

## Early history of Southern Franklin Township

Until 1767 the land south of Stricklersville rd was claimed by both the Penn and Calvert families

Around 1632 Sir George Calvert received royal charter from King James I which is now known as Maryland. This granted him the title of Baron Baltimore. He died before the charter was sealed leaving the land to his son Cecilius. Between 1632 and 1776 the title was handed down to 6 generations of Calverts.

In 1681 William Penn received a great deal of land (Pennsylvania and Delaware) from King Charles II to satisfy a debt that the King owed to Penn's father. In 1718 William died and his son Thomas inherited the land.

There was a dispute over the border between Maryland and Pennsylvania as both of the land charters overlapped.

The Calvert family encouraged settlement of their lands and solicited colonists to come and settle in the new world. In 1676, a Scotch Irish family by the name of Alexander came from Donegal, Ireland. They had immigrated to Ireland from Sterling Scotland around 1613. They were Presbyterian.

Around 1676, 7 Alexander brothers and 2 sisters came to this area. Some settled in Cecil County others further south in Somerset, Pocomoke and in Virginia. They were farmers, weavers, tanner and blacksmiths.

Several these siblings and their families settled in this area. They received a 2000 acre land grant which is now part of Fairhill in 1717 and 1718. These land grants included the land in Franklin from the Maryland border to Stricklersville road to Tweeds mill on the Big Elk Creek.

This would start a 50 year dispute and long process over who owned this piece of land. A petition was signed by the Alexander's in 1722 attesting to the fact that they believed this land was in Maryland. Ten years later an agreement was signed by Lord Baltimore to accept a still undefined but a designated border. The sides were still drawn and the dispute was finally settled with the Mason-Dixon survey in 1767. By this time all the original 7 Alexander brothers and 2 sisters had passed away. They never learned the outcome of this disagreement.

The Alexander family was a hardy family and had many children. Soon there was not enough land for all of them to continue to live here and through the years the family expanded to Tennessee, North Carolina and up the Susquehanna River to York and other surrounding areas. However, many of our many generation township residents' ancestors more than likely were an Alexander.

Alexander family members were the founders of both Head of the Christiana Presbyterian Church on RT 273 in Delaware and the Rock Church on RT 273 in Maryland. Many of them are buried there.