

personage Mr. John Flemming reside; for that becomes a most important point of inquiry, in order that we may know the chosen spot whereon our ancestors erected those unerring ensigns, around which our ancient townsmen assembled, built unto themselves homes, and laid the foundation of their children's fortunes. Know then, that Mr. John Flemming was a tenant of Mr Carroll, "and resided in a house, then usually called a *quarter*, standing on the North Bank of Uhler's Run, and near to the residence of the late General John Stricker in Charles street. By this act Baltimore was to be a privileged place of landing, loading, and selling and exchanging goods. As this is a most important event in our history, we shall name the gentlemen first appointed town commissioners: they were Major Thomas Tolley, William Hamilton, William Buckner, Dr. George Walker, Richard Gist, Dr. George Buchanan and Colonel William Hammond, whose appointment was for life, with the power of filling their own vacancies. The law authorized them to purchase the before mentioned 60 acres of land, being part of Cole's harbour or Todd's Range, and to lay the same out in the most convenient manner into 60 lots, to be erected into a town to be called BALTIMORE TOWN, in compliment to the proprietary, who was baron of Baltimore, his title being derived from a sea-port of that name in the county of Cork, Ireland. The first choice of a lot was to be reserved to the owner of the land, and no one to be allowed to take more than one lot for the first four months, nor any but the inhabitants of the county for the first six months, after which, untaken lots might be entered by any one. The right acquired by the purchasers of these lots, was *in fee simple*, on condition that they erected on their respective lots within eighteen months, a house that should cover 400 square feet; in default of which the right of proprietorship reverted to the commissioners, who were empowered to make a sub-sale on similar terms. In December of the same year, the commissioners contracted with the Messrs Carrolls for the land in question, on the following terms—they were to pay 40 shillings for each of the 60 acres in money or tobacco, at 1*d* per pound. One other condition of the sale from the Messrs Carrolls to the commissioners was, that such lots as were not taken up and improved within seven years, were to revert back to them.

On the 12th of January 1730, the commissioners assisted by M Philip Jones, the county Surveyor, laid off the town, "commencing at a point near the northwest intersection of what are now called Pratt and Light sts. and running northwest along or near Uhler's alley, towards the great eastern road, and a great gulley or drain at or near Sharp street then across Long, now Baltimore street, east of the gulley northeasterly with the same road, afterwards called the Church road, and now McClellan's alley, to the precipice which overhung the falls at or near the south-west corner of St. Paul street and St. Paul's lane, then with the bank of the stream southwardly and eastwardly, various courses into the low grounds ten perches west of Gay street, including the Fish

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