The Great Choptank River sweeps along the eastern border of Talbot county in a southwesterly direction until it comes to the extreme southern limits of the county. Here it makes a right-angle bend before it broadens out into the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. On the Talbot side of this bend is Chancellor's Point, the southern limit of that Neck known as Bolingbroke. It is very improbable that “brook” has any authoritative origin as a final syllable. No running brook in the Neck is of sufficient size to give character to the section. It is much more probable that the early occupants were admirers of the very spectacular career of Bolingbroke, whom Queen Anne made Prime Minister of England, about that time, and in whose honor the new country may have been named. This is merely given for what it is worth. It was Bolingbroke that Pope consulted when writing his Essay on Man.

Chancellor of Maryland, Phillip Calvert, came into possession of some thousands of acres of land of the tract known as “Woolsey Manor,” since which time it has been known as Chancellor’s Point. If we could trace the name of the manor to his Eminence spelled with one “o,” it would, in truth, be a “Cardinal” point. Whether the names of Bolingbroke or Cardinal Wolsey are associated with the naming of these lands or not, matters nothing to the present. Here we have a beautiful and fruitful block of Talbot presenting a leg-of-mutton shape, containing approximately nine square miles of surface, with its broad end inland, tapering to Chancellor’s Point. The shore line of the river rounds the “knee” of said leg-of-mutton, and is not indented with ragged margin.

The west side of Bolingbroke Neck is just as ragged in outline as the waters of Bolingbroke Creek permit. This Creek can be seen in the map published last week. The eastern border of the Neck terminates with Raccoon Creek, which has length but no appreciable width, and is simply a little stream flowing into the Choptank while with the opposite Creek, the Choptank flows into it. In this sense “creeks is creeks” just like “pig is pigs.”

Chancellor’s Point farm is now owned by Emerson Harrington of Cambridge, and occupied by Elias Walker and family. It formerly belonged to Alfred Kemp and came down through the Hughletts heirs. A vessel wharf projects into the river but steamers no longer use it. The Hughletts began their financial career three or four generations ago by merchandising at Greensboro, at the head of the Choptank and later acquiring large acreage in this section of the country. These acres, much of them, are still retained within the family limits. Richard Hughlett, of Cambridge, rents his Talbot estate to William Bradley, at the present time. Another home site facing the creek is owned by the heirs of Bayless, a Baltimore contractor. Royal entertainments were given in this crowded spot in the days of the Hannigan owners before the Civil War, to say nothing of the many hospitalities since.

Adjoining these farms, to the east, and on the Choptank is “Ingleside,” part of the Hughlett tract. This has long been and still is owned by Robert J. Dawson who resides with his son, Hall, who carries on the farm. The word ingleside, is simply the Scotch way of saying “fireside,” and carries the full import of the word. The Hughlett interests were here sold to Franz Scheppers of Philadelphia, who built a race track in one of the fields and employed a Mr. Powers, of Hambleton, to take care of it. On it Scheppers built splendid and spacious stables for those days. The barn was 400 feet long, though destroyed by fire many years ago. John Henry C. Watts of Western Maryland, was the predecessor of the present owner. Ingleside is one of the manor houses of the county, of frame and semi-antique. it has not been modernized. Spacious comfort is its atmosphere. On the more than mile river front of the Choptank, high banks and broad water is presented. Indians were wont to assemble in just such places. Here, as elsewhere, the “foot-prints on the sands of time” of the Red Man are in evidence. Here is where have been found some quarries of Indian relics.

The entrance into Bolingbroke is from the little village of Barber, named as a Talbot County post office in honor of the Congressman who established it, the late Isaac A. Barber. On the old maps this place
is called Manassas, and by some still retains the name. The postoffice, as such, is discontinued since the advent of rural delivery from Trappe. Turning to the right at Barber, and proceeding along as pretty a country road as one could expect to find, without a detour to the left or right, one comes to the above mentioned Ingleside. This highway is worthy of notice. It is well built, and where necessary, surfaced with gravel sucked from the bottom of the river by power machinery. This surface is more enduring than shell. It does not grind to powder to blow away, but becomes harder and harder as it packs into the ground beneath it.

“Ingleside” At The Tip End Of The Neck

“Creekfields” The Borden Smith Home

“Belmont” another worth-while place is now the residence of E. J. Cryer, and family, tenants; and owned by the heirs of Mrs. Alfred Kemp, who was a Hughlett. Like its neighbor, Belmont is a wonderful old farm, and produced this year an astonishing yield of tomatoes. The mansion, in its day, was built with the
Editor's note: Creekfields, with its valuable antiques, was destroyed by fire Sept. 10, 1939.