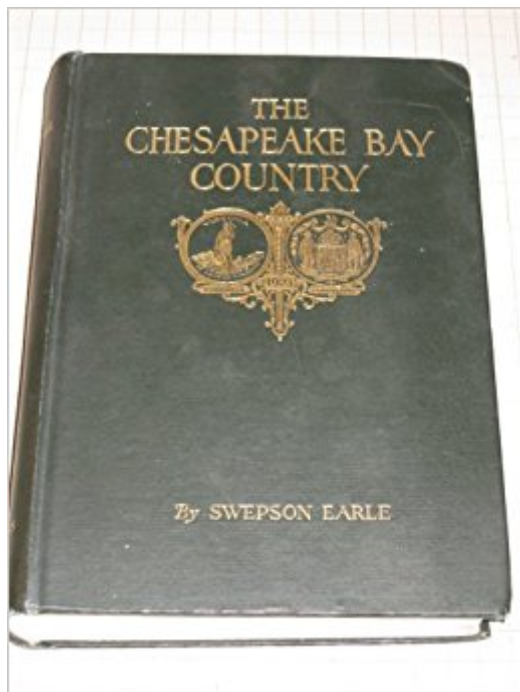


The book was found

The Chesapeake Bay Country,



Synopsis

The Chesapeake Bay region is littered with historical relics dating from the 1607 Jamestown settlement through the American Revolution and the Civil War. This author's knowledge of Bay area history is astonishing and his photographs of its notable features are extraordinary; had it not been for Earle's skill with the camera, some of these historical places would have been lost to history. The shoreline of Chesapeake Bay covers between four and five thousand miles and an effort has been made to treat each of the counties touched by it. The country falls into five sections, designated as follows: Western Tidewater Virginia, Upper Bay Counties, Southern Maryland, Eastern Shore of Maryland, and Eastern Shore of Virginia. Each of these five divisions has a separate history. Dozens of wonderful old homes and estates are photographed and documented here, complete with the histories of those places and the people who lived there. From the earliest settlements in Jamestown and Williamsburg in Virginia, to St. Mary's and Annapolis in Maryland, not a road or a river is left unexplored by this book. Approximately 250 illustrations bring out the charm and beauty of historic Chesapeake Bay. A comprehensive index of names and locations, and, maps of Chesapeake Bay and St. Mary's City add to the value of this work. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Hardcover: 510 pages

Publisher: Thomsen-Ellis company (1923)

Language: English

ASIN: B00086AT1Y

Package Dimensions: 10 x 7.2 x 2 inches

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,403,303 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in [Books > Travel > United States > Virginia > General](#)

Customer Reviews

Long considered "the classic" volume on the Chesapeake Bay country. Now the famous figures live again: Captain John Smith, known to every school child as the man rescued by Pocahontas, who said of the Eastern Shore of Virginia: "Heaven and earth seemed never to have agreed better to have framed a place for man's habitation," and whose explorations were such an integral part of the history of the region; Francis Scott Key, who was inspired to write "The Star-Spangled Banner" aboard a British ship which was bombarding Fort McHenry; signers of the Declaration of

Independence. But if the reader is given new insights into familiar personalities and their exploits, he is also made privy to tales concerning lesser known persons and places which are no less interesting. Many of these, described in brief, could well be the nuclei of whole novels. There is, for example, the tale of Col. George Talbot of St. Mary's County, a member of the Council, who had an altercation with the King's Collector-General and fatally stabbed him. Fearful that he could not receive a fair trial in Maryland, he had a change of venue made to Virginia, then subsequently received permission to go to England. But by that time he had already fled the environs. Legend has it that he found a haven in a distant manor in Cecil County, took refuge in a cave, and was fed by two trained hawks who brought him wild fowl from the river to serve as sustenance. Or there is the story of Tulip Hill in Anne Arundel County, an outstanding example of colonial architecture at its best. Sometimes known as the "Old Galloway Place,". When it was being built Mrs. Galloway was an invalid, and the staircase was therefore constructed with exceptionally easy rises. It is reported that one of the Galloway sons returned from the capital one night in such high spirits after an evening of revelry that he rode his horse straight up to his room. Which may explain the print of a rough-shod horse's hooves on the stairs, which one can discern if one looks closely. What material for a romantic historical novel in the section on the "Taney Place", the birthplace of Chief Justice Roger Taney and the site of a duel between Miles Taney and John Magruder, both of whom were smitten by the same beautiful Baltimore belle. During the course of a festive dinner Taney made a remark about the lady which angered Magruder to such a point that the latter, undoubtedly encouraged by a generous consumption of wine, slapped his rival's face. Whereupon Taney drew his pocket knife and stabbed Margruder through the heart. Then, aided by his slaves and the darkness of the night, he escaped through a secret passage and made his way out of the state. How Hope House was sold for a case of spirits, how Bowie Racetrack got its name, why early colonists burned down plantation houses to secure the nails used in building them - these are but a few of the nuggets to be found in this historical treasure chest. And the copious photographs of boats, landscapes, the exteriors and interiors of houses, persons and college campuses add visual enchantment to the text while reminding Americans of richness of their artistic and historical heritage.

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