

Chapter Five

Sotterley - The Satterlee and Ingalls Restoration

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**1. Sotterley after initial restoration by Hebert L. Satterlee.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley**

Herbert L. Satterlee

THE MORGANS AT THE PLYMOUTH ROCK OF THE SOUTH

February 12, 1911

2. *The New York Times* article, Feb. 12, 1911.



3. JP Morgan and Granddaughter, Mabel Satterlee
at the Dover House, London, August 1902.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

house. There are landscape gardeners to plan the laying out of the estate. There are foresters and gardeners, road builders and wharf builders, plowmen and plutocrats, all trekking toward obscure Sotterley, for there it is planned, shall be developed an ancient estate along such lines that it will be the quaintest of them all and the best example of one of those homes that were built no less than two centuries ago.

The late Bishop Henry Y. Satterlee for many years had charge of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. This included Western Maryland, even to St. Mary's County. The estate of Sotterley came under his jurisdiction. He often visited Southern Maryland.

Is the house of Morgan to be planted on the sun-kissed shores of the Patuxent River, among the historic romances of Southern Maryland, where the clang of the express comes not and no evidence of the busy world is within a day's travel?

This is the question raised by the most recent purchase of Sotterley, an ancient manor estate well down toward the mouth of the Chesapeake, by Herbert L. Satterlee, son-in-law of J. Pierpont Morgan, and the declaration on the part of his wife that she intends to live there.

Sotterley is being overhauled. Mr. Satterlee himself is spending much of his time there. Mr. Morgan has sent there the men who have proved themselves most fit in developing his other estates. There are architects and artists to advise in the restoration of the ancient



4. Herbert Satterlee at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



5. Herbert and Louisa Satterlee see Sotterley for the first time. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

The belief that these were his people is so strong with Herbert L. Satterlee that he has bought the old estate and is going to restore it and preserve it for his children's children. So may the house of Morgan be built upon the lost house of Satterlee.

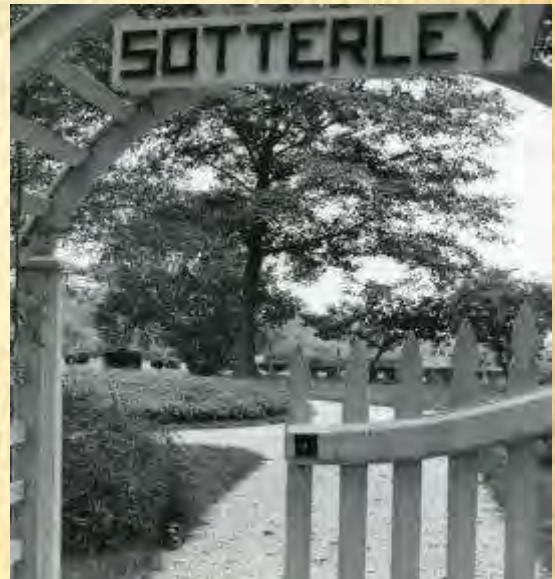
Mr. Morgan has been asked by the people of Southern Maryland to join them in the enterprise of building a railroad into St. Mary's County. Mr. Morgan has, however, turned a deaf ear to their entreaties. This is the last thing in the world that Mr. Morgan and Mr. Satterlee want done.

They want the solitude of the region into which they plan to retreat occasionally undisturbed. They want it as different as may be from the intense activity of New York in which they mingle when pursuing their business lives. They hold that Southern Maryland is the most accessible and at the same time the most attractive solitude that the United States boasts today.

Altogether it is a rare old mansion that has fallen into the hands of the Satterlees of today. There are great possibilities in its restoration, and with the artistic influence of Mr. Morgan back of the plans for it, there would be difficulty in forecasting the ultimate results. Possibly here will be retained a piece of colonial America after all other remnants of it have passed away.¹

The coincidence of the manor house with the name so similar to his own appealed to him, interested him. He went there often. He spent vacations at the old place. He grew to love it. It got a hold on him, which left him to the intuitive belief that it belonged to his family. The Bishop wanted the place, but at his death had not acquired it.

But he had told stories of it to his nephew, Herbert L. Satterlee, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy and son-in-law of J. Pierpont Morgan. After his first visit to the old place, the younger Satterlee became enamored by it, determined to have it. For two years he has been attempting, indirectly, to acquire the property. Recently the deal was consummated and now the great plans of restoration are under way.



6. Gates of Sotterley during the Satterlee era. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

* * * * *

Charles Herbert Knott, Sotterley's caretaker in the last century: *"Well, 1906 Mr. Satterlee's cousin came down to Saint Aloysius for a Confirmation. And, he heard about Sotterley while he was down here. He told Mr. Satterlee much about it. Well they came over and see I believe the reason why he wanted to buy it was named after a place in Southern England on some of the Satterlee family. His name was Satterlee and Sotterley was the name of this farm there. Well, the Cashners told him "no" that it wasn't for sale. Mr. Satterlee told him that if they ever made their mind up to sell it they want to buy it. So, Ms. Cashner she got into bad health and the only way her husband could benefit from it is to sell the farm and get the money. That was 1910. And at that time there was only 420 acres in the farm."*²

* * * * *

Fran Turgeon: *How often did the Satterlees come?*

Richard Knott, Sotterley's co-caretaker in the last century: *About 3 or 4 times a year, one of the longest times they were there was 21 days. He and Mrs. Satterlee. He was a very nice, easy going person. When that old Rolls Royce rolled in, they rolled out the red carpet for them. When they came down in the winter months all of the fireplaces would be burning at Sotterley. All the wooden stoves up on the second floor would be burning and Ford Barber was a man that was taking care of the house and all the fireplaces.*

At first when Mr. Satterlee came down he would go from New York to Baltimore by train, and by train from Baltimore to Bowie, and from Bowie to Brandywine, and from there to Mechanicsville at Harper's Corner. My father would take a team of horses and a carriage and go and pick Mr. and Mrs. Satterlee up. In later years, they would come down by steamboat. And after the steamboat, then Mr. Bittner [Satterlee's chauffeur] would drive the Rolls Royce down to Union Station and Mr. and Mrs. Satterlee would come down by train, and he'd pick them up at Union Station in a Rolls Royce and then they'd go up in the car and pick up a lot of luggage and stuff and bring them to Sotterley.



7. Herbert and Louisa Satterlee later in life outside of the portico.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

¹ "The Morgans at the Plymouth Rock of the South," New York Times, February 12, 1911.

² Knott, Charles Herbert. *St. Mary's College Slackwater Oral History Project*. By Linda W. Cooksey. March 17, 1993.

It was something of a sensation to have a Rolls Royce down here in Southern Maryland in those years. The people would come down the road and wave! They were so glad to see that big old Rolls Royce. And Mr. Bittner, he was a short little fellow but he was a real nice man. He was just a chauffeur. See, he drove Mr. Satterlee in New York!

I don't call him Herbert Satterlee.

I say, "Mr. Satterlee." But he was just a fine gentleman. He was very nice to all of his employees. They couldn't come any better than what he done for all the people of this neighborhood. He was very devoted to Sotterley in wanting to keep it up. Yup, he really loved Sotterley. Now, every time he came down he, my father, would drive him into Leonardtown and he would go to see Judge John H.T. Briscoe. At that time he was a lawyer. And then he would go to the First National Bank. And then he'd always stop at Hollywood to



8. Herbert Satterlee's horse and carriage.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



9. Herbert Satterlee with his Rolls Royce.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



10. Herbert Satterlee and guest with sundial at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

talk with Mr. John Wible. He was very fond of John Wible, the blacksmith. But as far as parties, no parties. They mostly stayed around the mansion and they'd walk the grounds and walk around the farm. But he was just a fine gentleman. And Louisa, his wife, Mrs. Satterlee, she always wore her pearls- necklace- her dresses came down to her ankles and she was a very fine lady. And she was J. Pierpont Morgan's oldest daughter. Mrs. Ingalls was the oldest grandchild. Mrs. Satterlee loved the gardens. She loved the work. She taught James Scriber a lot of things about shrubbery. When she came down here she knew things about gardening, she taught James Scriber things.³

³ Knott, Charles Herbert. *St. Mary's College Slackwater Oral History Project*. By Linda W. Cooksey. March 17, 1993.

IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND WITH GOVERNOR CROTHERS

The Governor and his party inspected the state improved roads and the D. & V. railway road bed in St. Mary's county, while the McLane steamed up the Patuxent River to Sotterley, where the Governor and other members of the party paid a visit to the old colonial house which was the home of Governor Plater, the second governor of Maryland after the establishment of the state government.

It is the occasional abiding place of Mr. H.L. Satterlee, of New York, its new

owner, who is a nephew of the late Bishop Satterlee of Washington, a son-in-law of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, and a former assistant secretary of navy, Sotterley was the home of the Briscoe family for half a century of more before its last sale.

Mr. Satterlee has renovated the old house, but has not altered it. He contemplates to complete restoration as it was when Governor Plater occupied it.⁴



11. Herbert Satterlee, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, 1909.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Mabel Ingalls: *"About the colors and so forth on the inside of the house, when we came here in 1910, all the woodwork had been painted white. It was in a very bad state of repair and grimy and peeling, because for quite a number of years the house had been let go to pieces completely, with a tenant farmer using the drawing room as a kitchen. There was a stove in there, and another tenant occupied the rest of the house. Later, when the Briscoe granddaughter, Mrs. Cashner, and her husband started to spend summers here, they occupied part of the house, but still left the farmer-tenant in the other part. But really nothing had been done for the house since the Civil War and it had been progressively less and less looked after. Possibly for a few years, when old Dr. Briscoe was alive and ran a school here, he did something to keep it up, but no modernization had been undertaken at all. There was, of course, no electricity in the house, and none was put in until during the Second World War, when my father became worried about fire hazards."*⁵

* * * * *

Question: *Eventually Mr. Satterlee had about 1,000 acres- what was the rest of it being used for?*

⁴ "In Southern Maryland With Governor Crothers," c. 1909, *Sotterley Archives*.

⁵ Mabel Ingalls, "September 1969 Tour of Sotterley Mansion," *Sotterley Archives*.

Richard Knott: *Well, he worked a lot of wheat. I know he had quite a few hundred acres of wheat. He worked corn, soy beans, barley, and hay. See, they had 21 horses and about 75 cows and at least 100 and a few sheep. And it taken a lot of hay for all those animals.*



12. Fields at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley.

I tell you when they came down we always had a nice flock of lambs. And Mr. Satterlee, he liked lamb chops and legs of lamb. We always had a lot of nice turkeys. And we would have the turkeys, they liked shad fish and roe. They liked asparagus and the strawberries. And we had practically anything you could need right at Sotterley!

And Mrs. Ingalls was the same way. And then at Christmastime, Mr. Satterlee, and Mrs. Ingalls the same, would send like turkeys, ham, oysters, holly to all of their friends all over. You have no idea the amount of boxes that we shipped out at

Christmas for their friends. And also, my father would send turkeys in the wintertime. Back in those days, early days, when Mr. Satterlee... we had cold winters. And every week we shipped turkeys to the Union League Club in New York. And they brought a premium price.

Sandra van Heerden, was the daughter of Mabel Ingalls, the last private owner of Sotterley:

"With regards to Herbert Satterlee, I remember once going with my grandfather to visit Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt at Sagamore Hill, because he had served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy under Theodore Roosevelt. Wherever he went he had a flag pole installed. When he was in residence, he always made a big thing of raising the flag, and through his mustache and beard he made a sound like he was playing on a harmonica or something, you know, revelry when the flag was raised, taps when it came down and he taught me exactly how to hold the flag, how to fold it, and never, never never, to let it touch the ground and he was absolutely steadfast on that. And I do remember once down at Sotterley being here, and my mother always had friends if she could because she loved to be surrounded by people, and this one gentleman, mom said, "Why don't you go out and bring the flag down?" with whoever it was I said, "Fine" and I went outside, brought it down, and this man grabbed it and let it fall on the ground and I was so horrified, I ran back, told my mother, "Don't ever let him come and touch the flag again because he doesn't know how to do it."

Audio 1. Sandra van Heerden interviewed on her grandfather.



13. Herbert Satterlee with flag.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

"My grandfather raised a flag every morning and took it down every afternoon at the mansion."⁶

Richard Knott: *When Mabel came down Mr. Satterlee sent three riding horses down from New York. And the name of them horses was Ruby, Alice, and Trinket. And she was a great horse lady. I mean they would rear in the pinch but she loved to horseback ride. And then she loved to quail hunt. She would bring two pointer bird dogs down but she was a bad shot, she was a bad marksman. She could never hit a bird. Those days we had so many quail, you wouldn't believe. I bet there's 40 quails still in a covey or more.*



14. Herbert Satterlee and guests hunting at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



15. Hunting at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

He was a nice man, Mr. Satterlee. And at nighttime they would go out and have a little time and if she had a few guests out they would go out at night hunting. Possum hunting or 'coon hunting.



16. Herbert Satterlee later in life at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

The last trip I think he made at Sotterley. He died in 1947. Yeah, I don't know if it was that year or the year before in '46 that he came to Sotterley. But he came alone. And he was 84 years old when he died, and getting kind of feeble. We had taken a picture of him and we gave that to Mrs. Van Heerden, the last picture that was taken at Sotterley of him.⁷

⁶ "Sandra van Heerden," Dave Brown, *Sotterley Oral History Project*, April 23, 2010.

⁷ Knott, Charles Herbert. *St. Mary's College Slackwater Oral History Project*. By Linda W. Cooksey. March 17, 1993.

Families that Lived on Sotterley

As mentioned previously, not all of the former slaves left Sotterley Plantation after the Civil War. Those that did leave were replaced by other families that moved into the former slave cabins. One way or the other, there were always numerous families on the plantation during the Briscoe years, the Cashner years, the Satterlee years, and even into the years that Herbert Satterlee's daughter, Mabel Satterlee Ingalls, owned Sotterley.

Around 1910, when the Satterlees became the new owners, several black families were at Sotterley. Two who were living there as tenants to the Cashners remained and played important roles at Sotterley in the new century. They were the families of James Scriber and Walter Barber.⁸

The original slave quarters were still in use at Sotterley as houses when Charles Knott, Sr. went to Sotterley in 1910. Eight former slave quarters existed at that time. Along with twelve other people, "Aunt" Annie Williams lived in the former slave house that is still standing below the mansion. Richard Knott recalls that his father, Charles Knott, Sr., said that another double quarters, that no longer exists, was at the top of the hill on the Wharf Road. In addition to this, a quarters was located at



17. Louisa Satterlee and Sandra Ingalls at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Sotterley Point; however, lightning struck this building in 1917.

An additional slave quarters was located in the field on the right of Black Gate. This was inhabited in the 1900s by Walter Barber, a Sotterley worker, until Herbert Satterlee built a new house for Walter Barber in 1917. Those slave quarters have since been torn down.

A former slave house was located on Vista Road about 300 feet up from Sotterley Heights Road on the right. Ned Lyles lived there and had one child, Nettie Lyles, who later married James Scriber. Another slave house was located at the Patent Romos Field in a corner. Two more were located at Sotterley Heights Road up about 500 feet on the right side. Neither of these was occupied when Charles Knott, Sr. came to Sotterley.⁹

The daily work at Sotterley followed a strict routine. Farm workers would begin their day at 7:00 A.M.. At 11:50 A.M. India Knott, Richard's mother, would signal the workers to return from the fields for dinner (lunch) by ringing a bell. The bell could be heard across the entire farm. Men would bring horses to the barn, feed them, and then go home for dinner.

⁸ Brown, David G. *Sotterley: Her People and Their Worlds, Three Hundred Years of a Maryland Plantation*. Baltimore: Chesapeake Book Company, 2010

⁹ Knott, Richard, and Shawn Knott. *Memories of Sotterley*. Hollywood: Richard Knott, 2010.

The workers had one hour for dinner and then would return to the farm to continue their work. At 5:50 P.M., Richard's mother, India, would then ring the bell to signal quitting time. The bell was on top of the house with a rope that extended down through the house so it could be easily run from inside the house.¹⁰

In the 1920s and 1930s, the Scriber and Knott children grew up together. James Scriber's daughter Nettie fondly remembers playing with Richard Knott, crabbing in the summer, sledding in the winter, fishing, hunting possum, and racing to meet arriving steamboats at Sotterley Wharf. She recalls that "color was no problem" at Sotterley. Relations among the several families living there were friendly. "There was no strife." The Knott and Scriber boys called each other by nicknames. Richard Knott was known as "Sharpy."¹¹

* * * * *

Nettie Scriber: *We worked from sun up to sun down.*

Richard Knott: *But then Mrs. Satterlee changed it to 10 hours a day. The Knott house had a bell on top, and my mother rang that bell at quarter till 12 every day, and quarter to six every night.*

Nettie Scriber: *To let you know.*

Richard Knott: *And you could hear it all over the farm.*

Nettie Scriber: *Oh yeah, you could hear it all over the place.*

Richard Knott: *And then the workers would come in and go home again and get their lunch, take off one hour for lunch.*

At Sotterley wages were a dollar and a half a day, 15 cents an hour and 10 cents for wee boys. Back in them days the best you could make in the county was about a dollar an hour.

Nettie Scriber: *They weren't paying nothing nowhere.*



18. A farmer at the present day Knott house.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



19. Farmers and wagon at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

¹⁰ Knott, Richard, and Shawn Knott. *Memories of Sotterley*. Hollywood: Richard Knott, 2010.

¹¹ Brown, David G. *Sotterley: Her People and Their Worlds, Three Hundred Years of a Maryland Plantation*. Baltimore: Chesapeake Book Company, 2010

Richard Knott: *And you couldn't find jobs. You either worked for a farm or you went to the water to make your living. And I'll tell you, Mr. Satterlee was good to his employees.*

Nettie Scriber: *Oh yeah, I give it to him, and Christmas time come he would send every child a gift. Because he would tell the parents to send the children's names to him so they would know and every child got a gift. I give it to him, we all got a gift. We got doll babies standing that tall and that was every year, every year. I give it to him, my lord was he good to us.*



20. Farmers at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Color wasn't no problem, wasn't no problem. Ricky knows it wasn't no problem.

Richard Knott: *We boys, we played together, white and black. We had a good time together.*

Fran Turgeon: *But did you go to school together?*

Richard Knott: *No.*

Nettie Scriber: *No, just played together, you know.*

Richard Knott: *Just played together. We were neighbors and friends. And we all lived on Sotterley.*

Richard Knott: *He was good to his employees.*

Nettie Scriber: *Mhmm. He was, Lord knows.*

Richard Knott: *He was good to my father, and someone asked me, did he tell my father how to run the farm? He never bothered my daddy.*

Fran Turgeon: *One last question, do you have any feelings about segregation in St. Mary's County when you were living on Sotterley.*

Nettie Scriber: *No, not down on Sotterley because that's all you knew.*

Richard Knott: *We all got along good with each other.*

Nettie Scriber: *We got along good together, color didn't matter.*



21. Nettie Scriber Stevens and Richard Knott, March 2009
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



22. View of Sotterley fences.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley.

Nettie Scriber: *Mhmm. It was magical living on Sotterley, I'll tell you.*

Richard Knott: *It was a nice, beautiful farm.*

Nettie Scriber: *Old man Satterlee, he was nice to the people on Sotterley. He really was.*

Richard Knott: *Had a lot of white board fences, and I mean, that farm was kept up.*

Nettie Scriber: *And white washed them fences, them fences looked so white and pretty.*

Richard Knott: *All them barns.*

Nettie Scriber: *When the spring came everybody had a bucket, the men, and go down and white wash.*

Richard Knott: *White wash them fences and everything was just so clean.*

Nettie Scriber: *And white and pretty. The grass was cut green.*

* * * * *

"Here at Sotterley everyone just kind of melded together, because here you were either a guest and everybody served you, or you were a servant, so you were working."



23. Sotterley farm complex.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley.

Donald Barber: *You got all the working people here and that's pretty much how I remember it.*

I just remember a lot of people working on the farm, because they had some tobacco and a great deal of hay, and they needed people to pick up the hay. In the barn over there they would put it up in the top part of the barn, they would stack it up there so there was always a lot of that stuff going on, but our parents didn't want us to do the farm work because they wanted us to try go to school and so we would work up here in the gardens and stuff. They would raise corn, a lot of corn down and around there. See I was a kid, so I didn't pay much attention to things, but I know that's what they raised. But they had hogs and sheep and a few cows so it seemed like a thriving farm at the time.



24. Farmers at Sotterley
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley .



25. Fishermen at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



26. Fishermen at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

There was a few horses here, but it seemed like the farm was working. My father mainly, he didn't do a lot of the farming, he did a lot of the work here at the big house and in the gardens and things out here, and he did some of the farming and of course some of the mechanical work. His brother Ford helped out with the mechanical work. It seemed like it was a thriving farm at that time.

Other people that lived or worked around Sotterley: the Morgans. He did a lot of the labor, the farm work around here, and he was very good friends with my mother and father. I mean after my father died he would come by, because he also would do a lot of the watermen stuff. Crab and fish in the summertime and oyster in the winter. And he would always bring things down for my mother to have. He was just very nice and supportive. Everybody knew everybody. And I always was friends with his sons. Particularly Bobby, he was my age. Calvin was older. So they were the main ones.

And then of course Edward Knott, he was kind of doing the management thing. There was just a whole galaxy of people that just came and went and did different things around here. There was a guy they called "Mud" Stevens, he helped with the, just everything, farming, the turkeys, and sheep.

'Cause I mean there was a lot of labor intensive stuff that went on here, those sheep they had to shear those things. So, that was a major thing. Course they would kill one or two of them for meat, not many, but mainly for wool. There was just all the farming; it was a lot of work. There were so many people that just came and did things and left. But the Morgans did a lot. They worked here; they did a lot of things.

* * * * *

Elizabeth Harman: *We had dedicated employees there.*

They adored Mr. and Mrs. Satterlee. Mr. and Mrs. Satterlee and even Mrs. Ingalls and her husband, they were terribly concerned for their employees. They always received a Christmas gift. When the hog killing came and they were putting up the meat in the smokehouse for the family when they came there, everyone was given a pig and all the meat from it. At Christmas, everyone was given a turkey. They raised turkeys there every year. And each child when it was born was sent a layette from Macy's. And Ruth said to me, she said, "Elizabeth, the most beautiful little dresses for a girl you ever saw!" She said, "My children had nowhere to wear them, but they were beautiful, and I would share them with my friends and give them one of those pretty dresses so their baby would have a pretty dress to wear." But that's the kind of thing that they did for them. Always looking out for them.



28. Building the "Knott House". Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



27. "Mud" Stevens with turkeys. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Edward Knott, who was in charge of the farm, sent a report every month to them and they were always just a phone call away if they needed anything, and I think Mrs. Ingalls treated the employees that way. They had to toe the line and they had to do what was expected of them, but they never wanted for anything. And they never paid high salaries, but they never wanted for anything. If she knew they wanted, needed anything, she saw to it that they had it. This was the kind of thing Mrs. Ingalls and her parents did for the family.

Richard Knott: *Jerome Stevens worked there for years. And Charlie Tucker worked for ye ars and my Uncle Ernest. See the house, the first tenant house was built at Sotterley, built in 1910. Then the Wharf House was built in 1911 for Noah Callis, he run the steamboat dock. And the third house was built for Jim Mattingly*

in 1912 and he did all the carpenter work at Sotterley. And the fourth house was built in 1913 for my Uncle Ernest Knott. And my Uncle Ernest was a great farmer and he'd run the straightest rows. But there's, like Charlie Tucker, he worked there off and on. A lot of people worked there. Especially back in the Depression days, if they needed a job my father would hire them. Sotterley never showed a profit, never. That's the way, I guess Mr. Satterlee, he helped a lot of people through my father.

I'll tell you what Mr. Satterlee did do now. All the men that worked at Sotterley, every year my father would buy bib overalls and heavy jackets for all the working men at Sotterley. Mr. Satterlee was very good to his employees. At Christmas he always sent gifts and things to different people at Sotterley. Especially, like, Uncle James Scriber and Aunt Nettie and Uncle Walter Barber and different ones on the farm. He sent gifts to them.

All the people at Sotterley, they always had a salary. They had, all of them had the hogs, they had the cows to milk, they had nice gardens, had plenty of firewood to keep them warm. And really they didn't even know what the Depression was because they had such a good standard of living. Now, you'd be surprised at the people who'd come to Sotterley for a few days work. And my father would give them jobs. It was tight time back then. People who needed work would come to Sotterley and my dad was able to help them out.

Mr. Satterlee had a will and all of them got money. Mr. Satterlee left my father a pretty nice piece of money. He left all the old men money. He left all the young ones, according to how many years you had been working there. I got left a little piece of money. But Mrs. Ingalls, when she died, now she really, she was pretty nice to my brother Edward and I. I don't think I should give the amounts she gave us. But she was pretty loyal to us. And she left money to all the people that worked there, Mrs. Ingalls did.

The Barber Family

Walter Barber was born in 1872, the son of John and Carolina Barber who were living in Hillville in 1880. Where the Barber family lived before 1880 is unknown, but it is believed that they came from Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. Around 1901, Walter married Harriet Dyson. When the Cashners owned Sotterley, Walter and Harriet were tenants living in a former slave cabin located near the Black Gate. The Black Gate, on Sotterley Road at the intersection with Steer Horn Neck Road, was the entrance to Sotterley until the 1960s. The Barbers stayed on as employees for the Satterlees. Walter was responsible for livestock, tending horses, cows, and sheep. Harriet worked in the main house as a cook and housekeeper. In 1917, Herbert Satterlee had a new house built for the Barbers on what is now Tranquility Lane. Walter and Harriet had seven children, including sons Ford and Bernard. All were born at Sotterley. Richard Knott recalls that Walter was very much dedicated to the farm. Walter Barber was a great horseman. Richard Knott remembers Walter Barber as being a great man



29. View of the Black Gate at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley.

who took care of the horses, cows, and sheep. "He was at work each morning by 4:30 A.M.," Richard recalls, "which showed his tremendous dedication to Sotterley."¹²

Richard Knott: *Now Uncle Walter Barber, he was born in 1872 and he died in 1949, two years behind Mr. Satterlee. His wife was, she was a Dyson. And she was born in 1881 and she died in 1923 of childbirth. And they raised eight children. And Uncle Walter, we called all the old men then Old Uncle and Aunts, the women Aunts. And Uncle Walter... every morning at 4:30 he would be at Sotterley feeding the horses, milking the cows, and taking care of things like that. And my father would say, "Please Walter, don't come so early," but he would never stop. But he was a great horse man. Then his son Ford was a good horse man, but Ford was usually running the tractors and machinery. And Bernard, why he was a good farmer, but he done a lot of work at the mansion yard.*



**30. Tending one of the work horses.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley**



**31. Tending one of the work horses.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley**

Bernard and his brother Ford Barber worked at Sotterley as children. They attended Phillis Wheatley School, Bernard for six years. Ford attended somewhat longer and eventually became a mechanic at Sotterley responsible for maintaining the farm equipment. Bernard moved away as a young man to work elsewhere but returned to St. Mary's County and in 1934 married Ruth Sommerville. Together they raised seven children at Sotterley.

Bernard and Ruth lived in various houses on the land owned by Herbert Satterlee. Their daughter Phyllis was born in 1945.

Around 1950, Bernard's family moved into the house in which James Scriber's family had lived earlier. Bernard worked as a farm hand for many years and took care of Sotterley's garden and grounds. He also did light carpentry, plumbing, and some mechanical work. Ruth worked as a housekeeper and cook in the main house. The times were hard but Bernard and Ruth were strong, resilient people.¹³

¹² Knott, Richard, and Shawn Knott. *Memories of Sotterley*. Hollywood: Richard Knott, 2010.

¹³ Brown, David G. *Sotterley: Her People and Their Worlds, Three Hundred Years of a Maryland Plantation*. Baltimore: Chesapeake Book Company, 2010

Bernard Barber and his wife, Ruth were the second generation of the Barber family to work at Sotterley and had seven children. The Barbers worked at Sotterley all of their lives. Their son, Donald, now a Sotterley trustee, remembers spending many days in the kitchen helping his mother as he was growing up.

Donald Barber: *"I feel very fortunate in that my family was connected to Sotterley. I think it afforded us to have a kind of rearing that I don't think everybody received. Even though the relationship between the owner and my family was one of employer and employee, I still think that the kind of influence that had on my family was important in our upbringing. I would actually work here after school. While there was grass to cut I would cut grass, and after that rake, just out here in the garden and things. So I did that after school."*



32. Jams and Jellies in Sotterley gift shop. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Audio 2. Donald Barber on his family's relationship to Sotterley.



"It was mainly my parents and some of my aunts who would be helping out with cooking. And after I was a little older I would work in the kitchen; they would can things and then sell it over in the gift shop. One of the things that use to be here that's not here anymore was along that front line, where there are one or two trees out there used to be a whole orchard of trees, pear trees, peach trees, apple trees, then there was cherries over here in the garden, the fig bush is still there, actually there's two of them now, and there were plums. My mother would take all that stuff and make the best preserves in the world out of it, so I just grew up eating that stuff and I didn't think anything of it. So I would bring a case up there and they would go crazy over it like



33. Herbert and Louisa Satterlee at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

"Get me some more, get me some more" so instead of lasting me months it wouldn't last me any time at all. I'd have to be back here getting some more.

Lynn Fitrell: You said before that sometimes you would help your parents when Mrs. Ingalls' had parties here, just, serving trays and things like that. Can you tell us a little about those parties?

Donald Barber: Yeah, we were involved by working, and my recollection of them is that they were interesting kind of parties because she would have like a little string quartet or something playing and they would put out like tiki torches and things to show people how to walk. Because, let me tell you, this is the darkest place in the world at night. Now it's all lit up and it's still dark around here. So you can imagine back then, when there were no kind of lights around.



34. Left to Right: Unknown, Grace Horton, Jim Raley (former executive director of Sotterley), 1993. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

They would use tiki torches and stuff to define places because you could really hurt yourself walking around here in the dark. They would have it on the front portico, parties, and one party a year was out there; but, seemed like people had a great time. Even working was fun, because, see, that area over there was the kitchen, the area next to there they called it the pantry and there used to be a sink in there and a dishwasher. That's where preparation and things went on, it was like, that divider between that pantry and that dining room was like two separate worlds. There were working people out there and we had a ball. It was just fun, because everybody was around. When you're working with all your aunts and uncles and older people...so it was fun. We'd be out there and get things ready and they'd hustle you back and forth, like "get the tray!" and they'd fix the tray up and you'd take off with it. Then, you know, it'd be empty and you'd come back and restock. I just remember it being a fun and then you got paid. So, it was a win-win.

Like I said, I think this was a good place to grow up; it was harsh, this is a harsh place if you're not rich. There's like a leisure class, and there's the other class and everything has trade-offs. Yeah it was harsh, but I think I wouldn't be the person I am now if I didn't grow up here. I can thank Sotterley for that. It wasn't like a bed of roses, but hey, that was what it was and there were worse places. A lot worse. You got to see people who were successful, you got to see people who were very intelligent and nice; you know they say people are cold or anything, no,



**35. Portrait of Mabel Ingalls.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley**

there were people here that were extremely nice and I'll never forget that. People here were caring, they weren't detached or any air of superiority, they were fantastic people. I mean you knew from the Hortons, they were fantastic people. I loved them [Grace and John]. He was just as nice as she was. I had a great time with them.

One of the things about working here at Sotterley is they didn't pay very well at all. So we had very, very low income, which I didn't know at the time because we didn't really want for anything. We didn't have anything, but we didn't know you were supposed to have anything. It was fine, I mean we always had clothes; we



36. Bernard Barber at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

always had heat and shelter, had plenty of food, an abundance of food. We had animals so they'd always have a freezer full of meat. So I didn't know we were low income; you just couldn't buy anything so I never went to the movies, never ate pizza, I ate what you grew here on Sotterley and it was good. My mother would bake pies from scratch and cakes and stuff was good. So I never wanted for anything. Plus if I was reading a book I could go on a trip to the moon, I could go anywhere I want, so I was fine. We did a lot of reading. I enjoy it, I read science fiction, space and stuff, been all over the place, so I didn't feel like I missed anything.

Mrs. Ingalls, see there was always things going on here at the, like I said they didn't call this the mansion they called it the 'big house.' So they go to the big house, I think that's a holdover from the days of slavery. Is what I think it is, that terminology. So, there was always something going at the big house and they had to come up here, so we were kind of separated from that so I just think, Mrs. Ingalls came here for peace and quiet and children are not a part of peace and quiet.

Me and my brother just went the whole summer cutting grass. It was good money to have and it was pleasant working with your family, my father was out here working, me and my brother was out here working, my mother was in the house here, so everybody was around. It was like being at home.

When I was growing up here you'd see eagles, you'd see hawks, you'd see foxes and all kinds of stuff. We would feed the raccoons. They would bring their little babies and come up into the yard and stuff so we lived in harmony with nature when we were here and that's something I kind of miss.¹⁴

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The Barber family's commitment to Sotterley continues through Donald's service as a trustee and vice-president of Historic Sotterley, Inc.

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¹⁴ Donald Barber. Sotterley Oral History Project. July 12, 2010.

Phyllis Barber Brown: *I feel very fortunate that my family was connected to Sotterley. I think it afforded us to have a rearing that I don't think everybody received. Even though the relationship between the owner and my family was one of employer and employee, I still think that the kind of influence that it had on my family was important in our upbringing. We had a very quiet life, I think it was typical of most of the farming type families in the area. Our home was rather secluded so we didn't have children*



37. Winter view of Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

dropping in or that sort of thing so we had to find our own way of entertaining ourselves and that meant that there was a lot of family interaction. My father was a very quiet gentleman. Didn't have much to say, but, seemed to have been always working, doing something. And he was very talented, there were lots of things he could do. And my mother always praised him, that 'oh, he could do just anything' she would say. And I think she was right too, because whatever needed to get done he did it, and he could do it. He worked a lot. My mother was a phenomenal person. She, again, she could do anything. Her interests were so varied; she loved nature, she loved housekeeping, she loved sewing, she was interested in furniture, china, crystal. She could do canning, baking of any kind. She quilted. She could do a lot, and she knew a lot too. She was also responsible for helping with the cooking and serving when Mrs. Ingalls and her family stayed there. Dad took care of the grounds at Sotterley. He tended the flower gardens, the lawn... He also was responsible for the upkeep of the mansion itself. I know he made shingles for the roof of the mansion to replace, the ones that would blow off or what have you. But he also was responsible for letting the sheep out in the morning and getting them back in the evening. Sometimes the turkeys also, he was responsible for letting those out and putting them back at the end of the day. But mainly his responsibilities were the grounds at Sotterley. My mother had a 9th grade education and dad had 6th grade. My mother always said she was not a good reader and she said that when she was in school she was shame faced to read because, of course then, you were made to read orally, whether you wanted to or not. And she's always said she was not a good reader. But yet, she read to us and she made sure, you know, that she read to us. And I always found that interesting. Now, I became a reading specialist and I often think of that, when she would say she was not a good reader but yet she read to us, and made sure that we could read. My mother grew up in Hollywood, near St. Johns Church. I would say about a mile and a half from St. Johns Church. And she went to Catholic school, and she went to a boarding school, Cardinal Gibbons. Her maiden name was Sommerville.

Question: *Would you like to add anything about your ancestors?*

Phyllis Barber Brown: *Just that looking back at their lives, they were amazing people; amazingly strong. And sometimes I find it hard to believe that they were able to survive such difficult times. There's a lesson to be learned from their lives. There's a lot to learn regarding fortitude and just*

staying with things in life. And the fact that even though their lives were hard, they were happy people basically.

I became very familiar with Sotterley's history when I was chosen to be a tour guide. I was given a binder with the history, and I had to read that binder and learn the history of Sotterley. And I also learned the history by listening to the other tour guides. When I learned the history I was a high school student, so I was still living there.

Question: You lived there for many years without being all that familiar with the history. And all the sudden you learn it. Did that have any influence on you?

Phyllis Barber Brown: Yea, of course, you know it helps with the understanding of how that place became what it was. But as a result of knowing the history, I believe there was one of the owners whose last name was Barber and I always wondered whether or not my family came there during slavery and that's how we got our name.



38. The "New Room" at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

When my mother went to work, she would take me, and probably because that was the child care, she could give me care and work also. I do remember playing around the grounds and being in the house. And I would see my mother...oh that's something else she could do; she knew how to arrange flowers. In fact, that's how I learned to do it, by watching her. And I remember going in the various rooms and just thinking what a wonderful place it was and how beautiful it was. And it was there that I really got an appreciation for fine furniture and crystal and silver and just a love of that period of history, in terms of furnishings and lifestyle. I think it very much is a part of who I am, and I just feel very fortunate that I had that in my upbringing.



**39. Drawing room at Sotterley. Contains furniture from J. Pierpont Morgan's London apartment.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley**

Question: *How did your family get along with the people who owned Sotterley?*

Phyllis Barber Brown: *I think they got along very well. They were devoted people, they worked hard, they were honest and I think that any time a person is like that, it is noted and they appreciated my parents. In the later years, Mrs. Ingalls would come to Sotterley and she would actually invite my mother down for lunch. And that was something that, of course, didn't happen in the early years there, when my father was living. But in the later years, that kind of relationship did develop between my mother and Mrs. Ingalls. I do know that whenever my mother had a child, a baby, they would always send her a layette from Macy's. Or it may have been Bloomingdales. And I know, for myself, through the years Mrs. Ingalls, she always took an interest in my life. She sent me a letter when I graduated high school. And I think she sent me a check and told me to buy myself something that I wanted. And then when I graduated from college, again she sent me a note and a gift. When I graduated from grad school she sent me a note and a gift. And I know every Christmas, she always sent my mom and dad a note and a gift, and even after my father died she continued to do that with my mother. And she, Mrs. Ingalls was the one who decided that I was to be a guide at Sotterley. And I never understood, how she came to decide that was what I could do, really. Because the only way that she knew me was just from seeing me when she would come down and visit. And then it was just, you know, "Hi, how are you?" and that type thing. But she decided that I was to be a guide.*

I thought Mrs. Ingalls was just fine. She was a matter-of-fact person and if you dealt with her, honestly, straight forward, there was not a problem. Like I said she took an interest, she was interested in me. And I certainly appreciated the interest.

I assisted in terms of helping to serve at Mrs. Ingalls' dinner parties. Her dinners, they were quite formal, lavish, lots of people. Sometimes they were late into the evening. But she would invite people from New York and Maine I believe. And she entertained a lot. I would say she liked to entertain. And people enjoyed themselves.



40. Dining room at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Question: *What were your favorite memories of Sotterley and the people there?*

Phyllis Barber Brown: *I guess the favorite memories were the events that occurred, whether they were...I guess they had to do with Mrs. Ingalls entertaining or some other special event. But, the parties, I always enjoyed. I just thought it was an ideal setting for a party or a wedding and I always said that if I had children they would get married there. And I had two girls and neither one of them did. But I always thought it was just a beautiful, beautiful setting. Just the grounds and the trees and the flowers, I think that's my fondest memory there. I guess I just took that for granted, it was just the way things were. But I think more than anything else, just the beauty and the serenity. When I think of Sotterley, I just think of standing on the portico looking down to the Patuxent and what a beautiful, such a beautiful view that is. That's what I think when I think of Sotterley. I think it afforded us to have a kind of rearing that I don't think everybody received. Even though the relationship between the owner and my family was one of employer and employee, I still think that the kind of influence that had on my family was important in our upbringing. You know, Sotterley has a place in my heart that will always be there.*



41. Gardens at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

"I feel very fortunate in that my family was connected to Sotterley."

The Scriber Family

James Victor Scriber was born on March 17, 1879 in Hollywood. His father, James, had come from Georgia. His mother, Anna Smallwood, was the descendant of slaves from Calvert County. When James was six, his family left Hollywood and moved to Sotterley, where they lived in a one-room former slave cabin. James's father had worked on steamboats. The family's living standard was "very, very low," and at times there was not enough to eat. Schools were not available for black children then, and James never learned to read and write. Once grown, he went to New Jersey to work as a farm hand, but he returned to Sotterley and in 1906 married Nettie Lyles. They lived in a former slave cabin near the top of Sotterley Wharf Road, working as tenants first for the Cashners, then as tenant farmers working for the Satterlees.

James and Nettie had sixteen children, all born at home with the help of midwives. The first five arrived while the couple lived in the former slave cabin. In 1917, Herbert Satterlee had a house built for James's growing family across the field to the north of Sotterley's garden. The other children, including daughter Nettie, were born in this new home. James was a sharecropper, meaning that when the crops were sold the income was split between James, the tenant, and



42. Farming at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Herbert Satterlee, the owner. The Satterlees provided the land, seed, fertilizer, draught animas, farm equipment, and a house. James and his sons provided the labor. James had about fifteen acres in corn, fifteen in wheat, and four in tobacco, with the crops rotated and other grains and hay grown as needed. In his spare time, he also worked on the garden and grounds around the main house. The Scribes had milk cows, hogs, chickens, and a garden of their own. Sharecropping was hard work. The sons worked from the time they were seven or eight weeding the corn and tobacco with hoes.¹⁵

Richard Knott: *With regards to tenant farming, Phillip Scriber talked about his father's life at Sotterley and that his father was a sharecropper there, started out under the Cashners and stayed under the Satterlees. He was farming the farm that Mr. Satterlee bought off the Hutchins and Uncle James Scriber, he was born in 1879 and he died in 1981. He was 102 years. His wife, Aunt Nettie, she was born in 1884 and she died in 1935. They had 18 children and 15 of them lived. But Uncle James worked at what they call the Hutchins Farm. He raised tobacco, a little bit of corn, and maybe a little wheat and that was it. I would say 75% of his work was at the Sotterley farm. He was a great man for being an axe man or cutting wood and then he was taking care of the flower beds at the mansion yard. Mr. and Mrs. Satterlee was particularly fond of James Sciber for his work that he done at the mansion. I would say that he used mostly corn and wheat for his hogs and other things. Chickens.*



James Scriber done a lot of that work on the farm at Sotterley. His sons, all of his sons... see, he had, I think it was about eight boys, and most of them worked at Sotterley and also helped him on his farm.

43. Farm workers at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

¹⁵ Brown, David G. *Sotterley: Her People and Their Worlds, Three Hundred Years of a Maryland Plantation*. Baltimore: Chesapeake Book Company, 2010

Philip Scriber was born at Sotterley in 1928, the second youngest of James and Nettie Scriber's children. As a young boy he, like some of his siblings, went to the Phillis Wheatley School, a two-room elementary and secondary school for blacks about three and a half miles away on Sotterley Road. He recalls that white children were bused, but black children had to walk. Philip only went to school for a couple of years before beginning work in the fields when he was about eight. He never considered sharecropping himself, because he thought the work too hard and the system "unfair." Nevertheless, he and his sister Nettie both said that "Mr. Satterlee" had been "generous" to their family. Other people were envious of those working at Sotterley because their wages were higher.¹⁶

Philip H. Scriber: *It's not like today, because then you had to prepare for the winters. In the summer months, you know, preserve foodstuffs to prepare for the winter. Of course, my dad was a sharecropper. We lived on the farm as sharecroppers which helped a great deal because then the guy that owned the farm, Herbert L. Satterlee, he was very*



44. James Scriber folding tobacco.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

fond of my dad and he used to compensate us a great deal because he had such a large family and he used to help us out in that respect. But even with that it was still rough.

They had work horses there on the farm that were available at our disposal at anytime that we had use for them. So, these are some of the things that they furnished free to my dad. Like I say, he was the only sharecropper on the farm, which consists of what, about 1300 acres. He was one of the fortunate ones. He [Mr. Satterlee] wasn't in that particularly to make money because he didn't need it. He was probably using it as a tax write-off.



45. Herbert Satterlee with guests.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

¹⁶ Brown, David G. *Sotterley: Her People and Their Worlds, Three Hundred Years of a Maryland Plantation*. Baltimore: Chesapeake Book Company, 2010

Because he didn't make nothing on that farm to pay the taxes, even back in those days. Of course, like I say, he had workers, other people that lived on the farm to help in the upkeep."

Question: *What do you know about your father's origins, where he came from, and when he was born -- things like that?*

Philip H. Scriber: *He was born, let's see, he was born in eighteen, I think it was in 1879 he was born. And he came from Georgia, but now his mother, who was my grandmother on my father's side; she died at a very young age, almost at the time that he came here. Now, he never would say as to how he came up here, how he got here. Of course, back there, you see, it was slavery time. But he got here with my dad and the other three kids.*

Really we lived better than the average family around here -- both white and black. And, as far as that, the people that lived on the Sotterley Plantation, if you want to use the phrase Plantation, we lived better because of where we lived. Like I say, the owner of the property, money was no object to him. And he poured money, and when I said poured money, put money down here and the guys that worked here back then, the average person, even when I was kid coming up back in the thirties, the average guy worked all day for maybe fifty cents a day. Fifty, seventy-five cents he worked all day. But then, back on Sotterley, he furnished them a house to live in, and they worked on the farm, and they averaged ten to twelve bucks per week. And that was a lot of money. So, that's why I say the people who lived on there, down on Sotterley, they lived better than the average ones around here. And most of the people was envious of the families on Sotterley, that lived on Sotterley. Because after my oldest brother, he grew up, got married, and left, moved to Mechanicsville, worked for the State. And he finally ended up back down on Sotterley, working on Sotterley. Because the pay was better and they had a nice roof over their head with that. Because this is the type of facilities they had down there. It was better than the average place around here. Most of the people around here, they was envious of the people who lived on Sotterley because they lived better.

Question: *I have heard that the Satterlees and Mrs. Ingalls were very nice, generous people.*

Philip H. Scriber: *They were. They were very nice, generous people. They were. They were very nice and generous people.*

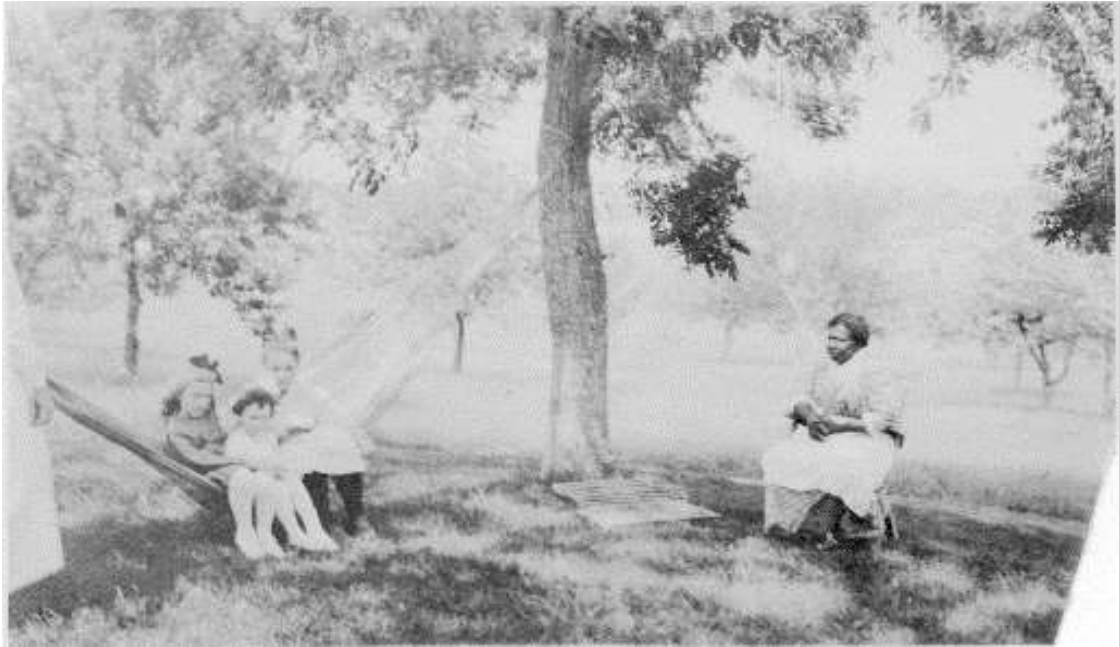
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Nettie Scriber married Joseph Ignatius Stevens and moved to his home in Hollywood, where he worked on the Thompson farm. Nettie was a laundress, though she continued to work at Sotterley and often came in the evenings to serve meals when Mabel Ingalls was there. Nettie worked in the main house almost all her life. In 1997, Sotterley's board of trustees presented her with a certificate of appreciation for her many years of devoted service and her loving care.¹⁷

Richard Knott: *And James Scriber's wife, Aunt Nettie, she worked at the mansion! And she waited on the tables. And her mama, she was the cook. Then after those two women passed away Aunt Lizzie Steward was James Scriber's sister. Now she was a fine cook. And Gertrude Barber, who married into the Scribes, and then she was the waitress. Then after that then Anna, she was a Scriber but she married an Adams, she was the cook and Nettie was a Stevens and she waited on the tables. And also Bernard Barber's wife, Ruth, she worked at the mansion and she waited on tables.*¹⁸

¹⁷ Brown, David G. *Sotterley: Her People and Their Worlds, Three Hundred Years of a Maryland Plantation*. Baltimore: Chesapeake Book Company, 2010

¹⁸ Richard Knott. *Sotterley Oral History Project*. By David Brown. February 10, 2009.



46. Aunt Nettie with three young children. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Zach Steward

Richard Knott recalls Zach Steward:

*"Uncle Zach,' that's what we called him, was a small man. I particularly liked him. He called me 'Chocky.' He took care of the turkeys and chickens (and smoked hams.) He also helped 'Uncle Walter' Barber with the horses, sheep and milking cows. 'Uncle Zach' always walked with a tobacco stick for a cane. He was a nice 'ole man. His wife was Lizzie Steward, who was previously Lizzie Scriber. She was James Scriber's sister. Lizzie worked at the mansion for years for Mr. and Mrs. Satterlee when they came down. She was a great cook. She made the best gingerbread cake I think I've ever ate."*¹⁹

Robert Kelly

Richard Knott recalls another worker at Sotterley, Robert Lee Kelly:

*"In the spring he would always shear the sheep. Through the summer he would always gather blackberries, cherries, pears, apples, and peaches. They canned it all so they would have it all for their own use to eat during the winter. His wife was James Scriber's daughter, Juanita."*²⁰

The Knott Family

Charles Herbert Knott: *"Before he came to Sotterley, my father lived at Rosedale [on Steerhorn Neck Road, the current Greenwell State Park], and he drove a police boat at Solomon's."*

¹⁹ Knott, Richard, and Shawn Knott. *Memories of Sotterley*. Hollywood: Richard Knott, 2010.

²⁰ Knott, Richard, and Shawn Knott. *Memories of Sotterley*. Hollywood: Richard Knott, 2010.

Richard Knott: "He walked, he walked from—he lived down on Rosedale. A single man. And he was on the boats for 1908 and 1909 and when he got that job he left Solomons, left the police boat, and came to Sotterley. He was a single man in 1910 and he married in 1913."²¹



47. Charles Herbert Knott, Sr.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Question: *Mr. Knott, when did your father begin working at Sotterley?*

Charles Herbert Knott: *Went there at nighttime to see Mr. and Mrs. Cashner, well it was Mr. Cashner. He didn't own it, it belonged to his wife. She was a Briscoe. It was Judge Briscoe's probably great, great aunt. He went there at nighttime to see Mr. Cashner about getting a job, so he moved there in October, 1910.*

Question: *And I understand that he pretty much took care of everything?*

Charles Herbert Knott: *He taken care of anything, everything. Mr. Satterlee's office was on 49th and Wall Street and if he wanted \$500.00 or \$1,000.00 or something like that, he'd send a letter up there and in return mail, why he would have a check. Back there, years ago, back when he was running it, the wages wasn't like they are today. And there was about five or six families that lived on the place.*

Oh yes. He was overseer of everything there. When Mr. Satterlee bought his own farm, it was in 1925, he bought the other small farms that was the original tract of land. And he got all but two acres.

When dad started there they had corn, wheat, oats, barley, and a little tobacco. But, he didn't raise any tobacco himself there. It was the tenants that would raise tobacco.

See, back then, they raised their tobacco and also raised some corn, too, and they got one-half. That was their share.

Question: *Mr. Knott can you tell us some of the activities your father supervised on the farm?*

Charles Herbert Knott: *Well, let's see they had corn, wheat, and of course oats, barley, and about 100 cattle and they were sold off time to time. He had ten or twelve steer, and they weighed up to 14 to 15 hundred pounds. Well, the slaughter house was up there and had some involvement. I mean back when the steamboat and they would drive them straight up the street*

²¹ Knott, Richard, and Shawn Knott. *Memories of Sotterley*. Hollywood: Richard Knott, 2010.

to the slaughter houses. And of course there was tobacco fields, but mostly tobacco was taken care of by the tenants. And really there were 10 or 12 families living on the farm at one time; they all had full time jobs there on the farm. Well they had two taking care of cattle. And that old man James Scriber. When Mr. Satterlee died he left everyone on the farm fifty dollars a year on someone's desk. That was in his will.



48. Cows at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

They barely had very many hogs to sell maybe once in a while. They would get killed in the winter when it got cold. Maybe the first part of November. And, Mr. Satterlee had his meat ground up and my father would send 2-3 gallons cans of sausage meat to New York. Well in these days you can put something in the mail and it be there the next day. We would raise turkeys, too. One year my mother had raised 200 turkeys. And, we use to kill those turkeys and send them to New York. There was one place in New York we would send eight turkeys at a time.

The second generation of Knotts to work on Sotterley were Charles Knott, Sr.'s sons, Richard and Charles Henry Knott.



49. Youngster- Richard Knott. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



50. Advertisement for Sotterley turkeys. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Richard Knott: *My full name is John Richard Knott, Senior and I go by Richard Knott. I was born in Sotterley in 1925. My father, he was born in 1884 at Buzzard Point and his father died when he was a young man. In 1910 he heard of the job at Sotterley coming up so at night he walked through the woods and he was just a lucky man. He's the gentleman they picked for the job.*

Well, my really good friend was Junior Barber who was Ford Barber's son. And he and I used to hunt together- rabbits, squirrels- and then in the summer we would go down to the water and we'd crab and fish. And he would always help me get the wood in. My mother would always give us a nice slice of cake or something. But we just had a nice time as boys playing around. And then in the winter months we'd sleigh ride. And get on the horse back and ride the horses.

When I was about 11 years old why, we boys, we worked 10 hours a day, 10 cents an hour. In the summer when it was dry we had a Model A Ford truck. We would carry six barrels of water, 50 gallons of water to a barrel, and we'd drive the truck over to the mansion and take our buckets and water all the flowers and work round in the flower beds and things like that. And then, say 12 or 13, I was out in the fields with Uncle Walter Barber. We was cultivating corn on a cultivator. Each one of us had a team of horses. At Sotterley we had 21 horses.

When Mr. Satterlee came down from New York my father was in the fields working. And he called him in and he said, "Mr. Knott," he always called my father Mr. Knott. He said, "From now on you're working in the fields no longer and you're my superintendent. You have to wear a suit for clothes, necktie, and top coat in the winter, and white pants and a shirt in the summer." And that's what my father done. He didn't tell him how to run the farm but he said, "You're here

for all the week restoring all of these buildings, I'll be home in New York". My father would write every week- my mother would handwrite it, my father would dictate- a letter every week to Mr. Satterlee, send it to New York."

David Brown: When Herbert Satterlee died in 1947, Mrs. Ingalls was thinking of buying the farm back and keeping the place going and she wrote your father a letter about that.

Richard Knott: Mrs. Ingalls would never have bought Sotterley unless my father and mother consented that they would stay and run the farm. And so of course my father and mother love Sotterley and the people who work there and that was home to them and they had consent that they would stay.

My father went there in 1910 and lived there until 1957. Then he moved on my farm and built a house but he went back every week! Mrs. Ingalls told him to take care of different things and he had keys to all of the buildings and for three years he'd take care of a lot of things. And even later, he could always go at Sotterley and do what he liked. Altogether he actually put in 50 years. And when he left my brother Edward moved in. And before my father used to live in the Knott house. And then in 1949 Mrs. Ingalls built a new house which is the office building now. And then my brother Edward moved into the Knott house. My father moved into what is now the office. And so when my

father left in 1957, my brother Edward moved into the office house. And so he, then, sort of took over the family responsibility as the farm manager for a while. And this went on until Mrs. Ingalls came and asked me to come. Mrs. Ingalls, she put my brother Edward in charge of all and put him over at the mansion and the grounds and all around the mansion. That's when he moved into the house where the office is now. Then she hired a man, he was from Georgia, and he wasn't doing a very good job and that's why she asked me, because it was worrying her. She said that she didn't want to own a place and be worried all of the time. That's why I went back to work for her. I went right back to Sotterley and it was like going back home. So she sort of split up the work between me and Edward and Edward looked after the mansion and I looked after the farm.

See Mrs. Ingalls bought that place in 1948. Now, Mrs. Ingalls, she said to me, 'You know, if it hadn't been for so and so I wouldn't even be here.' I said, 'No, Mrs. Ingalls, you got



CIRCA 1925 TERPS ALBUM

51. "Knott House", circa 1925. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

*things wrong. If it hadn't been for my father and mother you wouldn't have been here.' So I come home and got the letter and showed her, and in this letter she states: 'Dear Mr. and Mrs. Knott, that I will consider buying Sotterley if you will promise me one thing. If you will stay there and run Sotterley for me, I will buy it. But my intention is to sell most of Sotterley off. But I want to save enough land for Mrs. Knott's turkeys and I only want to keep about a hundred acres.' And I've still got the letter. And I showed it to Mrs. Ingalls, I said, 'Look, Mrs. Ingalls, if my dear daddy and mother, you wouldn't have been at Sotterley if it hadn't been for my father and mother.'"*²²

* * * * *

Lynn Fitrell: *"How did she oversee the utilization of the land or did she just leave that to the tenant farmers?"*

Grace Horton: *"She had the Knotts. As you know, the senior Knott managed the place for Mabel's parents when they purchased Sotterley from the Briscoes. But the elder Knott, Richard and Edward's father managed the entire place. He did some farming and managed it for Mabel's parents and they would come down two or three times a year, maybe twice a year and they would hunt and enjoy spring and fall here."*²³

* * * * *

Richard Knott: *"Mrs. van Heerden is a very fine lady. I do get a salary. She's like her grandfather and her mother, they was all just nice people. But I would have worked for free for what they done for my family. I'll tell you the truth, I was just proud of taking care of Mrs. Ingalls' farm, taking care of her buildings, and when she would come down and she left she would say, 'Richard, take care of my farm,' and that's what I done to the best of my ability."*²⁴

The Edwards Family

Almost all those who had been born as slaves at Sotterley had left by the late nineteenth century. "Uncle" Alfred Edwards was a rare exception. He had been born about 1847 a slave at Sotterley, the son of Lee Edwards, owned by Chapman Billingsley, and Priscilla Quentin, owned by Doctor Briscoe. He married Alice Kelley about 1882. In 1910 the census listed him as a "farmer" living with Alice and seven of their children and grandchildren in a former slave cabin across the ravine north of Sotterley on land that had belonged earlier to the Billingsleys.²⁵

²² Richard Knott. *Sotterley Oral History Project*. By David Brown. February 10, 2009.

²³ Grace Horton. *Sotterley Oral History Project*. By Lynn Fitrell. April 7, 2009.

²⁴ Richard Knott. *Sotterley Oral History Project*. By David Brown. February 10, 2009.

²⁵ Brown, David G. *Sotterley: Her People and Their Worlds, Three Hundred Years of a Maryland Plantation*. Baltimore: Chesapeake Book Company, 2010

Richard Knott: *"The old man was Uncle Alfred Edwards who was born in 1847 and he died in the 1930s. At one time he was a slave, see 1847... slavery wasn't over with until 1864 or 1865. But I remember Uncle Alfred Edwards, he lived to be a very old man. I remember him walking up past the house. He lived right across the branch from Uncle James Scriber. Across that ravine and that's Samadi land now. At that time, years back, it was the Hutchins' farm."*²⁶

Herbert Knott: *"Old Sam Edwards, the young Sam Edward's father, at one time he kept store at Sotterley Wharf."*²⁷

Nettie Scriber: *Now he [Sam Edwards] used to come up there and help your mother, cut up wood and bring that wood in the house. And then he would go back home. He would go up to your mother's everyday and that was his job. I know he lived over there and had a room up in the attic. He lived up in the attic. And he'd go up there on a ladder and go up to his room. I remember he used to go up to your mother's every day. That was his job. To keep the wood box full of wood and cut the wood and carry that. And I think after that, he'd go on back home. We'd see him every day.*



52. Alfred Edwards, former slave who stayed at Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

²⁶ Knott, Richard, and Shawn Knott. *Memories of Sotterley*. Hollywood: Richard Knott, 2010.

²⁷ Knott, Richard, and Shawn Knott. *Memories of Sotterley*. Hollywood: Richard Knott, 2010.

Mabel Ingalls

David Brown: *With regards to Mabel Ingalls, what is your understanding of how she made the decision to buy the place in 1948? In 1946 your grandmother dies, 1947 your grandfather...*

Sandra van Heerden: *I do remember her saying, "Sotterley was very important to your grandfather, it was one thing that was really his, had nothing to do with the Morgan family. He really loved it, he took great pride in the genealogy and going back to Sotterley Hall in England, and this is a place he really loved." And he was a history buff, too, so he enjoyed looking into everything and I think she was really unhappy that he didn't leave Sotterley to her. But she decided, and I remember her telling me, "I'm going to purchase Sotterley because I think it's a very important house and property," and she didn't say this, but it was also a real connection to her father. She loved him, she admired him, so anything that reminded her of that connection was important.*



53. Mabel Ingalls and Sandra van Heerden.

Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Grace Calhoun Horton was born and raised in Alabama. She met her husband, John Rider Horton at the University of Chicago and they were married for sixty years. While John Horton worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, their family lived in four or five different countries. They later retired to Sotterley Plantation. She was interviewed on April 7, 2009 by Lynn Fitrell. *Let me talk a moment about how Mabel acquired Sotterley and I'm going to read a letter that John wrote to the Sotterley Foundation in April of 2001 because at that time there was a discussion among the trustees and various historic societies about when the history of Sotterley should end. This letter points out something that was not generally known and I'm going to read this and it was written by my husband, John Horton. He says, "I hear that the consultants think of recommending that Sotterley history stop, as it were, in 1947, cutting out half a century of significant developments taken by Mabel Ingalls. It seems to be assumed that Mabel was given Sotterley at her father's death, passively accepting this as part of her inheritance. The consultants have been led to their strange recommendation, partly by the impression that she took no initiative in taking ownership of Sotterley and making it what it is today. Probably sometime in 1963 I had dinner with Mabel at Sotterley. The subject of her father's death came up and here is what I remember of the conversation. She was here at Sotterley after her father's death and Philip Greenwell came by to call. He is the late proprietor of the property [known as Rosedale] which he gave to the State of Maryland and is now Greenwell State Park. He told Mabel she should feel free to continue 'shooting quail' at Sotterley. According to Mabel, Greenwell had thought he bought Sotterley from the Satterlee*

estate, the Morgan lawyers having put it on the market without Mabel's knowledge. As I recall it, Mabel said that Greenwell's visit was the first she had known of Sotterley being disposed of. She immediately took steps to buy Sotterley herself. Had she not done so, Sotterley would hardly be the institution that it is today. It is Mabel, what's more, that arranged through her lawyer the foundation, her generosity opening the house and grounds to the public. Mabel Ingalls having taken the initiative she did in 1947 is consistent with Mabel's significant role in the years before her death. Sotterley is a far different place than the Sotterley of 1947. The arbitrary incision of history after 1947 would pointlessly ignore the last half of the century of Sotterley's history. I hope you will be good enough to pass this letter on to the trustees."



54. Sotterley, summer view. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Donald Barber: Mrs. Ingalls, she was a very interesting person. She was older, of course, by the time I came along and she was like a force of nature or something cause, now you can laugh about it but if you're watching the news and they say a hurricane's a coming there's people all boarding up the windows and stuff; people say "Mrs. Ingalls is coming", it starts a flurry of activity 'cause the house, see they used to refer to this as the big house, so "Mrs. Ingalls is coming, I'll get the big house ready." Cause in this place, the pipes would freeze up if you leave anything on in the winter time and you had to get the house up and ready for her to be here. Get all the beds turned back and made and everything. It was a flurry of activity when Mrs. Ingalls was coming.

* * * * *

Phyllis Barber Brown: Mrs. Ingalls came down very often in the spring, before the house was opened for the tours. You could count on it in the months of April and May, she would come almost every weekend. Once in a while, she would stay during the week, for a few days. But mostly it was the weekends that she would come and do a lot of entertaining.

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Elizabeth Harman: She [Mabel Ingalls] came in whenever we needed her, really. She loved Sotterley. She fell in love with it. She was concerned for it. She wanted us to have everything that we needed to have. I reached the point at one point... we never had the money coming in

that we should have, enough visitors coming if you call them that. The visitors, to pay. Sometimes, we couldn't pay our bills. But this is how thorough she was. She went through everything. I would send in my monthly reports, and there were a couple months there that I didn't have the money to pay the bills. The electric bill and the telephone bill. So I didn't pay my salary. I paid the bills and didn't pay my salary. And she called me up and she said, "I've just looked over the report. I see you haven't paid your salary. Why?" I said, "Mrs. Ingalls, if I paid my salary, the other employees here that are totally dependent on their salary will not get one, and I don't have to have mine. I'm not dependent on it". She said, "Well, don't you ever do that again." She said, "If you can't pay your bills, I will give you the name and the phone number of the man who is in charge of the Ganlee Fund, and all you have to do is call him and give him a list of your bills and the total, and he will send you a check." And he did.

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55. Elizabeth Harman in Sotterley garden. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Grace Horton: We were stationed in Hong Kong from 1958 to 1962 and as a social worker by training I became involved there with the International Social Service. Mabel Ingalls had become involved with ISS after World War II in Europe where there were huge problems with refugees. ISS was established with headquarters in Geneva and a huge office in New York City. And Mabel Ingalls was on the board of each of those offices. In about 1959, ISS was invited to come to Hong Kong because hundreds of thousands of refugees were pouring out of



56. Grace Horton and Mabel Ingalls. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

China to avoid the Mao-Zedong days and there were a lot of orphans who ended up in Hong Kong which at that point was a British-crown colony. And the British government did not want to be seen dealing with the problem, especially of children, in a cold-hearted way. So ISS established an office there to handle especially the overseas placements and adoptions of Chinese orphans. In 1960, Mabel Ingalls came as a board member of ISS, came to the Far East to visit each of the offices and ended up in Hong Kong which was where we met. At that time I was the director of the office in Hong Kong. And she said to John and me that she had a place near Washington in Southern Maryland and there were a few cottages there that she let friends rent. One of them would become empty about the time we were due back in the summer of 1962 and she asked us to drive down to Sotterley to look at the place and decide whether or not we would like to rent it. We did and we were shown the Brink House. The Brink House is down near the Wharf, it's on the edge. It is now the Educational Center. And I want to tell you why it's called the Brink House which it was not called when we rented it over the years. The previous tenant was a Foreign Service couple named Hoskins and they left and so it was offered to us. The term "brinksmanship" emerged while John Foster Dulles was Secretary of State and referred to nearing the brink in our relationship with USSR. Molly Thayer, who was a close friend of Mabel Ingalls, had another rental house at Sotterley. Molly did not care for Dulles or the Hoskins and with her sharp tongue referred to them as living on the "Brink House". During our fifteen year tenancy, it was never called the Brink House but somehow the name resurfaced later.



57. Roadside view of Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Audio 3. Grace Horton on Mabel Ingalls and Sotterley.



In June 1962, my husband and children, and I visited Sotterley to look at the cottage offered by Mabel and of course we

were delighted and accepted on the spot. Molly Thayer, as mentioned above, great friend of Mabel's, was a tenant of the third cottage on the river and Gordon and Carrie Williams were in the Wharf House at the time. We had met Molly also in Hong Kong when she was a reporter for The Washington Post accompanying Jackie Kennedy on her trip to the Far East and she later wrote a book about Jackie.

Over the years, continuing my remarks about occupying the Brink House. When we would be assigned overseas, Mabel would tell us to let a friend or friends take over the cottage while we were away and we could claim it when we returned from our overseas visit. So that was a wonderful arrangement and we had friends who took the cottage for a couple of years while we were overseas. Our last overseas post was Mexico. Mabel Ingalls had been everywhere in the world but never to Mexico.



58. "Spinning Cottage". Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

On that trip she flew back to New York from Mexico City and I took her to the airport. While we waited for her plane she said, "I've been thinking of making a few changes at Sotterley and you and John have done so well there that I wonder if you'd like to buy a few acres." And I almost fell off of my chair because it would have never, never occurred to John or me to ask to buy. She was not the sort of person as many well-off people are who are afraid that people want something from her and so this was a real shocker. She said, "You two will be coming up on home leave soon and I will meet you there and we'll look at a few spots." And so I came up first, John couldn't come at the time and she showed me two spots. One was closer to the Wharf House and the other one was the northern most end of Sotterley property adjoining Dr. Samadi's. And so she offered us eight acres which we bought.

Audio 4. Grace Horton on purchasing a piece of Sotterley.



And we would never have dreamed it. It completely transformed our lives, of course. We would probably have ended up in around Washington but instead John retired fairly early. He was 60. And at that time you had to retire from the CIA at 60, isn't that amazing?

He decided to build a house which he did. It took him two years. And so we had this marvelous house built and we lived there for twenty-five years. And incidentally Mabel visited us. She spent the night in our house at least once. Anyhow, that's the saga of our owning property and building there and just having twenty-five years of marvelous. We had a little

beach of our own and our children and grandchildren just adored that place. We called it Cornwallis Fresh.



59. Choral Group at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Mabel asked me to arrange some musical events at Sotterley. She felt there should be a few more things going on there. So I got involved arranging during the spring and summer months a series of music events. I got in touch with the Friday Morning Music Club in Washington where there are semi-professional and professional musicians and they would come down and give concerts out on the front lawn. They were fairly well attended. They were not overwhelming. But I also did some volunteer work. I would go around Sunday

and take people around. I was not very good at it. But they needed more volunteers and I helped out. And John and I, both at different times, worked in the garden. And I would like to take credit for naming it the "Garden Guild". I said to Elizabeth Harman, "This group of people needs something of a dignified name, a prestigious name. Let's call it the Garden Guild."

One thing when she came to Hong Kong twice in I think it was 1961 and 1962. Aside from observing International Social Service activities, she had... the dining room at Sotterley had been papered with wallpaper copied from the Brighton Pavilion in London. She needed a carpet for the dining room and she had that made in Hong Kong. She brought samples of colors and so on and she had a fine arts person in Hong Kong whose name was Charlotte Horseman design and make a rug and it is still on the floor in Sotterley. I thought that was interesting. So it was to go with the wallpaper. I don't know why she selected the wallpaper. But that carpet was made by Charlotte Horseman, designed and she saw to the making of it.

Well the Red Room was certainly her own idea and some people find it jarring, I believe. But I think it's quite appropriate. And she always said that when she was young and her parents brought her and her sister to Sotterley it was just another home and it was to be comfortable and not be fancy and it should be fairly simple. And I think she wanted to keep it that way. Her family as you know had other houses up in Bar Harbor. Her grandfather had a huge estate in Bar Harbor that she went to as a child and she eventually herself built a



60. Red Room at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley 47

place in Northeast Harbor, Maine, a summer place, a very simple cottage.

Mabel was not really a very political person. I would say that her views on social issues were, if not liberal, they were open minded and she by her action by becoming so deeply involved with International Social Service and Planned Parenthood, she obviously had concerns about social issues, social justice. But she was from a very privileged background and I think it is hard to shed some of that even if you are interested in social issues. It's hard to shed one's place in society.

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Don Barber: *I think Mrs. Ingalls understood what she had. This was a gem and she wanted to share it. I'm actually very thankful that she did that because this place could have just changed hands, could have just been somebody's home. Or, they tore down Resurrection Manor. So we can thank her that the fate of this place wasn't the same as Resurrection Manor.*

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Agnes Callum: *Mrs. Ingalls. She was happy to have me. Now I would come down during the week and I would bring my lunch, it was picnic tables out there right in front of the mansion. And I would spread my lunch out. She'd see me out there and she'd bring me a jar of jelly that she made or marmalade or something like that. Mrs. Ingalls was a very, very nice person. And she's the one that kept this place alive too, that's what I think. Because when she died, we almost went under. I was on the board then, we almost went under. Until I think Richard Moe and McCullough, the historian McCullough. They sort of caught on and whatever. But Mrs. Ingalls was a very, very nice person. And thank god for her because she preserved this place.*



61. Mabel Ingalls at Sotterley's original slave cabin.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Giving Sotterley to the People

Sotterley is held in public trust by the private non-profit Sotterley Mansion Foundation, established in 1961 by its last private owner, Mabel Ingalls, granddaughter of J. Pierpont Morgan. Mrs. Ingalls opened Sotterley to the public, instituted visitor and education programs, and provided the major source of funding required to maintain the buildings and grounds. Upon her death in December of 1993, she bequeathed the site, its buildings and their contents to the foundation.²⁸

Dear Mr. Garrett:

At long last I am writing you to follow up our conversation of last June when you came to "Sotterley", and to put on paper some of my ideas about "Sotterley" and the part which I hope the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities will care to play in its future.

Your Society well knows the architectural merits of this early 18th century home of the Platers in St. Mary's County and its long and intimate association with Maryland history. I believe many of your members have visited "Sotterley" and experienced its rather unusual quality and charm.

My father, Herbert L. Satterlee, became interested in the house because it was named after the common ancestral home of the Satterlees and Platers in Suffolk, England, and he purchased it in 1910. It was always his wish that anyone who cared to should be able to see it.

It is my desire to carry out this idea and to make "Sotterley" available for study by students of the colonial architecture and period and open to the general public for their interest and pleasure. Such houses are part of the heritage from the early years of our country and the relatively few which are still standing should be accessible to the public.

It may well be that eventually "Sotterley" should belong to the nation, with certain rights of domicile, etc. reserved to me and my heirs, as is done frequently in England.

However, at the present state of the development of the National Trust I feel that the most satisfactory way of achieving the objective would be to share the responsibilities of management and guardianship, entailed in preserving the property and showing foundation which itself might be a member of the National Trust. Naturally, the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities occurs to me as being the most appropriate and desirable one to interest itself in "Sotterley".

In order to give this whole project of preserving "Sotterley" and making it available to the public more permanence and surety if it depended solely on me or my heirs, and so that any organization entering into a joint project would have the possibility of continuance of the project in the event of my death and safeguarding any effort or money they had put into it, I have made certain provisions in my will. However, as I have stated above, I do not wish, at this point, to turn over ownership to the nation or to any organization, but I do desire to share the responsibility and to work things out so that my expenses in connection with the house or any investment in furnishings, etc. for it should be tax deductible.

**Very sincerely yours,
Mabel Ingalls²⁹**

²⁸From "Historic Sotterley National Trust for Historic Preservation Designated Endangered Site"

Tyler Gearhart, former director of Preservation Maryland: *It was before my time, but when the Satterlee family owned Sotterley they spent the summers up in Maine. They wouldn't use Sotterley year round. In the summer they made an agreement with Preservation Maryland, which at that time it was called Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities, to open the property to the public during the summer months. We operated that in the summer months for the Satterlee family. There were volunteer tour guides and limited access. That was from '53-'61, [when] the Sotterley Foundation was created.*

Audio 5. Tyler Gearhart on the Ingalls and the establishment of the foundation.



I think because the Satterlee family was going to sell the property and realized it was worthy of preservation and knew of the interest from our preservation and the public. And that it had national significance and should be preserved. And, I think they set it up so that the foundation was created and could take over the property and manage it, and keep it open to the public.

Mabel Ingalls: *"Well, I hated to think of this being broken up into lots of little lots which the developer was going to do. But of course he'd say we'd keep the house as the central attraction. But you know what it would have been. The whole place would have been broken up. So my lawyer, Robert Thrun, worked out a scheme and showed me how it wouldn't cost me too much to do it if we made it into a tax-exempt historic house. I'm very glad that he did because it has been of great interest to me and I've been very happy to see how much the people in the county do enjoy it.*



62. Aerial photograph of Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

²⁹ "Mabel Ingalls to Mr. Garrett, the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities," *Sotterley Archives*, undated, but generally in the 1950s timeframe.

When we were starting trying out the idea we got in 1963 some house mothers from Smith College that came down for three years and acted as docents, and we opened it just on a trial basis during those summer months when college was out. Then it proved satisfactory enough and everything. We decided to really set it up. Of course, we elongated the season a little. I never thought of using it in the winter until all the wonderful people who had been working here on catering meals and dinners and things that we did a bit of. They thought of the idea of having a Christmas party and of having a few of the candle light dinners around that season. This Christmas reception, I think, is the most successful thing that has ever been done here.

The strawberry festival which we have is another very charming occasion. When people bring their children, and everybody seems to have a very good time. The strawberry dishes are very tastefully served and delicious to eat.

I hope my daughter or granddaughter will keep the surrounding land as it is necessary for the house really. And whether somebody sells it or not after my death, they will have to leave the vistas. That's legally provided for so the house would not lose the views to the water. And we will always of course have the part that belongs to it with the big fields and the sheep barn. Well I hope it will stay that way physically very much as it is. There will be two or three cottages around that are not for sale but we hope will be rented on a long term basis that helps us bring in a little income to run the place and also makes a nice group of people living there that are interested and protective about Sotterley."



63. View of Sotterley gate. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

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Elizabeth Harman: *It was such an emotional decision for her. Oh, she would say over and over, how she didn't want to do it and she just couldn't do it, emotionally, but she did realize she had to down-size all of her positions. She had too many places to be responsible for and costing too much money and Sotterley was the most expensive she had. She said, "This requires constant restoration and work and I cannot keep up with it, and I don't want to see it go back." So she decided to do it. She went to Mr. [Robert] Thrun who was her financier and her lawyer and a wonderful person. Everybody who knew him loved him. And he told her, "Mabel, I think you should decide to do it, and I approve your decision. And if you decide to do it, I will take care of all the endless paperwork that you are going to have to go through with the Department of Interior." She had been to Interior and had inquired about what would be required. And when she found out that just stopped her. She just wasn't going to go physically and mentally through all that would have been required. He said, "I will take care of every bit of it for you. All you have to do is to sign the papers." He said, 'I think it's a wonderful decision for*

Sotterley. You can maintain the right to always go there as long as you live and enjoy it. But this would be the thing for its future.'

Audio 6. Elizabeth Harman on creating the foundation.



*I have several times heard people at parties say, "Oh, Mrs. Ingalls we certainly thank you for deeding Sotterley away and doing what you did for the county and us." And she said, "Don't ever thank me, thank Robert Thrun because I never would have done it if it hadn't been for him."*³⁰

Ms. Ingalls discussed and discussed this with me, sometimes with tears in her eyes because she didn't really want to give it up. But she said, "The public is showing interest in it" and she said, "I am sure that this is what I should do."

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*"I would never want to sever my connection with St. Mary's County," Mrs. Ingalls said at the Foundation meeting, "but Sandra and I both feel Sotterley can and should serve a wider purpose than a part time residence. That is why we are turning it over to the foundation. The men and women who have accepted to serve as trustees and officers are all devoted to the Mansion and to the preservation cause. They will think in terms of extending the usefulness of Sotterley, both to the county and to the state of Maryland. Recently it has much been used by the teachers for fieldtrips of their classes. We want it to be used increasingly in the education of the young, and for the education and pleasure of the local people as well as the tourist public."*³¹

Elizabeth Harman: *Mrs. Ingalls expressed the conviction that with the help of those present at the meeting and other leaders in the County, Sotterley can also become a real community center for St. Mary's County residents as well as for those who come to the County on temporary duty.*³¹

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Grace Horton: *We moved into the cottage in 1962 and at that time Sue Milton was the first director dossier at Sotterley. In fact, she was the only employee of the just formed Sotterley Foundation. Members of the Knott and Barber family worked on the grounds and in the house. After Sue's sudden death, the Kimmels, a retired Foreign Service couple, took over the position and were later followed by Elizabeth and Wilbur Harman. Mabel was in the process of forming the Sotterley Foundation at that time and her lawyer, Robert Thrun, with his wife, visited Sotterley a number of times. He encouraged her to form the foundation and to open the house to the public.*

³⁰ Elizabeth Harman. *Sotterley Oral History Project*. By David Brown. April 21, 2008.

³¹ Elizabeth Harman. *Sotterley Oral History Project*. By David Brown. April 21, 2008.



64. Sotterley Volunteers. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



65. Sotterley Volunteer.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Sotterley is what it is, a show-piece of Maryland history, open to the public today because of that action Mabel Ingalls took.



66. J. Spence Howard. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

I will say that her original trustees after the foundation was formed in 1962 or 1963 were primarily friends of hers from New York or Washington and the New York people were specialists. One of them either worked for Christie's or the other big auction place for fine furniture, paintings, and so on. This particular trustee, his expertise was in porcelain. There was another friend from New York that she had dealt with previously whose expertise was in furniture. There were two St. Mary's County trustees to begin with. One was Spence Howard and the other one was Charles Fenwick. He was very prominent in the county and he was a trustee. She at some point said, "I really need to have more representation on the board of trustees from St. Mary's County", that was clear to everyone. So John and I suggested Hope Swann whom she did not know originally but met and immediately asked her to become a trustee. And her other mainstay on the original board was Richard Howland who is a Washington resident and he was connected to

the Smithsonian. He had all sorts of titles and he was a board member. She began in the early 1990s to enlarge the board and had local people becoming members.

Mabel asked me to become a trustee in 1988 and my term ended in 1996 and John Hanson Briscoe was President and I was Vice-President during that time. And it was a very rocky period because we were running out of money and we were constantly borrowing money and it was at some point during my term that the Maryland State Program Open Space, we had contacted for help, came forward with an offer to buy thirteen acres down where the Brink House is. I don't remember exactly how much money they gave us but it enabled us to pay off our debts and Open Space gave the space back to Sotterley, provided Sotterley with the chance to use it. And so that is the Educational Center now which is wonderful, I just think.



67. Mabel Ingalls and John Hanson Briscoe, 1990.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



68. Governor Parris Glendening and Mike Whitson.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

"Mabel always, always from the very beginning stressed education. She wanted Sotterley to be used for that. She liked to have tourists visit but she certainly wanted the main purpose to be education for school children.

Audio 7. Grace Horton on Mabel Ingalls' emphasis on education.



69. Carver School Field Trip, 1999. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

The early New York trustees that I mentioned, these experts were suddenly and totally trustees. And Mabel probably saw them some in New York but once or twice a year she would have a house party at Sotterley for her Washington friends. She had a number of friends there. One of whom was a long time trustee. Dick Howland, Richard Howland who was connected to the Smithsonian and head of the English Speaking Union, etc. and he and some of his other friends, interesting people, would be invited down for a weekend, say in the spring before the manager opened it to the public and they would be housed in the bedrooms and so on. One time before our house was built John and I were included in that and we were put up in one of the gate houses. At that time, the one on the left had a small bed in it and a chair and so it was sort of furnished as a place you can spend the night and so we with our dogs slept in it. But weekends were wonderful because she would be hosting her friends and they were all very interesting people and the luncheon on Sunday if I recall, would be out on the patio, out on the portico on a nice day and then someone would appear with a huge platter of soft-shell crabs with crackers to be eaten with whiskey sours. Mabel claims she had squeezed all the lemon juice for them, I doubt that. But they were certainly delicious and that with these soft-shell crabs was dreamlike. And then we would go into the dining room and sit down to something for lunch. But it would nearly always include some kind of seafood. It might be oysters and they were really wonderful occasions. I remember that much of this took place during the early Kennedy years, that short period when Kennedy was president. So much was going on in Washington. The talk was very interesting.

I think she was vaguely interested in the history but her main concern was to keep it going as an educational institution.



70. North Gate House used as a playroom for Mabel when she was young and a guest home after she purchased Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Mabel Ingalls wanted to know what was going on at Sotterley. She lived in New York but she was in charge. She certainly was consulted by Elizabeth and various directors. There were a number of very short term directors. So it was a part of an overall view. I don't think there was one aspect of Sotterley plan that she was preoccupied with. But it was keeping the place going maybe by increasing attendance, visitors and increasing some of the programs and that's how I got into arranging music. I don't know what Sotterley would have become if she had not formed a foundation and opened it to the public. I don't believe she would have used it very much. If she had continued the pattern that her parents had, of coming down twice a year or two or three times, I don't believe she would have done that. I don't know what plan she had, if any. But she was, after she had to buy back Sotterley from the estate, Bob Thrun her lawyer was very influential in suggesting what she do with Sotterley, that is open it to the public and form a foundation.

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Mabel Ingalls: Originally, the trustees were very few in number. They were people who had been working with us sort of about the house, always interested and so forth. I would say the chief ones were Charles Fenwick and Spence Howard. They were obviously on the first board and my lawyer who was so responsible for the whole thing. Another friend of mine who was very knowledgeable about all the artifacts and things like Lowestoft china which was his great subject and different kinds of 18th century furniture. So he was on the board.

Video 1. [Mabel Ingalls interviewed by Sotterley Plantation.](#)

"I want that to be hung up where it is on view all the time."



71. Fran and Charli Turgeon. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



72. The Enterprise, May 15, 1969. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Recently, we have enlarged the number of trustees. We wanted to get more people from around the area. One of our trustees being from Boston. He has been invaluable to us on account of his knowledge of period furniture and things so we'd know, even if we did mix our periods, we'd know what we were doing by mistake. But as I said before and always want to emphasize, we didn't want it to be any one period too much, we wanted to show how people lived here and farmed the land for all this time since about 1717.

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Sandra van Heerden: *"I didn't really come down once my mother set up the foundation and you know the story that her lawyer Robert Thrun was very helpful to her. She said, 'I love Sotterley, but I'm not going to be able to come here on weekends the way I can go up to the farm on the Hudson, but I want to somehow hold on to it. What can we do, how do we manage it?'" And he came up with the idea of turning it into a foundation, trying to open the house to the public and as I say the rest is history.*

"When she set up the foundation, the question was where it would get any money. So she set up this Ganlee Foundation, it was called, which was sort of a misnomer really, well Sotterley Foundation was a misnomer, I don't know which way it went but the word foundation was kind of incorrect. But Ganlee, that word, was a contraction of Morgan and Satterlee, so the last syllable of each she put together. Because the money that went into it was what she had inherited from her mother and what she got from her father after his death. So anyway it was a combination of the money from those two families. So that was what she used, but it wasn't a very big foundation and still isn't, but in the beginning that's what she used to run Sotterley, sort of on a shoestring."

Audio 8. Sandra van Heerden about her mother's decision to set up the foundation.



Sandra van Heerden

Sandra van Heerden: *"I've seen pictures of myself with my grandfather, Herbert Satterlee, outside the slave cabin. I must have been four or five and to be honest I don't remember it.*

What I really remember is that during WWII when my father and mother moved to Washington, my father went abroad right away but my mother stayed there and worked at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Every weekend that was possible, meaning if she had saved enough gas coupons, we would drive down to Sotterley for the weekend. So there were about those two and a half years that we came here quite frequently. And she had a very dear friend, Molly Thayer, who lived in Washington. Molly had one daughter, I was an only child, so Eugenie Thayer and I often came down together and had wonderful visits here. Particularly, we both loved horses. About all that was left in the barn at that time were old work horses, but that didn't bother us. We got them and rode around. There was an old pony that my mother had, and I suggested to Eugenie that she might like to ride that pony one day. And I said, "But she's very old, so be very gentle with her." I think she must have been near 30, and Eugenie got on this little pony and walked out and screams and yells and I ran after her and said, "What's wrong? What's wrong?" and she said, "Well, I don't want to pull on her reins to turn her around because

I'm afraid she might fall down, she's so old and frail." But we didn't really ride her too much. We did have, as I say, some of the work horses and there was one called Ruby that I used to ride who was actually a riding horse. But those are most, my memories from here are from when I was about ten, I guess, to about 13.

David Brown: *Were you able to come down here very much when you had your own professional life and kids to raise?*

Sandra van Heerden: *No, no. We made once a year trips only. Then, South African National Holiday was May 30th, May 31st. So my husband got two days off, because you got your own national holiday off because he worked in the UN secretariat and he remained a South African national so he was allowed to take the South African national holiday. And because it happened right after Memorial Day, we came down here for quite a number of years. And we had, many of my friends lived in Washington, and the Saturday or the Sunday of that weekend we would invite them all down here for a day of fun and games. Splashing in the river. Well, it was just fun dabbling here in the river; children could wade, and before the Hortons had built that house and got the property from mom there was a little beach over on that side of the Sotterley property and we often went there.*

David Brown: *Did you stay in the main house?*



**73. Community Day 1998; Left to Right: Jan and Sandra van Heerden, John Hanson Briscoe, and Bonnie Briscoe
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley**

Sandra van Heerden: *Yes, and one of the first things I did when we came down here and our children were small, was... upstairs in the Satterlee bedroom there was an old, tin tub. Huge, probably had the diameter of a good six feet, and a little tin seat and a little place for the soap and a little hole for the water to run out and I suppose some maid poured buckets of water over you while you sat in it. But the children thought that was the greatest thing; we took it out on the lawn and gave everyone a bath at Sotterley. Yes, we stayed in the main house and talked about the secret passage, and all the excitements in the house and remember, well during the war*

when Eugenie Thayer and I were here there was no electricity in the house, so we had candles and also these lanterns with the, it was kind of a wick that looked like cheesecloth, I can't remember what you call it now, but they were kerosene lamps. And then Eugenie and I always took a candle up to bed, of course, because each carrying our own, it was very exciting. And, I remember my mother telling this story because I don't remember doing it, but my grandfather, once electricity came to the country, agreed to have it put in on the ground floor. And my mother tells me that when that happened, when I heard about it, I guess we were in Washington and she got a call that electricity was being put in, she told me, I immediately called Eugenie Thayer and I said, "Guess what? Grandpa has put electricity in the ground floor and when I grow up I'm going to take it out". Because going to bed by candlelight is something that, even in those days, people didn't experience. At least not the way I grew up, in New York City. So it was a big thrill. We just basically had sort of three full days here; wasn't a lot of time. There weren't really any horses left to ride, so we didn't do that. Mainly, it was the end of May, so it was like the beginning of summer, particularly for us from the northern climes like New York City, and just to wade along the shore was a lot of fun.

I honored the fact that she wanted to keep it and maintain it somewhat in the family at least for the time being because of her affection for her father, who set it all up. And I certainly, he was the only grandparent that I knew, and I loved him very much and he was a very exciting and wonderful old gent. And so, that whole thrust to keep that kind of stayed alive with me. And of course as she got older, very, very reluctantly she would give up little bits. "Well Sandra, you do this," or "Sandra, you do that." But when it came to Sotterley, there wasn't any particular moment when she said, "Now it's your turn" because I never was the president of the board, I never wanted to be president, didn't live here. I didn't come here very frequently, and I knew that she admired Spence Howard very much and surely, for me, he was very important because even though she was still alive she couldn't keep track and keep up with everything that was going on. So Spence was willy-nilly drawn into doing more and more. In any case, he certainly was the person I turned to, but here I was up in New York so we had weekly conversations, and he went over everything he had done and everything he was planning to do. And then I would tell Mom, but at the end she really wasn't so interested anymore. That's natural, getting to the end. She did continue to come down here, every spring and every fall right up to the very end, because she died in December and she was here that October.

I could never really be active; I wasn't here. I mean Mom did it her way for many years because she was used to it and because she liked firing off directives to everybody. But I'm not



74. Side view of Sotterley Portico. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

that kind of person, and so I didn't do that. And it had to be somebody here. And it was Spence Howard, and then at the very end I do remember talking with John Hanson, somehow, maybe Spence got him on. I can't remember how all that happened.

Audio 9. Sandra van Heerden on Mabel Ingalls' relationship to Sotterley.



75. Mabel Ingalls. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Mom was very... feeling strong that the community should like it and the community should support it, in whatever way. And as you know, at her death she didn't leave any money to the Sotterley Foundation because she wanted people to just feel like it was theirs and to work for it and to be a part of it.

David Brown: *In terms of things you did do and that you worked with Spence Howard on, is there anything in particular that you think of being very important to you personally that was done in the last years of your mother's life? In terms of setting a direction for Sotterley or accomplishing some project?*

Sandra van Heerden: *Overriding always, has been and will be for a long time, is money. We never had enough money, it seemed, to do what needed to be done and if it weren't for all the loyal people around here who have given so many hours, I mean gosh, Sotterley wouldn't be where it is today, so the Foundation owes a debt of gratitude to all those people. I don't think Mom had any long-range view other than she didn't want it just to be a private home which is why she turned it into a foundation. She wanted as much of the community as possible to feel that this was their place and to come here and enjoy it. That's a notable thing but it takes a lot of work and educating and so on. And there were just always very limited means. You'd mentioned, I think somewhere there about the early docents that she chose, Sue Milton and there were various other people who came and went and then of course Elizabeth Harman, who had the grace and the ability to work very well with Mom, because my mother wasn't easy. One*

thing about her, you knew exactly where you stood and what she thought of you. She never minced words, but a lot of people didn't like that and so they went off, but Elizabeth Harman was absolutely magnificent and Mom really admired her and liked the fact that she came from a training of working with old places and Elizabeth, I mean Sotterley was her life, absolutely. So Mom was very happy on that score. But, I mean, of those who got paid they never got paid enough. You know, that kind of thing. Always our trustee meetings were haggling over the budget. I can just remember hours going by.

It is different from a lot of the other public houses and if we can keep it going and keep it standing it's a wonderful place for people to come and see a little slice of American history.³²

"I'm just appreciative from afar of all of the work that all of you do and all the time that you give, trying to make this place a success. Because it is a little jewel."

³² Sandra van Heerden. *Sotterley Oral History Project*. By David Brown. April 21, 2008.

Addendum: Mabel Ingalls' Last View of Sotterley



The Sotterley Mansion Foundation

January 19, 1994

Ms. Carol Wible
103 Cherri Lane
Hollywood, MD 20636

Dear Carol:

The day before my mother died, she looked at some photographs Grace Horton had sent of the preparations for the Christmas party. I know it gave her pleasure to think of all the wonderful volunteers using this house, being a part of the life within it and enjoying themselves in that space. As you know, she wanted the house to be lived in and used; it's gratifying to know that so many people get together and work on the Christmas Open House, and then all go have a good time together! At Sotterley!

On behalf of Mrs. Ingalls, I want to convey to you and all the volunteers how much I appreciate your involvement in Sotterley--not only in the fun times, but equally in hard work times of presenting the house to people who come to visit. Without all of you, none of this would be possible.

Best wishes for a good and busy season in 1994.

Sincerely,

Sandra

Sandra I. van Heerden

76. Letter from Sandra van Heerden to Sotterley volunteers, January 19, 1994.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



77. Original Chippendale staircase at Christmastime.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



Strings of popcorn crisscross the Christmas tree in the library. Antique toys nestle beneath the tree. Richard Boulton carved the mantel and paneling about 1727. A rare c. 1858 Agra Jail rug from India is the work of weavers captured in a rebellion against the British.

78. Sotterley at Christmastime.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



The Satterley family china, from the early 1800s, is "Byzantium" by Ridgway of England. The photo shows William Taylor's Chesapeake cream of crab soup.

79. Sotterley at Christmastime.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



Green leaves, red berries and fruit decorate the dining room for Christmas dinner. The handpainted wallpaper adopts designs from England's Brighton Pavilion. The table's bounty includes baked ham cured in the farm's smokehouse, Sotterley oyster pie and stuffed green cabbage. Gorham silverware and Waterford crystal grace the table, along with 18th-century Dutch candlesticks. Above the Federal sideboard is an 18th-century portrait of John Paul Jones.

80. Sotterley at Christmastime. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



An 18th-century portrait of John Paul Jones set above a pyramid of desserts; raspberry fool, syllabub, floating island and Christmas trifle.

81. Sotterley at Christmastime. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



The Study is one of Sotterley's four original rooms. The paneled door at left opens to a closet that conceals a secret passage to a bedroom located just above it. An antique card table boasts mother-of-pearl inlay. Brass andirons display the figure of George Washington. The armchair dates to the 18th century.

82. The "Red Room". Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



83. Elizabeth and Wilbur Harman. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Recd 12/7/47.
Ans 12/9/47-
MS

1075 PARK AVENUE
SACRAMENTO 2-8432

December 4, 1947.

Dear Mr. Plater:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to some Baltimore friends who are very active in the Garden Club and Historical Society of Maryland. I have also sent a copy to Edmund Smith and am sending this to you because you and he and your son are the only Plater descendents that I know, and I wonder if you would have any thoughts or suggestions about Sotterley.

You know how much Father cared for the place, and, while I am exceedingly fond of it and think it a most heavenly and charming spot, I do not see that I would ever have much time to go there, and I do not want to get weighted down with places like that the way the family did. It may be that by far the best thing to do would be to sell it off now to some rich gent who would like to set himself up a colonial mansion in fine style, but I hate the idea of doing that if anything else could be worked out that was reasonably satisfactory.

Sandra and I are living here in New York now while she is at the Brearley School. Abbott is at present on a State Department job in Rome. I don't know where you and Mrs. Plater are but hope that when you are in New York you will call us up at the above address and come in for a drink.

With best wishes to all of you,

Mabel S. Ingalls.

84. Letter from Mabel Ingalls to Mr. Plater about maintaining Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

HUGER W. JERVEY
1150 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 28, N.Y.

June 12, 1948

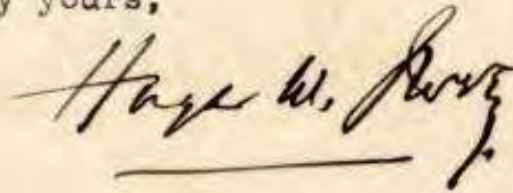
Mr. Richard C. Plater, Jr.
Acadia Plantation
Thibodaux, Louisiana

Dear Dick:

Your letter of April 7 came when I was ill with pneumonia. It was forwarded to South Carolina where I was recuperating. Frankly, I am not sure whether or not I have acknowledged it. Everything at the moment was in rather a mess. Certainly everybody would have liked you to have Sotterley if it had to pass out of the hands of the Satterlees. The executors have been offered \$125,000 for the place and I still hope that Mabel will meet this offer and buy it in herself. I was there with her two or three weeks ago and the place looked utterly charming in its spring-time dress.

With best regards to yourself
and your parents,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Huger W. Jervy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

85. Letter from Huger Jervy to Richard Plater about Sotterley.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

J. P. MORGAN & CO.
INCORPORATED
23 Wall Street
New York 8

New York, June 24, 1948

Richard C. Plater, Jr., Esq.,
Acadia Plantation,
Ghibodaux, Louisiana.

Dear Sir:

Re: Estate of Herbert L. Satterlee
"Sotterley", St. Mary's Co., Maryland

With reference to our previous correspondence with you in which the executors of the above named Estate offered the above property for sale, we wish to advise that the property has been sold.

The purchaser, Mrs. Mabel S. Ingalls, has informed us that she will retain for herself only about 100 acres, the main dwelling and a few of the adjacent buildings and will dispose of the balance of the property. We are, therefore, passing this information along to you for whatever interest it may be.

Inasmuch as Mrs. Ingalls will be abroad until the end of July, we will be pleased to receive for her any communications relative to the balance of the property and to hold same until she returns to this country.

Very truly yours,

J. P. MORGAN & CO. Incorporated

Goetz
Assistant Vice-President

86. Letter from J.P. Morgan to Richard Plater about Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

April 27, 1950

Dear Dick:

The approach of our annual Garden Club tour of St. Mary's County and the general arrival of spring makes me think more than ever about my plans regarding Sotterley. Things have shaped up a bit since I wrote you before but the problem is not solved for me yet.

I was so sorry to miss you and your wife when you were here in March, 1948, and I was away, and so glad that you stopped in at Sotterley. If you are ever ~~there~~ here in the summer season, that is after the first of April, I do wish you would feel free to stay there a few days if you want. I am anxious to have the place used as much as possible and have let several friends stay there already when I am not there.

I thought it might interest you to know that what I am doing - after having taken over full ownership of the place - is to try to sell off most of the farm land, keeping the mansion house and 100 acres for myself. The 100 acres comprises all the land which is visible from the front of the house, in other words, all of the big point below you, and runs up to the tree filled gully behind.

I have already sold the old Hutchins place and a small back woodland farm. This leaves the so-called Greenleaf place of 225 acres running up St. John's Creek, on the north part of the property, and a tract of about 500 acres bounded on the one side by Sotterley Creek and the other by Hog Neck Creek, and with the point of land where the old steamboat wharf was. This part of the property has the so-called Brick House ^{at the wharf}, another small cottage, and all the farm ^{by the dam} place, (including Mr. Knott's house, (I have built him a nice new cottage on the part I am keeping)).

John L. King of 1425, H Street N.W., Washington 5 D.C., is the agent handling all this and he is asking around \$65,000 for this part, which

cont'd

**Addendum: Three Generations of Satterlees Pursue Ownership of
Sotterley- A Half Century of Letters**

1
Tudor Hall
Leonardtown
June 10. 1898

Dear Jennie

My letter was too late
for this morning's mail and so
I continue today. After breakfast
I read your letter over again and
then went to the Little St Peter's
Chapel where I had Holy Communion
and afterwards a clergy conference
all day. Rev. Messrs. Vaughan and
Smiley, La Roche, Munnich and
Deane were present, and it was
eminently satisfactory in every
way. The clergy of St Mary's
County are splendid men and

Tudor Hall
Leonardtown
June 10, 1898

Dear Jennie,

(see next page for next excerpt).

No part of the whole process is
in a more satisfactory condition
than this. I am particularly struck
with the LaRoches. He is a thorough
Kullerman and she is as kind
of a lady as Mrs McKim - and
very devout. I never realized how
much was in them and their
coming here was providential

BISHOP'S HOUSE
1407 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

This afternoon at 4:30 Mr
Hammett drove me over to
Sotterley. It is on the Patuxent
A lovely old fashioned Colonial
House, with wainscotted walls
exquisite mantels, about the
same general style of house as
the Gardner House at East Hampton
only more rambling with gables
in every direction. I have not seen
its counterpart in all Southern
Maryland. The gardens were
blossoming with roses, honeysuckle

This afternoon at 4:30 Mr. Hammett
drove me over to Sotterley. It is on the
Patuxent a lovely old fashioned Colonial
House, with wainscoted walls exquisite
mantels, about the same general style of
the Gardner House at East Hampton
only more rambling with gables in every
direction. I have not seen its
counterpart in all Southern Maryland.
The gardens will blossom with roses and
honeysuckle, (see next page for more of
the transcription).

front and the view over the
Broad Patuxent was not unlike
that from an ^{ocean} porch at New Haven.
Only I think more beautiful.
While on all sides, were great
Barns and all the marks of
decayed gentility. It was
all in an extremely broken
down condition. I send you
some of the flowers.

To Monday morning we go to
Pawham, parish at Poplar
Hill and tomorrow night
to Minnick's. We are both
well. It was somewhat
cool today - I return
Monday night arriving at
our house in Washington on
Tuesday morning about
10 am. I have learned

the orchards were laden with fruit
and the view over the broad
Patuxent was not unlike that from
our ocean porch at New [Staunton]
only I think more beautiful. While on
all sides were great [Barns] and all
the marks of decayed [gentility]. It
was all in an extremely broken down
condition. I send you some of the
flowers.

a great deal in this trip
which will keep our discussion
work.

Love to Constance and you
from your affec^tionate
Henry Y. Satterlee

Henry Y. Satterlee

I think we will ask
Dr & Mrs Johnson of Los Angeles
Dr & Mrs Gentry of Tennessee
to stay with us during
your conference
and perhaps
Dr & Mrs Parsh.

88. Letter from Henry Satterlee to his wife, Jennie. June 10, 1998. Courtesy of Historic Satterley
(see next page for transcript of letter)

Bishop Henry Satterlee to his wife Jane (Jennie) Satterlee
June 10, 1898
Excerpt

Tudor Hall
Leonardtown
June 10, 1898

Dear Jennie,

This afternoon at 4:30 Mr. Hammett drove me over to Sotterley. It is on the Patuxent a lovely old fashioned Colonial House, with wainscoted walls exquisite mantels, about the same general style of the Gardner House at East Hampton only more rambling with gables in every direction. I have not seen its counterpart in all Southern Maryland. The gardens will blossom with roses honeysuckle the orchards were laden with fruit and the view over the broad Patuxent was not unlike that from our ocean porch at New [Staunton] only I think more beautiful. While on all sides were great [Beams] and all the marks of decayed [gentricity?]. It was all in an extremely broken down condition. I send you some of the flowers.

Henry Y. Satterlee

Source: Diocese of Washington Archives RG 2-15-8 "Personal Letters 1898-1907"

Glebe. Charlotte Hall St. Mary's
June 8.

The Glebe, Charlotte Hall, St. Mary's
June 8, 1899

and you on in Constance's Lady
my way from church. It is delightful
been simply fascinated by the similarity
ad in Spain and which Dr Cort had in
feet, as I wheeled my bed between the windows
between them, that I was really ~~travelling~~
ces. Bananas Oranges Darling Durian
every now and then. As I looked out
of air came to my forehead it was
wind house had had nothing to equal
ness of midsummer! It ~~has~~ been
as seasons" from early morn to
though an hundred years come
hasten and this end of Dorsetland
down to manor. You and
7.50 train Penna. for Bowie
Brandy wine for Charlotte
e. ~~Look out~~ Irish Capt Smith
and some Conductor to find of
early you at Charlotte Hall
on two miles further to Mechanic
that you both will have to stay
th dislike to do so. Because the
It the service were to be at the

My dear Jennie,

(see next page for next excerpt).

I would have plenty of time
 All Faiths Church, which is
 and this will not give you
 1.30 train. I should probably
 - Especially as we are to keep
 the Anniversary of the Prince
 of Wales. I particularly want
 reason - All Faiths is only 1/2
 mile of going to the afternoon
 I Constance and perhaps Mr
 Sotterley point and get back
 by one of the trains on
 is a rare chance for you both
 Constance has time to borrow
 a snapshot of the piazza
 & beautiful mansion in Southern
 yet seen and the view from
 must not of course expect
 it to be like Mount Vernon - ^{much} ^{it} rather resembles
 the Nurses live - But it will be
 to go there. I only wish I
 it is impossible. My Venerable
 Between ourselves I have
 any Sotterley may come into
 I think that we ought to
 occasional visits
 as both I am

I particularly want you to stay for another
 reason - All Faiths, you and Constance and
 perhaps Mr. Hayes might drive over to
 Sotterley Point and get back for supper
 returning to Washington by one of the trains
 on Saturday morning. It will be a rare chance
 for you both to see Sotterley, and if Constance
 has time to borrow a Kodak she might get a
 snapshot of the piazza, etc. Certainly it is the
 most beautiful mansion in Southern Maryland
 that I have as yet seen and the view from the
 porch is entrancing. You must not of course
 expect that the house is like Mount Vernon -
 much rather it resembles "The Highlands"
 where the Nurses live. But it will be like a visit
 to Europe for you to go there. I only wish I
 could go with you, but that is impossible. My
 itinerary does not admit of this. Between
 ourselves I have a lingering hope that
 someday Sotterley may come into our
 possession and therefore I think we ought to
 keep our eyes open by such occasional
 visits.

Henry Y. Satterlee

89. Letter from Henry Satterlee to his wife, Jennie, June 8,
 1999. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley (see next page for
 transcript of letter)

Bishop Satterlee to his wife Jane (Jennie) Satterlee
June 8, 1899
Excerpt

The Glebe, Charlotte Hall, St. Mary's
June 8, 1899

My dear Jennie,

I particularly want you to stay for another reason- All Faiths is only 14 miles from Sotterley, and instead of going to the afternoon service at All Faiths, you and Constance and perhaps Mr. Hayes might drive over to Sotterley Point and get back for supper returning to Washington by one of the trains on Saturday morning. It will be a rare chance for you both to see Sotterley, and if Constance has time to borrow a Kodak she might get a snapshot of the piazza etc. Certainly it is the most beautiful mansion in Southern Maryland that I have as yet seen and the view from the porch is entrancing. You must not of course expect that the house is like Mount Vernon- much rather it resembles "The Highlands" where the Nourses live. But it will be like a visit to Europe for you to go there. I only wish I could go with you, but that is impossible. My itinery does not admit of this. Between ourselves I have a lingering hope that someday Sotterley may come into our possession and therefore I think we ought to keep our eyes open by such occasional visits.

Henry Y. Satterlee

Source: Diocese of Washington Archives RG 2-16-2 "Southern Maryland Visits"

Notes: Bishop Henry and Jane Satterlee had two children Constance and Churchill. Constance married Rev. Philip Rhinelander, who worked closely with the Bishop on the National Cathedral. Rev. Churchill Satterlee was an Episcopal clergyman and author of *A Fisher of Men*.

Charles Harris Hayes was the Executive Chaplin of the Diocese of Washington at the time and as such a close collaborator with Bishop Satterlee.

Joseph Nourse was in the early 19th century the owner of the land on which the National Cathedral now stands. His descendants were friends of the Satterlees.

Tudor Hall, St Marys Co. Md
June 12, 1899

Tudor Hall, St. Mary's County, Maryland
June 12, 1899

Dear Jennie,

I was greatly relieved to hear from Mr. Chesley on Sunday that you had come back from Sotterley in good spirits and good time for a lunch before the train started. I was afraid that your pain in the back might increase by so many hours of wagon riding; and yet on the other hand, I knew that such a ride in the fresh country air would do you and Constance a world of good.

Today we traveled through mud and showers to old St. Andrew's, where we had a congregation of seventeen persons, and I preached my best, if not, sermon, and now we are at the comfortable home of Mr. Joseph Kay.

I greatly rejoice to hear from you that you all had come back in good spirits and good time for a good lunch before the train started. I was afraid that your pain might increase by so many hours of riding on the other hand, I knew that such a ride in the fresh country air would do you and Constance a world of good. I preached Chapter 11 of the W. B. M. at the old St. Andrew's. W. B. is a hustler and did only taken charge on Sunday. He had a very weeping and lamentation. "Did not come" "Now you and your wife's father that" "to be the best spread out at Sunday best with good things. and all went merry home on the banks of the Myconico. All saints were we found all and

than \$300. Mr. Ballinger told me he
63. acres for \$500 - Sotterley Hall would
and in its beautiful Colonial parlor we could
church, I was delighted to hear of the Cubes
now beginning to come in, and I shall look
of reading them when I get back.
the end of our pilgrimage. This is a quaint old
has been in the possession of our church
parish is the oldest in Maryland. But
yourself so I need not describe it at length
and I the same room and I thought we were
thus. But just now as we came to bed
two rooms to Hayes. To morrow we sail
stand where I am to consecrate the
back to St Marys City, where I stay
all be at home on Saturday morning about
- so glad that Phil was pleased with
I should have taken him with me
but for several reasons I feel that
we had better go without him.

H Y Satterlee

90. Letter from Henry Satterlee to his wife, Jennie, June 13, 1999. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley
(see next page for transcript of letter)

Bishop Satterlee to his wife Jane (Jennie) Satterlee
June 12, 1899
Excerpts

Tudor Hall, St. Mary's Co. MD
June 12, 1899

Dear Jennie,

I was greatly relieved to hear from Mr. Chesley on Sunday that you all had come back from Sotterley in good spirits and good time for a good lunch before the train started. I was afraid that your pain in the back might increase by so many hours of wagon riding; and yet on the other hand, I knew that such a ride in the fresh country air would do you and Constance a world of good.

Today we traveled through mud and showers to old Saint Andrews, where we had a congregation of seventeen persons, and I preached my best, if not, sermon, and now we are at the comfortable home of Mr. Joseph Key.

H Y Satterlee

Source: Diocese of Washington Archives RG 2-16-2 "Southern Maryland visits"

Notes: Rev. Jack JW. Chelsey was at the time the Rector of All Faith's Church near Mechanicsville, Mayrland.

Mr. Joseph Key was at the time the owner of Tudor Hall in Leonardtown, Maryland.

Right Rev. Henry Y. Satterlee,
Bishop of Washinton,
No. 1407 Massachusetts Ave.,
Washington, D.C.

May 25, 1907

Dear Cousin Henry:

You may perhaps see in this morning's papers that I have been appointed on the Board of Visitors to the Naval Academy this year. The sessions begin at Annapolis on Monday, June 3rd. I expect to go down there on the 2nd. I had wanted to take Louisa and to stop over for at least part of a day in Washington in order to see you all. If I should pass through Washington on my way to Annapolis or on my way back, I will certainly run in to see you for a minute.

Will you be good enough to give me again the name and address of the clergy man down at Leonardtown? I want to write to him to find out whether the new owners of "Sotterlee" are still pleased with it.

I trust that you are all well. Are you going abroad this summer? With much love to you all, in which Louisa joins, I am,

Faithfully yours,
Herbert Satterlee

Source: Letter from Herbert L. Satterlee to Bishop Satterlee, May 25, 1907
Diocese of Washington Archives RG 2-16-12 "Satterlee Family Letters"

Notes: Thomas H. Bond was the clergyman at St. Andrew's Parish at the time, then was married to a Briscoe daughter.

At and for the price of Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.)
 Dollars, of which \$1,000. (one thousand dollars) have been paid prior to the signing hereof,
 and the balance is to be paid as follows: Nine thousand Dollars (\$9,000.) on delivery
 of the deed 60 days from date of these presents at the office of
 Semmes, Bowen and Semmes, Equitable Building, Baltimore, Md., together
 with a purchase money mortgage for Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.) at
 6% per annum, payable semi-annually, with privilege to pay principal
 or any part thereof on any interest day, or all cash and no mortgage.

And upon payment as above of the unpaid purchase money, a Deed for the property shall be executed at the Ven-
 dee's expense by the Vendor, which shall convey the property by a good and merchantable title to the Vendee.

Taxes, if any past due to be paid by Vendors, taxes and rentals of cur-
 rent year, to be apportioned to date of delivery of deed.
~~to be paid or allowed for by the Vendor to xxxxxxxxxx, nineteen hundred and xxxxx~~

The Vendors agree to give the deed to such grantee and to express
 such consideration in it as the vendee may request, providing he pays
 or guarantees the payment of the full consideration in manner above
 set forth.

The Vendors further agree to keep the buildings on the property
 insured against fire for the benefit of the Vendee to the extent of
 the amount paid on account of the consideration from time to time.

Witness our hands and seals

TEST: Walter Barber Elizabeth B. Cashner
(as to Herbert L. Satterlee - J. A. Barber) Herbert L. Satterlee

[SEAL]

91. Sale of Sotterley to Herbert Satterlee by Elizabeth B. Cashner, witnessed by Walter Barber
 Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Hebert L. Satterlee
Retaining a Piece of Colonial America
(1863-1947)

In 1906, Hebert L. Satterlee and his wife took a night boat down the Potomac River from Washington bound for Sotterley Plantation; an estate named after Satterlee's ancestral home in Suffolk England. Mr. Satterlee's second cousin, The Rev. Henry Yates Satterlee first Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of Washington had talked of Sotterley, its history and familial connection for years. Obsessed with the idea of owning it but without the financial means to do so, the Bishop Satterlee convinced Hebert to go take a look.

They arrived in the wee hours of the morning and were graciously received by Sotterley's owners. Although he found the Colonial manor house in a complete state of disrepair, ravaged by war and financial hard time, Hebert Satterlee was a sentimental man, and he fell in love with the place at first sight. Four years later, when he received a letter with an offer to purchase Sotterley, he sent a check immediately. Who was this man determined to restore the plantation to its original state and retain for himself a piece of America's colonial past? To answer this question, we must begin across the Atlantic in the County of Suffolk, England where the Satterlee story began.

An obscure book entitled, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk*, written in 1846 by Rev. Alfred Suckling, describes the history of the manor of Sotterley in England. In the hands of the Satterlee family until it was confiscated by King Edward IV after the War of the Roses in the 15th century, the manor of Sotterley was bestowed on Thomas Playters for services rendered during the War. Suckling goes on to say that the family of Sotterley was "driven out from the house, fell into poverty, and its consequent obscurity, and probably soon after it became extinct." In fact, the Sotterley family continued, settled in the American Colonies in the 17th century, and changed their family name to Satterlee.

Herbert Satterlee, born in New York in 1863, was a descendent of the original Sotterley family of Suffolk. He married Louise Pierpont Morgan, daughter of J.P. Morgan, in 1900. Professionally, he was a successful lawyer, specializing in corporate and commercial law, and a senior law partner at Satterlee, Canfield and Stone. He was also a writer, contributing to newspapers and magazines as well as authoring several books, including a biography of his father-in-law entitled, *J. Pierpont Morgan: An intimate Portrait, 1837-1912*. Mr. Satterlee also wrote words for several songs, including "Autumn Leaves" and "Above the Shimmering Sea".

Herbert Satterlee purchased the Sotterley Plantation in 1910. Ironically, the plantation had been owned for nearly a century by the Plater family, descendants of Thomas Playters of the manor of Sotterley in Suffolk England. It was Goegre Plater II who named Sotterley after his ancestral home in England, and his great grandson George Plater V, who lost his family home in a game of dice and was driven from the family home. Was Herbert Satterlee intrigued by the interesting twist of fate that brought the Platers home into the hands of the Satterlees? Perhaps.

For nearly four years after purchasing Sotterley, Mr. Satterlee did little by way of restoring the property. Instead he embarked upon a major research process. J.P. Morgan himself sent the men, architects, artists, landscape gardeners, foresters, farmers, road builders and wharf builders to research, overhaul, and eventually restore the plantation. It must have been quite a sight to see J.P. Morgan's yacht arriving off shore, unloading the men, materials and equipment necessary to transform Sotterley. Their goal? To capture a piece of America's colonial past and show "the manner in which a Southern gentleman lived in 1776".

Satterlee, an avid yachtsman, no doubt loved the view from the manor house, across rolling pasture land to the Patuxent River beyond. He believed Maryland to be “the most accessible and at the same time the most attractive solitude” available in his day. It became his summer home and a favorite spot for his children and grandchildren. Herbert Satterlee died in 1947 at the age of 84. In 1961, his daughter Mabel Ingalls made it possible for the public to enjoy his grand representation of Maryland’s past, by forming a foundation to hold the property in trust.

92. "Retaining a Piece of Colonial America"
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

HERBERT L. SATTERLEE
1 BEEKMAN PLACE
NEW YORK

May 25, 1936

Douglas Cashner, Esq
Arnold, Arundel County
Maryland

Dear Mr. Cashner:

I was down at Sotterley for the last week-end and Mr. Knott told me that you had paid a short visit. I am very sorry that we missed you. I hope you like the way we are developing the garden. Of course, it is hard work to keep the flowers unless you have plenty of water during the droughts. My big problem now is to create a sufficient water supply and, of course, I ought to have water storage in case of fire.

I hope that you are in good health and that everything is going well with you. Sometime when you can run down to spend the night I wish you would let me know. Perhaps Mrs. Satterlee and I could make our visit to Sotterley coincide with your plans, as we always like to see you there.

With best wishes from both Mrs. Satterlee and myself, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Herbert L. Satterlee

93. Letter from Herbert Satterlee to Douglas Cashner, May 25, 1936
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

The executors of my Father's estate are very anxious to come to some decision about Sotterley. I have however, prevailed on them to hold off for a year or so, to give me time to explore some possibilities. This they are willing to do because the place is a going farm and brings in a fair amount of money, so that it actually does not cost the estate much.

My sister says she has no interest in the place. My husband and I are very fond of it and I have a good deal of feeling about it, but do not see that it would ever be a practical place for us. I rather hate just to put it up for sale and possibly have it bought by someone who would completely ruin the character of the house. I am therefore groping around among a good many vague ideas and hoping that one of them may perhaps strike a spark somewhere and lead to something. I would very much like help or suggestions from any of you who know Maryland and its historic houses and institutions better than I do.

The house you know already, and, as it belonged to a Governor of the Crown Colony and an early Governor of the State, it has, I think, some historical interest, as well as some lovely panelling and general charm of architecture and location. Father had bought back land so that he had ended up with something like 1,200 acres, including at least one other very good house site, though that old house has completely disintegrated. I have neither the income nor the interest to run a farm in that part of the country, and would definitely like to get rid of most of the land. My 2.

only interest is in the old house itself, and the few fields that lie between it and the water, which are needed for protection of the outlook etc. Even if I should be able to sell off all the extra fares, I would not care to have the responsibility for the upkeep of the house, and what I am vaguely wondering about is whether there might be a historical society or some other group who would be interested in taking over the responsibility for the upkeep and running of the house, and keeping it open to the public. All we would be interested in would be the privilege of living there and using it a certain amount of time during the year. Of course the house would still be able to be open to the public during that period.

The place has not been appraised yet so I am making this tentative suggestion at a time when I still do not know whether I can afford to give the house or whether I would have to find someone who would buy it as well as run it.

I do not even know what organisations there are in Maryland, beside the Maryland Historical Society, which might be interested in any way. I apologise for bothering you about this but if it is not too much trouble I would be more than glad to have your reactions to this idea or any suggestions you may have.

December 19, 1947

Dear Mabel:

We were all happy to hear from you, and were greatly interested in the contents of your letter, and the copy of letter which you had sent to Edmond Smith and your friends in Baltimore. We appreciate your writing us as we are deeply interested in Sotterly, and its future, and trust that it may be possible for it to be preserved as an Historic Shrine.

I wish that it were possible for us to take over Sotterly, if you do decide to part with it, and hope that the Maryland Historical Society, the United States Naval Academy, or The Episcopal Cathedral in Washington might be able to use and preserve it. Please let us hear from you, as to what you decide to do.

We were glad to have news of you, Abbott, and Sandra, and shall always hope to see you, and keep in touch with you. We loved your Father and Mother, so much, no one will ever take their place in our hearts, as such dearly loved friends.

Dick will write to you about Sotterly, Nan joins me in every wish for a joyous Christmas to you three, and the hope that someday, you will come to see us here at Acadia Plantation.

Cordially yours,

RCP:NP

95. Letter to Mabel Ingalls, December 19, 1947.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

1075 PARK AVENUE

March 1, 1948

Dear Dick:

Thank you so much for your nice letter. This is a very hurried note and I may not be taking up all the points in your's. I am off on Wednesday for Europe for six weeks and am trying to finish up the rush of last minute business.

Unfortunately, I shall be away when you and your wife are in New York and for this I am exceedingly sorry as I would so much like to see you again and to meet her. However, if you are here for a few days, do get in touch with Huger Jervey; his address is 1150 Fifth Avenue, 'phone Atwater 9-4720, (he has been sick and possibly may have to go south so he also may be out of town).

We have now received the appraisals on Sotterley and the total value given is \$156,290.00, but the house itself is valued very low. I am now working on the idea, (have had some nibbles, or rather interested enquiries from some State Department people who are looking for a home to retire to eventually), as to possible purchases of acreage. This spring I am going to see if there would be any chance of selling off the farm and acreage for a fair proportion of the appraisal value, in which case I could probably afford to work out an arrangement with the ~~Maryland Historical Society~~, of which Bessie Randall Slack of Baltimore, a friend of the family's and of mine, is an important and interested member.

*Society for
the Preservation
of Maryland
Antiquities*

I will be in touch with you about all this again.

Cordially,

Mabel S. Ingalls.

Thanks for the info. about R. Plater Forester

April 7, 1948.

Mr. George E. Henckel
c/o J.P. Morgan and Co.
New York City

Dear Mr. Henckel :

On Thursday, March 25, at the suggestion of Mr. Huger Jervey, I telephoned you relative to the purchase of Sotterley, Mr. Herbert L. Satterlee's farm in Maryland.

The offer which I can make on this property is based upon the amount of money which I can raise from the sale of my own securities and by placing a mortgage on the property. Since returning home from Maryland I find that my securities have a current market value of just over \$20,000. The Federal Land Bank, which at first estimated it would lend \$48,000. on the property finally made me a conditional promise to lend according to their regular farm formula, as follows :

450 acres cultivated land @ \$125	\$56,250.
842 acres woodlands @ \$10	\$ 8,420.
appraised value as farm	\$64,670.
limit of loan	65%
amount of loan	\$42,035.50

The extent to which I can go in my offer is, then, roughly \$60,000.

Aside from the price there are several considerations which may have some bearing on this sale. First, Mrs. Ingalls is interested in being able to hunt at Sotterley in the fall. If we secure the property, my wife and I will be more than pleased to have her and as many of her friends as we could accommodate come down for a period to hunt in the fall. In fact, we shall probably have to be away from October to January for the next several years because of the cane harvest season here in Louisiana.

Second, it is my impression that Mr. Satterlee, as well as Mrs. Ingalls, was interested in having Sotterley maintained as much as possible in its original state because of its picturesqueness and its historical associations. As descendants of the original builder my sons and I are supremely interested in doing just this. We have conferred with Mrs. Harry Slack of Baltimore, founder of the Maryland Society for the Preservation of Historical Antiquities, who has promised her advice and co-operation in this regard.

Third, Sotterley is one of the largest farms in lower Maryland that has retained its identity since Colonial days. It seems to me a shame for this property to be broken up or to be desecrated by beer joints at the landing. I believe that the farm, properly run, can carry itself and build itself up, thus affording an example of great benefit to that section. Soon, considerable rebuilding will be necessary, such as four barns, most of the fences, and about three miles of roads.

Please let me know as soon as possible the executors' reaction to this offer of \$60,000 for the place as is, with taxes paid to date of sale. The farm needs machinery on it right away.

Sincerely,

cc to Mr. Jervey

1075 PARK AVENUE

July 1, 1948

Mr. C. H. Knott,
"Sotterley"
Hollywood
St. Mary's County
Maryland.

Dear Mr. Knott:

I suppose the executors have notified you that I have agreed to buy "Sotterley" from the estate. I wanted to call you and tell you but everything happened in such a rush, just as I was taking off for a month abroad, and I didn't have time. They will also have told you that I will not take title till after the middle of September.

First of all I want to say that I would not have dared take on the responsibility unless I had felt sure you and Mrs. Knott would stay on. I will come down in September and we can talk everything over, until then the executors should continue to have you run the place as usual.

As I told you, I do not want to own a large farm in Maryland and my idea is to sell most of the acreage. It may take quite some time to do this and I may have to sell it off bit by bit but I would much prefer to sell it at once to someone who would use it for a farm - or to someone who would make a nice type of development out of it.

I want to keep the mansion, the old brick barn, and about 100 acres. I plan to build a nice new caretaker's house near the mansion. When I can get the farm sold I hope you and Mrs. Knott will stay as caretakers of the mansion. A hundred acres should be enough room for her turkeys I should think.

I have written Mr. King and Mr. Briscoe about this and told both of them that you want one of the houses on the place now, either the brick house or the one Mr. Love had, if this does not spoil a possible sale of the whole property, in which case I could let you have acreage on the edge of my part. If you agree to stay as caretakers you could rent the other house out until such time as you wanted to retire completely, or I could continue to hold it with a few acres under an agreement to sell to you when you want it.

This is just a rough outline to let you know the way I am thinking.

I hope you will all have a good summer. Letters to 1075 Park Avenue will be forwarded to me and

Addendum: The Old Entrance to Sotterley

August 11, 1999

Discussion between Elizabeth Harman and Carolyn Laray
Old Entrance to Sotterley

Mr. Satterlee had brick piers and black gates constructed at the edge of his property on what is now 25, just past the schoolhouse and the right-hand turn-off to Steer Horn Neck Rd. The road bore right, turning into what is now Sotterley Wharf Rd., and led past the Knott house.

In the vicinity of the Knott House, the road branched west to Vista and east to the wharf. The public used the road to get to Vista Road (that would be they went west on 'old vista'), and Mrs. Ingalls did not like the public coming so close to the buildings. Also, she did not like the traffic going down to the "public pier" (travelling east). She deeded a portion of the land to the county and the county changed the road to bear to the left and hook up with Vista further down. Those coming to Sotterley still went in the orginial way.

In the 1970s trustee Richard Howland convinced Mrs. Ingalls to activate the allee which was still all grass at the time. The present allee road was put in at that time.

99. Discussion between Elizabeth Harman and Carolyn Laray
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



100. Old entrance to Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



101. Old entrance to Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



102. Allee. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



103. Allee. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



104. Allee. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



105. Herbert and Louisa Satterlee at Gate on Allee. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

Photo Album



106. Roadside view of Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



107. Roadside view of Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



108. Riverside view of Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



109. Riverside view of Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



110. View of road from mansion. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



111. Roadside view of Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



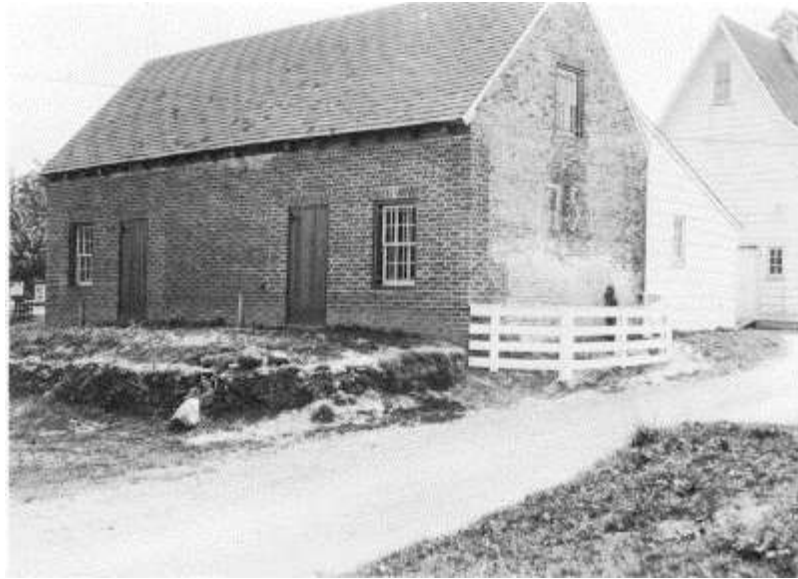
112. View of ivy on side of the mansion. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



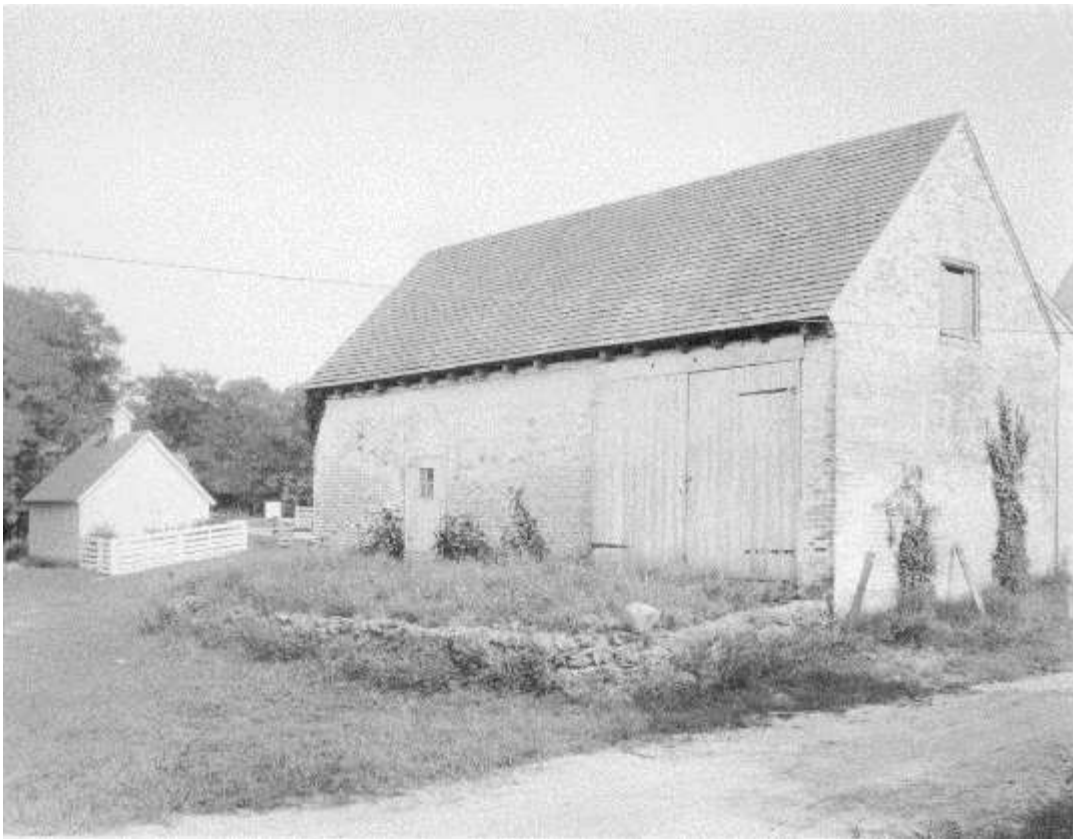
113. Field. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



114. Custom warehouse. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



115. Custom warehouse. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



116. Custom warehouse. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



117. Smokehouse. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



118. Smokehouse/kitchen combination. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



119. Smokehouse/kitchen combination.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



120. Smokehouse/kitchen combination. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



121. Kitchen. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



122. "New Room" interior. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



123. Drawing room. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



124. Westwing/Library. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



125. "New Room" interior. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



126. "New Room" exterior. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



127. "New Room" exterior. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



**128. The Libaray/"New Room" c. 1715 room used as a Library by Hebert Satterlee.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley**



129. "New Room" exterior. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



130. The "Red Room". Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



131. The "Red Room". Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



132. Gatehouse.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



133. Gatehouses. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



134. Gatehouses. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



140. Gatehouses. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



141. Outbuilding used for bridles and saddles on the farm. It was located near the corn crib and warehouse. This building is now the front part of the Custom House or old gift shop.. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



142. Gatehouses. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



143. Gatehouses. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



144. Second Floor Bedroom. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



145. Second floor hallway. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



146. Second floor bedroom. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



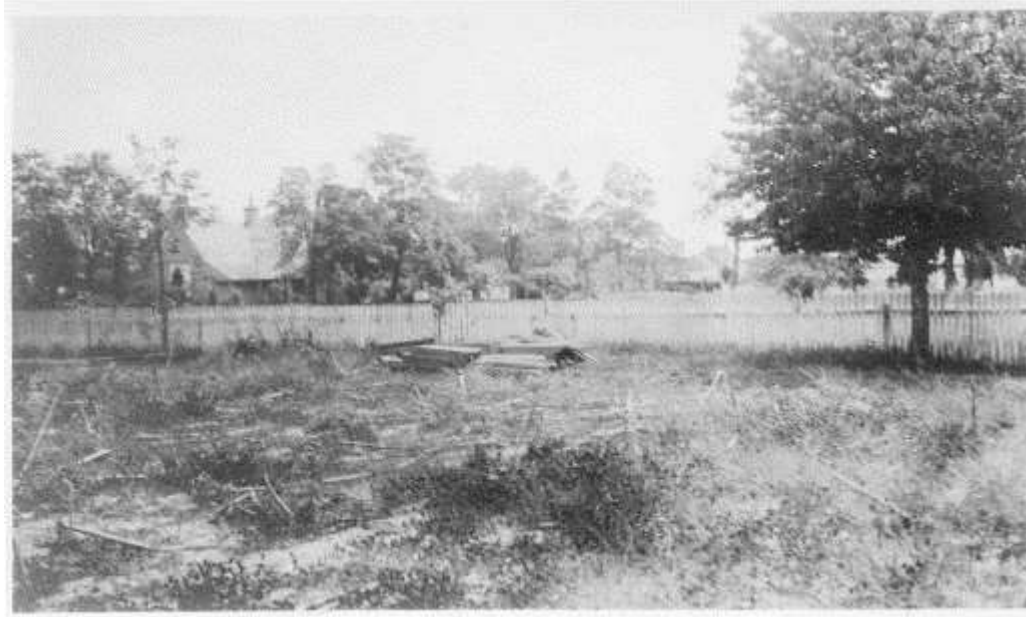
147. Satterlee Bed. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



148. Garden. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



149. Garden. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



**150. Garden before Satterlee revival restoration.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley**



151. Garden. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



152. Garden. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



153. Garden. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



**154. Mabel and Eleanor Satterlee in the garden.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley**



155. Drawing room. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



156. Drawing room. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



157. Drawing room. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



158. Drawing room. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



159. Portico. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



160. Portico. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



161. Side view of the portico. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



162. Foyer. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



163. Foyer. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



164. Foyer. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



165. Foyer. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



166. Foyer. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



167. Foyer. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



168. Roadside view at Christmastime. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



169. View from roadside at Springtime. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



170. Roadside view of the mansion. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



**171. Roadside view of the mansion with gate and arbor.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley**

They are ready to accept the fact that the information is not as reliable as the information that is being used to make the decision. The information is not as reliable as the information that is being used to make the decision. The information is not as reliable as the information that is being used to make the decision.

1997. *Using the Bioscience of Plant Growth to Improve Nutrition and Food Quality of Food Crops*. FAO, Rome, Italy. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/000/01000e.htm>. Accessed 10/10/2007.

307. *Staphylococcus aureus* is a Gram-positive, spherical bacterium. It is a common cause of skin infections. The bacterium is resistant to many antibiotics. It is also a common cause of food poisoning.

[illegible]

There are some people who are not sure if they can do it. They are not sure if they can do it. They are not sure if they can do it.

[illegible]

Many more studies have shown the method to be very effective, and in particular the studies of Martin, where treatment prices the respondents go and not very much in fact. Martin found a 40% drop in the number of visits to the hospital.

In the course of discussing the situation, the congressional group of the Democrats, Reps. Henry Waxman (California) and Charles Stenholm (Texas), said they would continue to support the Clinton administration's efforts to bring about a settlement of the debt crisis.

[illegible]

1979, it continues to grow in popularity, power, and prestige. The University maintains that it has never been a part of the civil rights movement, and that its primary mission is to provide a high-quality education for its students. The University's commitment to academic excellence is reflected in its high standards for admission, its rigorous curriculum, and its commitment to research and scholarship. The University's commitment to social responsibility is reflected in its commitment to service to the community, its commitment to environmental stewardship, and its commitment to the well-being of its students and faculty.

The University introduced its first formal ethics course in 1996 in its management curriculum. The next year, additional courses were offered throughout the university. These are signs of change in

There are several other things to be aware of when using the automatic transfer service. The first is that you will need to have a bank account with the bank that you are transferring money to. The second is that you will need to have a valid ID card with you when you go to the bank. The third is that you will need to have a valid checkbook with you when you go to the bank. The fourth is that you will need to have a valid driver's license with you when you go to the bank. The fifth is that you will need to have a valid passport with you when you go to the bank. The sixth is that you will need to have a valid visa with you when you go to the bank. The seventh is that you will need to have a valid passport with you when you go to the bank. The eighth is that you will need to have a valid visa with you when you go to the bank. The ninth is that you will need to have a valid passport with you when you go to the bank. The tenth is that you will need to have a valid visa with you when you go to the bank.



The authors follow a systems approach to the analysis. A taxonomy is developed of the four key "game elements" and uses it to define a "game design space." The primary design space is then divided into three subspaces, each of which is further divided into three subspaces, resulting in a total of 27 subspaces. The authors then discuss the design of each of these subspaces and the overall game design process.

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High Disk usage by:
System System File Checker





173. Sotterley Wharf. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



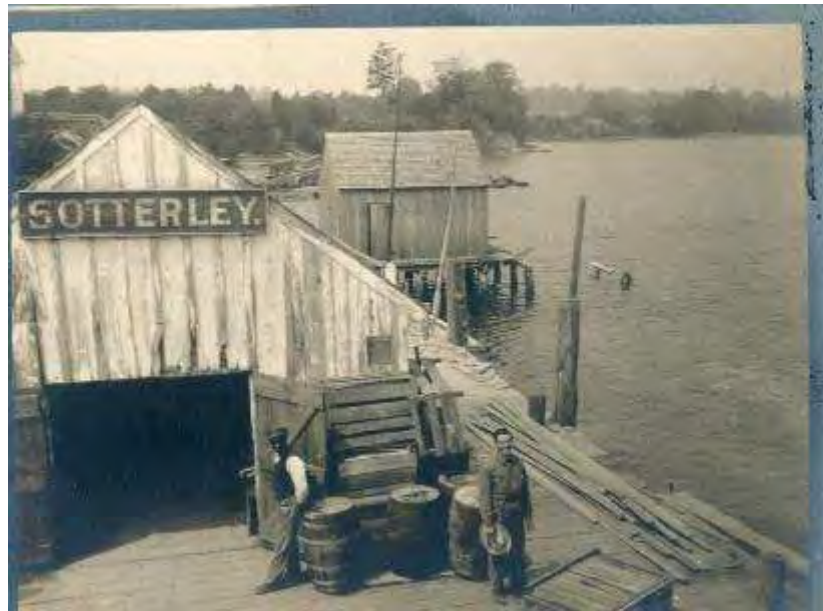
174. Sotterley Wharf. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



175. Sotterley Wharf. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



176. Sotterley Wharf. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



177. Sotterley Wharf. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



178. Sotterley Wharf. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



179. Sotterley Wharf. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



180. Sotterley Wharf. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



181. Sotterley Wharf Road. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



182. Sotterley waterfront. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



183. Sotterley waterfront. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



184. Sotterley waterfront. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



185. J.P. Morgan's Yacht off Sotterley Creek. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



186. Herbert Satterlee with his Rolls Royce. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



187. Herbert Satterlee with his dog. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



188. Herbert and Louisa Satterlee sitting outside the portico. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



189. Herbert and Louisa Satterlee walking along the garden. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



190. Herbert and Louisa Satterlee with guests. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



191. Herbert Satterlee on mansion portico. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



192. Herbert Satterlee with guests. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



193. Herbert Satterlee hunting with guests. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



194. Sheep in a field at Sotterley. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



195. Sheep barn. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



**196. Renovating the Mansion, putting shingles on the "New Room".
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley**



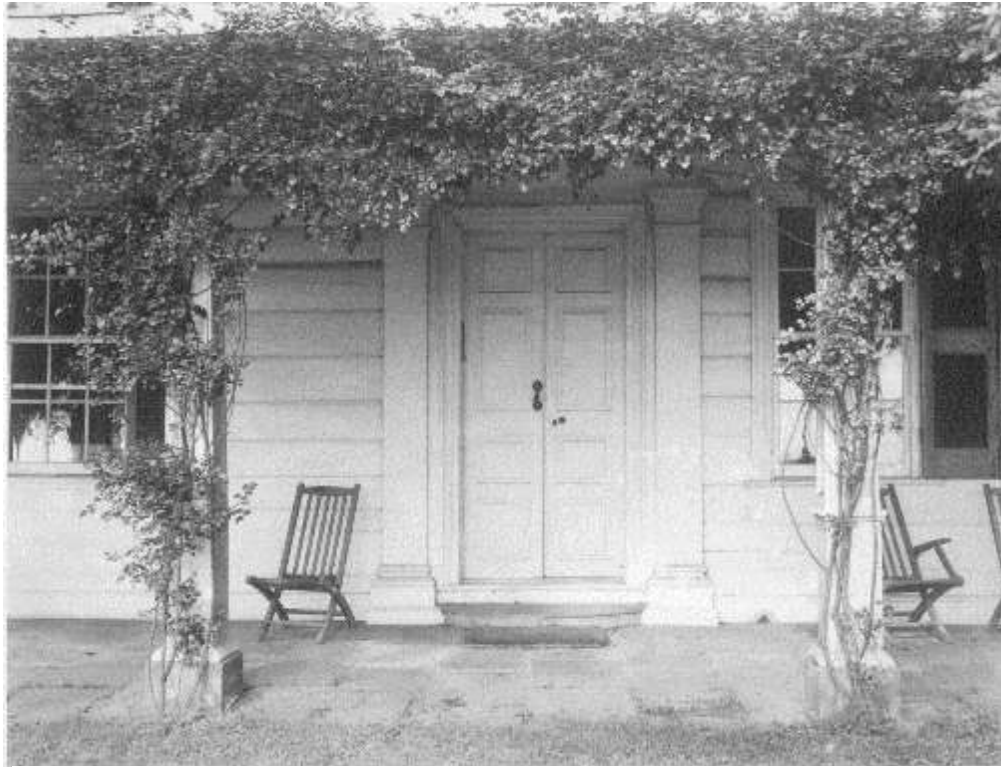
197. Briscoe kitchen removed. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



198. Briscoe kitchen removed. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



199. Riverside main door with 18th century front door. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



200. Riverside main door with 18th century front door. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



201. Briscoe kitchen removed. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



202. View of the mansion from the slave cabin. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



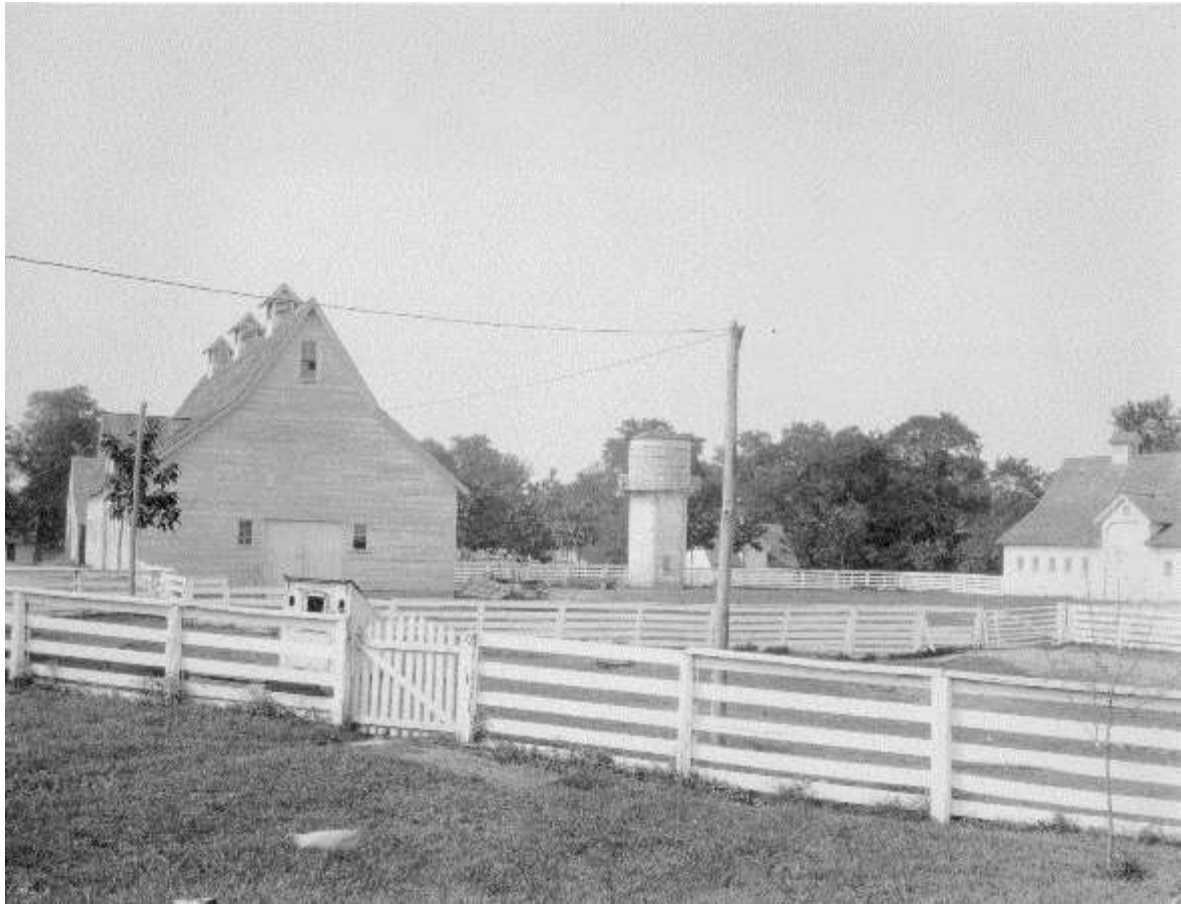
203. View of slave cabin. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



204. View of the slave cabin. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



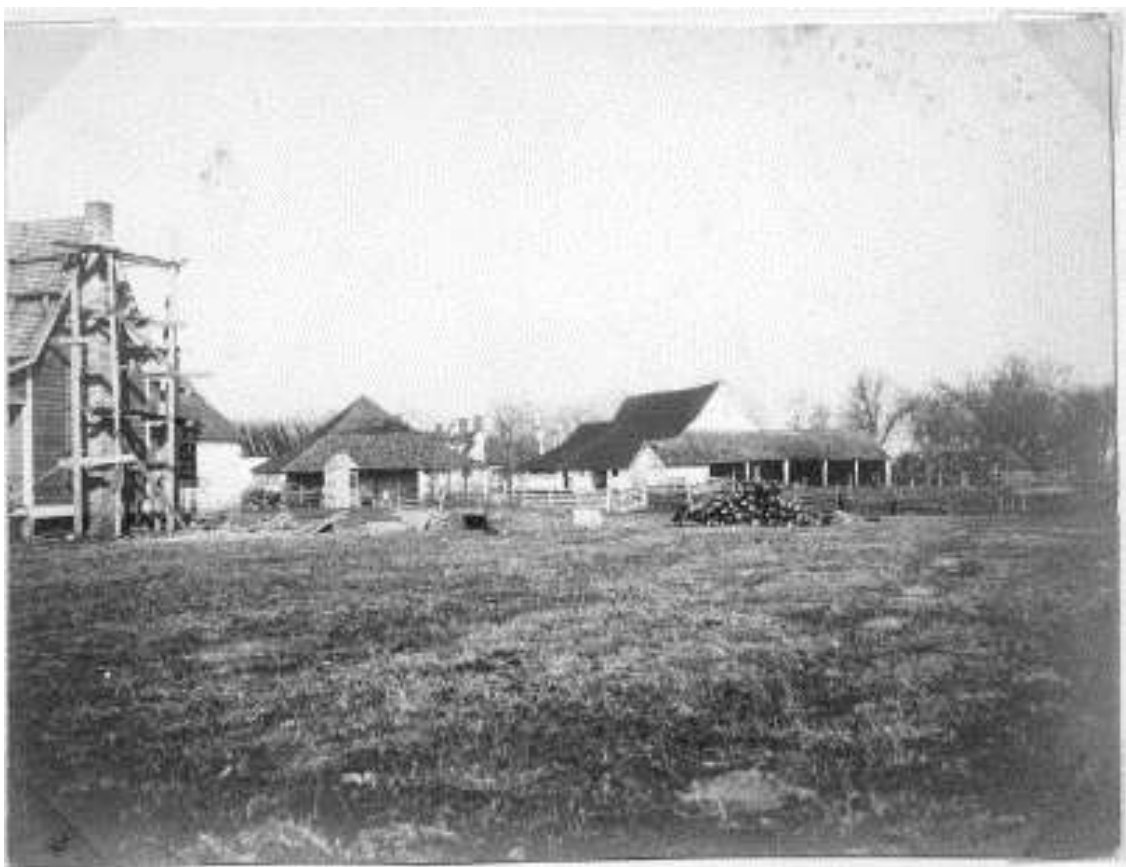
205. View of field and farm worker. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



206. Farming complex. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



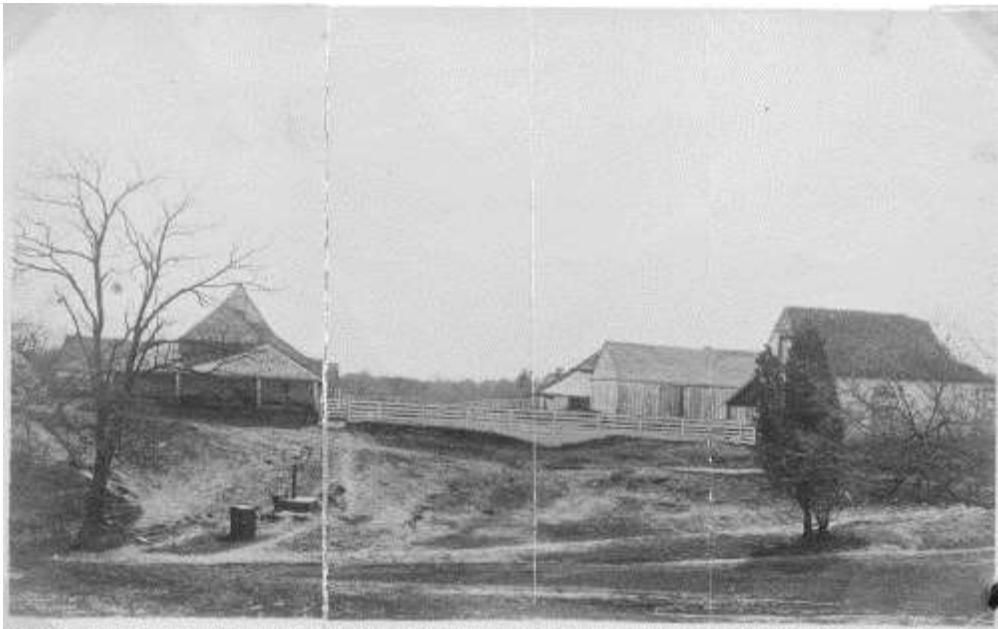
207. Farming complex. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



208. Farming complex. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



209. Water trough with roadside view of the mansion. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



210. Farming complex. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



211. Farming complex. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



212. View of farming complex through rose arbor. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



213. Captain M.E. A. Gorien, U.S.N. Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD
The plane is a "Corsin"- lighting/man plane that made a forced landing in the garden field at 80 mph
and Captain Gorien ran her up the hill and stopped outside on garden wall opposite the pecan trees-
no damage to pilot or plane.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



214. The St. Mary's County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust presented awards at Sotterley Mansion, May 30, 1989.

Seated left to right: Mabel Ingalls and Charles E. Fenwick, Sr.

Standing left to right: Elizabeth Bygler, Judge Joseph Mattingly, Sally Carter, Hope Swann, Carolyn Billops, Navy Captain William Belden, Frank Bailey, Virginia Cox, Thomas E. Cox, Bill Cusic, and Harry Knot.

Not pictured: Patricia J. McGuire.

Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



215. April 1961, Assistant Director Hillary A. Tolson of the National Park Service accepts the album of photographs of "Soterley" from the owner of this historic house, Mrs. Mabel Ingalls of New York City. Courtesy of Historic Soterley



216. Department of Interior. Courtesy of Historic Soterley

·DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR·

·WASHINGTON ·D·C·

·THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE
·HISTORIC · BUILDING·

·KNOWN AS·

Sotterley

·IN THE COUNTY OF·

St. Mary's

·AND THE STATE OF·

Maryland

·HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE
·ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE·

·HISTORIC · AMERICAN ·
·BUILDINGS · SURVEY·

·AS POSSESSING EXCEPTIONAL ·
·HISTORIC · OR · ARCHITECTURAL ·
·INTEREST AND AS BEING WORTHY ·
·OF MOST CAREFUL PRESERVATION ·
·FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE ·
·GENERATIONS AND THAT TO THIS ·
·END A RECORD OF ITS PRESENT ·
·APPEARANCE AND CONDITION ·
·HAS BEEN MADE AND DEPOSITED ·
·FOR PERMANENT REFERENCE IN THE ·

·LIBRARY OF CONGRESS·

·ATTEST·

Robert L. Smith
·Acting Chief Architect·



James A. Johnston
·Secretary of the Interior·

RESOLUTION

Board of Education of St. Mary's County
October 23, 1990

Resolution No. 1990-11

Re: Mrs. Mabel Satterlee Ingalls

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mabel Satterlee Ingalls is committed to providing educational programs for the young people of St. Mary's County; **AND**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ingalls created the Sotterley Mansion Foundation, Inc., in order to preserve and share Maryland's history; **AND**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ingalls encouraged that the Sotterley Mansion become an environmental site for the St. Mary's County Public Schools; **AND**

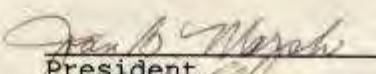
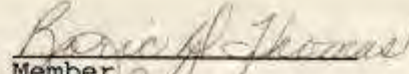


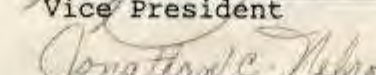

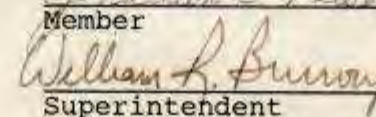
WHEREAS, Mrs. Ingalls offered additional property to permit the environmental education program to include water and woodland studies; **AND**

WHEREAS, the students of St. Mary's County are the benefactors of Mrs. Ingalls' efforts to provide historical and environmental experiences that cannot be duplicated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of St. Mary's County recognizes the significant contributions made to education by Mrs. Mabel Satterlee Ingalls.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of St. Mary's County affirms its appreciation of the interest, support, and resources provided by Mrs. Ingalls for the children of St. Mary's County.

Signed this twenty-third day of October, nineteen hundred and ninety.

 President	 Member
 Vice President	 Member
 Member	 Member
 Superintendent	



219. Christmas Card. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley