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## MONTMORENCI

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WORTHINGTON—CONRAD—LEHR

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NEAR the hamlet of Glyndon, Baltimore County, Maryland, in the Worthington Valley, is to be found the old Worthington homestead, Montmorenci, built about 1760 by Samuel Worthington who married Mary Tolley. From these two a long line with many branches has descended, and from this generous old home have gone forth many sturdy sons who have played conspicuous parts among their fellows. The house is finely situated on the crest of a hill in the centre of the thousand and more acres which remain to it of the vast tracts over which it lorded when it was young, and is as sound and weatherproof to-day as when it was new.

It is of stone and plaster construction, the walls being very thick and the foundations of a mass sufficient to support a battlemented tower. A winding road leads from the entrance of the grounds to the front of the house, and from the rear the ground falls sharply away to the Italian garden which the present mistress of the old home, Mrs. Mary Conrad Lehr, of Montmorenci and Washington, is devising at the foot of this declivity. The exterior of the house is plain, and there is a small



MONTMORENCI, THE WORTHINGTON HOMESTEAD

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## MONTMORENCI

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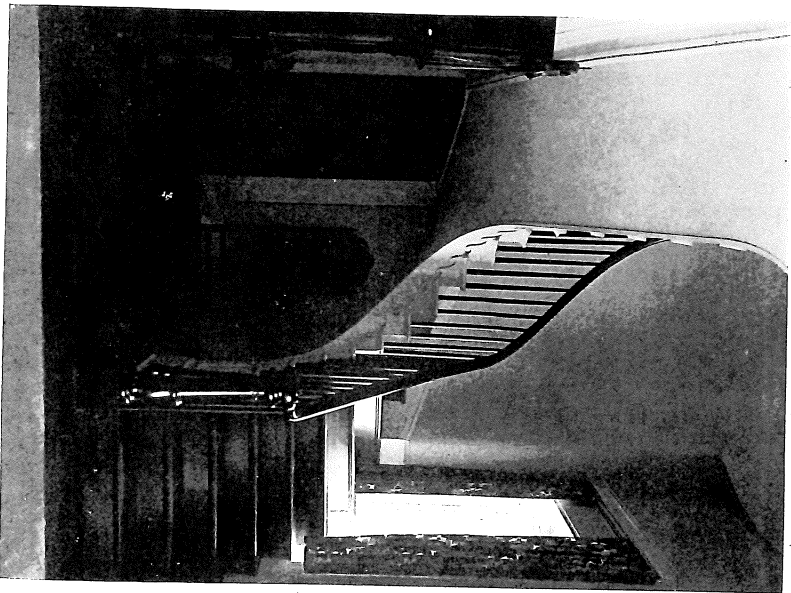
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wing at the north end which contains the kitchen and pantries.

The interior arrangement of Montmorenci is like that of many another old Maryland home in that it has a broad hallway from front to back of the house, on which as an axis the other rooms are symmetrically disposed. The winding staircase, however, with its slender mahogany rail and its slim, patrician mahogany spokes, is a very graceful and unusual feature and is perhaps one of the mansion's greatest beauties.

In Montmorenci may be found a great quantity of rare old furniture which (as is not always the case) has found an appreciative mistress in the daughter of the house of this generation. It would be, perhaps, without interest to mention styles and periods well known or to attempt in any way a description of the furniture, but in each room of the house are to be found pieces to interest the lover of things colonial, and so great a quantity has Mrs. Lehr that she is able to furnish her new home in Washington from Montmorenci without seeming to have robbed that place.

Not far from Montmorenci is Bloomfield, another old Worthington place and built by a son of the builder of Montmorenci. It is a brick homestead and is distinguished for the carving which graces the north wall of the living room on the interior. Though long a Worthington possession, it has been for a number of years the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Councilmann.



THE WINDING STAIR



PARLOUR CORNER

BITS OF MONTMORENCI



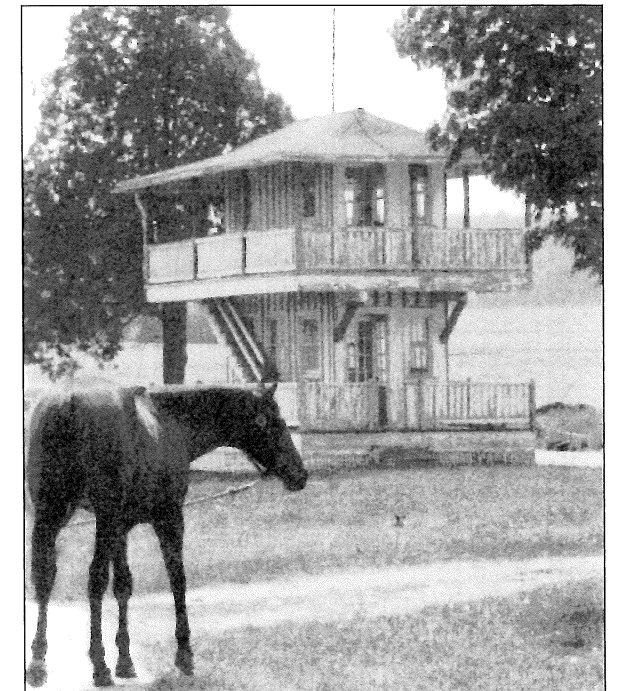
This breathtaking view of the Worthington Valley illuminates why so many of Maryland's most prominent families built their homes in this scenic area. The area is largely unchanged today, though increasing numbers of houses threaten views such as this one. (Courtesy author's collection.)



This beautiful house, with its distinctive two-story porch, is known as Montmorenci. Beautifully situated on a hill overlooking the Worthington Valley, the Worthingtons built Montmorenci in 1742. One of the notable architectural features of the house is its dramatic "hanging" stairway in the center hall. (Courtesy author's collection.)



Originally, Sagamore Farms was owned by the Worthington family as part of a larger land grant, called Welshe's Cradle. In 1885, Charles Councilman purchased the farm, including a lovely Georgian house, and named it "Bloomfield." In the 1930s, Alfred Gwynn Vanderbilt bought the farm and transformed it into one of the most modern thoroughbred breeding and training facilities of its day. (Courtesy author's collection.)



An observation tower along the track is one of the features of Sagamore's distinctive white-frame and red-roofed complex. Vast pastureland, numerous stables, paddocks, exercise tracks, and a completely enclosed exercise track were designed to provide the finest breeding and the most advanced training. Sagamore succeeded in producing two famous winners, Discovery and Native Dancer. Sagamore Farms is part of the Maryland Land Trust and continues to operate as a horse farm. (Courtesy author's collection.)