
2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



Mount Calvert, Society Headquarters



To Our Members and Sponsors:

Welcome to the Prince George's County Historical Society's 2012 annual report. This report is designed to provide a recap of the events and activities of the Society's 60th year as well as a look forward to plans for the future.

The objectives of the Society are:

- ❖ To foster an understanding and appreciation of the history and heritage of Prince George's County;
- ❖ To collect, record, organize, restore and preserve historical data, artifacts and all associated materials relative to Prince George's County and the state of Maryland;
- ❖ To promote and encourage research into all aspects of Prince George's County history and heritage;
- ❖ To acquaint and make available to members and the general public historical data and all associated materials relating to Prince George's County through programs and publications arranged or sponsored by the Society; and
- ❖ To encourage and participate in the protection and preservation of historic sites and structures in Prince George's County.

The Society is a non-profit body of five officers and up to 18 directors. The Board of Directors is a volunteer body and serves without compensation. The Society may accept gifts, bequests or endowments and solicit funds for its programs under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Board of Directors as of December 31, 2012

President - John J. Petro
Vice President - Lynn Springer Roberts
Secretary - Jack Thompson, Jr.
Treasurer - Donna L. Schneider
Historian - Susan G. Pearl

Directors (year term expires)

Kent Abraham (2014)
Beverly Addison (2014)
Elizabeth Beesley (2015)
John Brunner (2013)
Elizabeth Dougherty (2013)
Christine Garcia (2013)
Elizabeth Lingg (2015)
Dan Louck (2014)

Nathania Branch Miles (2014)
Randie Reilly (2013)
Angel Reynolds (2015)
Nancy Dixon Saxon (2015)
Edward Scott (2014)
Jane Taylor Thomas (2015)
J. Andrew Wallace (2015)
Sealani Weiner (2013)

The Society's 2012 Activities

Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History (DeMarr Library) is located on the lower level of the Greenbelt Public Library. The DeMarr Library was founded by Fred DeMarr, who served as President and Historian of the Society for a number of years. Mr. DeMarr was a life-long resident of the county and had an abiding interest in all aspects of Prince George's County history. His collection was donated to the Society by the DeMarr family after his untimely death in 1997.

The DeMarr Library is staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers including Susan G. Pearl, Historian, Elizabeth Beesley, Sarah Bourne, Dusty Rhoads, and Diane Stultz, Genealogical Research Specialist. We constantly receive interesting and intriguing requests about the history of our county. Questions concerning aspects of the history of Prince George's County may be directed by telephone to 301-220-0330, by email at info@pghistory.org, or on the web message board. Volunteers Elizabeth Lingg, Tom Simon, Clement Lau and Donna Schneider are engaged in cataloging the collections of written materials, maps, obituaries and ephemera. Materials do not circulate, but may be used at the DeMarr Library. Photocopies of non-copyrighted materials are free for Society members and color copies or items scanned onto a CD are available for a modest fee.

As part of Greenbelt's 75th anniversary celebration, our library was featured on Greenbelt resident Eric Zhang's weblog.

Mount Calvert, the Society Headquarters, is located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The earthquake in August 2011 damaged Mount Calvert, which prevented us from having access to the building until recently. The Society continues to have plans to create various displays in several of the rooms that will be available for viewing by the public.

Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures was released in December 2011. The book authored by George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles, and Donna L. Schneider explores the culture of who we are and have been as Prince George's County residents, how we work and play, and showcases many photographs from private collections of county residents. The book is a unique combination of our culture and the history of various businesses that make our county their home. This book has been a great fundraiser for the Society with over 250 books sold in the last year and the authors participated in several signing events throughout the year.

Membership and Sponsorship continued to grow in 2012. The membership cycle is from January to December, with dues notices sent to members each December. A membership card will be provided annually for each membership and sponsorship category, except for Life members, and all members receive the Prince George's County Historical Society's newsletter "News & Notes". Program discounts will periodically be offered to members, including a membership with the Maryland Historical Society. A current membership card must be shown to receive photocopy and book discounts at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library.

Preservation of the county's historic properties has always been an interest of ours. During 2012, we continued to monitor Fairmount Heights High School, Wilmer's Park in Brandywine, the Old Marlboro High School/Elementary School and Melwood Park in Upper Marlboro, and the Peace Cross in Bladensburg.

Public Relations activities are through our website, www.pghistory.org, and Facebook page, both of which have been stagnant during 2012. However, we are actively soliciting for a

webmaster to get us back up and running again. Our newsletter, "News & Notes" continues to be our primary source to impart news and information to our members.

Programs and Activities:

Treasurer Donna Schneider spearheaded the effort to create a 2012 calendar featuring historic homes within Prince George's County.

Board Member Christine Garcia worked with the University of Maryland to provide a guided tour on March 28, 2012 of their exhibits "A College Divided: Maryland Agricultural College and the Civil War" and "Women on the Border: Maryland Perspectives of the Civil War".

John Petro, Sealani Weiner, Randie Reilly, Susan Pearl and Donna Schneider hosted several of the county's history and preservation groups on April 14, 2012, at Marietta House Museum in Glenn Dale. We discussed ways of better working together for the historic and preservation interests in the county.

On April 20, 2012, the Society arranged for a tour of the renovated courthouse in Upper Marlboro.

The annual St. George's Day awards and luncheon was held on April 22, 2012, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, White Marsh. St. George's Awardees were: Melissa Avery, Donald Lynch and Tom Alderson for *Riverdale Park*; City of Bowie for Belair at Bowie's 50th Anniversary; City of Hyattsville for its 125th Anniversary; Geoffrey and Sally Fallon Morell for restoration of P.A. Bowen Farmstead; Patuxent Research Refuge for its 75th Anniversary; Sacred Heart Catholic Church, White Marsh for its 270-year history; Dr. Sandra B. Shannon for A Time to Build; and Town of University Park for its 75th Anniversary. A surprise award was given to *Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures* authors George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania Branch Miles and Donna Schneider. Our ongoing partnership with the Prince George's County Hall of Fame continued as they unveiled the portrait of our own Frederick S. DeMarr. The DeMarr and Tatspauh families joined us in the celebration.

Board member Nathania Branch Miles served as the Society's liaison for the Martin Luther King Commemoration Committee of Bowie. Its annual celebration was held on April 29, 2012, at the Christian Community Presbyterian Church in Bowie. Dramatic productions, speakers, young musicians and dancers, and a fellowship dinner were part of the day's festivities.

The Society led the annual Historic Preservation Week reception held on May 16, 2012, at the Ridgeley Rosenwald School. We partnered with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Prince George's County Board of Education, the Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust and other county organizations to host the event.

Society representatives Jane Taylor Thomas and Nathania Branch Miles joined with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Prince George's County Chapter to host the annual Juneteenth Celebration at the Nature Center, Watkins Regional Park on June 16, 2012. The annual event commemorates the end of slavery. This year's observance titled "Footprints and Roots," had a series of workshops on such topics as the 1940 census, African-American women in the military, Hispanic genealogical research, DNA, special activities for children, a dramatic performance on the history of Juneteenth, and other events.

On July 3, 2012, Society board members, Nathania Branch Miles, Edward Scott and Donna Schneider, were sworn in as commissioners to the county's Historic Preservation Commission.

Board member Kent Abraham arranged for Society members to tour the National Wildlife Visitor Center Patuxent Research Refuge on July 22, 2012. The event included a whooping crane tour, tram tour and an impromptu lecture by John Peter Thompson about the refuge.

Our annual Prince of a County fundraiser arranged by board member Jack Thompson, Jr., was held at the Warren House in Riverdale Park on September 23, 2012. Many thanks are offered to owner, Michael Herman, who opened his home to us on a lovely fall day.

Christine Garcia arranged a lecture about Hispanics during the Civil War at the New Carrollton Branch Library on October 6, 2012. The presentation featured fascinating tales by Marta Cruz Kelly, the National Park Service's Chief of Interpretation and Education, about Hispanic men and women who bore arms or in other ways supported the war effort. Afterwards, we adjourned to a local authentic Mexican restaurant, Taco Rico, for food and conversation.

Unfortunately the 60th anniversary party at the National Agricultural Library on October 13, 2012, did not happen. However, the exhibits and history at this site warrant a tour at a later date.

Society Historian Susan G. Pearl participated in "Journey Stories," a special exhibit and lecture series partnered by the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, the Maryland Humanities Council and the Smithsonian Institution. In October and November, Susan spoke on her study of the Rosenwald schools in Maryland and the portraits of Charles Willson Peale.

Once again we capped off the year with a potluck Holiday Party on December 17, 2012, at the Belair Mansion in Bowie arranged by board member Elizabeth Lingg. We celebrated with music performed by Colonial-style musical group Bedlam and some holiday favorites sung by the Society's own Imara Ashton Miles.

Due to the lower participation levels at several of our events in 2012, we have decided to have an in-depth review of our offerings, our mission and goals to find ways to improve the Society and the events we sponsor. We have hired an individual who is outside of the Society, yet familiar enough with the Society to help us in this effort. Members will be contacted to offer their opinions about and suggestions for the Society. We appreciate any time and assistance you provide in making the Society a better organization to serve you.

Events being planned for 2013 include a War of 1812 weekend sponsored with Maryland Milestones; our perennial Martin Luther King, Jr. commemoration, Juneteenth celebration, St. George's Day awards and Prince of a County reception; sailing on an historic yacht; and a Hispanic heritage event.

As always, we would like to thank our volunteers, members and sponsors for their support and participation. Your continued interest in our programs and activities is greatly appreciated. We could not continue to operate without your involvement.

Monthly Board of Director Meetings

The Society normally holds monthly board meetings that rotate locations within the county, day and time. All members and sponsors of the Society are welcome to attend these meetings. To find out where our monthly meeting is being held, please call 301-249-9000.

Profit and Loss Report – FY11 and FY12

	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>
Income		
Library Income	\$ 2,588.98	\$ 1,069.08
Book Sales	\$ 1,642.15	\$ 8,207.15
PGCHS Dues Received	\$ 5,535.00	\$ 3,450.00
MDHS Dues Received	\$ 2,720.00	\$ 1,340.00
Sponsorships Received	\$ 3,295.00	\$ 3,900.00
Donations Received	\$ 2,152.00	\$ 2,930.05
Program/Activity Income	\$ 9,417.84	\$ 6,798.72
Historic Prince Georges Royalties	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 7,271.66
Interest Income	\$ 119.53	\$ 69.81
Total Income	\$ 28,485.50	\$ 35,036.47
Expenses		
Dues & Subscriptions Paid	\$ 170.00	\$ 254.00
Conference Expenses	\$ -	\$ 277.60
Donations & Gifts Paid	\$ 360.90	\$ 258.40
News & Notes Expenses	\$ 1,867.25	\$ 2,083.05
Historic Prince Georges Expenses	\$ 1,506.91	\$ 5,012.00
Membership Expenses	\$ 799.02	\$ 650.69
Insurance Paid	\$ 1,347.00	\$ 1,257.00
Book Sales Postage/Taxes/Fees	\$ 89.60	\$ 342.43
Library Expenses	\$ 2,107.66	\$ 2,170.89
General Operations Expenses	\$ 2,768.95	\$ 1,445.15
Program/Activity Expenses	\$ 9,920.00	\$ 10,962.32
MDHS Dues Paid	\$ 2,355.00	\$ 1,805.00
Total Expenses	\$ 23,292.29	\$ 26,518.53
Profit/(Loss)	\$ 5,193.21	\$ 8,517.94

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2012

Checking	\$ 19,295.88
Savings	\$ 14,650.61
Fixed Assets	\$ 10,677.55
Total Assets	\$ 44,624.04