



First Bank & Trust Company

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A newspaper clipping of no known origin or date:

RAMBLE IN HENNIKER

Editor, the Cabinet:

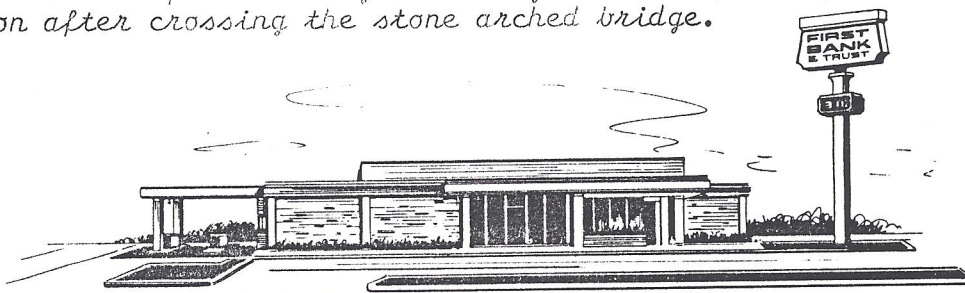
A recent ramble about Henniker brought to my attention an interesting memento of "Ocean Born Mary" I had never heard of, nor seen in print. As Mary and her husband, James Wallace, were ancestors of Judge Robert Moore Wallace, many years attorney at Milford, and Chief Justice of the Superior Court of New Hampshire, this may likewise be of interest to Cabinet readers.

Among the many curios of the past that are exhibited at the Cogswell Memorial and public library at Henniker is a piece of the web of silk given to Mary's mother, Elizabeth Wilson, by the pirate chief that her babe, when married, should have as a wedding gown. This, although somewhat turned to a lighter gray, plainly shows it was of an elegant and rich green brocaded silk with a delicate white stripe.

The familiar tradition is that Elizabeth and James Wilson, were members of a party of emigrants in 1720 who came to America from Londonderry, Ireland. In mid-ocean a daughter was born to the young wife and about the same time the ship was boarded by pirates. Their captain seeing the new born child, asked to name it Mary. The ship was permitted to continue and mother and little daughter were given presents of jewels and the silk web for the future wedding gown. After arrival at Boston the father died, and the widow settled at Londonderry, this state. New Hampshire She later married James Clark, ancestor of Horace Greeley. The daughter Mary, after marriage to James Wallace, settled in the southeast part of Henniker. A later homestead built about 1780 still stands. This is now occupied by a well known artist-photographer.

A visit here is worth while, but some off of the highway of auto travel. I took the road over the western shoulder of Craney Hill. It was up, up a long half-mile hill, but the view repaid because from an old burial ground, the first of the town, one gets a charming view of Henniker, the only place of that name in the world. Beyond to the north and west are the Mink Hills of Warner and the Knights in Bradford. In this burial yard are the graves of many early settlers, including those of the Wallace family. "Ocean Born Mary", however, is buried in the first village cemetery. That is back of the school and common after crossing the stone arched bridge.

(cont'd)



Midway of the main path and the first to the right is the old slab. A marker places the spot. Mary lived to be 94, and died in 1814. She is said to have been tall, but graceful, was of resolute manner and had a rich brogue of wit and sometimes sarcasm.

After leaving the old cemetery atop of the hill, it is some three and a half miles to the early home of Mary. One can keep to the left by the old Quaker meeting house and burial place near North Weare, and thus return on the highway.

CHARLES B. HEAD.