

Weaver House

4319 Arabia Avenue

**Baltimore City Landmark Designation Report
Prepared For Baltimore City Commission For
Historical and Architectural Preservation
Hearing April 8, 2003**



The Weaver House located 4319 Arabia Avenue in Baltimore's Beverly Hills Neighborhood.

Baltimore City Historical Landmark Standards for Designation

The Weaver House, Located at 4319 Arabia Road in Northeast Baltimore neighborhood of Beverly Hills is eligible as a Baltimore City Landmark by meeting the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation Standards for Designation one, two, four and five:

1. Dates from a particular period having a significant character, interest, or value, as part of the development, heritage, or culture of the City of Baltimore;
2. Is associated with the life of an outstanding historical person or persons; or
4. Is significant of the architectural period in which it is built and has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, method or construction, or engineering, or is the notable work of a master builder, designer, engineer, artist or architect whose individual genius influenced his age; and
5. Contributes information of historical, cultural, or social importance relating to the heritage of the community.

The Weaver House meets **criteria one** by being an excellent example of Victorian Suburban Architecture. The house meets **criteria two** as being emblematic of a productive and enterprising 19th Century Baltimorean William H. Weaver. The house meets **criteria four** by being an excellent example of Queen Anne Style suburban residential architecture in Baltimore. And it meets **criteria five** by illustrating the material culture of late 19th Century upper middle class in Baltimore.



Significant Summary:

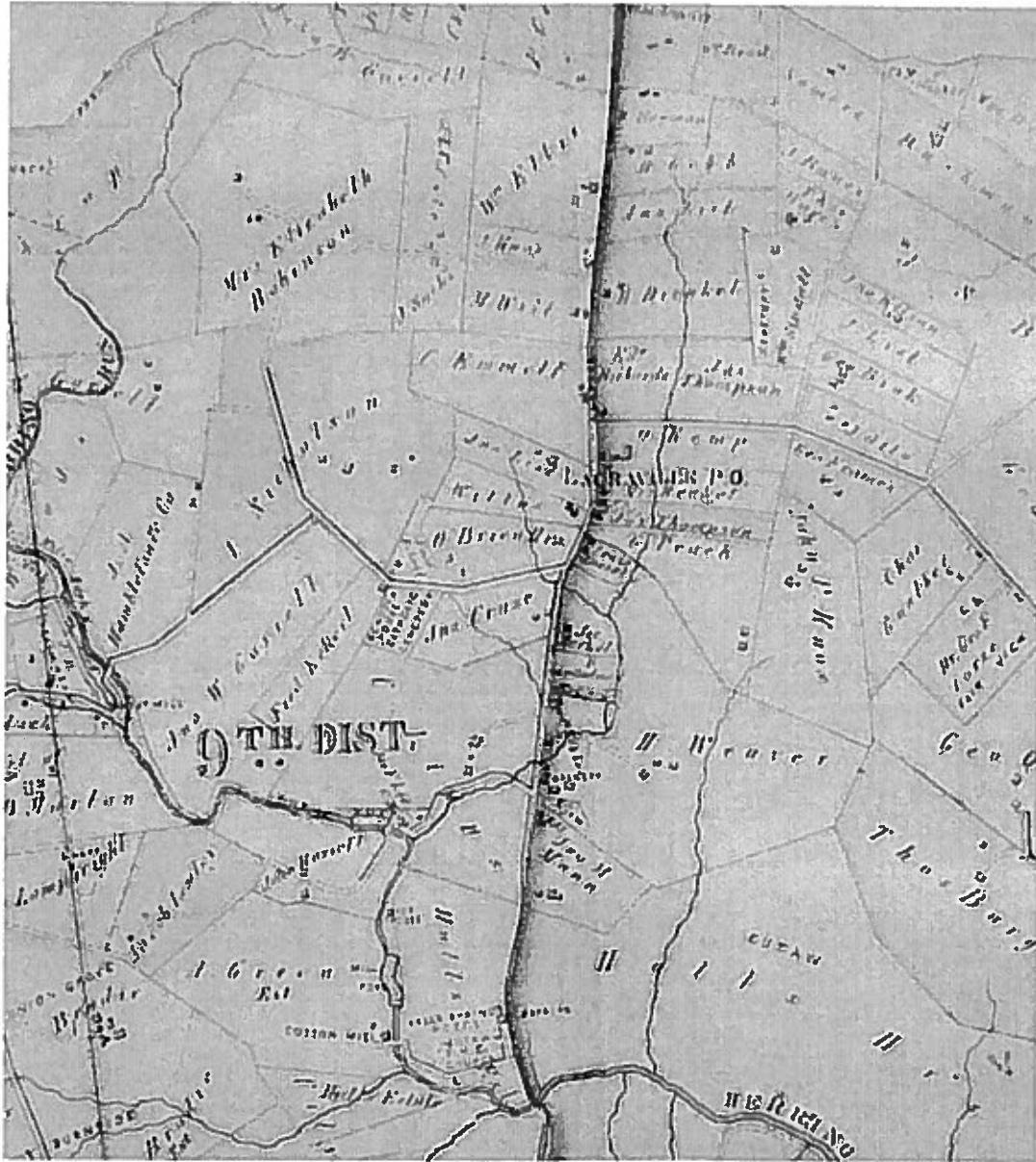
The Weaver House illustrates the development patterns of Baltimore's 19th Century suburban development and cultural patterns as well as marks the beginning story of 20th Century development of suburban neighborhoods. William H. Weaver's life resembles a common rise from a European Immigrant to well established Baltimorean. The house also embodies the Queen Anne Suburban style architecture, an architectural expression rare in Northeast Baltimore. Together, the Weaver House helps to illustrate 19th Century life in Baltimore City and its hinterlands.

William H. Weaver was born in 1827 in Germany and moved to the United States in 1834 with his parents. In 1848 he owned his own meat market stall and was self-employed as a butcher at the Hanover Market. He lived in South Baltimore, and by the 1870s, most likely earlier, lived in the 1700 Block of South Light Street. In 1877 he partnered with Edward Harmon to create the Harmon and Weaver Brick makers. Their factory was located at the corner of Columbia Avenue and the Gwynn's Falls (Today it is the southern corner of Carroll Park and Washington Boulevard). In 1886 William Weaver gave his butcher's stall to his son Adolphus H. Weaver. As early as 1858 he bought land along the Harford Road in Northeast Baltimore. In 1861 and again in 1879 he bought two more tracts. In 1887 he built his Suburban Queen Anne Style house. He lived exclusively in Lauraville until his death in 1897. His life that began in Germany and ended in Lauraville, Baltimore County illustrates the route that many immigrants took moving into the middle class of Baltimore. It also is indicative of the Suburban ideal that fueled the 20th Century suburban development in the Baltimore region.

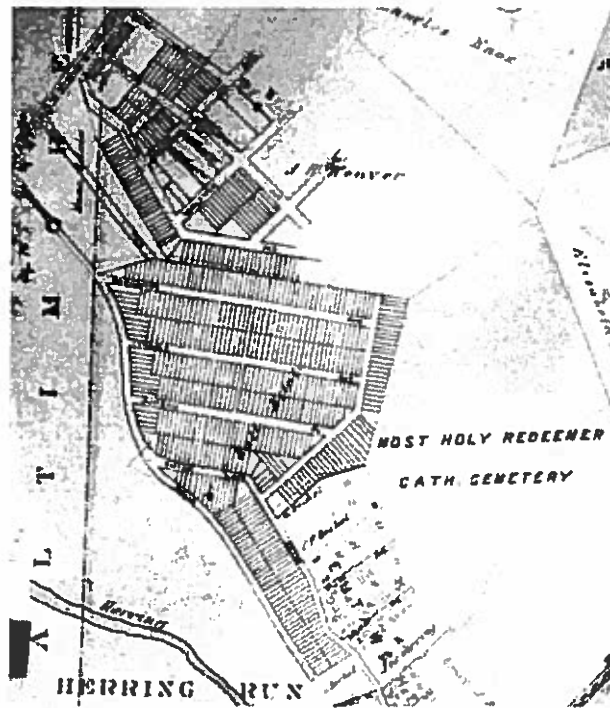
19th Century development patterns, fueled by the evolving suburban ideal, are illustrated in the Weaver House. In 1887 Baltimore City's sub-urban region was primarily composed of country estates, truck farms and pockets of villages and industrial enterprises. Nevertheless, the notion of suburban living was shaping several neighborhoods. It was also taking shape as upper middle class Baltimoreans were buying tracts of land and building suburban villas in existing truck-farm villages. Here, they added to the *village-scape* suburban type architecture. The various ways the suburban ideal manifested itself evolved into the massive suburbanization of 1918 annexation Baltimore.

The Weaver house and farm is part and parcel of this story, and its manifestation greatly influenced the development of Northeast Baltimore. Lauraville was first called Lauraville as early as 1851 when the surrounding area needed to name itself for postal service purposes. The village in 1880 was documented by Scharf History and was listed in the Maryland Gazetteers and Baltimore County Directories. The village centered around four mills, the Halls Springs Hotel, Weber's Brewery and Beer Park, and surrounding truck farms. By 1880 with the consolidation of horse car companies, there was consistent and daily horse car service from Baltimore City to City Hall. By 1914 Lauraville had five subdivisions laid out for suburban development, an electric streetcar service and a main street changing to accommodate the new suburban market. By this time the Weaver farm was influential on the way it sold parcels for suburban

development. Here, one sees the southern portion of the farm sold for housing development, whereas, the northern section of the Weaver farm didn't sell out until 1924-26. Today the Weaver house, the original suburban house, marks the beginning of the long and sporadic incremental steps to suburbanization.

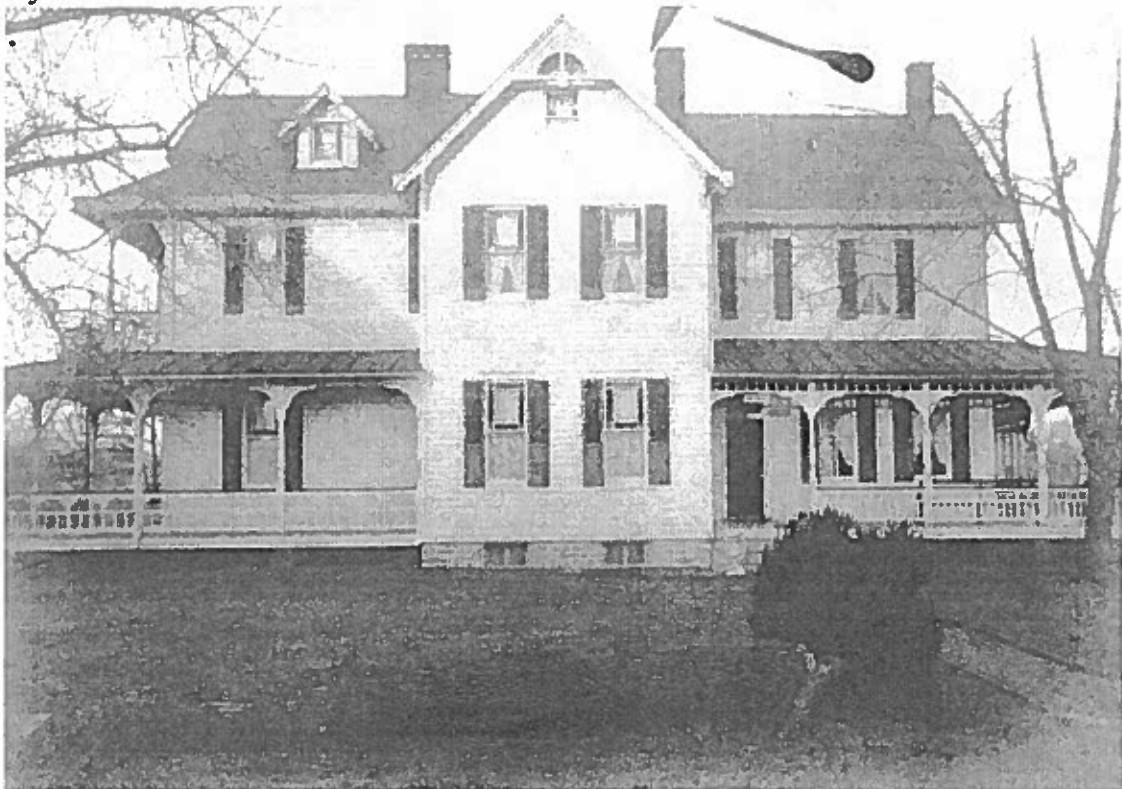


Hopkins 1876 Map of Baltimore City and Environs



1914 Baltimore County Bromley Atlas

Lastly, the house illustrates Queen Anne Style suburban architecture within Baltimore City.

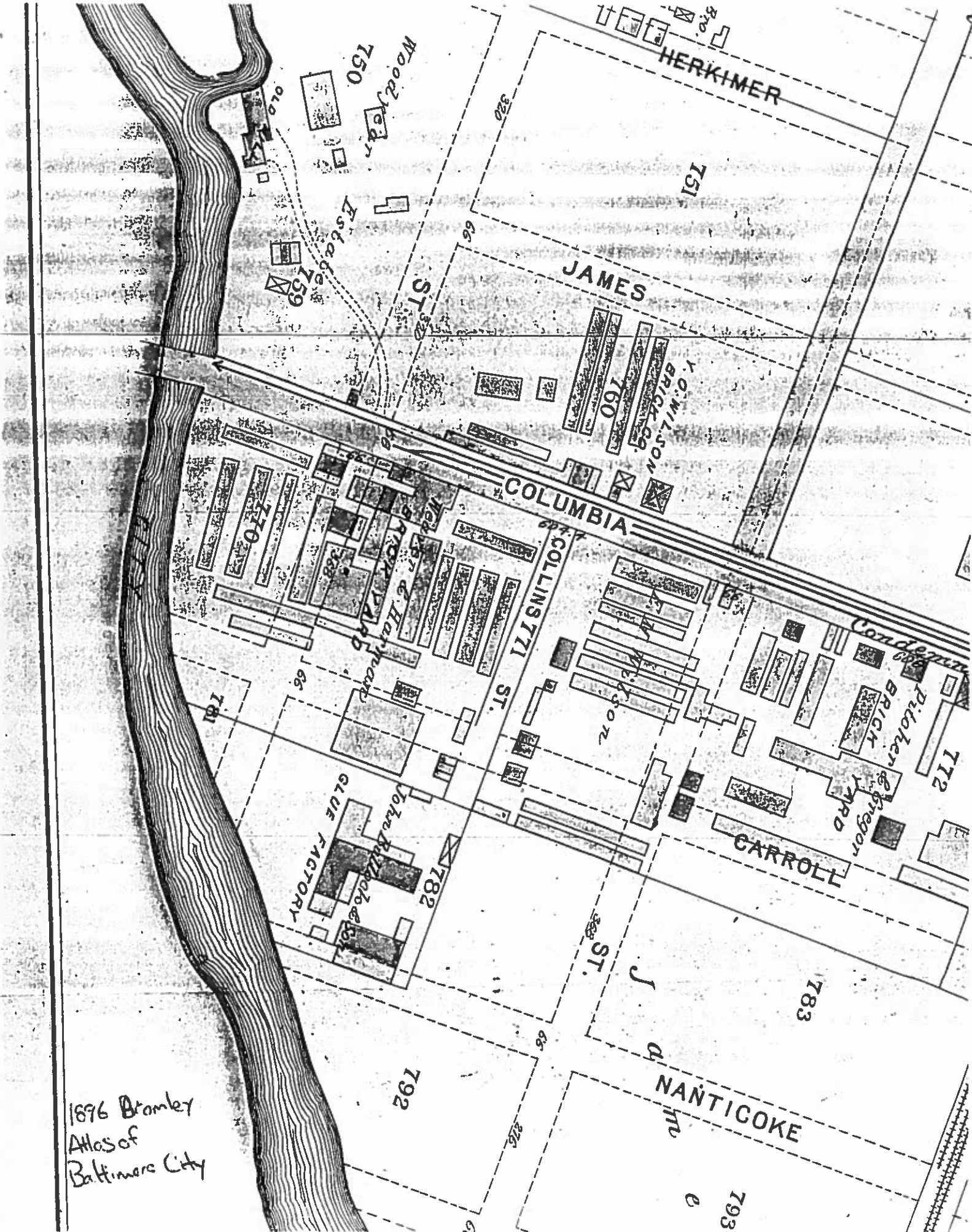


From Leaf Family: Original Stamped H.D.C. Shock Photographer 742 Carroll Avenue Baltimore Maryland



The Queen Anne Style was sympathetic to suburban housing. The stick style wrap around porches, the verge boards and decorative gables, brackets, and stained glass ornamented windows put this house squarely in the High Victorian Period of Architecture. The Weaver house was extravagantly more decorated than many of the farms houses in the vicinity. The style differentiated this house from the regular farm to a sub-urban type of house. Though the Weavers farmed the area, their income predominately came from the Weaver and Harmon Brick Manufacturers.

In conclusion, the house meets Baltimore City Landmark criteria by illustrating early suburban development patterns and Queen Anne Architectural style, as well as being emblematic of William H. Weaver's rise from German immigrant to upper middle class Baltimorean.



1876 Bromley
Atlas of
Baltimore City

A. STAIB, Practical Watch Maker, No. 668 W. Lexington Street. —This enterprise was started by Mr. A. Staib, the well-known practical watch-maker and jeweller, at his present stand, No. 668 West Lexington Street, near Pine Street, in 1868, and he has steadily won his way to prosperity, his patronage having grown steadily from the first. The premises occupied comprise a store, 14x80 feet in dimensions, with a well-equipped workshop in the rear. Mr. Staib is noted as a manufacturer of self-winding street



clocks, and a large one of his manufacture stands outside his store. His salesroom is admirably arranged and is fitted up with good taste and in the most pleasing and attractive manner. The stock displayed is a large and carefully selected one, and embraces an excellent assortment of gold and silver watches of domestic and foreign manufacture, clocks in great variety, watch-chains, rings, diamonds and other precious stones, bracelets, ear-rings, shawl and scarf pins, brooches, studs, sleeve and collar-buttons, and jewelry of every description of the finest and most reliable quality. Every article sold and every representation made is guaranteed in every particular. A special feature of the business is the repairing of fine watches and clocks, music boxes, and the cleaning, repairing and regulating of fine watches, and all work is guaranteed to afford the fullest satisfaction. The diploma for particular excellence of watch work by the German Watch Makers' Association of Naimberg, near Berlin, Germany, January 1877, was awarded to Mr. Staib. Five assistants, practical and experienced in the business, are employed. Mr. Staib, who is a native of Germany, has resided in Baltimore since 1868, and is a most popular citizen.

A. H. WEAVER, Pork Butcher, Stall No. 76 Hanover Market. —Among the many markets in Baltimore, there are none more popular with the public than the old-established Hanover Market, which is well located and admirably adapted to the purposes for which it is intended. It is well patronized by all classes of the community, while the butchers and dealers occupying the stalls are responsible, reliable business men, and active in bringing together the very best and choicest food supplies, which are sold at prices governed by moderation. A notable representative pork butcher in the market is A. H. Weaver, successor to his father, Mr. Wm. H. Weaver, who was one of the oldest among the stall owners, and

had been established forty-two years, and in that time secured a large, permanent trade. His son, the present proprietor, has had the business since 1868, and is conducting it in the same upright, honorable manner which had characterized the operations of his father during a long, successful career. The stall is one of the most valuable and desirable in the market, and is said to be worth \$1000. It is scrupulously neat and clean, and every day contains a choice assortment of prime country corn-fed pork, and also corned and smoked hams, bacon, middlings, pigs' feet, lard, and sausage of his own manufacture. Mr. Weaver kills and dresses from seventy-five to one hundred hogs weekly, and commands a splendid business. He is one of the best known as well as most prominent among the largest pork butchers in the market, and enjoys a wide reputation for the superlative excellence of the fresh, salt, and smoked meats prepared and sold by him. Born in this city, Mr. Weaver is a typical Baltimorean, and a progressive, live, wide-awake, active young business man of unquestioned reputation and splendid ability. He is upright and fair in all transactions, and enjoys the unbounded confidence of his many patrons, and it is safe to asseverate, is one of the most popular butchers in the Hanover Market.

CHATTERTON & WEBB, Wholesale Manufacturers, Parlor Suits, Easy Chairs, Patent Rockers, Etc., No. 13 South Frederick Street. —A progressive and one of the most reliable firms in Baltimore actively engaged in the manufacture of parlor furniture and upholsterer's work is that of Messrs. Chatterton & Webb, whose office and warerooms are located at No. 13 South Frederick Street. This business was established January 1, 1867, by Messrs. John H. Chatterton and F. L. Webb, both of whom are expert and experienced cabinet-makers, fully conversant with every detail of this important industry, and the requirements of dealers and a critical public. The premises occupied comprise a spacious five-story building, 28x130 feet in area. The manufacturing department is fully equipped with the latest improved tools and appliances. Here forty skilled hands are constantly employed, and the trade of the house now extends throughout Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the south. Messrs. Chatterton & Webb manufacture largely parlor suits, easy chairs, patent rockers, couches, lounges, bed lounges, and all kinds of upholstered and leather goods. The finest grained woods, such as cocohola, French walnut, mahogany, cherry and rosewood, and the richest upholsteries and fabrics are used. The furniture manufactured by this popular firm is equal to any of its grade in the market, and is unrivalled for quality of materials, elegance of design, finish, and workmanship, while the prices quoted are extremely moderate. The business is strictly wholesale, and a large stock is kept always on hand. Messrs. Chatterton and Webb are both natives of Baltimore. They are honorable and enterprising business men, liberal in all transactions, and well merit the permanent success they have achieved in this valuable industry.

W. C. KRAFT, Pork Butcher and Packer, Stall No. 29 Hanover Market, Residence, No. 56 Garrison Lane. —The business of supplying the citizens of Baltimore with provisions is well represented by Mr. W. C. Kraft, who is practical and experienced, and has been identified with it many years. The business he is now conducting was established in 1865 by his father, Mr. Henry Kraft, who continued it successfully for a period of fifteen years, and laid the foundation of its present prosperity. Since it came under the control of his son, he has made many needed improvements, and increased the facilities and extended the trade. He resides at No. 56 Garrison Lane, where is located the slaughter and the packing house, which is well equipped for dressing hogs and packing meats. The operations are conducted on quite a large scale, and the stall at No. 29 Hanover Market is always well stocked with a varied assortment of choice cuts of fresh pork and hams and bacon, lard, middlings, etc., and sausage and puddings and corned pork. Mr. Kraft's stall is one of the best and most centrally located in the market, and valued at \$3000. It always presents a neat and inviting appearance, and the trade, which is large, is steadily growing in volume. He is a native Baltimorean, and a gentleman of business acumen and ability. His custom comes from the best class of citizens, and orders receive that attention their importance demand. The telephone call is 574-2. Marketing is sent home free of charge, and every attention is paid to the wants of patrons. Popular prices prevail, and business is always brisk with Mr. Kraft. He is a prominent member of the Masonic Fraternity, and sustains a high reputation in this community.

REV. THOMAS LOWE, 1412 William street.

The career of Rev. Thomas Lowe since his advent to America is one surprising in its results, and shows what indomitable energy and pluck can accomplish. Born in Foleshill, Warwickshire, England, March 26, 1844; his early education was secured in private schools, a national college and St. John's College at Coventry, graduating in 1861. His father was a prosperous ribbon manufacturer, and a man of profound religious convictions, being a pillar in the Wesleyan Methodist Church. He died in 1860 at the early age of forty-nine.

The father's religious zeal was reflected in the son, and in his early manhood he became a licensed local preacher, and for seven years presided in the pulpit in his native land. In 1875, desiring to see the Western Continent, he set sail from Liverpool in December, landing in Baltimore in January. For a time he held services before the Young Men's Christian Association, and then began a nine weeks' revival in the Bethel Methodist Church, followed by thirteen weeks at the Fort Avenue Church, securing by his convincing arguments the saving of many souls. Desiring to conduct his meetings under his own management, Mr. Lowe began services in a tent near his present residence, and within seven months had built a neat church, seating four hundred and fifty. It was not long before it became apparent that this edifice would soon be too small, and arrangements were made for the construction of the present building, with a seating capacity of nine hundred, which on special occasions is taxed to its uttermost limit of even standing room. The first church was disposed

of, and the proceeds turned into the treasury of the new edifice.

Mr. Lowe has been very successful in his ministry. His fervor and earnestness impart his own deep religious feelings to his hearers and win souls to Christ. During his ministry in Baltimore, Mr. Lowe has had the pleasure of bringing over four thousand sinners to repentance, and in one revival made nearly seven hundred conversions, recalling the days of Timothy and Paul.

Our subject was married in England to Miss Elizabeth Gilbert, daughter of Mr. William Gilbert, a tailor and clothier of Coventry, England.

Mr. Lowe has taken but little active interest in fraternal orders, although he has high respect for them. His only membership in secret societies is in that of the Ancient Essenic Order, to which he has belonged but a short time.

As a minister of the Gospel, Mr. Lowe has a record of which his children may well feel proud, and one that for energy and effectiveness has few equals.

HARRY A. WEAVER, 523 Columbia avenue.

Wm. H. Weaver, deceased, was a native of Germany. He came to the United States with his parents when seven years old. He received but six months' schooling in America. He began life as a butcher at the age of sixteen. When his employer failed, young Weaver took the business, and through thrift, energy and business faculty, made a success of it. He conducted this business from 1848 until 1886, at which time he disposed of it to his son Adolphus H. In 1877, with Edward C. Harman, he

engaged in the manufacture of bricks, with a yard on the Washington Road near Gywm's Falls. With careful management it rapidly increased, and Mr. Weaver scored another success in this branch of industry. Mr. Harman withdrew from the firm some time prior to his (Mr. Weaver's) death. He joined the Republican party when it was in its infancy and continued a prosperous worker in the party until his death. He was a candidate for political honors several times, but never served in any. His defeat was due more to his inactivity during campaigns rather than to the lack of popularity. He was the architect of his own fortunes, having begun life at the foot of the ladder. He was strictly a home man, much devoted to his wife and family. His beautiful home on the Harford Road, where he died, bears strong evidence of his devotion to his home life. He was a director in the National Fire Insurance Company for many years, and in the past served as president of the Butchers' Building and Loan Association, and in recent years was president of the Harford Road Improvement Association. He was a member of the Masonic Order and of St. Stephen's Evangelical Church, of which congregation he was president for more than thirty years. His sons inherited a great deal of his business integrity. They are as follows: Adolphus H., Edward E., William C., Harry A.

The latter was born in Baltimore in 1873. He received his education in the public and private schools of Baltimore, and in 1889 entered his father's office as clerk. In 1893 he entered the University of Maryland Law School, graduating from the same in 1895, after which he successfully practiced his profession until April, 1897, when he par-

tially abandoned it to continue with his brother, Edward E., in his father's business. He and his brothers, Adolphus H. and Edward E., are members of Christ Lutheran Church. William C. is a member of St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Weaver, wife of William H., resides at their country seat on the Harford Road. She is a native of Germany, and was Miss Sophia P. Brown before marriage.

HENRY WILLIAMS was born in Calvert county, Md., on the 9th of October, 1840. His father was Rev. Henry Williams, a Protestant Episcopal minister, whose ancestors were of English and German descent, and came to this country in the early days of its settlement and located in South Carolina, his grandfather coming from that State and settling in Washington county, Md., where Mr. Williams' grandfather and father were born. His father was born January 20, 1810.

Mr. Williams' mother was Priscilla Elizabeth Chew, of English descent, born in Maryland July 25, 1809, her ancestors being among the earliest settlers of Maryland, and later distinguished in the revolutionary period. She was a granddaughter of Samuel Chew, whose name appears in colonial history as a member of the Federation of Freemen, and was one of the members of the Maryland House of Delegates who in 1780 made a personal subscription to aid the country in its hour of distress, Samuel Chew giving ten hogsheads of tobacco.

Mr. Williams' father died April 8, 1852; his mother July 6, 1881. There were five children: John Hamilton Chew, in the ser-