

Annapolis – 100 years after the charter

NB: The following material was prepared for an oral presentation and consequently is not written as a formal essay to be read.

William Faris

[escutcheon from Faris's cellarette]



Watch & clockmaker, tavernkeeper, silversmith

WILLIAM FARIS,
WATCH-MAKER,
HAVING supplied himself with the best of
Liquors, hereby gives Notice to the Public,
that he has now open'd TAVERN at his
House opposite to where the late Mrs. M'Leod
lived. Gentlemen Travellers and Others, favour-
ing him with their Custom, will meet with the best
Entertainment, and the kindest Usage, from
Their humble Servant,
WILLIAM FARIS.
N. B. The Watchmaker's, Jeweller's, and
silversmith's Business, are carried on in all their
various Branches as usual.



[silver cream pot]

Gardener



Man of scientific curiosity inflammable air, electrifying machine, silk reel, pianoforte,
physiognotrace

[Lavoisier, and the experiment
with inflammable air]



interests that connected him to many levels of society
interests SHARED by many levels of society

through diary that Faris brings us into his Annapolis

[Faris's diary]



Two views c. 1800 only
roughly contemporary images

view of city from Strawberry Hill



Watercolor of St. Anne's
and area around Church Circle



City plan

Ridout redrawing of Stoddert plat



Frenchman's map 1781



Demographics

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | <u>c.1708</u> | <u>1810</u> |
| # households | | 289 |
| Total population | 250-300 | 2188 |
| % Free | | 74% |
| % Enslaved | | 26% |
| % black | | 41% |
| % white | | 59% |
| % enslaved | 99% | 63% |
| % free black | 1% | 37% |

almost certainly very few free blacks in 1708

so free & white and enslaved & black percentages virtually equal at that time
1/3 black for later colonial period – probably not that high in 1708

City Govt in 1708

offices established by charter:

mayor, recorder (city attorney), aldermen, common councilmen

very limited role for municipal administration

Charles Faris

– elected to council in Feb 1799

– died in office the following September,
of yellow fever, at age 36

– replaced by Frederick Grammar

Offices added in the next 100 years

list of offices that appear in records between 1708 and 1808

Records very spotty in identifying incumbents



- [1764] Bailiff for Mayors Court
- [1798] Master of Chimney Sweeps
- [1720] Clerk, probably John Brewer
- [1806] Collector
- 3 Commissioners; Port Wardens
- [1721] Constables 3 as of 1708
- [1802] Watchmen 2-4 per year
- [1720] Cryer
- [1783] Engine Keeper
- [1721] Gate Keeper
- Hay Weigher John Smith
- Health Officer
- [1792] Market Clerk Christopher Hohne
- [1783] Superintendent of Street Repairmen
- [1784] Treasurer
- [1758] Wood Corder

State House

first destroyed before Charter signed
second barely in use by time Seymour
& legislature in tug of war over charter

[Second State House]

third, surviving, building

- shown here in Peale drawing
 - in use in 1808, a building that Faris knew well
- meetings of the “citizens,” as he described them, were held there Considered ? of what to do with refugees from Haiti; How to protect city from travelers bringing yellow fever ?



Issues that at later time would have been handled by city govt place for public lectures; attended sessions of the general court

St. Anne's Church

1st St. Anne's was the church attended by Annapolitans in and would have been only church in town at the time



1708

Faris initially worshipped there after church torn down In 1775, in expectation that would be soon rebuilt, services held in playhouse next door to Faris home



in 1792, second St. Anne's finally consecrated Faris recorded 1st, in June 1792, that

“the Rev Mr. Clagett's chose bishop”

Thomas John Clagett was rector of St. James Parish @ Herring Bay; he was consecrated Bishop of MD @ Trinity Ch in NYC :1st bishop consecrated on American soil

Then in Nov, on Sunday the 25th, Faris noted “This day our new church was opened and consecrated by Bishop Clegett & Parson Higgenbotham” the St. Anne's rector

Rev. Ralph Higgenbotham served from 1784 to 1804, so the rector in 1808 was Dr. Bethel Judd

[second St. Anne's]



Other Religions

Church of England of 1708 was, after the Rev, the Protestant Episcopal Church and no longer an established church supported by taxes on all property owners

Catholics still worshipped in the private chapel at the *Carroll house* or in other private homes with a public place of worship still more than a decade away

Methodists had received permission in 1789 to move their meeting house from Hanover St to the grounds of the State House

Faris wrote in March 1797 that

“Mrs. Faris & the girls went to the Methodest both fore noon and after noon to heare a Mr. Lile Preach”

[Marker on State House grounds
for the site of the Old Blue Church]



The Methodist minister serving the Annapolis area lived on Green Street in a house left to Francis Asbury in 1793 by Charlotte Small, an early member of the church



and, as we will consider more fully later, there was also an *African American congregation*

Faris – a man of great intellectual curiosity – heard other preachers who visited Annapolis and spoke in the State House

On Oct 1st, 1792, “in the evening thar was a man Preach’d at the Stad House,
the best preacher I ever heard in my life. Hes a *Universalist*”
Faris attended the next night at well”

The preacher was probably Duncan McLane, who spoke again in December
“on the 13th, in the evening Mr McClain the univ preacher came to town
and preach’d in Stad House; 14th and 15th also on the 16th, “in the afternoon Mr. McClain
preached his farewell sermon not expecting to come hear any more”
but on the 18th, McClain left for Baltimore, intending to return in May. There is no evidence that
he came back in May, but was in town in Nov 1793

In November 1795, “*traveling Friends* came to town”

Friend Smith from Philadelphia & 2 English women:

Deborah Darby & Lydia Young

“Mrs. Darby & Mr. Smith preached & Mrs. Darby pray’d to a large
congregation in the Stat House”

a number of Faris’s Quaker friends accompanied the visitors

There were “preaching friends” at the State House again in June 1796 this time “after dinner the
Friends came to see me and gave me & the Famely a very Friendly exhortation”

Governors

in 1708, they lived in house built by Edmund Jenings near Governor’s Pond
used by colonial governors Sharpe & Eden (who bought the house from Jenings)
confiscated by State for use by the elected governors

most of them men known to Faris and mentioned in the diary and, one assumes from the diary, would have been more familiar to many Annapolis residents than the royal governor, John Seymour, had been in 1708

Thomas Johnson – first elected governor of MD

in Nov, Faris wrote of a report that Thomas Johnson of the Federal City is dead may have been referring to the former governor, but Johnson didn't actually die until 1819 in 1777, Faris made pair silver spectacles for TJ @ cost 3.9.0

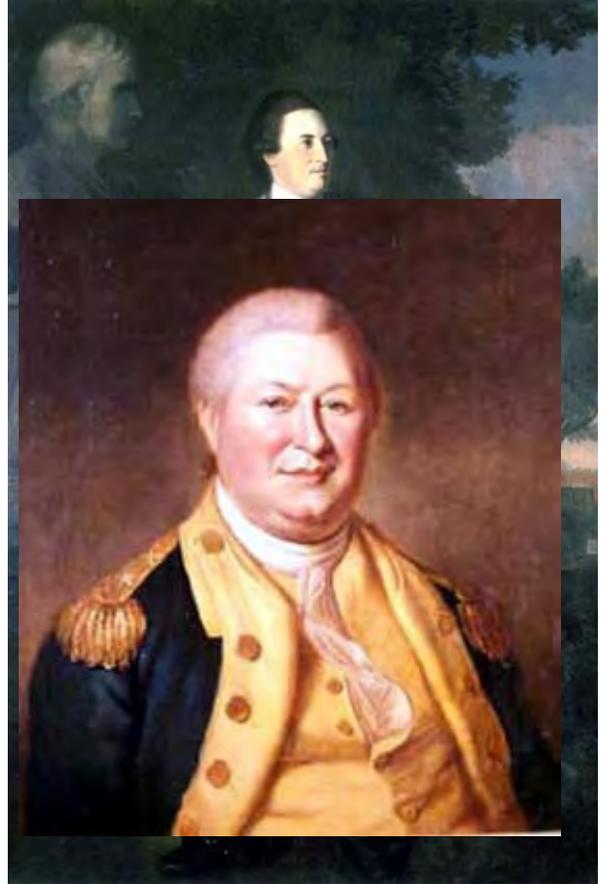


[Governor's residence]

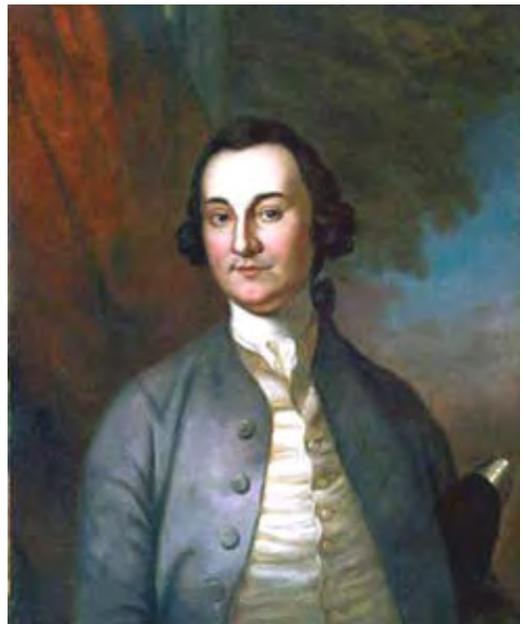


Faris had known **Wm Paca**, the 3rd governor, since at least the 1760s, when Paca represented Faris in four suits

- in May 1773, the day after voters elected Paca & Mathias Hammond to Lower house, WF sold them 36 bottles of Madeira, port, and punch – most likely to celebrate victory w/ voters of Anna
- in Nov 1797 Paca and Ann Faris Pitt traveled to Baltimore on packet & in Dec of that year, Paca carried letter from her father to Ann in Balto
- when Paca died in Oct 1799, Faris entered the brief obituary that appeared in a Baltimore newspaper in his diary



William Smallwood, 4th governor, was the first of the governors mentioned in the diary, when in Feb 1792 Faris noted the report “that Genl William Smallwood died on Sunday last at the Woodyard (WS plantation) in PG county”



5th governor, **John Eager Howard**, lived in Baltimore by this time, & makes no appearance

There was a false rumor of the death of **George Plater**, 6th gov, in Jan 1792 & true acct of death in early Feb

“this forenoon died his Excellency Geo Plater esq Gov of the State of MD in the 57th year of his age after a long and painful illness – the corpse went out of town on its way to the family burying ground at his seat in St. Mary’s County [Sotterly]”

Faris had made pair of rowels for Plater's spurs in 1777

Thomas Sim Lee was both the 2nd & the 7th gov, "chose governor by the House of Assembly in the room of G Plater esqr deceased" About 2:00 on 5th, "Thomas Sim Lee esqr came to Town & was qualified as governor – the flag was hoisted and the guns fired & at night a supper at Mann's [tavern]"



John Hoskins Stone succeeded Lee in 1794; in April 1795 Faris planted radish seed, beans, and cabbage seed that he got from the governor, who told him that the beans would be fit to gather in six weeks



Diary entries for Nov 1797 recount the election & swearing in, w/ firing of guns, of **John Henry**.

Henry resigned (ill health) during second term, replaced by **Benjamin Ogle**. Ogle utilized the craft skills of both Wm & Chas Faris, owing money for work done to the estate of each man

Faris only records the election of the next two governors, *John Francis Mercer* and then *Robert Bowie*.



Robert Wright, governor at the time of the 100th anniversary of the charter, fought a duel in George Town in Sept 1794 against a Genl Lloyd. Lloyd was wounded in the neck and the arm, while Wright received a slight wound in the arm. His election as governor occurred after Faris's death, however.

St. John's College

In 1708 – King William's School only school for which we have any record

over time, also schoolmasters and dame schools, itinerant instructors

Faris sons studied w/ John Wilmot in 1770s

schooling for Faris *girls*

when diary opens in Jan 1792, Nancy (Ann) Faris attending Mrs. Jones school
According to Gazette ads, Mr. Jones opened singing school in 1790

Mrs. Jones advertised a boarding school for young ladies in Oct 1791
eventually all 3 girls attended school

shorthand lessons – “Charles & Hiram began to learn the short hand
wrighting with Mr. G. Holland in Nov 1792”

Sep 1793 – “I agreed with *the French teacher* to teach Hiram, Nancy, & Abby French
@ \$4 per month”

Social graces as well – “Jan 1796 Rebecca Faris & Miss Ashmead commenced
going to *dancing school*”



St. John’s chartered 1784 too late for Faris sons
but frequent references to students and members of faculty
particularly Richard Owens – master of writing and arithmetic
daughter friend of Faris girls

green in front of college used by militia for drills and parades
Faris sons members of militia – family attended festivities
As would most of townspeople

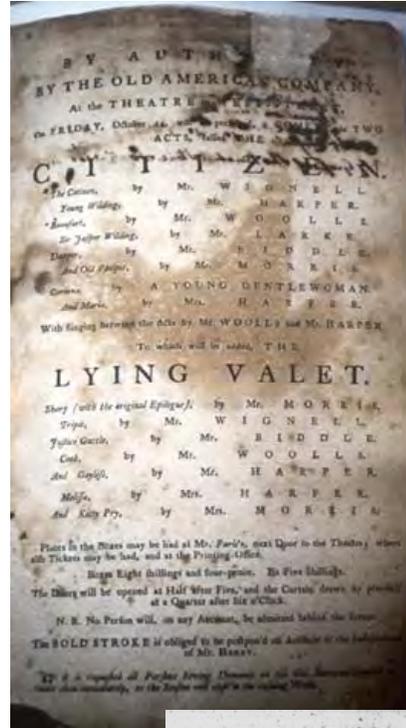
Social and Cultural Life

Annapolis in 1808 offered residents far more social & cultural activities than could be enjoyed in
the infant town of 1708.

‘The one whose buildings, fram’d w/ cypress rare, and resembling much a
Southwark fair, could scarce keep out the rain’

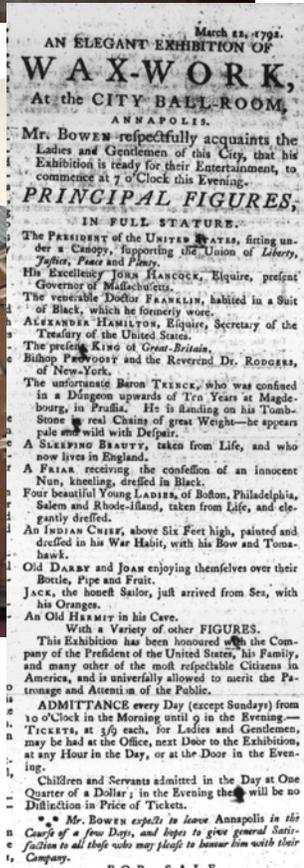
Playhouse located next door to Faris home on West St
 Faris listed as ticket seller in advertisements
 family often went to performances

[playbill for a theatrical evening]



Assembly Rooms, on Duke of Gloucester, one of locations for the balls that took place frequently

Wm & Priscilla did not attend but daughters went quite often in several yrs, girls went to the Colts Ball, during the Nov race days. Rebecca attended a race week ball for 1st time 1795, when she was 16 Nancy planned to attend the ball on July 4th, 1795, but so few women attended that she didn't go



Sometimes, balls took place in *taverns*

Feb 1792, Nancy went to the President's birthday ball at Mr. Mann's
 another ball took place there on May 1st, the culmination of a day of militia parading & exercises
 On May 2nd, Hiram & his sisters danced at Wharfe's Long Room (Mann's?)

both the ballroom & taverns also places to see *traveling exhibits* and entertainers

when the family went to see the waxworks on display from March 22 to April 13 in 1792, they went to the city ballroom, where they were on view from 10am to 9pm Monday thru Saturday

playhouse was to have been scene of a display in July 1798

“corporation where to have met this afternoon in regard of the man who wants to show fireworks in the Play house but rained so hard they could not meet”

the next day, no quorum for the corporation & in the evening no one met at the play house, so no fireworks

the following day, the fire man made another attempt but nobody came so he did not perform; next two days rain or threatening to rain

finally, “a fine day – in the evening, French man fired off his fireworks in the college green”



all of these entertainments required a density of population both in Annapolis and in the region to make touring financially viable simply not possible in 1708, but commonplace by the end of the century

Maryland Gazette

One important aspect of the intellectual life of the city at its 100th birthday was the availability of *local newspaper*

Gazette was no longer only paper in state – Baltimore, Easton, Georgetown, DC also had papers but still critical politically, economically, socially

Faris a regular reader of the *Gazette* as well as several Baltimore newspapers

still published by Green family – sons of Jonas & Anne Catharine Green grandchildren were friends of Faris children socialized together – attending balls or private teas & dances



Market House

Market House was another social, political, and economic center played an obvious role in providing town dwellers with meat and produce but also central place in which residents came together to visit & exchange news

when Faris talked about how the Town w/ capital T felt about issues, he was conveying sense of the community gathered when at market even if purely gossip, reflected community values:

as in May 1792, when Faris recorded that Capt. Kilty married Kitty Quynn ‘and the Town talked that he should have married her sooner as she’s with child’



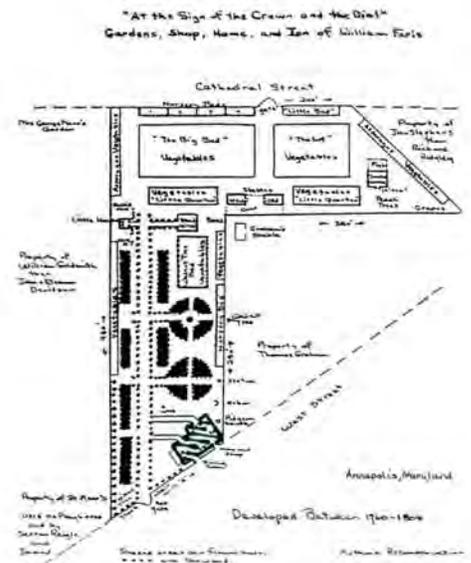
Faris Neighborhood



[St. Jean Faris, youngest son]



[Priscilla Woodward Faris]



Family lived in first block West St, land held on long-term lease from St. Anne’s vestry



[Ann Faris Pitt and her daughter Hannah]



[Charles Faris]

Neighbors

Kitty Quynn's father owned the house across the street
advertised as Allen Quynn's new house when
widow Frances Bryce rented 1788 and
operated a boarding house there for a time

"yesterday evening Mrs. Quynn went in to the
cow pen to milk, and one of the cows poked her
and broke her thigh" June 1795
town still very rural – in that kept cows & pigs in
backyards



Next door lived Abraham Claude, a watchmaker like Faris
whose 2nd wife was another daughter of Allen Quynn

Mary Ghiselin kept a boarding house also – common occupation for widowed women who owned property

members of her family appear quite often in diary

April 13th 1793 – “Dr R Ghislin came home this afternoon from London”

had studied medicine in Paris; moved into family home when returned one of physicians who most frequently treated Faris family

when Faris died, Ghiselin bought five books from the estate sale



Jefferson & Madison boarded w/ her during winter 1783/84 when Congress met in Annapolis



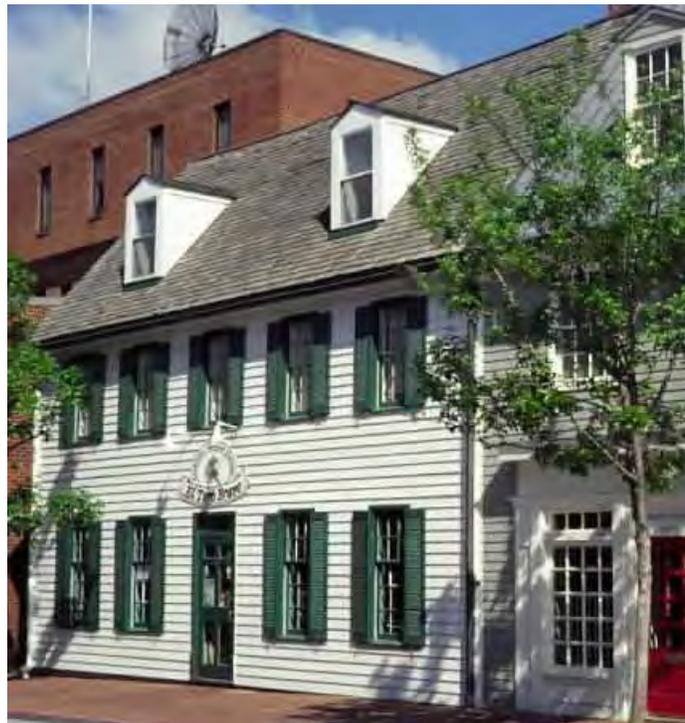
Golder and Faris families were good friends and socialized together as on Jan 11 1796,

a cloudy, rainy, sleeting day when Mr. Golder had a party at his house in the evening. I suppose, Faris wrote, there could not be less than 50 persons men women & children; there was 7 Farises & spent a very agreeable evening & broke up about 1 o'clock

Beyond West St

those who have read diary know Faris's social world extended far beyond West St

there were those people he knew as



customers of workshop, tavern

elite & middling townspeople who could afford to buy silver or watches

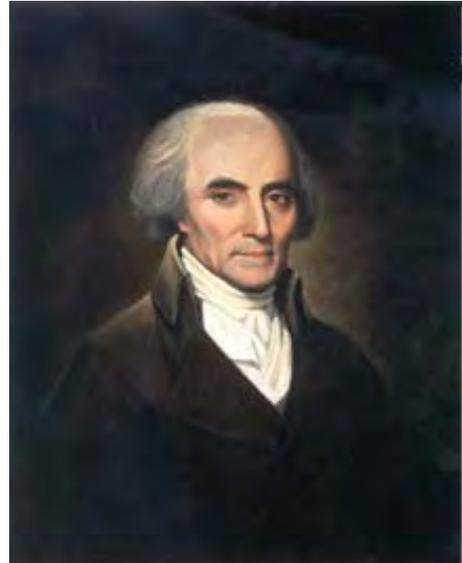
extensive network ship captains who patronized tavern

Faris was vestryman of St. Anne's in early 1780s, and member local lodge of Masons
may have held political office – records spotty – certainly knew many political figures
tavern located near State House and also had extensive network of people w/ whom exchanged
plants & seeds

Plants on the Move

at first glance, strongest ties to members of elite such as Gov. Stone, source of beans that would
be ready to eat in 6 weeks

or Henri Stier, the Belgian aristocrat who was renting Strawberry Hill & whose hyacinths were
the finest Faris had seen when visited & from whom got hyacinth seed



or Alexander Contee Hanson, lawyer, judge of general court & chancellor of land office
who shared Faris's passion for tulips



as did Dr. Upton Scott – whose extensive grounds on Shipwright St would seem better location for 4000 tulips annually than Faris’s much smaller lot

Other Connections

One of most interesting aspects Annapolis life revealed by diary is a network that extends well beyond the elite garden owners who would be obvious sources of plants, especially exotic ones

connections w/ women – married, single, w/ ordinary white men, w/African Americans

exchanged seeds & plants for practical purposes – garden vegetables that supplied food but also specimens of ornamental or unusual plants

single women: Anne Ashmead, Miss Cooke, Miss Hood, and Julia Onion

married women: Grace Adams, Ann Carroll, Elizabeth Claude, Eleanor Davidson, Mrs. Miller, Elizabeth Neth, Deborah Randall, Mrs. Thomas Rossiter, Ann Sands, Mrs. French Thomas, Mrs. James Thomas, and Margaret Wyatt

non-elite white men: Joseph Coats, John Cowman, “Dutch Man,” Archibald Golder, Isaac Holland, Elisha Hopkins, Robert Johnson, Patrick McGill, John Petty, Mr. Rolph, Henry Sibell, Vachel Stevens, David Wells, Sr., William Wilkins, and Thomas Wilmore

African Americans: Jacob, Nick, Smith Price, John Wheeler, Old William, Old Terry

Jacob and Nick were enslaved men, and Jacob, who belonged to Sarah Bordley, may have been bringing cuttings that she had sent to Faris.

Smith Price and John Wheeler were both free men

Old Terry probably free – was married; on 1 occasion her husband worked for Faris in garden

Old William was a slave of Richard Ridgely’s, who worked for Faris occasionally in garden & also seems, independently, to have made practice of bringing wild holly trees to be planted in Faris’s garden

3 occasions; on 1st – Feb. 1799: “William a black man brought me a holly tree & I planted it by the little house in the garden”

Variety

diary mentions about 135 different species of plants/trees/shrubs

not all specifically identified as exchanges but that was how plants circulated

only one commercial source seeds/plants – Maximillian Heuisler, Baltimore
rest moved in informal network from gardener to gardener



African Americans

diary provides window into another otherwise difficult to see part of community
African American residents

included those who were enslaved

men & women whose services could be borrowed or hired
men & women who could hire out their own time
free men & women
and children

all appear in the diary in various ways
although often difficult to determine status from info in diary

In August 1797, Faris had new shingle roof put on his house
“this morning about 10 oclock the carpenters came
2 of them went to jointing & Old Harry got a scaffold up in the front of
the house &...intends to begin ripping off the old shingles &
make a beginning to new shingle the house”
Old Harry was certainly African American – but no indication that was enslaved
account book doesn’t indicate that anyone else – e.g. owner – was paid
(2#)

And later carpentry work was done by Cyrus, also African American, probably also free

a different Harry belonged to widow Susannah Brewer
Faris hired Harry to work in garden at rate \$3 a month in March 1792
worked off & on for about a month before the entry:
“Mrs. Brewer’s Harry behaved badly and’s gone home”

hired laborers – all African American – rarely lasted long
but Faris sons also behaved badly & moved out from time to time

Mariah was probably a free woman who supported herself by selling milk
to householders who didn’t own a cow
Faris reported in July 1802: “this morning Old Marriah the milk woman died”

most African Americans engaged in domestic work – kitchen, laundry, garden

but skilled as well – carpenters mentioned earlier, for example

Skilled

two of these men are worth more of our notice

There are about a dozen entries in the diary for “Smith” & 2 for Smith Price
enough overlap to make credible assumption that are same man
Smith Price was son of Thomas Price, who was free, & Margaret Hall, an enslaved woman
Price’s owner granted Smith Price a delayed manumission in his will
freeing him in 1797

when Price died in 1807, survived by wife Ann & 6 children
suggests married before became free
he owned property outside the town gate that he left to his widow
his son Henry was one of founders of Asbury Methodist Church early 1830s

Faris cash book payments to Price for hauling dung, killing a hog, cutting grass,
purchases of corn & simlins (squash)
Price also had stage – letter from Faris to daughters that should take to Price’s stage
Annapolis

John Wheeler appears on 1798 direct tax as renter of small frame house on Church St
1803 buys partt house formerly occupied by tavernkeeper James West, also on Church St
for \$1,100

when died 1804, estate included substantial amounts rum, whiskey, brandy \$1,314
[comp: Faris \$1786]

left that property to widow, lot outskirts town ordered sold – \$ used to free sisters
(2, slaves in Calvert Cty)

left \$40 for use of African Church

1799 Wheeler, Smith Price, & Thomas Folks bought 1/4a lot
just outside town gate on ne side West St
4 mos later conveyed to small group men

Several became trustees 1803 of *1st African Meth Epis Ch of Annapolis*
The last of our diversified congregations of 1808

Luxury trades/increased specialization

images from golden age – reflect greater variety of local crafts and imported goods available
c.1808

1708 Residents

Petitioners objecting to first charter equalled 37 households
closest approximation we have of 1708 householders

Not very diverse group occupationally – officials, lawyers, carpenters

5 lawyers, 6 government officials or employees, 2 merchants, a tanner, a brewer, a tailor, 2
carpenters, a ship captain, a joiner, a schoolmaster, and the Rector of St. Anne’s

Occupations 1 century later

many attorneys & govt officials, but greater variety among other residents:
customs collector, tavernkeeper, staymaker/merchant, organist & music teacher, 4 boarding
house keepers, 3 bakers, 6 storekeepers, tanner & shoemaker, saddler & coachmaker, 8
physicians, 13 merchants, 3 carpenters, 2 packet boat operators, 3 shoemakers, mechanic, St.
Anne’s rector, architect, 2 schoolmasters, felt maker & hatter, 5 cabinetmakers, plasterer,

hairdresser, goldsmith & clockmaker, joiner, watch & clockmaker, midwife, boot & shoemaker, saddler, watchmaker & silversmith, newspaper publisher, 2 St. John's professors, 2 ordinary keepers, painter & glazier, tanner & currier, 3 butchers, bricklayer, blacksmith, silversmith, tailor, stage operator, and 9 tavernkeepers.

This is not a complete list, by any means – just the occupations that could be identified of people mentioned in Faris's diary

Conclusion

Faris died in 1804, just before 100th anniversary of charter

Left not only fine clocks and silverware, but also his diary as window into Annapolis c. 1808