



GROWING UP ON TAYLORS ISLAND by John S. "Pat" Neild, Jr., 1 May 2002

A personal account of what it was like growing up on Taylors Island in the middle decades of the 20th Century given by a member of one of the founding families of the Island. Information about the early settlement on the Island plus the history of the development of churches and schools is included. The presentation also includes identification of many of the original families and their relatives who still remain on the Island or in the area.

Below are excerpts from the talk which give a flavor of the information presented:

“The Island: Taylors Island is truly an Island, about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. It is surrounded on the West by the Bay, on the South by Punch Island Creek, on the East by Slaughter Creek, and on the North by the Little Choptank River. Taylors Island and Hoopers Island were both isolated from the mainland, but there were significant differences between the two. Taylors Island had more timber and farmland - with some of the best farming soils in the County. Shipbuilding and agriculture were driving economic factors. There was a tomato cannery on the Island, and a seafood operation built on the north side of the original bridge in the middle of Slaughter Creek-----“

“There are many Taylors Island natives who are still around. Some of the older ones you might know, are David Sears, Jack Creighton, Frances Parker, Norma Lee Ruark Richardson, Louise Ruark Creighton, Harold Brannock, Beverly Navy Creighton, -----“

“Making Ends Meet: Money was hard to come by in those days. Farmers knew that almost everything earned from the farm one year was needed to finance the plantings for the following year. ----- Most clothing was made at home and patched when needed. Horses, mules and oxen provided the power for farming, hauling and transportation. Our recreation was fishing, hunting, visiting family and friends, and going to church and community functions. When I was a teenager, I had no thought of owning a car. Use of the family car was the best I could hope for, and that maybe a couple of times a month if I was lucky. Today, every sixteen-year-old thinks of a car as an entitlement! “
