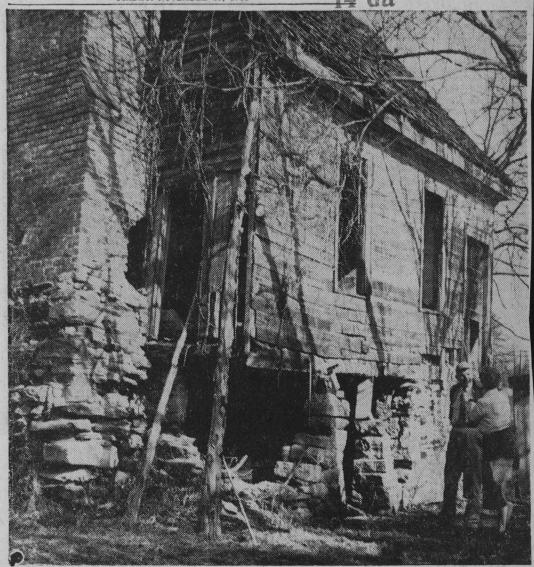
VIR. PR. William G. (Dumfries) Va.

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HERE'S HISTORY—Showing its age, the old tobacco inspector's office at Dumfries, Va., is the only early building still standing. Mrs. Wilbur Brawner, who owns the site, talks with Harry R. Parks, conservationist for Prince William and Fairfax Counties.—

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## Dumfries, Va., Is Relic Of Once Major Seaport

DUMFRIES, Va., Nov. 25. The motorist who travels No. 1 fice, which still is standing, and highway south towards Rich- a printing office and a race track. mond would hardly believe that this broad spot in the road in southern Prince William County once was America's second sea-

Dumfries today has little re-emblance to the Dumfries of pre-Revolutionary days. A village of 100 persons, it is bisected by heavily traveled U. S. No. 1, and lies close by Triangle and grain. the great Quantico Marine Base.

## Soil Eroded Away

Dumfries failed to live up to the first great flood, accordits early promise because of a ing to historical records, silted in Quantico Creek and cut Dumhighly erodable soil, say techricians of the Soil Conservation
Service. They like to point to
Dumfries as an example of what
can happen when the farm
lands are left unprotected from
heavy rains.

According to Harry R. Parks,
Conservationist for Prince Will

According to Harry R. Parks, conservationist for Prince William and Fairfax Counties, it took only two floods to blight

the future of Dumfries.

Mr. Parks, who has studied old records, said the first flood came in the late 1700s. This one silted in the channel of Quantico Creek. A second flood a few years later silted in a canal that had been dredged out so barges could be to load the ocean-going used

## Got Charter in 1749

Dumfries received its town charter on May 11, 1749, and at charter on May 11, 1749, and at that time was considered the in the budding port of New York. second most important port of The future of Dumfries is cerentry in the United States, based tain, he is reported to have told on the volume of shipping.

By 1762, Dumfries had become few indications pointing to an outstanding future for New York. liam County. Records show it That letter ventained a market, 11 public the first flood.

and a number of private warehouses, a grain storage ware-house, a tobacco inspector's ofa printing office and a race track.

The settlement boasted a population of 3,000, and by 1777 the port traffic has become so great that a ship chandler's store was in operation.

Dumfries owed much of of prosperity to the very thing that il-killed it. The land along the Quantico Creek watershed was Quantico Creek watership cleared for growing tobacco and grain. This is a light soil, easily washed, and by the late 1700s washed, and by the late 1700s enough land lay unprotected to threaten the welfare of the port.

fries off from the Potomac River.

And meanwhile, something had been happening back on the land. The soil had been ex-hausted by too much tobacco tobacco and grain culture. down and so did production. And the importance of Dumfries dwindled.

There is a story that one of the early businessmen of Dumfries once advised an acquaintance to invest his money

his young friend, while there are

That letter was written before