

Nicholson was Governor of Maryland. He had lost his father and was provided for by his brother. Both brothers had vast difficulties to contend with. Thomas went to Annapolis, the capital of the Province, an "utter stranger, possessing 'nothing' but an 'honest countenance.'" By his exemplary deportment he made hosts of friends, and persevered in well doing, until he qualified in law, was admitted to practice, very soon becoming eminent and sustained a steady course of forensic success of public honor. His talents were of the first order, and his opinions were sought by distinguished men of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York. Some, there are now, who owe their possessions to the skillful efforts of Thomas Bordley, of Maryland. His letters to his Uncle William, in England, breathe the spirit of a vigorous mind. In 1715, Thomas Bordley was made Attorney General, held this office eleven years, and acquitted himself most faithfully. His first wife was Rachel Beard, of Annapolis. Four children survived the state of infancy—Stephen, Elizabeth, William and John. His first wife died in 1722. His second wife was the widow, Frisby, nee Ariana Vanderlyden. She brought him three sons—Thomas, Matthias and John Beale. Thomas Bordley died October 11th, 1726, aged 43, after a severe illness. He published records of the times that indicate his high standing as a lawyer and a public character. A sermon was delivered by Rev. John Humphreys, Rector of St. Ann's Church, Annapolis, eulogizing this distinguished gentleman. The church was draped in black, its officers and most of the congregation being habited in mourning. Mr. Bordley was tall, stout and athletic, many of his descendants resembling him in person and character. Thomas Bordley's last wife, Ariana Vanderlyden, was the daughter of Matthias Vanderlyden, of New York, and was related to the Schuyler family of that city. Matthias Vanderlyden's wife, Anna Margareta, was the daughter of Colonel Augustine Herman, of Germany; who on account of religious persecution came to America and settled in Cecil County. Here he purchased a large tract of land and called it "Bohemia Manor," which name it still bears. He named the Bohemian River and owned immense tracts of land in Delaware and Maryland. The ground on which Newcastle is built belonged to Colonel Herman. Matthias Vanderlyden and Anna M. Herman had several sons and daughters. The sons died without issue.