

GENEALOGICAL AND
PERSONAL HISTORY

OF

FAYETTE COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA

UNDER THE EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OF

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AND

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ILLUSTRATED

Volume II.

NEW YORK
LEWIS HISTORICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

1912

in 1697 was one of the board of commissioners to treat with the Indians. An act passed in 1699 reads: "An act of gratitude to Colonel Ninian Beall." After reciting his valuable services the act awards "75 pounds sterling to be applied to the purchase of three serviceable negroes."

In this same year he was appointed commander-in-chief of the Rangers. In 1696 he had taken the oath as member of the house of burgesses for Calvert county, and was also the first representative elected for Prince George county. Although he was an elder of the Presbyterian church he signed a petition in 1696 to the king for the establishment of the Church of England in Maryland. Five years later he donated half an acre of land in Prince George county for "Ye erecting and building of a house for ye service of Almighty God." He always remained a loyal Presbyterian and kept the Presbyterians on the Patuxent together until the arrival of Nathaniel Taylor who came over with a congregation of Scots from Fifeshire in 1690. He was a man of wealth and devised to his children many thousands of Maryland's most fertile acres.

His son, Colonel George Beall, inherited part of the tract granted to his father called "The Rock of Dumbarton" on which the city of Georgetown is built, a town founded by Colonel Ninian Beall. "Scharf's History of Maryland" states that Colonel Ninian Beall about the year 1678 induced Presbyterians to settle around and upon the locality where the cities of Washington and Georgetown, D. C., now stand.

Colonel Beall died at the age of ninety-two years. He was buried on the home plantation, and when in recent years his remains were removed, owing to the growth of Georgetown, where his home was situated, it was found that he was six feet seven inches in stature and that his Scotch red hair had retained all its fiery hue. There is one gift of Colonel Ninian Beall to the church he loved that deserves especial mention. This was a handsome silver service made by a celebrated London silversmith, in 1707, and presented to the Patuxent Presbyterian church. The service was sent to the church at Bladensburg, originally part of Patuxent parish, after the church at Upper Marlboro was abandoned. Part of the service has

(The Beall Line.)

The arms of the Beall family are: Three white bells on a blue shield. The above arms are the same as those accredited to Robert Bell, of Scotland, in the year 1427. These Bells are on the list of the annuity clans in West Marches in 1587; the Bells Tower is mentioned in the acts of parliament in 1481. The American ancestor, Colonel Ninian Beall, came from Scotland in Calvert county, Maryland, in 1655. On first coming to Maryland he signed his name Bell and it would seem to have been carelessness of clerks in the record offices that caused the change to Beall as he afterward wrote it. In Maryland he soon became a leader in the military affairs of the province, which fact indicates previous experience in such matters. In 1676 he was commissioned lieutenant of Lord Baltimore's yacht or vessel of war, called the "Loyal Charles of Maryland." He took an active part in the revolution of 1689 led by Goode, who it is said called Major Ninian Bell his "Argyll", after the great Scotch covenanters. He was appointed major in 1689, and in 1690 was one of twenty-five commissioners for regulating affairs in Maryland until the next meeting of the assembly in 1692 when he was appointed high sheriff of Calvert county. The year following he was designated colonel, and

been lost, but in 1888 two chalices and a handsome tankard were in use by the church, which is now located at Hyattsville. So far as known this is the oldest silver service in the United States. He has a distinguished posterity—most of the alliance of children and grandchildren were with Scotch families who had settled in Prince George county, in the part called New Scotland. Two of his daughters married Magraders; another a Belt; another an Edmondson. Eliza Ridgely Beall, his great granddaughter, married Colonel George Corbin Washington, son of Colonel William Augustine and Jane (Washington) Washington, fourth child of Augustine Washington, the elder half brother of President George Washington. Although born in Virginia, Colonel George Corbin Washington, who married Eliza Ridgely Beall, adopted Maryland as his home and represented the Montgomery county district three successive terms in congress. He died in Georgetown in 1854.

Seven members of the Beall family were officers in the continental army, three of them becoming members of the "Society of the Cincinnati." A grandson of Colonel Ninian Beall was the founder of the city of Cumberland, Maryland.