

Men of Mark in Maryland

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Biographies of Leading Men
of the State

VOLUME IV

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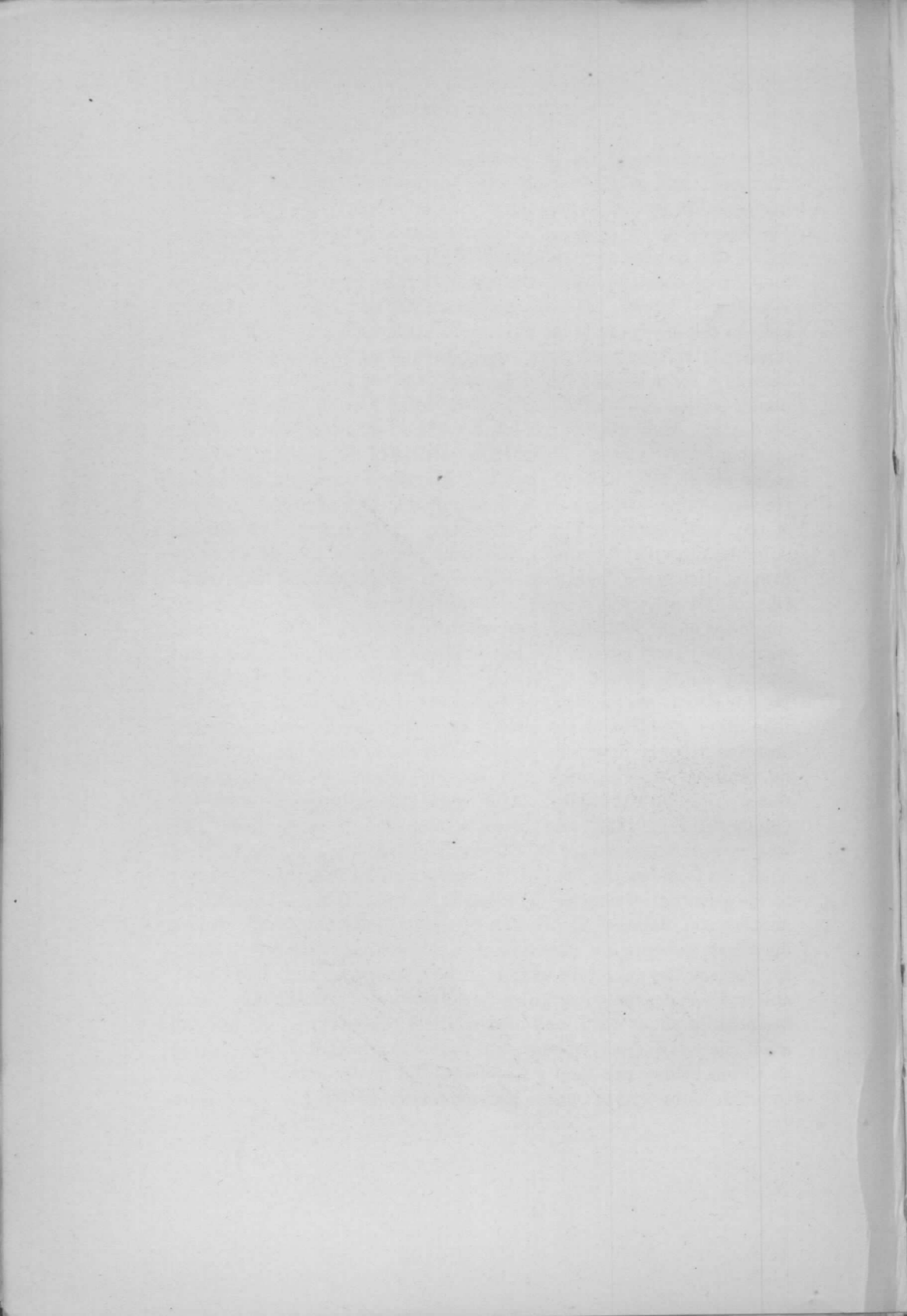
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T. HERBERT SHRIVER

THE counties of Carroll, Frederick and Washington, which form the eastern extremity of what is commonly known as Western Maryland, have been for generations the nursery from which has come forth a great multitude of the best citizens, not only of Maryland, but of other States of the Union. The three counties mentioned formed a sort of apex to which converged a number of racial lines. From the North and from the old country direct came the German; from Eastern and Southern Maryland came the Englishman and the Irishman; from Pennsylvania and also direct from the old country came a little sprinkle of Scotchmen and Scotch-Irishmen. Out of this crucible of the nations has come a citizenship equal to that of any section of our country. Perhaps the strongest element in this mixing-up of divers peoples was the German—in Frederick, where it was the most numerous, and in Carroll and Washington, where it was strong. One of the strongest of these German families is that family which we now know as Shriver. This was not the original German name. In the second volume of George Norbury Mackenzie's *Colonial Families*, there appears a history of this family from which it is shown that the original name was Schreiber, that this family can trace its family history back to the year 1206; and that it was of noble lineage in Germany is proven by the fact that in that year Heinrich Schreiber was spoken of as a knight of noble lineage. The Maryland family derives its descent in an unbroken line from Lorenz and Margarete Schreiber, both of whom died in 1684, and were natives of Abzenborn, Electorate Palatine, Oberamt Lautern, Germany. Within the next one hundred years after the death of Lorenz Schreiber, the name went through an evolution, and was Americanized into Shriver. It has been identified with Carroll County for one hundred and fifty years at least, for we know that David Shriver, senior, settled in Carroll County prior to 1769, in which year his son, David Shriver, junior, was born. The number of strong men descended from David Shriver, senior, has been so great, that it is worth while to stop for a moment



Yours Truly
T. H. Shriver



and consider them. David, junior, lived until 1852; he married Eva Sherman; and in partnership with his brother, Andrew, began his business life by an improvement of the property at Union Mills. David gave up his business to become a road builder as superintendent of the Reistertown turnpike. He then became in 1806, superintendent of construction of the national road from Cumberland to Wheeling, Virginia. He was a strong man and ready to take any risks in the discharge of his duty. He made the surveys for the extension of the national road from Wheeling to St. Louis, Missouri; became a commissioner of public works for the federal government; finally settled in Cumberland and served as a bank president until his death. Abraham Shriver, brother of David, junior, was a farmer, merchant and lawyer. From 1805 until 1843, he was an associate judge of the fifth judicial circuit of Maryland—nearly forty years. He was a blunt, strong man, with an inherent love of justice, and one of the founders of the Democratic party in the nation. One of his daughters married Charles A. Gambrill, founder of the great milling firm of Baltimore known as Charles A. Gambrill and Company. One of his sons was General Edward Shriver, lawyer and strong supporter of the federal government during the war, which he served with ability, and later in the public life of the State filled many important public positions. Going back a little to Andrew, son of David, senior, we find that he had a son, Captain Thomas Shriver. Like other members of the family, he had strong mechanical tastes, and was actively interested in his earlier years in milling. In 1826, he removed to Frederick and became interested in introducing water works into that city. After some other changes, he settled in Cumberland in 1834, and became interested in stage lines. He was several times mayor of Cumberland. Moving finally to New York, he founded the firm of T. Shriver and Company. He lived to the great age of ninety. Politically, he was a Whig. Andrew had another son, James. James also became a builder of public works, his efforts being in the direction of canal building. He put in faithful work on the mountain section of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and was serving the government in the service of the Wabash Canal in Indiana, about 1826, and died while in that service. James had a son, Samuel Shriver, who for some time was principal of the academy at Union Mills; was then a merchant, and finally entered the Presbyterian ministry, in which the remainder of his life was spent.

Andrew had another son, Joseph. He assisted his brother James on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal; worked on the national road west of Cleveland, and became official chief engineer. Subsequently he was interested in the surveys of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; became interested in banking in Cumberland, in 1833, and resuscitated a broken-down bank, which he managed with distinguished ability. Originally a Whig, in later life he became a Republican. Joseph had a son, Robert, who succeeded his father in the presidency of the bank in Cumberland, which was originally established in 1811, under the title of the Cumberland Bank; reorganized in 1833, and in 1864 became the First National. These are merely a few of the more prominent members of the Shriver family of Union Mills. In the present generation the family is represented among others, by Thomas Herbert Shriver, whose residence is at Union Mills, and whose large business interests are in Westminster.

Thomas Herbert Shriver was born in Union Mills February 19, 1846; son of William and Mary M. J. Owings Shriver. His father combined the occupations of miller and farmer; was a man of intense patriotism, and of a very high sense of honor in all the relations of life. William Shriver was born at Union Mills in 1797. He continued the milling business there established by his father, and also greatly improved the homestead estate. He was one of the organizers and a director of what was known as the Reistertown turn pike, running from Baltimore to Reistertown. His brother, John Shriver, was for many years president of the Ericson Line of Steamships running between Baltimore and Philadelphia. William Shriver survived until June 11, 1879, being in his eighty-third year at the time of his death. He had the same strong qualities which characterized other members of the family alluded to in this sketch.

Thomas H. Shriver was sent to local schools; was taught by private tutors, and was preparing for a college career upon the outbreak of the War between the States. On June 28, 1863, just entering his seventeenth year, he enlisted in the Confederate army; took part in the battle of Gettysburg almost immediately after his enlistment, and participated in several cavalry engagements which occurred in the retreat of the army to Northern Virginia after the battle of Gettysburg. On account of his youth, he was detailed as a student in the Virginia Military Institute, and became a member of that famous cadet corps which won undying glory in the last year of the

war and in the battle of New Market made a record unsurpassed by the veteran soldiers of either army.

On May 15, 1865, he surrendered; returned to Baltimore, and took up commercial life. Years later, in 1882, he received his diploma from the Virginia Military Institute conferred upon all who had participated in the battle of New Market. For several years he filled clerical positions, and was a traveling salesman. Since that time he has been a farmer, a miller and a banker, and has had a remarkably successful career in a business way. The B. F. Shriver Company, of Carroll County, canners of fruits and vegetables, ranks among the largest concerns in Maryland and indeed in the United States in that line of business. The principal owners of the business are Mr. T. H. Shriver and his brother, B. F. Shriver. In 1904, the business was incorporated, and Mr. T. H. Shriver has been president since that time.

Politically, he has been a lifelong Democrat, and in 1908 was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. In 1878-80, Mr. Shriver served as a member of the General Assembly in the lower house. In 1884, he served as a member of the State Senate. In 1888, he was appointed deputy collector of the port of Baltimore. Lately he has been frequently mentioned as the next nominee for governor of Maryland of the Democratic party. He is an active member of the Knights of Columbus, and holds the position of Grand Knight of the Westminster Lodge. During the administrations of Governors Lloyd and Jackson he served on the Governors' Staffs.

Mr. Shriver is an active, earnest and prominent member of the Roman Catholic Church. He has a beautiful home at Union Mills, and there Cardinal Gibbons, the Primate of the American Catholic Church, spends weeks at a time, regarding it almost as a second home.

In every relation of life, Thomas H. Shriver has lived up to the highest standard. He has won a large measure of business success; has filled honorable public positions with fidelity; has served his country in war in accordance with his convictions; has reached the age of sixty-five without the slightest reflection upon his character in any way; has won the general esteem of the people among whom his life has been spent, and where his family has been known for generations. He can look forward to the declining years of life with the

consciousness that he has discharged his duty in full as God has given him power to see it.

Mr. Shriver was married on February 16, 1880, to Elizabeth R. Lawson. They have four children: Hilda, Joseph N., Robert T. and William H. Shriver.