

NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 1994

OUR 42ND YEAR

VOLUME XXI NUMBER 1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1994

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UPPER MARLB'RO

Editor's Note: Through the courtesy of Mr. J. Paul Smith, the following poem was presented to the Enquirer-Gazette. Mr. Smith stated that the poem was given him about 35 years ago from papers of the Duvall family. The author's name is unknown, also the date it was written. The spelling of "Marlb'ro" would indicate the period as the early 1900's or prior thereto.

Through a narrow, ravelled valley, wearing down the farmer's soil,
The Patuxent flows inconstant, with a hue of clay and oil,
From the terraces of mill-dams and the temperate slopes of wheat,
To the bottoms of tobacco, watched by many a planter's seat.

There the blackened drying-houses show the hanging shocks of green
Smoking through the lifted shutters, sunning in the nicotine;
And around old steamboat-landings loiter mules and overseers,
With the hogsheds of tobacco rolled together on the piers.

Inland from the river stranded in a cove between the hills,
Lies Old Marl'ro Court and village acclimated to her chills;
And the white mists nightly rising from the swamps that trench her round,
Seem the sheeted ghosts of memories buried in that ancient ground.

IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 5 Board of Directors Annual Planning Session, 10:00 AM, Holden Sweeting House,
4112 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville

Feb. 7 Tricentennial Trust Meets, New Carrollton Library, 7:00 PM

Feb. 20 Colonial Dance and Colonial Manners, Riversdale Mansion, 3:00 PM

Here in the days when still Prince George's of the
province was the queen,
Great old judges ruled the gentry, gathering to the
courthouse green,
When the Ogles and the Tayloes matched their Arab
steeds to race,
Judge Duval adjourned the sessions, Luther Martin quit
his case.

Here young Roger Taney lingered, while the horns and
hounds were loud,
To behold the pompous Pinckney scattering learning to
the crowd,
And old men great Wirt remembered, while their
minds he strove to win,
As a little German urchin drumming at his father's inn.

When the ocean barks could moor them in the shadow
of the town,
Ere the channels filled and mouldered with the rich soil
wafled down--
Here the Irish trader, Carroll, brought the bride of
Darnall Hall,
And their Jesuit son was Bishop of the New World
over all.

Here the troopers of Prince George's with their horse-
tail helmets won
Praise from valiant Eager Howard and from General
Wilkerson,
And (the village doctor seeking from the British to
restore)
Key, the poet, wrote his anthem in the light of
Baltimore.

One by one the homes colonial disappear in Time's
degrees,
Though the apple orchards linger and the lanes of
cherry trees;
E'en the Woodyard mansion kindles when the
chimneybeam consumes,
And the tolerant Northern farmer ploughs around old
Romish tombs.

By the high white gravelled turnpike trails the sunken,
copse-grown route
Where the troupes of Ross and Cockburn marched to
victory, and about
Halting twice at Upper Marlboro, where 'tis still

tradition's bug.
That 'twas Barney got the victory though the British got
the swag.

But the Capital, rebuilt, counts 'mid towns rebellious
this--
Standing the old slave region 'twixt it and Annapolis:
And the cannons their embrasures on the Anacostia
forts
Opened tow'rd old ruined Marlboro and the dead
Patuxent ports.

Reprinted from the February 6, 1964 edition of the *Empire-Gazette*.

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

Riversdale - February 20, 1994, 3:00 PM

The Society will sponsor an afternoon devoted to Colonial Dancing and Manners. This is a free event and participation by children is encouraged. The Port of Bladensburg Heritage Dancers will be a featured attraction. Lessons in Colonial dancing and in Colonial forms of address between gentle folk and other attributes of the well bred colonial dame or master will be described. We welcome you to this free event. Refreshments will be available.

The Port of Bladensburg Heritage Dancers were formed as part of the planning for the 250th anniversary of the Town of Bladensburg. A growing organization, they have achieved status as a member of the Living History Trust. Membership is free and open to any person, not only couples. Dancing lessons and sessions are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Bladensburg Town Hall. They are quieter than the clog dancers, more staid than the square dancers, prettier than most and a ball to be with.

MEET THE BOARD

January 1994 brought new faces to the Board of Directors. Sarah Moseley has been actively involved in the Society ever since Joyce McDonald recruited her as part of the sanding, scraping and painting crew at Marietta. Sarah was raised in Brunswick County, Virginia on property that her family began to farm in the late 1700s. She attended Connecticut College and graduated from the University of Chicago, where her husband, Harvey, was working on his Ph.D. in Astrophysics and astronomy. As a portion of Harvey's graduate work, they spent seven years at Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, Wisconsin where Sarah conducted tours of the historic observatory.

Coincidentally, the scientist who designed the large telescope at Yerkes was the father of Margaret Sherer, the last private owner of Marietta.

When Harvey began working at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, the Moseleys moved to University Park and Sarah volunteered at the elementary school where their son, Samuel, was a student. It was as the coordinator of a time capsule project for the 50th anniversary of University Park that Sarah and Joyce became acquainted and the Society was enriched by her talents. Sarah is a graphic artist and is responsible for the professional appearance of many of our recent publications. She also created the logo for the Tri-Centennial celebration.

We are all delighted to welcome Sarah to the Board of Directors of the Society.

GUEST BOOK REVIEW

Ed. Note: The following book review is reprinted in its entirety from the Winter 1993 edition of *Maryland Historical Magazine*, published quarterly by the Museum and Library of Maryland History of the Maryland Historical Society.

Landmarks of Prince George's County. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993. Pp 144. Notes, index. \$29.95)

The purpose of this book is clearly stated by county executive Parris Glendening in a forward: "By celebrating some of Prince George's County's most important historic properties, this book anticipates the 1996 tricentennial of the county's founding." And celebrate them it does: visually beautiful, handsomely crafted, it is a tribute to the Johns Hopkins University Press and to the unusual partnership that produced it. If you failed to secure a copy for Christmas, find a birthday or other occasion--this deserves an honored and featured place in the home or office. This is a Prince George's County you may not know exists--or existed.

In a modest style that makes it difficult to identify the originator of the concept (if there were a single individual, rather than a fortuitous set of circumstances and ready participants), Robert J. Kapsch, chief of the National Park Service's Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Register, U. S. Department of the Interior, explains in an essay that "HABS decided to undertake an innovative architectural documentation project that would rely on photodocumentation and focus on a single geographic entity, ideally a county. The plan was for HABS to work with an existing historic preservation agency to use its expertise. Such an organization had to be professional and well versed in the history of the county." For

convenience, the pilot project was to involve a group within driving range of Washington, D.C. The criteria were met by Prince George's County and its Historic Preservation Commission. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission were enlisted, with Gail C. Rothrock of the M-NCPPC (already well known to the HABS for her work in upper Montgomery County) a key player and enthusiastic support from county officials and agencies and from volunteer groups.

Born in the New Deal, HABS in 1936 had a collection of some ninety-seven photographs of historic properties in Prince George's (only sixty five of which still stand). Over the years, some two dozen of these properties had been acquired by the M-NCPPC, and, in 1981, a preservation ordinance had been passed and a historic preservation master plan adopted. More than 250 sites and one district had been designated as county landmarks; sixty sites and four districts had been accepted in the National Register of Historic Places. It was coming to be seen in the words of HABS historian and leader of the project, Catherine C. Lavoie, that "as one of the earliest and now one of the most developed counties in Maryland, [Prince George's County] is central to the timeline of the state's historic architecture." Tidewater, Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Victorian, early Twentieth-Century and Art Deco--it was all there, three centuries of colonial and national history. How to select from such riches? Working with Lavoie, HABS chief photographer Jack E. Boucher commenced in 1981 to take photographs of sixty-two structures, accumulating nine hundred photographs of the highest professional quality, sharp in detail, artistic in setting and lighting. Of these, 125 were selected for the book after exhibits in Washington and the county persuaded HABS that a wider audience deserved to share in

these treasures (now included in the HABS collection at the Library of Congress). Lavoie and Susan G. Pearl, Prince George's historian at the M-NCPPC, prepared captions for the black-and-white photographs. Prefatory essays by key players provide a valuable backdrop and enhance the overall production: Rothrock's "A Heritage to Preserve," Pearl's "300 Years of County History," Lavoie's "Architecture: From Tidewater to Modern," and Kapsch's "Documenting a County's Legacy." These are complimented by Boucher's commentary on the tools and techniques of his photography, interesting even to the non-specialist. There is a guide to architectural plans and styles to clarify terminology and comparisons, and "Further Reading" introduces the new reader to the County's history.

The dust cover (such a common name for such a beautiful example of Boucher's work) aches to be framed: it is a wrap-around of the Snowden seat, Montpelier. This is the sort of photograph commonly associated with Tidewater Virginia but too seldom with Maryland and even less frequently in the public mind with Prince George's. Long overshadowed by its more affluent sister to the west, Prince George's has tended to be looked upon as "countrified," rural, a bedroom suburb, an area to speed through over super-highways. Here we see a different Prince George's: remnants of the plantation aristocracy that grew out of tobacco and slave labor to supplant the colonial settlements along the waterways; the struggle of the aftermath of civil war and new-found freedom; country stores; Victorian ornamentation; New Deal heroic carving; and Art Deco. This is the backdrop to a vigorous and developing county being transformed through transportation and technology. It is therefore not simply a nostalgic recalling of the past but a source of pride for the future, made possible through an

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

EVENT

- 2 ND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING
GREENBELT PUBLIC LIBRARY, 7 PM
- 4 TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD
ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING, 10 AM, HOLDEN SWEETING
HOUSE, 4112 GALLATIN STREET, HYATTSVILLE
- 6 TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY TRICENTENNIAL TRUST MEETING
NEW CARROLLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 7 PM
- 20TH 'A COLONIAL COUNTRY DANCE DEMONSTRATION'
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
RIVERSDALE MANSION, 4811 RIVERDALE ROAD
3 PM, REFRESHMENTS, CHILDREN WELCOME

MARCH

- 1 ST PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
LECTURE SERIES FOR BEGINNERS BEGINS
CONTACT LUCY BLOCKER 301-262-1019
- 12TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING 10 AM
REGULAR MEETING 2 PM
'EARLY WOMEN AVIATORS' BY DORIS RICH
MARIETTA
- 24TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING LECTURE SERIES BEGINS
'WOMEN OF DISTINCTION IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'
THERESE YEWELL, 6:30 PM MARIETTA

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

presents

A COLONIAL COUNTRY DANCE DEMONSTRATION

and

A TALK ON 18TH CENTURY CUSTOMS AND MANNERS



featuring

THE PORT OF BLADENSBURG HERITAGE DANCERS

on

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1994

at 3:00 p.m.

RIVERSDALE MANSION

4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale

Elementary Aged Children accompanied by an adult are invited.

FREE ADMISSION

☛ audience participation ☛

Light refreshments will be served.

Please call (301) 864-0420 or (301) 464-0590
to make your reservations.

extraordinary assemblage of federal, state, and local organizations, as well as volunteer groups--the Prince George's Historical Society, Prince George's Historical Trust, Inc. {sic. should be Prince George's Heritage Inc. ed.}, the Prince George's Historical and Cultural Trust, the Center for American Places (Harrisonburg, Virginia), and those previously noted. To them: the state, the county, and those who appreciate both the subject and the effort owe an enormous debt for this three year project and the vision of a book to present highlights. Executed by Archetype Press, Inc., of Washington, the book should be a source of pride for many and a guide and reference for years to come.

DAVID WINFIELD GADDY
New Carrollton, Maryland

TRICENTENNIAL UPDATE

The Tricentennial Commission, consisting of the appointed members from each Councilmanic district, those appointed by the County Executive and the ex-officio members from the County Council, the M-NCPPC, the Board of Education and the Office of the County Executive, have met and been organized. A Vice Chair was named by Chair Joyce McDonald. *Helen Crosskey Adams*, representing the 5th Councilmanic District, has lived in the County for 20 years and is very active in the community. Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the revision of the Master Plan for Planning Area 69, Helen also serves on the Board of the Cheverly Boys and Girls Club and coaches intramural and County soccer (and has won championships). Helen is also a mentor for a Fairfax high school student who successfully graduated in 1992.

The Committee, like the Tricentennial Trust, has adopted the slogan **300 Years At Home**

in History as the official Tricentennial slogan, and adopted, with some modifications, the logo design developed by the Society's own Sarah Moseley. It is the intention of the group that a registration of the logo should be sought. In order to make it easier for groups to sponsor sanctioned events, a 'proposal form' will be developed by a subcommittee under the direction of Ray Zimmerman.

The Committee was scheduled to meet again on January 26, but that meeting was postponed due to weather.

The Tricentennial Trust, which is the designation we are using for the citizen's group that has been meeting for a year now, will meet next on February 7 at 7PM at the New Carrollton Library. Mary Godfrey, of the **Committee** is leading a subcommittee of members of both groups to determine how best to coordinate our efforts. This will be a topic of discussion at the February 7 meeting. All are invited.

On Friday, February 11 at 6:30 PM, the Tricentennial Celebration Churches subcommittee, under the direction of *Mildred Gray*, will have its second meeting in Room 201 of the Largo Government Building. Their theme is "A Celebration of Faith" and all are welcome to participate in this important planning session.

Mary Forsht-Tucker, of the Trust, has developed a newsletter called **Tricentennial Times** and the first edition has been mailed to 200 people. If you want to get on the mailing list, call Mary at 301-292-1993, or call any of the members of the Committee.

In addition, Mary Forsht-Tucker arranged for a meeting of the Civic Associations on January 13 to begin their planning for the 1996 celebrations.

FROM THE TREASURER

Reminder:

The Maryland Historical Society dues for 1994 may be paid through the Society at special rates (\$25 for individuals and \$35 for couples). PGCHS member dues invoices for 1994 were not mailed to Life Members or to those members who paid dues for 1994 on or before December 1, 1993. Please call 464-0590 and leave a message if you wish to receive an invoice form and return envelope solely to pay your Maryland Historical Society dues.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

William G. Duvall
Alexandra Hiniker
Judith Hiniker
Katherine P. Lilly
Mr. and Mrs. Morton S. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Covington Stanwick

SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Joseph A. and Peggy A. Behun
Mrs. Louis J. Grayson
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene B. Roberts, Jr.

MARRIETTA MANSION

The masonry repair was to be completed by the end of December. M-NCPPC approved the repointing of the bricks in the addition, which has been completed. Phase I of the restoration is now virtually complete. The specifications for Phase II are being developed, and these will include upgrading of the electrical systems, heating and air conditioning for the Mansion and the

addition, and new heating for the 1968 addition, as well as window restoration.

In November, 40 children and ten parents toured the facility and the grounds. Guy Barron, Myrna Combs and Maggie Sliker assisted facility manager Susan Wolfe with this event.

At the end of December, 1993, Susan Wolfe accepted the position of facility manager at Riversdale. While the Society is saddened by the loss of Susan's hard work and expert management, she assures us that Marrietta has a special place in her heart and she will continue to take an interest in its restoration. A new facility manager will be named by M-NCPPC soon, we hope.



ENJOY THE OLYMPICS THIS MONTH!!

PLEASE NOTE THAT ITEMS FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF NEWS AND NOTES ARE DUE TO THE EDITOR BY FEBRUARY 18, 1994. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Les Sweeting, Editor

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC
PUBLICATIONS ORDER LIST

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY: A HISTORICAL HISTORY by Alan Virta. \$29.95 plus tax \$1.50, plus \$2.00 s&h

Calvert of Maryland \$6.95 (tax incl) plus \$0.55 s&h.

Atlas of Prince George's County \$5.00 plus \$0.25 tax plus \$0.50 s&h.

Indexes of Church Registers 2 vols. \$20.00 plus \$1.00 tax plus \$2.50 s&h.

Chesapeake Bay of Yore \$25.00 plus \$1.25 tax plus \$1.00 s&h.

Lanham Centennial \$4.00 plus \$0.20 tax plus \$0.55 s&h.

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Fire Call by Francis X. Geary, \$5.00 plus \$0.25 tax plus \$1.00 s&h.

History of Beltsville \$4.00 plus \$0.20 tax plus \$0.55 s&h.

Please forward the above checked publications. Full payment (Payable to PGCHS) enclosed.

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Life Member	\$200.00
Sustaining Member	\$ 50.00
Additional Contribution	_____

I am also interested in helping the Society as a volunteer. Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.

I would also like to join the Maryland Historical Society. I am enclosing \$25.00 for an individual membership or \$35.00 for husband and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues and contributions.

All contributions qualify for tax deduction.
We appreciate your continued support.

Make checks payable to PGCHS

Mail Check and Form to:
Prince George's County Historical Society
Post Office Box 14
Riverdale, MD 20738-0014
301-464-0660

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM

and during Special Events

Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration

Information - (301) 464-0590

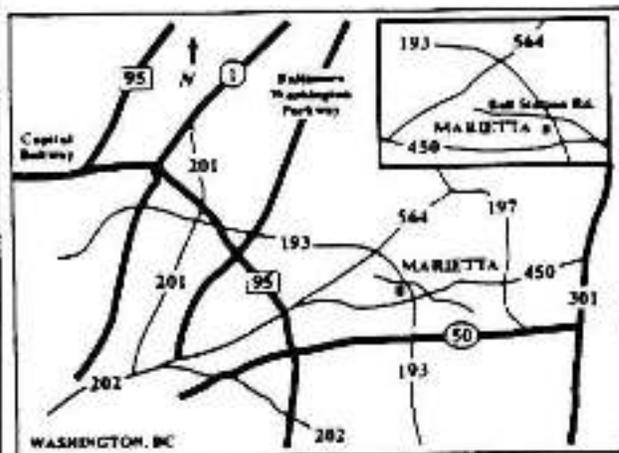
THE GIFT SHOP

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

The Gift Shop is open from 12 to 4 Saturdays and Sundays.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193, near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



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FLYING THE UNFRIENDLY SKIES EARLY WOMEN AVIATRIXES

The Society is pleased to have Doris Rich as our guest lecturer at the regular monthly meeting on Saturday, March 12, beginning at 2:00 PM, in the Library at Marietta.

Ms. Rich is a historian and the author of two biographies, one on Amelia Erhardt, perhaps the most famous woman aviator of the century, and another on Bessie Coleman, an African American woman whose desire to fly aeroplanes was so great that she travelled to Europe for instruction when she was unable to get an American to teach her.

Come and hear these inspiring stories of courage and determination. Ms. Rich has presented lectures in the Society's Lecture Series and is well regarded. We look forward to your presence on March 12.

IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

Mar. 12 Board of Directors Meeting, 10:00 AM, Marietta
Society Membership Meeting, 2:00 PM, with Doris Rich
Mar. 8 Tricentennial Committee Meets, Hyattsville Municipal Building, 7:00 PM

WELCOME 'NEMESIS' SAYS WASHINGTON POST

Under the date of December 30, 1993, the Washington Post reported that next summer work would begin on the \$ 125 million office complex designed to house the internal revenue service. Located near the New Carrollton Metro Station, visitors to the site will note that, even today, the crest of "Lord's Hill" has been drastically reduced and that an extension of a New Carrollton Street up and across the hill now provides a second vehicular approach to the north portion of the station.

The name "Lord's Hill" denotes an obscure family living at this spot in the earliest days of this century. The remains of their two story cement block house had collapsed into the cellar by 1940, but were still visible at that time. Memories of the resident family, however, existed only in the minds of the oldest Lanham residents. The path of a once prominent man-made feature of the landscape, a tracked tramway down the southern slope of the hill towards the Ardwick station, could still be seen and identified by those who were aware of its origins. Today's Cross Street was the original access road to the house.

Only one pertinent memory of the Lord family has come down to posterity. Corporal William Lord of that family served in Company G of the Second Maryland CSA Regiment (together with his boyhood friend, Private Richard Onion). Both Private Onion and Corporal Lord was killed at the battle of Pegram's Farm on September 30, 1864. In death they joined two other boyhood comrades, Private Benjamin Lanham and Private Samuel Duval (both killed fifteen months earlier at Gettysburg).

Sources: "Lanham Centennial Booklet", 1972, page 7; Confederate Military History, by Evans, 1899, pages 146 and 150; and recollections of Paul Lanham of Lanham, 1886-1961.

*Submitted by Paul Lanham, Past President,
PGHS*

A WINTER DELIGHT

by Lynn Roberts

On an unbelievably balmy winter afternoon, Prince Georgians of all ages were treated to a very special entertainment. The Port of Bladensburg Heritage Dancers visited Riversdale on Sunday afternoon, February 20 th, where they performed their sprightly repertoire of 18th century dances. Nearly 100 Prince Georgians, ranging in age from five to seventy-five, met with the dancers for an afternoon of authentic colonial dance, accompanied by an explanation and demonstration of appropriate forms of address and social manners. The Bladensburg group, outfitted from head to toe in authentically detailed mid-eighteenth century garments made by Joyce McDonald, President of the Prince George's County Historical Society, deftly performed a set of dances for the assembled throng. Guests were then invited to join the group and received instructions in the intricate steps required; youths and seniors both learned to 'circle; 'cast down'; 'hands across'; and go 'down the middle and back.' The lilting strains of violins and flutes recalled similar gay events at Riversdale described in the letters of Rosalie Stier Calvert, the Mistress of Riversdale.

The Port of Bladensburg Heritage Dancers were founded to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Bladensburg

in 1992. Trained by Virginia members of the Living History Foundation, the Maryland group has been in such demand that they have continued to perform for educational events, such as ours. Membership in the Dancers is free and those interested can attend meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at the Bladensburg Town Hall. Come and learn these delightful eighteenth century dances. The Dancers, it is rumored, are only an 'unofficial' extension of the Town of Bladensburg government, since the Mayor, the Chief of Police and the Town Administrator all serve as dancers on the group, in addition to performing their civic duties. Led by Donna Godfrey, who dances with her husband Jimmy, the group includes Mayor Susanna Yatman and her husband Tim, Chief of Police Robert Zeidek and his wife Faye, Town Administrator Eric Morscato and his wife Nancy, and Julie Hall.

The music, costumes and dances create a remarkable ambiance. One might well ponder "Were not those the faces of people we have seen in museum collections of 18th century paintings of our Colonial forebears?" For a few moments, at least, those who were at Riversdale felt transported to a backward glimpse of a lost 'virtual reality.' ENCORE!

Port of Bladensburg Heritage Dancers



Riversdale
February 20, 1994

NEWS OF ANOTHER DAY

Our good friend and Society member Sandy Cross has been reading the newspaper and has been forwarding snatches to us from time to time. She is making her way through the Prince George's Enquirer of 1910 and we shall continue to mention some tidbits that she reports as time goes by. A sample follows:

October 14, 1910 - Proposals for Coal

The Office of County Commissioners of Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Md. Sealed proposals will be received by the County Commissioners of P. G. Co. Md. on Tues. October 18, 1910 . . . for furnishing 60 tons (2240 pounds to the ton) of No. 1 Coal. 45 tons to be delivered at the Court House and 15 tons to be delivered at the County Jail. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. By order of the Board:
TEST: Henry St. J. L. Briscoe, Clerk.

October 14, 1910 Disastrous Fire at Bowie

A disastrous fire fanned by a northeast wind, burned out the business district of Bowie on Wednesday night, causing a loss of \$50,000, and threatening every home in the little town. The signal tower and telegraph wires of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the wires of the telegraph companies were burned to the ground, and for three hours Bowie was cut off from the rest of the state. No lives were lost, but a number of employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad--the men who practically saved the town from total destruction--sustained burns on the hands and blistered faces.

December 9, 1910 Hyattsville Aeroplane does Two Miles

Rex Smith's newly constructed bi-plane made several successful flights on the aviation field at College Park Sunday, the last and best one yet made being about two miles around the field at an altitude of 100 feet.

Anthony Janus, Mr. Smith's Machinist, was in the seat and carried the machine along at about 40 miles per hour.

Mr. Smith stated that the engine was not doing its best, and that as soon as this condition had been corrected and certain details of the machine perfected, he would attempt a flight to Washington and return, about 15 miles.

The star flight was watched by several hundred people, among them being a number of aviation enthusiasts. Janus circled the field twice and made a graceful descent in front of the large shed where the aeroplane was assembled.

The Rex Smith Aeroplane company has been organized, with Victor J. Evans, a Washington patent attorney, president; Rexford W. Smith, the designer and owner of the machine, secretary and manager; and C. M. Wells, of this county, treasurer. The object of the company is to manufacture the Smith machine. The aeroplane will compete for some of the big prizes to be offered for aviation feats in the next few months.

December 30, 1910 Brevities

The Riverdale Sentinel, owned and published by Mr. John Risdon, announces its retirement from the field of county journalism. The Sentinel has been published at Riverdale for the past two and one-half

years, and brother Risdon retires with the knowledge that he has conducted a wide-awake, bright and newsy sheet.

CONVENOR FOR TCT

W. C. "Bud" Dutton, immediate Past President of the Society and one of those who has been very active in the Tricentennial planning activities for the past year or more, has agreed to act as 'convenor' for the Tricentennial Citizens Committee, to help us with its organization and operations. Bud will work with John Mitchell, Chair of the committee, and Joyce McDonald, Chair of the Tricentennial Celebration Committee, to ensure that the Tricentennial Celebration is a wonderful opportunity:

- ◆ To celebrate the diverse nature of our County as it has evolved over the 300 years since it was officially established;
- ◆ For neighbors from Laurel to Accokeek, from Eagle Harbor to Bowie, to get to know one another;
- ◆ To reflect on the past in order to gain a greater appreciation for our heritage and our present; and,
- ◆ To acquaint our youth with the significance of our community and to help them develop their own citizenship and civic responsibility.

Bud has been interested, both personally and professionally, in history for many years. In graduate school he became aware of planning and zoning projects to protect historic structures in such places as Boston (Beacon Hill), Charleston, SC, and New Orleans' historic neighborhoods. As a planner, he recognized the importance of historic places and events as links to a

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

EVENT

- 1 ST PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
LECTURE SERIES FOR BEGINNERS BEGINS
CONTACT LUCY BLOCKER 301-262-1019
- 2 ND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 PM, GREENBELT PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 8 TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
BI-MONTHLY MEETING
HYATTSVILLE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
4310 GALLATIN STREET, HYATTSVILLE
7:00 PM
- 12 TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING 10 AM
REGULAR MEETING 2 PM
'EARLY WOMEN AVIATORS' BY DORIS RICH
MARIETTA
- 31 ST PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING LECTURE SERIES BEGINS
'WOMEN OF DISTINCTION IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'
THERESE YEWELL, 6:30 PM MARIETTA
- APRIL
7 TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING LECTURE SERIES
PHYLLIS COX
VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED, 6:30 PM

APRIL
13 TH

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING LECTURE SERIES
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE - FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
ROBERT CRAWLEY
MARIETTA, 6:30 PM

18 TH

TRICENTENNIAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
OXON HILL LIBRARY, 6200 OXON HILL ROAD
BI-MONTHLY MEETING, 7:00 PM.

21 ST

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING LECTURE SERIES
'MR. LINCOLN'S WASHINGTON'
JOAN CHACONAS
MARIETTA, 6:30 PM

24 TH

PRINCE GEORGE'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS
MARLBORO HUNT CLUB
1:00 PM

community's past--that knowledge of the past helps in understanding the present and is important in planning for the future. As a consultant, he helped the City of Charleston protect historic areas through zoning controls. He was a Staff Director of the federal National Planning Commission in 1964-65 when they began to identify historic resources in the District of Columbia.

During his tenure on the Prince George's County Planning Board, a number of historic sites in the County, including College Park Airport, Marietta, Oxon Hill Manor and Darnall's Chance (then called the Buck House), were saved and the Surrat House was restored.

Bud's goal is to maintain the momentum that has been generated so far. The priority continues to be outreach efforts to alert and inform all civic, community, fraternal, religious and government organizations. This will continue through mailings, open meetings, news media, a speaker's bureau and other outlets.

Bud is looking forward to working with those preparing for the many observations anticipated for 1996. You may contact him by leaving a message on his answering machine at 301-627-6722.

Submitted by Mary Forsht-Tucker.

MEET THE BOARD

The 1994 Board of Directors election introduced **Julie Bright** to the Historical Society. Although she has been active in the southern part of the County as a leader in the effort to create an historic district in Aquasco, this is her introductory involvement in the Society.

Julie was born and raised in Baltimore and

attended the University of Maryland before graduating from Loyola College. For the past three years, Julie has served as Headmistress of St. Thomas Parish School in Croom. In 1981, she and her husband Jay moved into old St. Mary's Rectory in Aquasco, where they are 'one room away' from completing its renovation.

Tales of motorcycle gangs riding through the house, a pet sheep that lived in the house, and elderly parishioners who remember sliding down the three story banister as children provided motivation as they labored on their home. Their own tales include falls off the roof, trips to the bottom of the well while tied to a rope, and a kitchen sink drain emptying directly into the basement. During the first years of this project, Jay was in Law School, while working in Washington in real estate development, which included active involvement in the restoration of the downtown Greyhound Bus Terminal.

Julie is particularly interested in developing programs to bring an awareness of our cultural heritage to young people. She is already working with the Young Gardeners of Holy Trinity School to create an herb garden at Marietta and with the Skarda Awards Program sponsored by the Society.

Julie and Jay have three young children, Matthew, Lucinda and William. They love living in their rural community, with big city access, where 'the people are always ready to lend a helping hand or needed tool.'

Sarah Bourne

THE TREASURER NOTES

Welcome to Two New LIFE Members!!

**Jane Eagen
Alice U. Skarda**

The Treasurer also notes that "Second Request" member dues invoices for the 1994 year are being mailed to those members for whom payment has not yet been received. Prompt responses will be gratefully received!

We also noted that the February 1994 edition of *Maryland Magazine* lists "Big Tree Champions of Maryland." Many of the trees that are cited in the article are in Prince George's County, and the Basswood (White) belongs to Honorary Life Member Oden Bowie.

Submitted by Jack Bourne, Treasurer



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As we sit here pondering the end of another month, we wonder if it is possible that Spring will arrive in March. This certainly has been a winter to beat all records - in my book at least. We managed to make it through - frozen pipes, lack of heating oil, and all. In our little City of Hyattsville, we continually witnessed 'random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty', where neighbor checks on neighbor and lends the helping hand. That is why we live here!

We are also trying to overcome the malaise that February brings - looking forward to Spring blooms and the St. George's Day Dinner on April 24, 1994, at the Marlboro Hunt Club. Organizers advise us that this year will feature a couple of surprises, and better food. We also anticipate the Hyattsville House Tour on May 15.

The Librarian of the family has been reading more books and will return with her usual "From the Bookshelf" next issue. We are also receiving additional pieces from members of the Society which can be included in the monthly newsletter. At the Board's retreat earlier this month, it was decided that News and Notes should always contain at least one historical piece. While I shall endeavor to achieve that goal, I would also request that those members of the Society who have items which they would like to share, either family reminiscences, unpublished pieces, or previously published items, please forward them to The Editor, at the Society's mailing address shown elsewhere herein. I am not able to produce original manuscripts of an historical nature myself, because I simply do not have the time to devote to research and writing of such items.

For the benefit of all who would like to contribute to News and Notes, the Editor would note that the due date for submissions for the next issue is March 15, 1994. Thank you.

Lester Sweeting

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____ I am also interested in helping the Society
as a volunteer. Please contact me regarding
volunteer opportunities.

____ I would also like to join the Maryland
Historical Society. I am enclosing \$25 for
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Further Notice - Information 301-464-
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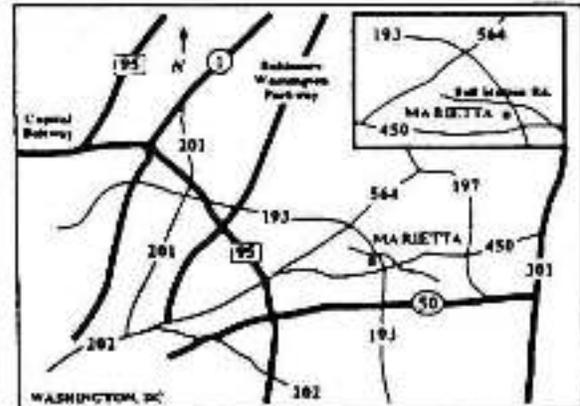
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NEW PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION FORMED IN RIVERDALE

In February, 1994, the Historic Preservation Committee of the Riverdale Town Center Revitalization Project became the Riverdale Preservation Association (RPA). The Association's purpose is to promote Riverdale's historic residential and commercial resources through education and marketing, to be an information clearing house for historic home owners, to advise the Town of Riverdale on real estate and development matters that affect the town's historic areas. In addition to working towards historic site and historic district designation, members are working to promote the town's historic heritage through historic house tours, a hands-on children's museum, a pictorial history of Riverdale at the new MARC station building, and other events.

One of the many celebrations to mark Riverdale's 75th anniversary in 1995, the Association is currently organizing a Holiday House Tour to be held in December 1994. Sharon Sweeting of the Hyattsville Preservation Association recently attended a RPA meeting and gave members guidelines (and encouragement) on how to run a historic house tour. Also, many RPA members are working on publishing a history book for the 75th anniversary, which should be off-press in June, 1995.

Because Riverdale's neighborhoods feature many types of homes, the RPA wants to attract members from diverse backgrounds, not just the people who own 'historic' homes. Any one interested in preservation is welcome to join this volunteer group. More than 2,000 RPA applications went to town residents and business owners in the March issue of the Riverdale *Town Crier*, the

official newsletter, and memberships are pouring in. Many RPA members are also members of the Riversdale Historical Society and the Association expects to forge a close association with Riverdale's 'other' preservation association.

For further information, please call Chris Davis, acting president, at 301-277-6615 (residence) or 202-336-8269 (office). The Association address is c/o Riverdale Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale, MD 20737.

Chris Davis

TREASURER'S NOTES - MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

**CHRISTINE DAVIS AND ED JAYNES
RAYMOND N. ZIMMERMAN, JR.
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM B.
DICKENSON**

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

BEVERLY B. SEELEY

WELCOME ALL!

John B. Bourne

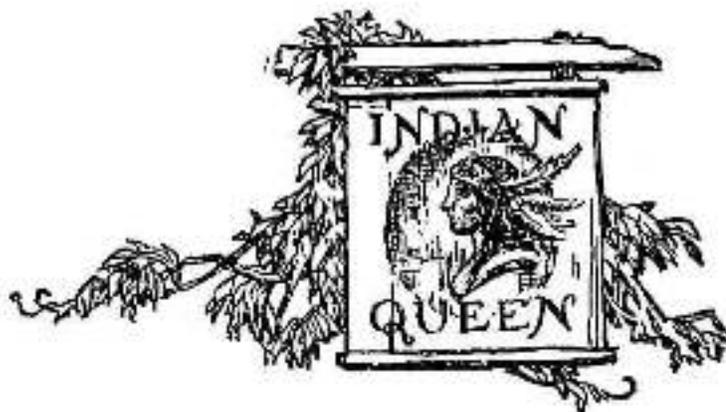
FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Part historical novel, part spy thriller, and part local history lesson, Emille Benson Knipe and Alden Arthur Knipe's LOST--A BROTHER, published in New York by the MacMillan Company in 1928, is a wholly charming, enjoyable read. The venue is the Widow Martin's Indian Queen Tavern, next to the George Washington House, on the post road between Washington and Baltimore, in

Bladensburg, Maryland, and the time, the early years of the nineteenth century -- early spring of eighteen-hundred and fourteen to be exact. The three Martin daughters, Prue, Sue and Nancy Lou (whose missing brother is one Mart Martin, gone since May Day, 1808) maintain the inn in his absence. He supposedly ran away to sea since "a man ought to see the World" and was abducted by a British press-gang. The tale is also peopled with Captain Joshua Barney, Commodore of the American fleet and the Chesapeake Bay flotilla, Captain Hull of the American frigate "Constitution" and his namesake, an English sheep dog (called Cattie for short) bred by Mr. Tayloe of Mount Airy and the capital's new Octagon House. Cattie is Nancy Lou's constant companion and devoted follower. Other characters are a "seemingly" blind peddler called Madame Fife, who is keenly interested in American troop movements; a young companion to the empressed Mart - Kit Robbins, and Negroes called Asia and Mammy Juno.

The story is woven around these characters and the historical events of the period including the defenders of the Bladensburg Road and the burning of Washington. The intrigue lasts to the final chapters entitled "The Luckiest Man Alive" and "Mrs. Fife's Confounding" but this review must end before all the secrets are divulged!

Sharon Howe Sweeting



EXHIBITION OPENING

"WARFARE IN 18TH CENTURY AMERICA: A SHOWCASE OF THE SOCIETY OF THE CININNATI COLLECTIONS"

Opening April 8 and running until September 10, 1994, is an exhibit worth seeing in Washington.

Drawing on its extensive museum and library collections, the Society of the Cincinnati has put together a comprehensive and uniquely illustrated exhibition on warfare in the days of the musket, the horse and the pike. The exhibition will open to the public on Friday, April 8, 1994 at Anderson House, National Headquarters, Museum and Library of the Society of the Cincinnati.

The Founders of the Society were, as the exhibition catalogue points out, themselves eminently successful practitioners of the art of 18th Century warfare, for it was the force of arms that procured American independence.

Following that victory, officers of the Continental Line formed the Society of the Cincinnati with General George Washington as their first President General. Their purpose was to preserve the rights and liberties for which they had fought, to promote national honor, and to perpetuate the cordial affection that existed among members by assisting one another in times of need.

The Society's membership is today composed of descendants of those who founded it, and from that the museum and library collections derive much of their uniqueness and historical richness. Families that have for generations treasured artifacts associated with ancestors of the Revolutionary War period have in many cases subsequently bequeathed those heirlooms to the Anderson House collections. In the new exhibition are items noteworthy not only for their intrinsic interest, but also for their association with prominent figures of the Revolution.

Among these are a pair of silver mounted pistols presented by General Washington to Colonel Joseph Ward; and an eagle badge, emblematic of membership in the Society of the Cincinnati, presented by Washington to his aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Colonel Tench Tilghman; and a pair of gold field epaulettes worn by Alexander Hamilton during his service as secretary and confidential aide to General Washington.

Two letters of General Washington are of particular interest. The first, following on a late January 1783 visit to the Maryland Detachment, then encamped near Newburgh, New York, criticized the appearance of the unit and its campsite in stringent terms. Two weeks later, Washington returned to assess what progress had been made in response to his earlier critique. Finding things much improved, he wrote again to the commander, Major Thomas Lansdale, to complement him. Both letters are in Washington's own hand, demonstrating the great importance he attached to proper care of the soldier. Many maps, drawings, manuscripts, early and rare books and documents, portraits, firearms, swords, models, accoutrements, articles of uniform, and other objects relating to the period are included in this exhibition, a well integrated showcase of the tools and techniques of 18th Century warfare. Dr. Lewis Sorley, a West Point graduate and professional soldier, is serving as guest curator.

The Exhibition "Warfare in 18th Century America: A Showcase of the Society of the Cincinnati Collections", which runs through September 10, 1994, is open to the public free of charge Tuesday through Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM (closed national holidays and during Society meetings), at Anderson House: National Headquarters, Museum and Library, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, two blocks west of DuPont Circle stop on Metro's Red Line. Illustrated catalogues may be obtained by mail for \$5, postpaid from the Society of the Cincinnati, at Anderson House.

Kathleen Betts

EDUCATING EDUCATORS

The Society, under the able direction of President Joyce McDonald and Board Member Jane Eagen, and with the assistance of Kathy Allen of the History Division of the M-NCPPO, has spent the past month presenting a series of lectures on the history and historical importance of Prince George's County for Prince George's County Public School Teachers. This program, which carries with it the blessing of the School Administrators and which also provides continuing education credits for the teachers (a requirement for them under Maryland rules) consists of a series of lectures on a variety of topics.

This is the second year the Society has sponsored such an event, and, based on the feedback provided by the participants, there will be more next year. Most observers felt that this was a very worthwhile endeavor and one that should be expanded both in content and in scope. Congratulations to those whose hard work continues to pay off for the Society!

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF WASHINGTON

In 1866, Christian Hines, then 85 years of age, wrote a book entitled "Early Recollections of Washington." Washington was where Hines had lived since 1800. Reprinted in 1981 through the efforts of the Junior League of Washington, which owns the current copyright, the original of the manuscript is in the collection of the Columbia Historical Society. The following is an excerpt from the reprinted version, a copy of which was loaned to your editor by Joyce McDonald.

DAVY BURNS OR THE YOUNG HEIRESS

The landowners in what is now called Washington City, previous to its becoming the seat of government, were mostly in but indifferent circumstances in life, something like the rest of the small farmers around and within a few miles of Georgetown. Among those who were largely benefitted by the seat of government being transferred to this District was Davy Burns. In fact he was immensely benefitted by the change, for now one lot of ground of which he was possessed, would have sold for as much as a whole acre would have bought a few years before. His land, I believe, extended from the old farm-house to where Vanness's Mausoleum was erected, besides including all of the low grounds south of the President's House, as far, perhaps, as Carusi's saloon, along and across Pennsylvania avenue to and beyond where his brother, Tommy Burns, occupied and cultivated a small farm. I believe it even extended to Seventh street. However, by this change, he became what people call a rich farmer, and as such he was afterwards known. Now, the only child that Davy Burns had was a daughter named Marcia, who, at that time, might have been about sixteen years of age, and was just springing into womanhood. I only recollect seeing her once when she was single, and this was, I think, in 1798. I had just returned from school and was standing at the door of the residence of Mr. Green, with whom I then lived, when a young man and young lady rode up to the door of Mrs. Green's milliner shop. The young lady jumped from her horse and went into the house to buy something, or to have her measure taken, and the young man was left at the door with the horse until she returned, when she remounted, and they rode off together. After they had gone, I heard, by the conversation of the family, who the parties were. The young lady was Miss Marcia Burns, the rich heiress, as she was called, and the young man was her cousin, named Moses Orme. What causes me to recollect so well that this was in the year 1798, is the fact that I went to school in Georgetown in that year, and in the year following my father moved to the city.

Miss Marcia Burns was, perhaps, more talked of than any other female in the District of Columbia at that time. Almost every person heard of the rich young heiress, Miss Marcia Burns, and many young men were desirous of making her acquaintance, but most of them lacked the courage. Some few, who were in good circumstances, made the attempt to gain the prize, but without success. It was reserved for a young gentleman of New York to be the successful candidate.

In 1800 the Government was removed to Washington

and in the same year the first session of Congress was held here, when it was ascertained that accommodations suitable for members of Congress were very scarce. The members and others who came on with the Government appeared to be very much dissatisfied with the place. The comparison they drew between this place and Philadelphia was, by no means, complimentary to us. At that time there were but few places in the city suitable for members to board at. Some of them went to Georgetown and boarded at the Union tavern (now Union hotel,) some stopped at the Six and Seven Buildings and others in parts of the city where they could find accommodations. The discontent which prevailed among them was so great that it was feared the seat of government would be removed from Washington. In fact, I believe the attempt was made, but fortunately failed. At length they became a little more reconciled, and determined to remain here. Among the families to which the members would resort of an evening, (especially the younger ones,) to spend a few hours in social conversation, was that of Davy Burns. Here would assemble mostly the young and single members, nearly all of them being attracted thither by the charms of the rich young heiress, Marcia Burns. Among these was a young member from New York, by the name of John P. Vanness, a person of prepossessing appearance and refined manners, who proposed marriage to Miss Burns, was accepted, and married her; and thus the late General John P. Vanness became the husband of Miss Marcia Burns, the rich heiress of her father, Davy Burns, and the possessor of the vast number of lots in the City of Washington, which were formerly styled Burns' farm.

After this Mr. Vanness became a citizen of Washington, and finding the old farm-house too small and inconvenient, he built a two-story brick house on the corner of D and Twelfth streets, where he resided with his family until the mansion house near the old home-stead was completed. He then removed to this and where he resided until his death.

General J. P. Vanness had filled all of the high offices that were in the power of the citizens of Washington to bestow upon him. I believe he had but one child, which died in infancy. His wife died some years before him, and their bodies were deposited in the Mausoleum in the old family burial grounds of Tommy Burns, deceased.

Ed. Note. The Vanness Mansion occupied the site now occupied by the Pan American Union, and was designed by Benjamin Latrobe in 1816. Marcia died in 1832 of cholera. The Mausoleum was relocated to Oak Hill in Georgetown.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- APRIL
7 TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING LECTURE SERIES
PHYLLIS COX
HARMONY HALL REGIONAL CENTER, 6:30 PM
- 13 TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING LECTURE SERIES
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE - FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
ROBERT CRAWLEY
MARIETTA, 6:30 PM
- 18 TH TRICENTENNIAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
OXON HILL LIBRARY, 6200 OXON HILL ROAD
BI-MONTHLY MEETING, 7:00 PM.
- 21 ST PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING LECTURE SERIES
'MR. LINCOLN'S WASHINGTON'
JOAN CHACONAS
MARIETTA, 6:30 PM
- 24 TH PRINCE GEORGE'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS
MARLBORO HUNT CLUB
1:00 PM
- MAY
- 4TH PRESERVATION WEEK RECEPTION, NEWTON WHITE MANSION, 5:00 PM
- 9TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD
MEETING, 10:00 AM, MARIETTA
- 9TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, FEATURING DON CREVELING
WHO WILL TALK ABOUT THE LAUREL CASKET
A SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND, 2:00 PM

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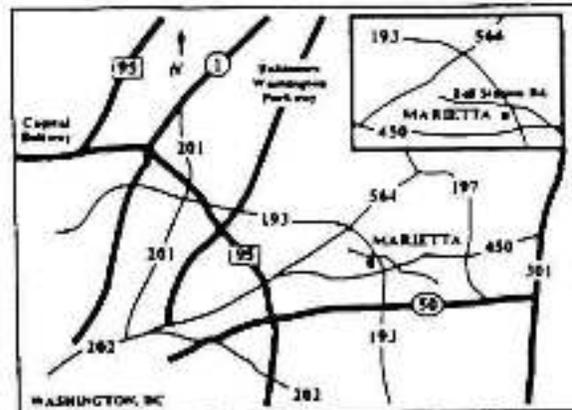
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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 1994

OUR 42ND YEAR

VOLUME XX1 NUMBER 4

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Editor - Lester H. Sweeting

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Eugene B. Roberts
Julie Bright
Sarah Moseley

Directors - 1993/1994

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Paul Lanham
Warren (Dusty) Rhoades

ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER COUNTDOWN TO TRICENTENNIAL

The Marlborough Hunt Club on April 24, 1994, was the scene of the celebration of the 298TH birthday of Prince George's County's founding by the Maryland Colonial Legislature.

The St. George's Day Awards, which have become a centerpiece of this event, were presented to the following honorees:

ELIZABETH ALLEN
A. PIERCE MIDDLETON
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
BELTSVILLE
RICHARD AND CAROL CISSEL
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
BRANDYWINE
PORT OF BLADENSBURG HERITAGE
DANCERS
DAVID P. FOGLE
JEAN HAHN

In addition, the Prince George's County Hall of Fame made its annual portrait presentation.

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY

MAY 4, ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH CELEBRATION,
NEWTON WHITE MANSION, 6:30 pm
MAY 14 PGCHS BOARD MEETING, 10:00 AM, MARIETTA
MAY 14 PGCHS GENERAL MEETING, MARIETTA, 2 PM

WHO WAS WHO
ON RALSTON AVENUE
HYATTSVILLE

While delving through files at the Historic Preservation Section recently, I came across copies of Nelson's Suburban Directory of Maryland and Virginia Towns Adjacent to the District of Columbia. I made photocopies of both the 1912-1913 edition (apparently the earliest) and the 1923 edition as they relate to Hyattsville. Since we now live on what was then Ralston Avenue, I thought I'd share with you the information I discerned about those who lived on that street as reflected in these records. I should point out that there is a significant difference between the two editions, in that the earlier one fails to provide house numbers, but only list the address as "Ralston Ave. nr Wine Av." or a similar location. Some detective work on my part can lead to identification of the current residences where these people lived.

Shortly after my visit to the Historic Preservation Section, I spent a couple of hours at the Hyattsville Branch of the Prince George's County Public Library and located the 1900 and 1910 United States' Census Data, which is on microfilm at the Branch in the newspaper room. These are, of course, even better sources of information about our predecessors. I would have started with the 1890 Census, but, alas, those records were destroyed before they could be microfilmed.

The methodology for locating our former Ralston Avenue residents differed slightly, in that there is a soundex available for 1900, which is not available for 1910. Thus, beginning with what I knew, that Lewis Holden lived in my residence (having built it in 1897), I began with the soundex. Under this method, one takes the last name,

Holden, remove all vowels, and applies a fairly simple key to the consonants. I thus found that Holden would be represented by H435 in the index. Perusing the Microfilm Index, I found both Lewis Holden and Frederic A. Holden, his next door neighbor, and thus was able to find that Ralston Avenue's residents were all contained at V. 37, Enumeration District 92, Sheet 5, of the census enumeration. These, based on the film copies, were large tally sheets containing about 100 lines and 34 columns. The information on each person included Location (street, number (not often), number of dwelling in order of visit, number of family in order of visitation, Name, Relation (Head, Wife, Son, Daughter, etc.) Color or race, Sex, Date of birth (month and year), age at last birthday, marital status, number of years married, mother of how many children, number of living children, where person was born, where father was born, where mother was born, Citizenship, including year of immigration, number of years living in US and naturalization; Occupation, trade or profession for each person 10 or over; months not employed; Education, months (years) of schooling, can read, can write, can speak English; etc. The categories for 1910 were altered slightly, but present a picture of the resident for posterity.

For instance, Lewis F. Holden, who built the Holden-Sweeting House, was, in 1900, a White male, born in the District of Columbia in August, 1862, of parents who were born in Massachusetts (Father) and Rhode Island (Mother) respectively, and, at the age of 37, married (for 9 years) to Mary V. Holden (born in West Virginia in February 1870), and had two daughters, Lorraine C., born in Maryland in July of 1892, and Margaret I., born in January 1900 in the District of Columbia. Holden was a Bookbinder, fully employed, who read and wrote English.

Mrs. Holden had, according to the records, another child who had passed away. In addition, the Holdens employed a servant, Lucy Dare, a single Black female from Virginia (her parents both having been born in Virginia as well). Lucy did not read or write English, although she could, of course, speak the language.

Who else was listed as living on Ralston Avenue, based on the Directories and what do the Census Records reflect about these people?

Aman, Joseph W. (J. W. Aman & Co) wood, coal and roofing - lived on Ralston at Luttrell Avenue. This was apparently at the intersection of what is now 41st Avenue and Gallatin Street. The 1912-1913 edition fails to list any relations, but the 1923 edition shows Helen and Dorothy (who was a clerk) living at this location as well. Based on the 1910 Census records, however, we see that Joseph, who was 46 years old, shared the residence with his wife of 19 years, Lucy, who was 43, and their four children: sons Joseph S, 18 and George, then 3; and daughters Dorothy, 13; and 10 year old Helen. Mrs. Aman had lost no children in infancy.

Anderson, Lydia B. the widow of J. L. Anderson, lived at # 7 Ralston Avenue in 1923. She is not listed in the 1910 Census.

Listed in the 1910 Census as a boarder in the home of Clifford Herring, a 40 year old bachelor from Wisconsin, Herman Beckenstrater, a clerk, lived on Ralston Ave, near Wine Ave. (now 42nd Avenue). He was still there in 1913, but had apparently moved by 1923. Census records show that he was Professor of Horticulture at the Maryland Agriculture College.

9 Ralston Avenue was, in 1923, home to Harry A. Boswell (of Carr Bros. & Boswell (the local grocery store on Maryland Avenue - now Baltimore Boulevard, Rte 1)) and to Mary J. Bowler. Neither were listed in the earlier Census records.

Helen T. Breneman lived at 2 Ralston Ave. in 1923.

Victor K. Chestnut, who worked at the Department of Agriculture, lived on Ralston Avenue, near Luttrell Avenue in 1913. In 1923, we learn that Victor was a chemist, while Olive S. Chestnut (possibly his wife) was a clerk at the Treasury, and their son, Frank T., was a student. None of these people appear in the 1910 Census records as residents of Ralston Avenue.

Dr. R. Eugene Dyer made his home at 18 Ralston Avenue in 1923.

Patent Office clerk Ellen M. Estabrook, or Esterbrook, lived on Ralston, near Wine Avenue in 1913, but had moved by 1923. The 1910 Census reveals that she was 68, and lived with her surviving daughter, Dorothy Galt, then 18, who was married to 23 year old Dwight B. Galt. Frank F. Galt's widow, Mary E. Galt, at 46 the Head of the Household, lived there also with her sons Dwight B. Galt, a draftsman, and Frank T. Galt, a clerk. By 1923, we lose sight of Mary and Dwight and the remaining Galt family, but Frank had moved to 7 Block street and was a clerk at the Shipping Board.

Johnson L. Garrett, a compositor, lived at 7 Ralston Avenue in 1923.

Jacob K. Hammer, a 'clerk dist' (possibly with the District of Columbia government?) lived on Ralston near Wine in 1913. By 1923, he had changed his name to J. Keller

Hammer, but still resided at 17 Ralston Avenue.

Frederick A. Holden was living on Ralston, near Wine in 1913. As he was the first owner of the Holden House, now owned by Carter and Katrina Brandon, we can locate this house with some precision. Frederic (there are various spellings) was employed in the Federal Government's General Land Office until he retired, and had served as a Hyattsville Town Commissioner in the 1880s. His son, John G. Holden, who owned the house by 1913, was listed as an auditor in the 1913 Directory. The 1923 Directory lists John G Holden at 8 Ralston Avenue, with whom lived Dorothy, his daughter; John C. Holden, his son who was then a student; and Paxton Holden, another son, who was a clerk.

The Census records reveal much more about this family of Holdens. Frederic A Holden was born in July of 1830, and his wife, Ellen, whom he married in 1855, was born in October, 1830. Mrs. Holden passed away sometime between 1900 and 1910.

John G. Holden, born in 1869 in Washington, DC, was married in 1895 to 25 year-old Gertrude (as of 1900) and they had one daughter, Dorothy P, who was then 2. By 1910, they had added two boys to the family, the above-mentioned John C., born 1901, and Paxton, born 1904.

Since the 1900 Census lists Lewis F. Holden's parents (but not by name) as having been born in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and Frederic was born in one and Gertrude in the other, we can surmise properly that Frederic was the father of Lewis, as we have suspected for some time.

(We have contacted R. Eugenia Walters, a

former resident of the Frederic Holden House, to see if she will share her reminiscences with us about Hyattsville and the house. We will report on our findings at another time.)

Mary M. Johnson, a domestic, lived on Ralston, near Wine, in 1913, but does not appear in the 1910 Census or the 1923 edition of the Directory.

Two men named Charles H. Long, one a telephone operator, the other of no discernible employment, lived on Ralston near Luttrell in 1913. The 1923 Directory lists a Charles H. Long, employed at the Bureau of Printing, at 19 Ralston Avenue. The 1900 Census lists Charles H. Long as Head of the Household, which also consisted of his wife, Annie, and their two children, Annie M. and Charles H. Mr. Long listed himself as a 'plate printer.'

Harmon A. Munson, no occupation shown, was another resident of Ralston Avenue near Wine Avenue in 1913, but, again, he is not listed in the 1923 edition.

Another 1913 resident of the Luttrell end of Ralston Avenue was farmer Henry M. Spohr. He appears in the 1923 edition as well, but no house number is given.

We continue to decipher these handwritten records, that provide an interesting glimpse into the past. As time allows, we may address other streets in Hyattsville, or venture into the latest set of records available from the Bureau of the Census, those for 1920 which were released to public research in 1990. They are a treasure trove of data.

Les Sweeting

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

4TH PRESERVATION WEEK RECEPTION, NEWTON WHITE MANSION, 5:00 PM

14TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD
MEETING, 10:00 AM, MARIETTA

14TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, FEATURING DON CREVELING
WHO WILL TALK ABOUT THE LAUREL CASKET
A SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND, 2:00 PM

15TH HISTORIC HYATTSVILLE HOUSE TOUR
HYATTSVILLE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
4310 GALLATIN STREET
1 TO 5 PM, CALL 301-927-4514

JUNE

11TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD
MEETING, 10:00 AM, MARIETTA

11TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 2:00 PM, MARIETTA
ANNUAL SKARDA AWARDS
TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED

13th TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION TRUST- CITIZENS COMMITTEE MEETS
7:00 PM AT BOB HALL WAREHOUSE, UPPER MARI.BORO

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

PUBLICATIONS ORDER

Prince George's County: A Pictorial History
by Alan Virta. \$29.95 plus tax
\$1.50, plus s&h \$2.00.

Calvert of Maryland, \$6.95 (tax
incl.) plus \$0.55 s&h.

Atlas of Prince George's County, \$5.00
plus \$0.25 tax, plus \$0.50 s&h.

Indexes of Church Registers, 2 vols.
\$20.00 plus \$1.00 tax, plus \$2.50
s&h.

Chesapeake Bay of Yore, \$25.00 plus
\$1.25 tax, plus \$1.00 s&h.

Lanham Centennial, \$4.00 plus \$0.20
tax plus \$0.55 s&h.

Berwyn Heights, \$3.00 plus \$0.15
tax, plus \$0.35 s&h.

Gabriel Duvall Biography, \$1.00 plus
\$0.05 tax, plus \$0.35 s&h.

Fire Call, by Francis X. Geary,
\$5.00 plus \$.25 tax, plus \$1.00
s&h.

History of Beltsville, \$4.00 plus \$0.20
tax, plus \$0.55 s&h.

Please forward the above checked
publications. Full payment
(payable to PGCHS) is enclosed.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Tel. No. _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Annual Membership Application

Date _____

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone-Home _____
Business _____

Please indicate whether this is a new
membership or a renewal

_____ New _____ Renewal

CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORY

___ Full Time Student	\$10.00
___ Member	\$20.00
___ Life Member	\$200.00
___ Sustaining Member	\$50.00
Additional Contribution	\$ _____

___ I am also interested in helping the Society
as a volunteer. Please contact me regarding
volunteer opportunities.

___ I would also like to join the Maryland
Historical Society. I am enclosing \$25 for
an individual membership or \$35 for husband
and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues
and contributions. All contributions may be
tax deductible. We appreciate your continued
support.

Please make checks payable to PGCHS
Mail Payments to: PGCHS, PO Box 14,
Riverdale, Md 20738-0014.

Tel 301-464-0590

MEET THE BOARD

Prince George's County can thank the air pollution of Los Angeles for our extremely dedicated and capable Society President.

Joyce McDonald headed west to the University of the City of Los Angeles after earning a bachelor's degree from Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania. She could not stand the smog and returned east to the University of Maryland for graduate work in history. As a part of her studies in that program, she worked with Historic Annapolis and became interested in historic preservation.

During the Bicentennial of the United States, Joyce became involved in the restoration work at George Washington House in Bladensburg. The rest, we might say, is history. This effort led to a position as vice-Chairman of the Historic and Cultural Trust and a five year stint on the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission.

When the Prince George's County Historical Society was granted the tenancy of Marietta, Joyce led a band of intrepid scrubbers, scrapers and painters who turned the Mansion into a public attraction and she then undertook to create the Gift Shop. She has served as Secretary, Vice-President and Program Chairman for the Society before assuming the Presidency upon the retirement of Bud Dutton.

After much urging to get the County Executive to establish a Commission to plan for the 1996 Tricentennial Celebration, Joyce found herself named Chairman of the official Celebration Committee. In this capacity, she is working diligently with both the Citizens' Committee and the newly formed

Tricentennial Trust to coordinate appropriate commemorations for this historic event and to establish a lasting memorial, the Heritage Center, to the County and its first 300 years.

Beautiful historic costumes are turning up all over the County as Joyce's skills in authentic design and dressmaking are becoming fully recognized. In her spare time, Joyce enjoys Gaelic singing and Irish dance with her husband Bob, who is a professor at Gallaudet. They live in Hyattsville and are parents to Jamie and Rob.

CLUB 300 FORMED

Club 300 is a membership organization providing an opportunity for interested individuals and organizations to assist in the preparation for Prince George's County's celebration of its Tricentennial Year, 1996.

Membership, as the name implies, is \$300. Membership contributions are allowable as deductions, depending on your tax status.

Acknowledgment of donations in excess of \$250 will be made by the Trust or Society in accordance with IRS regulations.

The purpose of Club 300 is to provide financial resources for initial organization and administrative costs of the Tricentennial Citizen's Committee. This Committee began in 1993 to galvanize public support for an active observation of Prince George's County's interesting history and diverse cultures. The Committee promotes official

involvement of the County Government and works closely and in harmony with the recently appointed Official Committee and other interested groups from across the County.

As funds become available, they will be used to meet matching requirements for private and public program grants for special projects, publications, events, etc. Also, a program of awards for student essays, published articles, etc. is planned and anticipated as resources are available.

Following the conclusion of the Tricentennial Year and its activities, there will be a celebration to show special appreciation to Club 300 members. Any remaining funds will be transferred to the Tricentennial Trust for use in connection with the Heritage Center.

Initially, Club 300 donations are being administered by the Prince George's County Historical Society, Inc, a 501(c)(3) organization. Club 300 funds will be transferred to the Tricentennial Trust, Inc., the official fund raising arm for Tricentennial activities, which has been established and is being organized. Expenditures from Club 300 funds will be made as authorized by the Administrative Committee of the Tricentennial Citizens Committee.

If you wish to join this non-exclusive Club, please make out a check to:

PGCHS Club 300 Account, c/o
PGCHS, Post Office Box 14, Riverdale,
MD 20738-0014.

For more information please call W. C. (Bud) Dutton at 301-627-6722, and thank you for your support.

LORD BALTIMORE'S ENGLAND

The Historic Preservation Program at the University of Maryland is once again sponsoring an English Holiday from August 16 to 31, 1994. Led by David Fogle, Professor and Director of the Historic Preservation Program, the group will visit great houses and gardens in eastern and northern England for two weeks. Many of these locations have connections to the Calvert family and, thus, to Maryland's Heritage. The final event of the Tour will be in Richmond, Yorkshire, and features a dinner at Kiplin Hall, the country seat of the Lords Baltimore. This is now the site of the University of Maryland's Study Centre. For details, contact Professor Fogle at 301-405-6309.

FROM THE TREASURER

We welcome the following new members:

A. Lee Haislip, Jr.
Edna C. Holliday
Emily Reitz

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

Unpaid 1994 member dues--If the label on this issue of News and Notes reflects "93 - circled in red" your 1994 payment for member dues has not been received by the Treasurer. PGCHS Bylaws provide that you must be dropped from membership rolls. Please renew your membership today!!!

Thank you.
Jack Bourne

GREENBELT MUSEUM HOSTS DOLLS

Everybody loves dolls. Who at one time or another hasn't slowed down at a toy store display to admire and wonder at the variety of dolls? Who has not seen, or at least heard about the wonderful dollhouse at the Smithsonian? Who has not, as a youngster, gone to sleep at some time with a small arm wrapped around a stuffed animal?

The Friends of the Greenbelt Museum (FOGM) invites everyone, young or young at heart, to see a special new exhibit at the Museum - one featuring dolls, stuffed animals and dollhouse furniture from the 1930s and 1940s. The Museum is located at 10-B Crescent Road, Greenbelt.

Dolls have had an important role in the social lives of people since prehistoric times, primarily as playthings for children. In America, before and after Europeans began arriving as settlers, dolls were hand crafted. These were one-of-a-kind dolls, fashioned from discarded household materials or other items readily available. As manufactured dolls began to make their appearance, imported dolls quickly monopolized the market in America, mostly from Europe in the 18th Century. After the end of World War I, however, dolls made in America began to dominate the American market, so that by the 1930s almost all dolls sold here were made in America.

The Dolls and other items on display in this exhibit date from the 1930s and 1940s or are representative of the era. The Museum's Shirley Temple doll, the baby doll in a carriage, and the Charlie McCarthy look-alike were the inspiration for this exhibit. Thanks

to the generosity of several members of FOGM for loans from their private collections, the exhibit promises to be a very popular one. There are baby dolls, girl dolls and their wardrobes, character dolls, folk dolls, foreign dolls, World War II dolls, a special display of how cloth dolls were made for the Red Cross during the War, stuffed animals, doll house furniture and a doll house family to delight Museum visitors.

The Exhibit, which opened April 17, will run through July. The Museum is open every Sunday from 1 to 4 PM. For further information about the Museum or this special exhibit, please call 474-1936. Group tours are welcome, but advance arrangements should be made.

Anne L. Meglis.



HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during Special Events

Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration
Information - (301) 464-0590

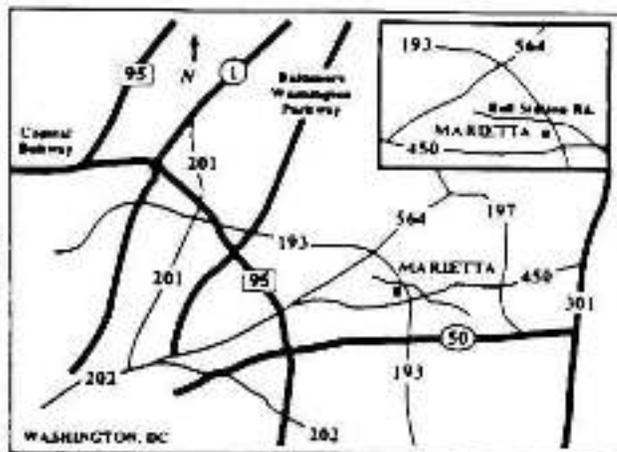
THE GIFT SHOP

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

The Gift Shop is open from 12 to 4 Saturdays and Sundays.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193, near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 1994

OUR 42ND YEAR

VOLUME XXI NUMBER 5

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1994

President - Joyce McDonald
Vice President - John Mitchell
Secretary - Sarah Bourne
Treasurer - John B. Bourne
Historian - Frederick S. DeMarr
Editor - Lester H. Sweeting

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Eugene B. Roberts
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Jane Eagen
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Past Presidents

W. C. (Bud) Dutton
John Giannetti
Paul Lanham
Warren (Dusty) Rhoades

ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDEES FETED AT A ROYAL BIRTHDAY PARTY

Her Majesty The Queen of England celebrates her official birthday in June rather than on her natal day earlier in the year. This is to assure better weather for the festivities.

On Sunday, April 24, Prince Georgians celebrated the 298th anniversary of the founding of the County with a party at the Marlborough Hunt Club. The weather on this Sunday closest to the actual anniversary date of April 23, was as rare as a day in June and a more perfect afternoon could not have been imagined.

At that event, nine County individuals and groups were honored for significant contributions to preserving the heritage of Prince George's County.

When ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BELTSVILLE, found it necessary to rebuild their tower and steeple, they contacted preservation groups to locate pictures of an earlier structure to replicate. Along with a compatible addition, the church reflects its early appearance once again. ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BRANDYWINE, celebrated its tercentenary last year. As a permanent memento

IMPORTANT DATES IN JUNE

JUNE 11 P GCHS BOARD MEETING, 10:00 AM, MARIETTA
JUNE 11 PGCHS GENERAL MEETING, SKARDA AWARDS, MARIETTA, 2 PM
JUNE 13 TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING, BOB HALL WAREHOUSE,
UPPER MARLBORO, 7 pm

of this historic event, a stained glass window reflecting the 300 year history of the church was installed in the sanctuary.

CANON A. PIERCE MIDDLETON was recognized for his extensive writings on liturgical history in the County. Canon Middleton can trace his ancestry to the beginnings of the County. BETTY ALLEN, during her years as librarian at the Greenbelt Public Library, amassed an outstanding collection of materials about Rexford G. Tugwell and the development of the planned community. Although Betty has now retired, she continues to be available to research scholars from all over the world.

RICHARD AND CAROL CISSEL have lovingly and sensitively restored their nineteenth century Berwyn Heights home until it has become a showplace of the community. During the 250th anniversary of the founding of Bladensburg in 1993, a group of men and women of that community learned the dances of the eighteenth century and performed throughout the festivities. After the celebratory year ended, the PORT OF BLADENSBURG HERITAGE DANCERS, have continued their weekly practices and now present their skills, complete with costumes (many made by Society President Joyce McDonald) at events throughout the Washington area.

DAVID FOGLE, chairman of the University of Maryland Historic Preservation Program, was recognized for his continuing efforts in bringing student involvement in enhancing our County's historic buildings and our heritage. JEAN HAHN has for many years been an enthusiastic and dependable worker for many of the County heritage organizations. Requests to Jean for HELP are always answered with a smile and a job well done.

The above awardees were listed in the April NEWS AND NOTES, but your Editor was sworn to secrecy for the final award. That much deserved award was a complete surprise to the recipient, JOHN B. BOURNE. Jack is Treasurer of the Society. He stepped into this critical position several years ago when an emergency arose and we shall all consider it a major calamity when he decides that he has had enough of our, sometimes, casual approach to finances. We are all in great debt to Jack for his accounting expertise and his constant hours of labor on our behalf.

Congratulations to all of the St. George's Day awardees for 1994.

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For more information please call W. C. (Bud) Dutton at 301-627-6722, and thank you for your support.

As of May 15, 1994, CLUB 300 membership includes:

John B. Bourne
Richard and Sarah Bourne
W. C. (Bud) Dutton, Jr.
Jane Eagen
John Mitchell
Karen Miles
Raymond Zimmerman
Willard & Elaine Entwisle
C. Thomas Clagett, Jr.
Raymond LaPlaca
Rich Scott
Ivan & Dorothy Rainwater
Bob & Mary Charlotte Chaney

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FROM THE TREASURER

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Gary & Myrna Combs
Lynette M. Doyle
Catherine J. Edwards

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Thank you.
Jack Bourne

FRIENDS OF PRESERVATION LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Would you like to learn more about the history around you -- while helping to preserve it?

The Friends of Preservation, a membership organization allied with the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust, needs you, and has launched a membership drive with some unique and rewarding benefits.

These include the opportunity to receive a quarterly newsletter, which is produced by the County Historic Preservation Section of MN-CPPC, which staffs the Historic

Preservation Commission, as well as discounts on salvaged architectural items at The Newel Post, the Trust's salvage center, and the opportunity to acquire, as part of your membership, either a set of the Trust's recently acquired post card collection showing six historic sites in the County or one or more of the recently published books on the County Sites, including the *Landmarks of Prince George's County*.

For further information, please contact the Trust at Post Office Box 85, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773.

LETTER OF THANKS

April 25, 1994

*Mrs. Sarah Bourne
Prince George's County Historical Society
Post Office Box 14
Riverdale, MD 20777*

Dear Mrs. Bourne

It warms the heart to discover that the Prince George's County Historical Society rises above Our Lord's generalization that a prophet is without honor in his own country (Matt 13:57, Mark 6:4, and John 4:44). And on that account, I am grateful to the Society of my native county for its gracious recognition of my efforts to preserve and publicize the goodly heritage which our county enjoys.

Be so kind therefore as to convey to the Board of Directors my appreciation and thanks for authorizing the handsome certificate inscribed and presented to me at the Marlborough Hunt Club yesterday. It is something which I shall treasure as long as I live.

May God continue his favor upon the

Society and further its endeavors to inculcate in the inhabitants of the county and of Maryland at large an ever deeper gratitude to him for having brought our forefathers safely across the sea to this earthly Paradise, this "other Eden," and for having cast our lot in this pleasant land.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. Pierce Middleton †

Hyattsville's 1935 Post Office A History of a Structure

by Rebecca E. Livingston

The Hyattsville Post Office at 4325 Gallatin Street, built in 1935 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in the mid-1980s, is one of the most architecturally distinguished 20th century buildings in Hyattsville. An excellent example of Colonial Revival and American Georgian architectural styles, its form reflects the attention Hyattsville resident (and then Fourth Assistant U. S. Postmaster General in charge of Engineering and Research) Smith W. Purdum paid to its construction and decoration. Mr. Purdum resided at 4110 Gallatin Street for a number of years.

Prior to the opening of the County central mail processing facility in Riverdale in 1970, the Hyattsville Post Office served as the center of mail distribution for the entire southern portion of the County.

Land for the Post Office was purchased from William Pinckney Magruder, prominent local citizen, businessman and philanthropist. The Federal government paid \$7,500 for the property and \$76,000 for the erection of the structure. Work began on March 18, 1935; the cornerstone being laid on June 9, 1935; and the building was placed in use by October 19 of that year. Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury (The Post Office did not exist as a separate Department until later) was responsible for the design. Some of the other people involved in design and construction, including supplying materials, included:

Caleb C. Motz, Treasury Construction Supervisor

F. H. McCrary

A. W. Clark

Blauner Construction Co - overall construction

Gray Knox Marble Co. - marble

Michaels Art Bronze Co. - exterior lighting

Indian Hill Stone Co. - limestone

United Clay Products - brick

Frank Peach - granite

Standard Art Marble & Tile - terrazzo

Hyattsville Nursery - landscaping

James N. Pfeiffer and C. Tarrant - stonemasonry

James T. Haggett - bricklaying.

Eugene Kingman painted the interior murals in December, 1937 for an initial commission of \$1,390. The medium is tempura on gesso. Ballard Jamieson assisted in the installation of

the murals. The number of planned murals was increased and the concept of using a frieze to unify the murals was suggested. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent of the Painting and Sculpture Section of the Treasury Department, recommended scenes of the countryside around Hyattsville as the focus of the murals. "In view of the fact that this is the home of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General (Smith Purdum) who is an enthusiast about horses, I hope that your subject matter will be able to include some horses in that design." (Rowan letter to Kingman, November 5, 1936). This may have been Rowan's attempt to appease Purdum after the Treasury Department refused Purdum's request for a trotting horse in place of an arrow on the cupola's weathervane.

Mrs. J. Enos Ray of Hyattsville, a civic leader and member of the County School Board, was approached by Mr. Purdum to advise Mr. Kingman on the murals. Mrs. Ray encouraged Mr. Kingman to increase the number of murals and drove him to view old houses that could be used as a background for the designs. Obviously, the horses are the main focus, with even the color design being the subject of correspondence: "... the introduction of either a black, piebald or dappled horse might make for color variety and interest." (Rowan to Kingman, March 8, 1937).

Born in 1909, Eugene Kingman graduated from Yale University in 1932 and the Yale School of Fine Arts

in 1935. A native of Providence, he taught at the Rhode Island School of Design and later at the University of Omaha. His work was widely exhibited and received much acclaim. His reputation as a scenic painter brought him commissions from both the National Park Service and Crater Lake National Park. National Geographic published several of his pieces. Other mural commissions include the Kemmarer, Wyoming and East Providence, Rhode Island post offices and the New York Times Building lobby.

Only six postmasters have served the community since this building was constructed nearly 60 years ago: Mary W. Tise; Egbert F. Tingley (who served for 34 years); Thomas Haw; Martin Joyce; Frank Galeb; and, currently, Elwood Mosley. Interestingly, Ms. Tise was the daughter of a former Hyattsville Postmaster, assuming the duties of the office upon the death of her father in 1909. Mr. Tingley was a University of Maryland graduate and a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. We should point out that Christopher Clark Hyatts, who founded the city, was its first postmaster, though he operated from another building.

As the suburbs grew, so increased the responsibilities of the Hyattsville Post Office. It was upgraded to first-class post office status in 1942. When the current building opened in 1935, 6,000 people were served; but, by 1949, the number served had grown to

45,000; by 1954, to 84,000; in 1960, 120,000; and, in 1969, 192,000. In 1942, Postmaster Tingley began entreating the General Services Administration to consider alleviating the very overcrowded situation at the Hyattsville Post Office. It would be nearly 30 years before the construction of the Prince George's County Postal Facility in Riverdale gave the local post office some of the assistance it needed.

**SOME REMINISCENCES OF
MISS R. EUGENIA WALTERS**
Written on: April 30, 1994

The Walters Family of 4110
Gallatin Street, Hyattsville

Family Background

My father and mother, Ray Eugene and Edna Marlow Walters, my sister Virginia and brother Dallas Kilbourne, and I lived for the most part on the Walters family farm, "Leewood," at Fulton, Howard County, Maryland (seven miles west of Laurel). Five generations of Walters had lived on the land, which my father inherited from his father. My mother, Edna Marlow, was born and reared on an adjoining farm owned by her father, Jesse Marlow. At the age of 21 or 22 she married my father Eugene, who was 13 years older, and they had the aforementioned children in addition to Nancy Lee who died in infancy.

In July 1943, we left the Fulton area having sold the farm of 260 acres to George

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

11TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD
MEETING, 10:00 AM, MARIETTA

11TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 2:00 PM, MARIETTA
ANNUAL SKARDA AWARDS
TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED

13th TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION TRUST- CITIZENS COMMITTEE MEETS
7:00 PM AT BOB HALL WAREHOUSE, UPPER MARLBORO

Howe, an architect and writer who was mainly interested in restoring our farmhouse because of its architectural value. As young adults interested in city life, we children urged our parents to locate nearer employment in Washington, D.C. Thus it was that my parents purchased a smaller Victorian house at 4312 Knox Road, College Park, Maryland, where we lived until July 1949 when the property adjoining the University of Maryland was purchased by the University for a dormitory. In the meantime, my brother Dallas had moved away from home to seek employment and my sister Virginia had married a naval officer soon after our move to the Knox Road house.

It was at the urging of my sister Virginia, however, that we moved to 4110 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville. She had discovered the Gallatin Street house while house hunting for housing for her own family and described it as an old unique house which might interest us. So it was that my father and mother and I moved to Hyattsville.

Until our move to College Park, my father was basically a farmer, except that he left most of the farming to neighbors who harvested our crops for a share of the profits while he became employed mostly in the Washington area supervising the building of bridges, streets, roads, underpasses, and National Airport. Having retired from this employment

while living on Knox Road, he spent his days in Hyattsville maintaining the property and assisting my mother with daily chores. My mother, a diligent worker, could easily cope with a sizable house, having spent her days on the farm managing a house, yard, garden, farm animals as well as her own children and ten foster children. I, on the other hand, after moving to Hyattsville, continued to work full time and attend George Washington University at night. After obtaining Bachelor's and Master's degrees, I left secretarial employment for professional employment in education as a Convention and Exhibits Coordinator, educational researcher, and grants administrator.

Everyone who lived at our farm had attended seven grades at the local one-room school house. With the advent of a high school in Clarksville, Maryland, my peers and I (as well as our foster brothers and sisters) were able to finish high school.

Fortunately, I was also able to secure a three-year scholarship to St. Mary's Female Seminary Junior College, at that time two years of high school and two years of College. Thus there was no need for any of us to attend elementary and secondary Hyattsville schools. There was, however, a motley crew of youth and adults at "Nannie's house" in Hyattsville, which was not

only a haven for family members but for an occasional paying guest. My nephews Michael and Stephen visited often and count those days on Gallatin Street among their most cherished memories. They loved to ramble around its nooks and crannies and look for family treasures in the third floor pack room. The mainstay of our paying guests was Frank Bowman, an employee of Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission down the street who wandered in looking for a room. Frank rented a room from our family for about 28 years until he retired about two years ago. Another favorite was Mrs. Ella Prince, mother of Norman Prince, Sr., across the street. She came with us for a few years in order to be near her son's family during her declining years.

It seems appropriate to mention a few facts about the folks who occupied our house previously. The Holdens, of course, built and lived there for sometime. We are not sure who followed the Holdens but we do know that Harry Boswell had sold the house to Smith Purdum, a former Assistant Postmaster General. His superior James Farley is reported to have visited the Purdums, upon occasion. We purchased the house from Mrs. Purdum after her children had grown and her husband had died.

Neighbors

It should be safe to say that

no house is a home without the friendship of wonderful neighbors. There we no shortage of such persons on our blocks. Those I remember best were as follows: The Peters, the Asays, the Cannons, the Princes, the Boswells, the Babcocks, the Dashiells.

The Peters at 4114 Gallatin had two sons who seemed to grow up overnight and leave the nest. I remember the Peters best for their kindness when my father died suddenly in January, 1955. They were most gracious in housing relatives from out of town who came to attend funeral services.

Our next door neighbors, Mary and Waters Asay, had two daughters, Mary Ann and Betty Ruth, who were small children when we moved into 4110. My mother became very fond of the girls as she watched their growing up. Mary was not only a teacher but a gardener par excellence. As flower lovers, all of us enjoyed the beauty which her green thumb produced. Waters, the inventive sort, was a great help to my mother, particularly after my father died. No job was too big to tackle when anything fell apart in our house. Most notable was an old toaster which he repaired with a hairpin. That toaster lasted forever.

Our neighbors on the other side were the Cannons, a retired military family.

Harvey and Juanita Cannon at the time had Harvey, Jr.; James; and Anita - all as I recall teenagers. Always ready to help out everybody, they were a great asset to us as well as the community.

Mrs. Lynham and her single employed daughter Eileen lived alone a few doors up the street from us. Quite elderly, Mrs. Lynham seemed spunky and peppy. After her death, Eileen, I think, retired and moved out of the area. (Editorial comment: Can anyone identify this house?)

Norman and Eleanor Prince lived across the street from the Asays and Walters. Eleanor's mother, Miss Mona Bray, who lived with them, was a Southern lady who had taught for many years in private schools. The three younger fry were Norman, Jr., Warren, and Robin, who were either attending high school, or college at the time. Most of the family were in education, including Eleanor who taught Chemistry at Northwestern High School. Norman, on the other hand, worked for a Federal agency. After the same were grown and married, Eleanor and Norman retired and moved to a second home at Scientists Cliff, Md.

Harry Boswell's family hailed from Charles County, Maryland. In earlier years he had been in the grocery store business in Hyattsville with the Carr Bros. From all accounts, the grocery store was rather

unique in service as well as quality. When we first became acquainted, Mr. Boswell's business had expanded to real estate development and other business enterprises. He and his wife Marvette had three children - Harry, Jr., Jane, and Ann who all married around the time we moved across the street. Even so, since the children frequently visited, we saw quite a bit of the family.

Henry and Doris Babcock were connected by marriage to the Boswells, young Harry Boswell having married Marjorie, sister of Doris. Henry was a law partner in the firm of Babcock and Green with offices in Hyattsville. Their children were Barbara, David, and Star. Barbara became quite a legal light as Assistant Attorney General under Griffin Bell and as the first women law professor at Stanford University. Star followed her into the legal world whereas David is reported to have an insurance agency in New England.

At the end of the Babcock side of the street lived the Dashiells. Mrs. Dashiell was a widow with an adult handicapped son, Billy. Billy was always well cared for by a lady everyone called "Miss Nell." There were a number of other folks who lived for various periods on Gallatin Street. For a time there were two elderly ladies whose names I cannot recall. At one time I think there was a Halfway House, possibly for recovering

alcoholics. My mother was quite friendly with a young man who had recently lost his mother. Remembering everyone's name at 75, unfortunately, is not the easiest of tasks!

General Comments On Life
(in Hyattsville)

Although I am now very much interested in local politics, I cannot for the life of me remember the names of Mayors, Council members, and others charged with governance in Hyattsville while we were there. The family rarely missed a vote in State and Federal elections but I for one was too involved with work and study to participate in local affairs.

Our recreation was restricted to family get-togethers and social events at the Episcopal church. I remember no local theater or the bowling alley. There were quite a few activities at Magruder Park which sparked local interest. It was great fun, for instance, to sit on one's front porch to view the July 4th fireworks.

Some of the businesses we patronized have long since disappeared, the Safeway at Hamilton and Queen's Chapel, Baskin and Robbins, the Pepperidge Farm outlet, the shoe repair store at 43rd Ave. and Gallatin, etc. Lawson's Drug Store seems to be the only business still remaining. Down on Rt. 1 things don't seem to be quite as active.

Many small business and the Hot Shoppe have disappeared. A wonderful improvement has been made, however, with the new bridge overpass toward Bladensburg and the expansion of the County office buildings. Both are a great asset to the community.

So if we loved Hyattsville so much, why did we leave it? In 1968, so many of our friends appeared to be leaving. Others were being replaced by property owners engaged in auto repair. Our 13 rooms were becoming increasingly expensive to heat. It only seemed practicable to move into a smaller house in the College Park area, where I now live alone. In spite of this, you may believe that leaving Gallatin Street was for my mother and me quite an emotional wrench. It was here that our family spent some of their more memorable years.

SKARDA AWARDS

The June 11 Society Membership Meeting will include the announcement of the winners of the Skarda Awards, and attendees will have an opportunity to look at the wonderful entries from the school children. A lecture event is planned, but will be a surprise. Hope to see you there!

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

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Information - (301) 464-0590

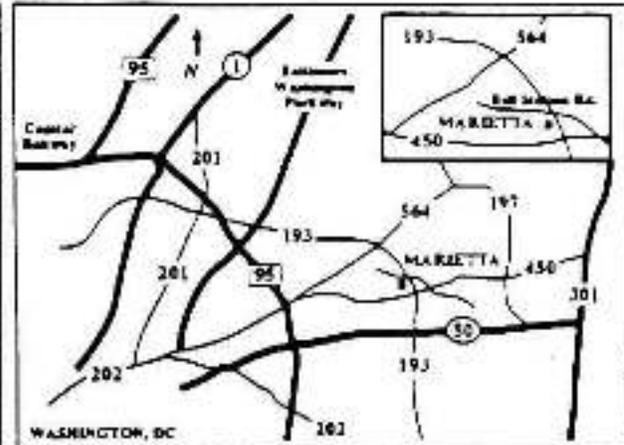
THE GIFT SHOP

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

The Gift Shop is open from 12 to 4 Saturdays and Sundays.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193, near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 1994

OUR 42ND YEAR

VOLUME XXI NUMBER 6

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1994

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SKARDA AWARDS PRESENTED BY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Saturday, June 11, 1994, the Society membership met for the last time before the Summer break. Notable activities included a demonstration (in between the raindrops) of members of the **Marching Through Time** troupe which appeared during the week end of June 18/19 for their encampment. In addition, students from St. Ambrose School in Cheverly were introduced and were given certificates of recognition for their entries in the annual Skarda Awards competition.

The 1994 competition challenged these elementary school students to present projects devoted to the study of public religious, government or commercial buildings in the County. A number of excellent projects were presented, and awards, including County Council proclamations presented by Councilman James Fletcher, were given to the following:

Sam Matics, for his beautifully styled model and essay about the Hyattsville Hardware building's conversion into Franklin's General Store and Deli,

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE SUMMER

JULY 10 SUNDAY, P GCHS BOARD MEETING, 2:00 PM, MARIETTA
JULY 12 TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING, LAUREL
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, SANDY SPRING ROAD, 7 pm
AUGUST 13 PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA, 10:00 AM

which has been opened now for a year and a half and is a Hyattsville institution. Sam's careful attention to detail in his model, which captures the scale and shape of the building and the layout of the interior is quite wonderful. To see the model, visit Franklin's on Route One at Gallatin Street, where the model is on display.

Second prize was awarded to Genevieve Huba for her essay and video describing one of the County's 'youngest' historic structures - the Greenbelt School. Again, careful research and a perceptive approach to her presentation were both material aspects of this project.

Karen Clement chose Addison Chapel as her subject, and produced a video and a separate audio tape to describe the building and its rich history. These projects are developed with minimal input from parents - and Karen's is no exception. She reported, "Dad showed me how to work the camera and he erased the pictures I took of the grass."

As most Society Members know, the Skarda Awards are presented as a memorial to long-time Society member and leader, Donald D. Skarda. The contest is open to all public and private school students in the County in grades 4 through 7, and the judges include both educators and prominent members of the community.

The funding of these Awards, which do include a cash prize as well as the certificates, is generated by the sale of chances to win a handmade quilt executed by Alice Skarda, widow of Don Skarda and another long time Society member. Alice is also very active in the Historic Quilt Association of America, and served as its President. The quilt presented this year, a symphony of green pieces in an historic "Log

Cabin" pattern in lovely pieces of green. The drawing for the Quilt was done at the June 11 meeting, and the lucky winner is Irene Addick of Laurel. Congratulations!! We are privately advised that the same pattern will be used for the 1995 quilt - but in tones of purple. Chances are on sale throughout the year at Society events and at the Gift Shop.

FROM THE TREASURER

We welcome the following new members, in addition to the aforementioned winners of the Skarda Awards, who automatically receive a one year membership in the Society:

**Charles H. Day
Carol Lynch
Clemmer B. Marcus**

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

Unpaid 1994 member dues--If your 1994 payment for member dues has not been received by the Treasurer, PGCHS Bylaws provide that you have been dropped from membership rolls. Please renew your membership today!!!.

Thank you,
Jack Bourne

SUMMERTIME - BUT MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We have given a number of dates in the Calendar of Events Page extending into October. This is because (1) it is never too early to plan, and (2) this is your last newsletter until September and we don't want to surprise you. While Summer is generally a slower time, be assured that those of us active on the Society board and the

Tricentennial will continue to work on behalf of the membership and the County's historical preservation over the Summer. You are certainly more than welcome to join in this effort, attend any meeting, provide any input - in short - be involved as much as you might wish!

I would especially invite each of you to attend the next Tricentennial Meeting to get involved in this growing effort. While I am on that particular topic, let me say that President Joyce McDonald, who "doubles in brass" as the Chair of the "official" Tricentennial Celebration Committee, and nearly all other efforts that happen in the County, has reported significant progress in the development of our efforts. With respect to the celebration, the following significant milestones have been achieved since last we reported:

- ◆ The Tricentennial Trust, our corporate and, hopefully, permanent arm, has been created, bylaws drawn, and the IRS filing nearly completed. In our next edition, we shall detail the officers and directors of this corporation, which we hope will be the vehicle for the creation of our lasting memorial to the 300th birthday - a Heritage Center for Prince George's County.
- ◆ We have a home! The County Executive has provided for the use of the Tricentennial Committee and the Arts Council the small, historic resource school located at the site of Dr. Beanes' tomb, across the pond from the County Administration Building. We hope to occupy this structure by mid-July. We have also secured a post box and a telephone, as well as a part-time staffer, who we

will share with the Arts Council. Letterhead is now being printed and we are moving forward 'with all deliberate speed.'

- ◆ The 300 Club, founded by Bud Dutton, continues to grow - reaching the 20+ mark at press time. These funds will enable the Tricentennial Trust to begin to fund certain aspects of the planning and outreach.
- ◆ The County has provided the first portion of our promised funding, which will enable us to continue the expansion of the Tricentennial Times, and develop a video for use by our Speaker's Bureau.

September Fund Raiser -- You will also see that we have set the date for the September fundraiser. This annual "Prince of a County" reception will be held at **Sunnyside**, the Aquasco home of Covington and Monique Stanwick, on September 24 from 2 to 5 PM. Invitations will be sent to all members and other interested parties next month. Once the home of Admiral Kearney, this home is described in the Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites in Prince George's County: "Built in 1844, enlarged soon afterwards -- Sunnyside is a 2-story, side-gabled frame house, one room deep, which was enlarged and connected to a pre-existing separate kitchen building by a 1-story enclosed passage. On the immediate grounds stand a nineteenth-century meat house and a corn crib. The house was built in 1844 for Dr. Michael J. Stone, prominent local physician and public Schools Examiner. It is a fine example of a mid-nineteenth-century southern Prince George's County farmhouse, and a prominent feature in the Woodville/ Aquasco landscape." The house is located at 16005 Dr. Bowen Road.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Also in September, we will have the annual County Fair, which promises to be unique this year as the Equestrian Center's new building will be utilized for exhibits for the first time. That event takes place, as always, during the week after Labor Day.

In October, we kick off our Fall/Winter season with our regular meeting on October 8, at which past president Paul Lanham has promised an interesting afternoon with Don Smollett, who will lecture on "Ghost Ships of the Chesapeake."

Dusty Rhoads assures us that there will be a Fall Bus Tour and that he will have details about this annual October event shortly.

Our Fall Lecture Series will take place at the new Archives II building in College Park, and will begin in October. Further details will be available in our next edition.

November brings our regular year to a close and we will have our annual meeting and election of officers for 1994-1995.

The Holiday Gala on December 10 is already in the planning stages, with Riversdale again the selected site, and December 10 the date of this festive occasion.

So, you can see that we are continuing to maintain a full and varied schedule for our members. If there are any suggestions about specific topics for meetings, excursions, or other activities, please let us know.

Les Sweeting, Editor.

SEARCHING FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S HERITAGE - THE LOST STANDARDS

Past President Paul Lanham and Historian Fred DeMarr have begun, so we are told, a quest for the lost standards of measures for Prince George's County.

In the 1690s, when our County was erected, the need for specific and determined measures that could be relied upon for trade and business was central to a successful economy - whether a cash-based economy or one where barter was the rule. To ensure that taxes payable in goods, such as tobacco, were properly determined, it was axiomatic that a set of measures was needed.

Governments such as the Colony and the County were required to have in their possession strictly determined standards of measure - to ensure that 'links, chains and rods' used to measure land, hundred weights and lesser weights to measure goods and metal pieces used as currency, etc. were trusted by all.

In her splendid volume, Prince George's Heritage, Louise Joyner Heinton states, at page 17:

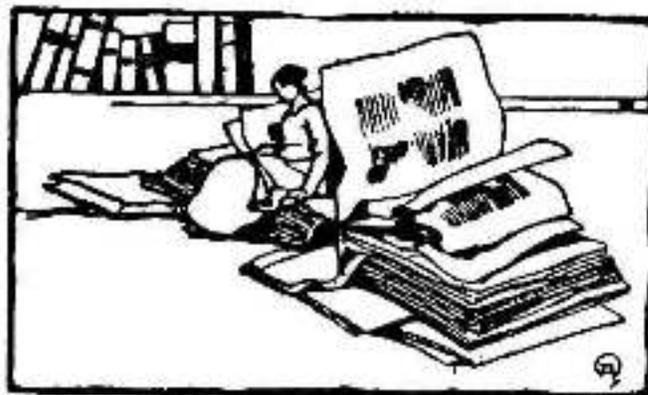
An Act had been passed by the General Assembly requiring each county to have a standard with English weights and measures, consisting of 12 half-hundred-weights, a quartern, half quartern, seven pounds, four pounds, two pounds, and one pound; brass measures of ell and yard; a bushel, half bushel, peck and gallon of Winchester measure; a gallon, pottle (half gallon), quart, pint, and half pint of wine measure; also stamps for marking. Prince George's County seems to have been without many of such weights and measures during its first twenty-five

years. In 1699 Colonel Thomas Hollyday, the chief justice and also a merchant, was instructed by the county court to send for one brass and 13 iron half hundred-weights, a brass peck and yard, also six P's and six G's for stamping. When they arrived a year later, they were given to Justice James Stoddart to be lodged at his house. He was to receive two shillings for testing a pair of steel yards, six pence for testing and marking a peck or bushel, and three pence for a yard or ell. When Mr. Stoddart moved away from Charles Town in 1714, Major Josiah Wilson, then a justice of the county court and also a merchant, took the standard into his custody and kept it for the use of the county. After Major Wilson died late in 1717, it was given to Justice Thomas Clagett, to be kept at the Town of Marlborough.

Mrs. Heinton returns to these objects on page 125:

"The county standard of weights and measures, which had been moved from Charles Town to Upper Marlborough in 1717 was kept by Thomas Clagett until 1727 when it was moved to the courthouse and Lingan Wilson, son of Josiah Wilson who had kept the standard at Charles Town for several years, was appointed standard keeper. Lingan Wilson continued as standard keeper until 1774, when Benjamin Brookes was appointed in his place.

The question is - Where might these objects lie today? As we said, Fred and Paul are coordinating the search and welcome any assistance any one might offer.



FROM THE BOOKSHELF

This month's bookshelf features two very useful, informative publications, issued in 1993, by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Both are modestly priced and available at the 4th floor Information Desk in the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro and both are necessary tomes for local county history/preservation enthusiasts. The broader scoped **HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS PLAN AMENDMENT** is a comprehensive review of the background and planning of the County's preservation/documentation activities. The abstract of book says it most succinctly:

"The Plan describes the current operations of the Historic Preservation Commission as well as those of other agencies and organizations; it identifies current issues and enumerates future preservation initiatives; it includes the revised Inventory of Historic Resources; provides descriptions of historic communities and lists historic roads, cemeteries and historical markers. It also provides a comprehensive listing of preservation organizations and information sources and includes implementing legislation, policies and procedures that have been the basis for the preservation program."

This document has evolved from an updated plan issued in May 1989, to a draft preliminary plan dated November 1990, to a preliminary amendment plan, in December 1990, to the Approved plan dated March 1992 and issued in 1993. It has been revised, fine tuned, corrected and published as a document useful for historians, planners, preservationists, teachers, legislators, educators, tourists, and the general public.

The second, more narrowly focused publication, is the ILLUSTRATED INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES, Prince George's County, Maryland. Once again, the abstract says it best:

"This book presents the 260 Historic Sites which are designated and protected by the Historic Preservation Ordinance of Prince George's County, Maryland. It includes a photograph, architectural description and brief statement of historic significance for each of these sites."

A remarkable teaching/learning tool, this book is divided into six major sections: Introduction and Explanation of Symbols, History of Prince George's County, Heritage Themes, Historic Sites, Laurel National Register Properties, and Archeological Sites. And for the Librarian, such as myself, this tool concludes with an index, a bibliography and a map.

Together, these publications provide, for a very nominal amount, \$4.00 for the Plan Amendment and \$7.50 for the Illustrated Inventory, plus \$1.00 each for postage and handling if acquired from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Staff, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, 20772, hours of educational entertainment. On second thought, they don't belong on the Bookshelf at all but in the car! Congratulations to the HPC Staff and Maryland National Capital Park & Planning for bringing them to us.

Sharon Howe Sweeting

PRINCE GEORGE'S HORSES

Horses and racing are the central topic of the Spring 1994 Edition, celebrating the Centennial of the Maryland Hunt Club, and we have reprinted a part of an article from Maryland Historical Magazine, v. 89 no. 1, pp 74-76.

Racing at Laurel, Havre de Grace, and Bowie did not match the excitement at Pimlico with its Preakness and Dixie Handicap (revived in 1924), but the sport prospered and the quality increased. Laurel introduced the Selima Stakes in 1926 to honor a famed imported mare of colonial days. William DuPont Jr.'s Fair Star won the first running. The Selima developed into one of the nation's foremost stakes for two-year-old fillies and continues to be run at Laurel. At Havre de Grace in 1920, Man O'War, carrying 138 pounds, won the Potomac Handicap. Bowie welcomed Equipoise to become racing's "Chocolate Soldier" for his racing bow on 7 April 1930. In 1927 Bowie's grandstand and clubhouse burned, but the track rebounded by building a concrete and steel stand and clubhouse (it is now a training center). In 1921 Pimlico established the Pimlico Futurity, a two-year-old stakes whose \$40,000 purse made it the richest two-year-old race in the nation at the time (transferred to Laurel in the 1960s, it is still run annually).

During the Depression three horses won the Preakness on their way to capturing the Triple Crown. In the spring of 1930 Maryland fans anticipated the appearance of Gallant

Fox, a horse raised at Belair in Prince George's County--an estate that first had gained prominence in Maryland racing during the eighteenth-century. All reserved seats at Pimlico were sold in advance as a field of eleven took the track. Up on Gallant Fox was Earle Sande (of writer Damon Runyon's poem, "A Handy Guy Like Sande"). Sande had taken a near-fatal spill in 1924 and now hoped to launch a comeback. Gallant Fox's trainer was the same "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons who had first gained notice at Pimlico in 1904. That day Sande called on all of his skill to guide Gallant Fox to a three-quarter length victory at Pimlico. A week later (in 1930 the Preakness was run before the Derby) Gallant Fox also won at Louisville. He then captured the Belmont at New York and the Triple Crown. The "Fox of Belair" later enjoys another distinction; he is the only Triple Crown winner to sire a Triple Crown victor. In 1935, his son Omaha (also raised at Belair and trained by Fitzsimmons) duplicated the feat, except that he won the Derby a week before his triumph in the Preakness. Two years after Omaha, Man o'War's son War Admiral (also owned and bred by Samuel Riddle) outgamed Pompoon, the runner up in the Derby, in a long stretch battle won by a head. War Admiral became the third triple Crown winner of the decade.

In 1939, despite the rain on Preakness day, Pimlico provided an all-Maryland party. Johnstown, the eight-length winner of the Kentucky

Derby, was heavily favored to become the third winner of the decade for William Woodward and his Belair stable. Johnstown led early but faltered as an unheralded horse named Challedon, rallied to win. His victory set off a resounding celebration, for he was the Maryland-bred son of the English stallion Challenger II owned by William L. Brann of Walkersville, Maryland. And it was not just a freak victory attributed to mud. Challedon, despite Johnstown's winning the 1939 Belmont stakes, was named Horse of the Year in both 1939 and 1940. Some veteran observers regard him as the greatest Maryland-bred horse ever.

Joseph B. Kelly

THE CASE OF THE DISSENTING VESTRYMAN

From 1682 to 1777, the Church of England was the established church in Maryland. All taxpaying Marylanders, whatever their personal religious convictions, paid taxes to support the Anglican Church and its clergy. The Vestrymen of each parish were chosen at public election. Sometimes the results of these elections were not pleasing to the Church hierarchy; sometimes even non-Anglicans were chosen. The people of King George Parish, worshipping at St. John's Church, Broad Creek, were faced with such a situation in 1751. The final resolution of the 'cause celebre' is revealed in the documents taken from the Council of Maryland, as published in the Archives of Maryland.

"To his Excellency Samuel Ogle Esq, Governor & Commander in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland And to the Honourable his Lordships

Council

The Petition of the Freeholders of
King George Parish in Prince
George's County

Most humbly Sheweth

That in pursuance to an Act of Assembly the Freeholders of the said Parish met on Easter Monday the Eighth day of April last at the Parish Church (at Broad Creek) and there (by a great Majority) Elected Mr. John Beall jun'r and Mr David Ross for Vestrymen, and Mr John Baynes and Mr John Row for Church Wardens as appears by a Certificate annexed to this Petition, Signed by John Willing Register of the said Parish, and yet you will See from the said Certificate that the Vestry met on the Seventh day of May Last and made a Resolve (after Mr John Beall jun'r Appeared & offered to Qualify as a Vestryman in Consequence of his Election) that no Dissenter hath a Right to bear Office in the Church of England and in Pursuance of that Resolve refused to Admit the said Mr John Beal [sic] jun'r as a Vestryman and also Talk of Summoning the Freeholders to a New Election.

"Now as your Petitioners esteem such a Resolve unprecedented, & inconsistent with the Laws of this Province; and apprehend that the Vestry have a farther View of Excluding also Mr David Ross and Mr. John Row, by that Resolve; which would not only frustrate the Freeholders in their Choice of Vestrymen, now & in times to come, but in a great Measure disappoint their Expectations of an enquiry into the Proceeding Conduct of the Vestry which your Petitioners humbly Apprehend has not in many Instances been agreeable to Law.

"Therefore your Petitioners humbly Pray that a Stop may not only be put to the Vestry's Proceeding to a New Election but that direction may be given that Mr John Beall jun'r may be Admitted as a Vestryman on taking the Oaths directed by Our Act of Assembly. And your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever Pray &c.

Signed by Sev'l of the said Parishioners

"To which Remonstrance the following Answer was preferred

"To his Excellency the Governor and the honourable the Council.

"The Petition of Henry Addison, Clerk Rector of King George's Alias St Johns Parish in Prince Georges

County on behalf of himself and the Vestry of the said Parish
Humbly Sheweth

"That at the last Election of Vestrymen for the said Parish Mr John Beall and Dr David Ross were Elected Vestrymen and Mr John Row Church warden that Mr Beall offered to Qualify himself to Act but Dr Ross and Mr Row never appeared to Qualify themselves and therefore (no objection) was or could be made to them. That the said Mr. Beall was objected to because he was Publickly known to be a Dissenter from the Church of England and therefore could not be Supposed to be a friend to its Discipline But whether the above Objection be a Legal one by the Laws in force in this Province is humbly Submitted to the Decision of your Excellency & Honours Mr Beall not being Content to bring the Validity & Legality of his Election into dispute hath taken upon himself to asperse your Petitioner and the rest of the Vestry with having misapplied the Parish Money or Tobacco that fell into their hands in General Terms without mentioning one particular Fact altho often called upon so to do In view of Slandering your Petitioner (as he apprehends) and the rest of the Vestry Your Petitioner therefore humbly Prays that the said Mr Beall may be ordered to Produce in writing the Instances of the Misapplication (if any such have been) He alludes to in his Petition that those who are Charged may have an Opportunity of Vindicating there Characters.

H Addison

"Upon reading the foregoing Petition of several of the freeholders of King Georges Parish and the Remonstrance of the reverend Mr Henry Addison Rector of the said Parish, It is the Sense of this Board, and it is accordingly ordered that the Vestrymen of King Georges Parish admit the said John Beall as a Vestryman of the said Parish on his taking the Oaths directed by the Acts of Assembly of this Province."

Ed. Note--I found the above item among papers given me by Past President Paul Lasham, but was unable to determine the source of the interesting article. The resolution in the Archives, of course, only tells a part of the story. One wonders whether any further details as to the possible defalcations by the Rector and Vestry and the revolution within the Parish 243 years ago have been unearthed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

- 10 SUNDAY PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA, 2 PM
- 13 TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING, LAUREL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, SANDY SPRING ROAD, 7 PM (ALL ARE INVITED)

AUGUST

- 13 PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA, 10 AM

SEPTEMBER

- 4 TO 11 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, EQUESTRIAN CENTER GROUNDS
- 10 FORT WASHINGTON REENACTMENT EVENT - DETAILS FORTHCOMING
- 10 PGCHS BOARD MEETING, SITE TO BE ANNOUNCED, TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 24 FALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUND RAISER, SUNNYSIDE, DR. BOWEN ROAD, AQUASCO, 2 TO 5 PM

OCTOBER

- 8 PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA, 10AM
- 8 PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING, DON SMOLLETT TO SPEAK ON "GHOST SHIPS OF THE CHESAPEAKE"
- TBA SOCIETY FALL BUS TOUR, DATE AND ITINERARY TO BE ANNOUNCED
- TBA SOCIETY FALL LECTURE SERIES, DATES AND VENUES TO BE ANNOUNCED

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM

and during Special Events

Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration

Information - (301) 464-0590

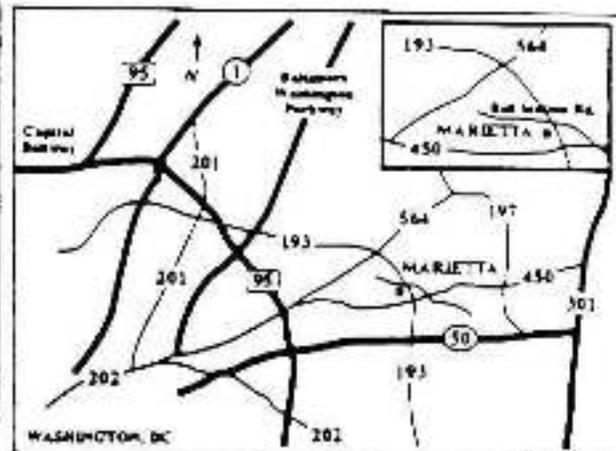
THE GIFT SHOP

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

The Gift Shop is open from 12 to 4 Saturdays and Sundays.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193, near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 1994

OUR 42ND YEAR

VOLUME XX1 NUMBER 7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1994

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THE SECOND INVASION OF BLADENSBURG

Summer had not officially arrived, but the 90 degree heat was there. It was a lazy Saturday afternoon in the village of Bladensburg, Maryland. But then, the quiet was broken by the commotion created by a group of marching men. They did not wear the striking uniform of Wellington's veterans of the Peninsular Campaign who had marched these village streets just eighty years before on their way to burn Washington. Nor were they led by dashing young officers in gold braid, carrying flashing swords.

Instead they were a motley crew of unemployed, uneducated workingmen who resembled professional hoboes in appearance. Their officers were an unusual appearing group. The commander-in-chief, riding in a carriage, wore a business suit and hat. His rimless glasses and close-cropped moustache caused him to resemble a store clerk, rather than a general. The second-in-command was a giant of a man on horseback, in buckskins and with a feather in his hat, resembling Buffalo Bill. Another was a cowboy, lariat and all, straight from the still-wild West. Finally, there was in the officer corps a little old man with a great, long beard and tall stove pipe hat.

IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER

SEPT 18 **Sunday, P GCHS BOARD MEETING, 2:00 PM, MARIETTA**
SEPT 20 **TRICENTENNIAL OFFICIAL COMMITTEE, NEW HEADQUARTERS IN UPPER MARLBORO**
SEPT 24 **PGCHS FUNDRAISER, "PRINCE OF A COUNTY RECEPTION" SUNNYSIDE, 16005 DR. BOWEN ROAD, AQUASCO, 1:00 PM**

BLADENSBURG, CONTINUED

The lieutenants in this 'army' were Carl Browne, 'Oklahoma Sam' Pfrimmer, and Christopher Columbus Jones. Their self-appointed 'General', Jacob S. Coxey, had arrived in Bladensburg with his force, "Coxey's Army," creating as much alarm among the citizenry of Prince George's County as had the British General Ross before him.

It was May 12, 1894, to be exact.¹ The last decade of the Nineteenth century saw terrible time in America. Deflated farm prices and speculative practices on the financial market and among business in general brought the Panic of 1893, which was to be the Nation's worst business slump up to that time. Coupled with the depression which brought business failures and farm foreclosures, there was mass unrest in industry among the labor forces—a reaction to a reduction in wages and layoffs. Widespread strikes erupted, the most remembered being Steel's Homestead Strike, the bituminous coal industry strike and the infamous Pullman strike. Unemployment spiraled. In 1894, the United States Marshals were overburdened and the small, peacetime United States Army had the greatest demands placed upon it since the Civil War.

Against this background of economic upheaval, unemployment and general unrest among the working class, a congenial reformer rode in his carriage from out of the West to Washington.

Who was this man, Jacob Coxey? Forty years of age in 1894, he was born in Pennsylvania. Coxey had worked at various tasks as a laborer until he moved to Masillon, Ohio in 1881, where he purchased a sandstone quarry.

The sand produced was used for the steel and glass industries. With the wealth he amassed, Coxey also raised blooded horses on his farm in Kentucky. Because of his varied background, he had experience as a worker, and Industrial employer and was familiar with the agricultural scene as well. His personal convictions caused him to spend both time and money on social reforms. Although he could be classified as an industrialist, Jacob Coxey broke with tradition and was a backer of the Greenback wing of the Democratic Party. The inflated currency position of the Greenbackers was to become a plank in the Populist Party, whose birth in the 1890s was to give voice to the plight of the common man.²

On a dark night in December, 1891, Coxey's carriage became mired in the rain-swollen road on which he was traveling. At this time he was impressed with the need for good roads in the United States and one of his primary ideas evolved from this experience. Coxey proposed that good roads were a problem to be faced by Congress, and that they should issue \$500 million in notes (legal tender unsecured by gold or silver) to accomplish this task. The money was to be issued at a rate of \$20 million each month and all takers from the ranks of the unemployed would be paid \$1.50 for an 8 hour day. Under Coxey's proposal, not only would the problems of high unemployment and poor roads be solved, but the Federal government, through competition, would force private industry to adopt minimum wage and 8-hour day rules. To gain backing and publicity for his program on a nationwide basis, Coxey formed the J. S. Coxey Good Roads Association.³

¹McMurry, Donald L. *Coxey's Army: A Study of the Industrial Army Movement of 1894*. Univ. of Wash. Press, Seattle, 1968, p. 22-3.

²McMurry, p. 25.

³Washington Post, May 12, 1894, p. 1.

Bladensburg continued

It was pointed out that this program would help the farmers, but not the cities. Not to be outmaneuvered, Coxe came up with his Non-Interest Bearing Bond Bill. Under that proposal, all units of local government--state, county, township and municipal--could issue non-interest bearing bonds, in value of up to 50% of their taxable base. With this revenue the local governments could build public improvements such as hospitals, schools, court houses and city halls, roads, market houses, etc. The bonds would be purchased by the United States Government, again with legal tender notes, and would be repaid by the local jurisdictions from their tax receipts in twenty-five equal installments. As these bonds were repaid, both the bonds and the legal tender notes would be retired.¹

It is believed that this proposal was the brainchild of Carl Browne, chief lieutenant and populizer of Coxe's ideas. The two had met at a Free Silver convention and had taken to one another immediately. They were disparate personalities, Coxe being a somewhat introverted business-type, while Browne had worked variously as a cartoonist, printer, painter, politician and labor agitator. Browne's dress was as bizarre as his actions and his background.² In the winter of 1893-4, Coxe and Browne busied themselves with preparations for a proposed march of unemployed men to Washington, where they intended to present Coxe's proposal to the Congress--the so-called "petition in boots."³

As plans progressed, Browne brought forth another program that was to bring the movement all of the free publicity it needed.

He had strange religious ideas which he called "theosophy." Included in this was a peculiar theory of reincarnation that taught that, upon death the soul entered a reservoir containing the souls of all the departed. At birth, a child was provided with enough 'soul' from this reservoir to get him or her started in life. Browne discovered that both he and Coxe were endowed with exceptionally large portions of Christ's soul, which, of course, was also a part of the reservoir. Just as he and Coxe had been brought together, Browne maintained that other men of like goals would be united in the "Army of Peace" which would march to Washington. Because such a large portion of Christ's soul would be represented in this Army, Congress would be unable to withstand their demands for reform. Coxe accepted Browne's proposal and their organization was christened "The Commonweal of Christ."⁴ Coxe was the general of the Commonweal Army and Browne its Marshal. The newspapers seized upon this unusual twist and the movement was to receive almost daily publicity until its end.

General Coxe issued a call for volunteers for his Commonweal Army, due to depart from Masillon, Ohio on March 25, 1894. Despite his predictions that thousands would join the march, weather intervened and only 100 unemployed workers mustered on that cold Easter Sunday. At the head of the procession was a Negro carrying the Stars and Stripes, followed by Browne, Coxe's 16 year old son, Jesse, and others on horseback, and the trumpeter. Behind Coxe's carriage was another which held his wife and their infant son - Legal Tender Coxe. In front of the unemployed marchers was another bearer who carried the banner of the Commonweal

¹McMurry, p. 26-27

²McMurry, p. 30-31.

³McMurry, p. 33.

⁴McMurry, p. 37-38.

Bladensburg Continued

of Christ. It had a portrait of the head of Christ (which seemingly bore a strong resemblance to Marshal Browne). Below the portrait was the inscription "Peace on Earth Good Will to Men, He hath Risen, but Death to Interest on Bonds."⁸ Bringing up the rear were three commissary wagons, the panorama wagon (bearing Browne's illustrations of the Coxey program) and about 50 members of the press.⁹

The marchers were scheduled to arrive at Washington on May 1. Along the route, which generally followed the old National Pike, the marchers faced many hardships. Inclement weather, for which the Army was ill-prepared, took its toll. The adequacy of provisions to feed the Army often depended on hand outs or the charging of admission to those curious to see the Army in its encampments. (Canvas was carried with the group so that the non-paying public could be fenced out and be prevented from having a free look. Hostile officials and frightened citizenry also had to be reckoned with. Once the Army arrived in an area, however, local reaction usually changed from fear to pity. The extensive press coverage was in a humorous vein. One newspaper on May 1, 1894 announced the arrival of

*Coxey's army of troops, after braving all the dangers of a march to the Nation's Capital through a region notable for determined farmers, unsympathetic sheriffs, and faithful watchdogs.*¹⁰

Although there were desertions from the army, on the march from Masillon, the ranks had

increased to about 300 men, when they made camp in the open at the Brightwood Driving Park off Georgia Avenue on the North edge of the City. The largest single group, consisting of 50 men from Philadelphia under the leadership of Christopher Columbus Jones, had joined the corps at Rockville. Across the nation, primarily in the far West, other "industrial armies" were trying to reach the East to join forces in Washington. The long trip for them was made more difficult by railroads which refused free passage and also enlisted the aid of local officials and U.S. Marshals when trains were stolen. Although some contingents did reach Washington later in the summer, most of them struck out on their own and camped elsewhere because of political and philosophical differences with Coxey or Browne.

As in the case of other towns en route, consternation and fear reigned in Washington prior to Coxey's arrival. Major Moore of the D.C. Police announced that all precautionary measures used at the previous year's presidential inauguration would be put into effect. All trains into Washington were to be checked. Several meetings were held by the police chief with Col. Snow, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate and Capt. Garden of the Capitol Police.¹¹ As the army grew closer it was obvious that the movement was a fizzle, and permission was granted for them to march.¹² Officials realized that the crowds of spectators would present more problems than the marchers. One writer felt that "(the crowd) ... will be a maelstrom around a peanut."¹³ A solitary mounted policeman met them when they crossed the District Line headed for Brightwood Park. Although

⁸Pittsburgh *Chronicle-Telegraph*, March 24, 1894 (as quoted in McMurry).

⁹McMurry, p. 46-47.

¹⁰*New York Times* May 1, 1894, p. 1.

¹¹*Post*, April 28, 1894, p. 1.

¹²*Post*, April 29, 1894, p. 1.

¹³*Times* May 1, 1894, p. 1.

permission was *Bladensburg continued*

granted for the army's march in Washington, Coxe was reminded by the officials that the rules of Congress did not permit speeches and demonstrations on Capitol Hill. Gen. Coxe responded that he was ignorant of this law when he left Masillon, and he intended to make his speech even if he were refused."

The parade to the Capitol got under way as scheduled on May 1st. In appearance it lacked much the same as the procession leaving Masillon, except the ranks had now swelled to about 400 unemployed, including locals recruited by Coxe's agent in Washington. The general's daughter, Caroline, had come from Masillon to ride a white horse in the parade as the "Goddess of Liberty". The press reported the event in its usual derogatory vein.

"The parade was witnessed by thousands of people, but few of them, however, were weak-minded enough to feel anything but contempt for the marching travesty.

"Most of the people, to be sure, looked at the scene with great interest, though with interest akin to that with which a specialist in insanity might regard a new form of the disease."¹⁵

When the procession reached the Capitol, it was faced by the Capitol Police in full force. Coxe attempted to begin his prepared speech and a skirmish ensued. According to the press, "Coxe himself, who studiously courted martyrdom, . . . was careful to shield himself from personal harm behind his wife's skirts and the presence of his infant

¹⁵Times, May 2, 1894, p. 1.

¹⁶Times, May 2, 1894, p. 1.

child . . ." Carl Browne and Christopher Columbus Jones were locked up by the police, "Browne with a damaged head from police clubbing and without his befeathered hat". Jones had attempted to rescue Browne from the police and "the old man's silk hat was jammed over his ears in a jiffy."¹⁷ Coxe later surrendered and a local merchant put up bond for all three of them. The charges were "carrying banners designed to bring the Coxe Army into prominence in the Capitol grounds" and "unlawfully tramping on the grass of the Capitol grounds."¹⁸ The small Populist contingent in Congress protested and Senator Allen (Populist) of Missouri introduced a resolution to establish a committee of five members to make recommendations which would prevent "future outrages". He claimed that all three of the defendants were "assaulted and imprisoned by police when peaceably entering the Capitol grounds."¹⁹ Interestingly enough, the "army" retreated to safety while their leaders were being arrested by the police!

The new camp in Washington was at 2nd and M Streets, Southwest, on what was a dump, located beside an open sewer canal (James Creek). The lack of shade, coupled with extreme heat for early May made the site highly undesirable, although they covered the area with straw to make sleeping more tolerable. The presence of a board fence caused Coxe to immediately apply for a license to charge admission (25 cents) to see the men and hear him lecture.²⁰ Hopefully the revenue would help replenish the larder which had been sparse during the entire trip. Things

¹⁷Times, May 2, 1894, p. 2.

¹⁸Times, May 2, 1894, p. 1.

xx

Times, May 8, 1894, p. 9.

¹⁹Times, May 2, 1894, p. 1.

²⁰Post, May 6, 1894, p. 1.

Bladensburg, continued

were at such a low ebb upon arrival in Washington that Coxe was forced to spend some of his own money to provide four quarters of beef and a barrel of tripe."

Thus we see that the general and his army were beset with multiple problems upon their arrival in the Nation's Capitol. Hostile police, a court case and food shortages faced them. Although Coxe had the ears of some publicity-seeking Populist members and had appeared before one of the committees, Congress largely turned a deaf ear to the army and the principles for which it stood.²⁶ At the outset the D.C. Health Department stated that the camping ground was a health hazard and finally on May 10th the D.C. Government gave the army 48 hours to evacuate the site. Two days later an unprepared citizenry of Prince George's County, Maryland suddenly woke up to the fact that they were being invaded.

Frederick S. DeMarr

This is the first installment of the story. The next installment will appear in the September edition.

FROM THE TREASURER

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

Lucille H. Bond
Laura L. Dawson
Carolyn A. Kemp
Thomas L. Lalley
Carol M. Price

John P. and Sally W. Rankin

and a new Life Member:

²⁶Times May 10, 1894 p. 5.

²⁷McMurry, *ibid*.

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission - History Division

Please renew your membership today!!!

Thank you.
Jack Bourne

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please note the style change in the Calendar of Events Page which now shows eight weeks of activity: (1) it is never too early to plan, and (2) we don't want to surprise you.

I would, again, especially invite each of you to attend the next Tricentennial Meeting on September 26 at the Bob Hall Warehouse in Upper Marlboro to get involved in this growing effort.

September Fund Raiser -- You will also see that we have set the date for the September fundraiser. This annual "Prince of a County" reception will be held at **Sunnyside**, the Aquasco home of Covington and Monique Stanwick, on September 24 from 2 to 5 PM. Invitations have been sent to all members and other interested parties. We look forward to seeing you there.

Also in September, we will have the annual County Fair, which promises to be unique this year as the Equestrian Center's new building will be utilized for exhibits for the first time. That event takes place, as always, during the week after Labor Day.

In October, we kick off our Fall/Winter season with our regular meeting on October 8, at which past president Paul Lanham has promised an interesting afternoon with Don Shomette, who will lecture on "Ghost Ships of the Chesapeake."

September 1994

Monthly Planner

September

- 5** 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM COUNTY FAIR -
UPPER MARLBORO EQUESTRIAN
CENTER
- 6** Sep 6 - Sep 9 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM
COUNTY FAIR - UPPER MARLBORO
- 7** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENELOGICAL
SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 10** Sep 10 - Sep 11 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM COUNTY
FAIR -- UPPER MARLBORO
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM 1814 REENACTMENT, PT,
HOWARD PARK, EDGEMERE
- 18** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEET-
ING AT MARIETTA
- 20** 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM TRICENTENNIAL -
APPOINTED COMMITTEE, UPPER
MARLBORO
- 24** 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS PRINCE OF
A COUNTY RECEPTION
- 26** 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM TRICENTENNIAL
CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE, BOB HALL
WAREHOUSE, UPPER MARLBORO



October 1994

Monthly Planner

October

- 1** Oct 1 - Oct 2 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM MILITARY ENCAMPMENT AT MARIETTA
- 5** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENELOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GIBENBELT LIBRARY
- 8** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- 15** 8:45 AM - 6:00 PM PGCHS BUS TOUR, LEAVE FROM MARIETTA

The **Prince George's County Historical Society** has served Prince Georgians since 1952 by highlighting the rich heritage of their County and promoting its appreciation on many levels. Through its library at Marietta (c. 1813) in Glen Dale, Maryland, the Society offers free use of its specialized collection of books, newspapers, and research materials concerning County history. Society volunteers also lead public tours through Marietta and hold special events for children. Each year on April 23, the Society celebrates the County's anniversary at an awards event, honoring local residents for their contributions to the fields of County history and preservation.

The annual **Prince of a County** reception is a fundraising effort designed to support the Society's goals while showcasing a private residence.

Donald G. Shomette is an enthusiastic diver and avid collector of data about shipwrecks.

Over the past two decades, he has amassed a documented index of nearly 100,000 ill-fated vessels in the Western Hemisphere. Based on his extensive archaeological finds and historical research, he has written Shipwrecks of the Civil War: The Encyclopedia of Union and Confederate Naval Losses, London Town: A Brief History, and Flotilla: Battle for the Patuxent.

Mr. Shomette was Project Director for the first underwater archaeological research project in Maryland in South River off Londontown and for the three-year survey on the Patuxent River which discovered a fleet of wrecks from the War of 1812 as well as numerous valuable artifacts.

He is President of Nautical Archaeological Associates, Incorporated, serves on the Advisory Committee for Archaeology for the Division of Archaeology Maryland Geological Survey, and is Research Associate of the Calvert Maritime Museum in Solomons, Maryland. He is a graduate of the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, and a staff member of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., and lives with his family in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

From the jacket of Shipwrecks on the Chesapeake.

Elsewhere, you will find details of the Fall Bus Tour, to be held on Saturday, October 15. Sign up early as space is limited.

Our Fall Lecture Series will take place at the new Archives II building in College Park, and will begin in October. Further details will be available in our next edition.

November brings our regular year to a close and we will have our annual meeting and

election of officers for 1994-1995 on Saturday, November 12. In addition, we will hear from Betty Carney Taussig, author of the delightful Windfall of Inherited Treasures, a book about the Stones of Aquasco. Copies of the book will be available at the Fundraiser, by the way.

Planning for The Holiday Gala on December 10 at Riversdale continues under the able leadership of Sharon Sweeting.

So, you can see that we are continuing to maintain a full and varied schedule for our members. If there are any suggestions about specific topics for meetings, excursions, or other activities, please let us know.

Les Sweeting, Editor.



HYATTSVILLE REMEMBERED

We recently heard from Claribel Pierson, an old Hyattsvillian now living in Montgomery County, who was excited to learn of our interest in the history of the City, and offered to share her reminiscences during the earlier part of this century, when she was a girl in Hyattsville, living on what is now 43rd Avenue, immediately to the rear of the new Justice Center. While we are putting together a significant treasure trove of materials and oral and written memories, I thought our readers might be interested in the following item from the 1924 edition of The Courant, which formed the yearbook of the graduating class, of which Miss Pierson's sister, Bernice, was a member. Bernice was also Editor-in-Chief.

LOG RECORD GOOD SHIP---CLASS OF 1924

One bright September morning in 1920 we gathered at Pier No. 1 of the wharf of Secondary Education--a restless company--excited, expectant, uncertain, strangers to each other, and to the multitude of seasoned mariners that lined the decks of the three weather-beaten vessels constituting the fleet of H. H. S. (Hyattsville High School). We hurried up the gang-plank and into the ship of '24--which was a much bigger vessel than had ever been launched. When we were aboard she was loaded to capacity. On schedule time we heaved anchor and sailed from the Harbor of Elementary Learning for a four years cruise on the "High" Seas.

As we watched the vanishing shoreline of the grammar grades, and experienced occasional dizziness due to our oral compositions, and cut through the choppy Sea of Algebra, we knew that a great Ocean of Adventure lay before us. Slowly we got on our sea legs and became adjusted to the temper of the waves. We forged ahead many knots when we won game after game in the closely competed contests with our sister vessels. Sad to record, many of our fellow passengers were swept overboard; others were consigned to Davy Jones' Locker, while the whole ship floundered on the Shoals of Freshman Exams. Nevertheless, a goodly number weathered the storms until we dropped anchor in Vacation Port, off the

Point of Sunny Sophs.

Our Good Ship '24 resumed her course in the Autumn of 1921, plying the deep waters of Sophomoredom. It was on the second lap of our voyage that we came to the full realization of the importance of our position in the fleet; and we nobly held our own, on both the rough and calm sea of H. H. S.

One morning, as the bell sounded the forenoon watch, the dangling legs, streaming coat, and grinning countenance of Ralph Powers was hoisted by the rope, and came sprawling over the rail on the starboard side. Since that morning we have never been able to tell how Old '24 ever sailed without him.

Again the White Capped Rollers of difficult subjects tried to engulf us and treacherous Reefs and Cliffs of Tests and Exams to strand us, but the kind Beacon Lights and the ever sounding Buoys succeeded in keeping us in the narrow Channel until we sighted the safe anchorage of Upperclassmen.

Crying Heave Ho! we fearlessly steered our course into the unknown sea and began the third year of our voyage. Accustomed to the difficulties and hardships of this seafaring life, the Scylla of Debating and Charybdis of Athletics were easily conquered. The Abyss of Physics and Whirlpool of Mathematics were forgotten in the dizzy whirl of the Junior Prom! Thus with gay hearts we dropped anchor within hailing distance of the bay of Seniority.

We, the crew of the Good Ship '24 with Skipper James at the helm, and Connie as Firstmate, duly took our place as the leaders of the fleet on the "High" seas. We were now experienced seamen having learned to make and mend our rigging and keep things ship-shape.

And now we near the end of the voyage. It has passed like a dream in the night--these four years upon the sea. Soon we shall reach the fair Harbor of Graduation, only to begin again upon a longer voyage out through the Golden Gate of Opportunity, where "On life's vast ocean, diversely we'll sail."

And may we all good sailors be
As we sail out to the open sea.

Sunnyside

Through the gracious hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Covington Stanwick, their home, Sunnyside, will be the site of the 1994 Prince of a County Reception.

Built in 1844 by Dr. Michael Stone, for his bride, Susan Ann Somervell, the house was connected by a passage, which Dr. Stone used as an office, to a pre-existing outdoor kitchen containing a large fireplace dating from the eighteenth century. In addition to the house, outbuildings still standing today are a nineteenth century smokehouse and a corn crib. A guest house recently constructed by the present owners on the grounds nearby harmoniously blends the old with the new.

Dr. Stone, a prominent local physician and public Schools Examiner, was descended from William Stone, the third Governor and first Protestant Governor of Maryland. Dr. Stone's father, Judge Michael Jenifer Stone, was one of three well-known brothers. Judge Stone was elected to the U.S. Congress the same year Washington was elected President in 1789, John Hoskins Stone was elected Governor of Maryland in 1794 and, Thomas Stone signed the Declaration of Independence.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Sunnyside is a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century farmhouse and is a landmark in the Aquasco countryside. Members and guests of The Prince George's County Historical Society will enjoy the peaceful drive through historic southern Prince George's County to this lovely home.

The Prince George's Historical Society cordially
invites you to its annual

Prince of a County Reception

Saturday, September 24, 1994
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunnyside
16005 Dr. Bowen Road
Aquasco, Maryland

This event is made possible through the cooperation of
The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

1994--FALL TOUR--1994
A Visit to Fredericktowne
Saturday, October 15th

TANEY/KEY HOUSE - Dating from 1799, this Federal Style building was the home of Supreme Court Justice Roger Brook Taney for several years and now houses memorabilia of Mr. Justice Taney and his brother-in-law Francis Scott Key, including a facsimile of the original draft of the Star Spangled Banner poem.

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LUNCHEON at GLADCHUKS -- SEE BELOW FOR FOOD SELECTION

SCHIFFERSTADT - Completed in 1756 and named by its builder, Joseph Brunner, for his birthplace in Germany, this colonial house with two foot thick walls, a vaulted brick cellar and hand-hewn beamed attic, is now used as an architectural museum. An added attraction of the day will be an October Festival of Arts and Crafts.

The price of \$31.00 per person includes all entrance fees, transportation and luncheon.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

**LEAVE FROM "MARIETTA" SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS
5626 BELL STATION ROAD, PROMPTLY AT 8:45 A.M.**

**DEADLINE OCTOBER 7 - NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE
LUNCHEON SELECTION AND NAME/NAMES**

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Please make checks payable to PGCHS
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____ I am also interested in helping the Society
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____ I would also like to join the Maryland
Historical Society. I am enclosing \$25 for
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Our operating support comes from your dues
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support.

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Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration
Information - (301) 464-0590

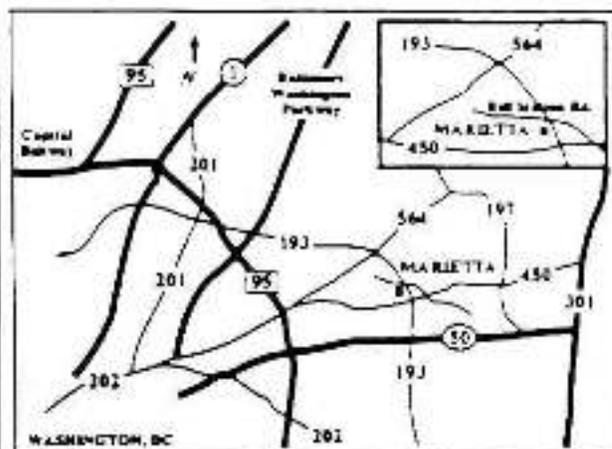
THE GIFT SHOP

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

The Gift Shop is open from 12 to 4 Saturdays and Sundays.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193, near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1994

OUR 42ND YEAR

VOLUME XXI NUMBER 8

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1994

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SOCIETY BUS TOUR SET TO TRAVEL

As mentioned last month, the Society's annual Fall Bus Tour to Historic Fredericktowne departs sharply at 8:45 AM, Saturday, October 15, 1994. Reservation forms are again enclosed.

In addition to luncheon at historic **GLADCHUKS** the tour features visits to **The Taney/Key House**, home of Justice Roger Brook Taney (famed for the Dred Scott Decision), and site of much memorabilia from Francis Scott Key, including a facsimile of the original Star Spangled Banner poem.

The **Baltzell/Loats House** dates from the 1820s and was long the home of the Loats Female Orphan Asylum, now the headquarters of the Historical Society of Frederick County.

Finally, **Schifferstadt**, completed in 1756 and now an architectural museum, will be featured, as will an Arts and Crafts Festival. See you there!

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

OCT 8 PGCHS BOARD MEETING, 10:00 AM, MARIETTA
OCT 15 PGCHS MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 2:00 PM, MARIETTA
OCT 22 PGCHS BUS TOUR LEAVES 8:45 AM FROM MARIETTA
OCT 27 PGCHS FALL LECTURE SERIES, TOUR OF ARCHIVES II, 10:00 AM
PGCHS FALL LECTURE # 2, AT ARCHIVES II, 4 PM

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BLADENSBURG, CONTINUED

Ed. Note

Last month, we began an article by Historian Fred DeMarr on Coxey's Army and the 'investiture' of Bladensburg. Herein, we present the finale of the piece for your enjoyment.

LOCAL REACTION

Bladensburg's sister community of Hyattsville was the first to feel the effects of the Commonwealth Army. Located on the opposite bank of the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River, its beginnings date just prior to the Civil War when Christopher C. Hyatt left Bladensburg to start his own town. In location, atmosphere and influence, Hyattsville deemed herself quite superior to her neighbor to the South. This good environment was, to her inhabitants, primarily guaranteed by the fact that the ample supply of demon rum and bars of questionable reputation had been left behind in Bladensburg.

Thus on Friday, May 11, 1894 the news that Coxey's new campground on the edge of Hyattsville, a piece of property owned by James W. Rogers and his son, J. Harry Rogers, called Little Spa, brought mass hysteria to the town. The public school bell was rung and about three hundred citizens gathered for the 1 1/2 mile march to Parthenon Heights, the Rogers' home in Bladensburg. Along the way about one hundred Bladensburghers joined those from Hyattsville.

Physician and political leader Dr. Charles A. Wells, head of the citizens committee to "wait upon Mr. Rogers", knocked on the front door when the crowd arrived at Parthenon. First J. Harry Rogers and then his father came out to face the irate citizens. Dr. Wells stated that the impending presence of Coxey and his followers had created terror among the citizens, especially the women and children. They were fearful for the latter's safety primarily during the day while the men were away. Dr. Wells asked that the offer be withdrawn.

To this Mr. Rogers responded that his retention as counsel for Coxey had prompted the offer and that he did not see how he could manfully withdraw it. He continued to say that he thought Coxey's scheme in bringing grievances before Congress was visionary and that his sympathy was with Coxey's men. Rogers further stated that his family was with him in his decision. In reply Dr. Wells expressed satisfaction with the safety aspect as long as the client-counsel relationship existed between Rogers and Coxey. Rogers stated that the campers would have to leave the property at such time as this relationship ceased.

The people, in an indignant mood, then withdrew with threats of taking the law into their own hands. Excitement reigned in Bladensburg. The Hyattsville natives called a mass meeting for Saturday night to consider ways to protect their property and safety. It was the sugges-

tion that the best treatment for Coxeys followers would be to incarceration in the Marlboro jail. Col. Wright Rives, USA (ret.), who lived at Rives Station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad near the District Line, expressed the general sentiment in a telegram to Governor Frank Brown of Maryland.

"I have written you Coxeys will arrive at Bladensburg to-morrow. Don't allow this horde to put our property and lives in peril."

A Washington Sunday newspaper appeared with headlines such as "Wealers Move Camp", "Hyattsville Talks of Greeting them With Shotguns", "Coxey Nearly Causes Riot" and "Excitement Ran High in Hyattsville Last Evening". Just as the citizens' mass meeting was assembling, Coxeys and Browne along with a few followers and the panorama wagon appeared in town with the intention of making speeches. A hastily appointed committee composed of Dr. J.R. Owens, L.W. Habercom and H.C. Emmons, with Dr. Owens as spokesman, informed Coxeys that no speeches would be permitted. Coxeys reply that he would speak at any peril almost caused a general fight. All parties were speaking at once and above all Browne could be heard asking if they intended to deny him free speech. The general cry of voices from the crowd was in the affirmative!

Browne was threatened with arrest by Sheriff Dove of Prince Georges County and he was defiant. Another outburst from

the crowd caused him to state that he was a law-abiding citizen! One of the town commissioners stated that they had five minutes to move on, or face arrest, and Coxeys moved his carriage over to the side of the road and the townspeople went back into the hall.

At the meeting which followed, State's Attorney Richard E. Brandt of Prince Georges County was the featured speaker. He recommended the appointment of a vigilance committee to guard the town at night along with a posse of deputies to be appointed by the sheriff. In addition a committee to meet with the Attorney General of Maryland was recommended. Brandt also indicated that Governor Brown promised to send militia if necessary.

Twenty-one deputies were appointed to patrol the streets of Hyattsville and Bladensburg at night and each would receive two dollars for his services. Upon hearing of this action, Coxeys replied that his presence already had some good effect by employing the unemployed of the area. The meeting with Attorney General Poe was set for 10 A.M. Monday in Baltimore and C. H. Welch of the Hyattsville citizens' committee wrote Adjutant General H.E. Douglas about equipping three companies of male residents with arms and ammunition.

On Sunday the members of the army spent a quiet day putting their camp in order. Coxeys was in Washington, but his wife and little Legal Tender were with the men. In the afternoon Marshal Carl Browne

gave one of his famous speeches of four hours length. In the course of this tirade the local citizens received their share of abuse. Local anger increased when word of this speech was received.

Much of the pressure from Hyattsville was relieved when Coxe decided to retreat with his forces to the other side of the Northwest Branch into Bladensburg. At the invitation of the proprietor of the George Washington House, William Gafford, camp was set up in the yard behind the hotel. This area was enclosed by a high board fence which proved attractive to Coxe. Immediately a sign went up advertising admission at 25 cents, women and children half price. The leadership of the movement was housed in the hotel and visitors to the camp caused the bar to do a brisk business, bringing complaints from other establishments of unfair competition.

At the request of Governor Brown, Sheriff Dove visited the campsite and reported that everything was peaceful. He foresaw no future need for civil interference, but ten deputies continued to patrol in each of the towns. The Adjutant General of Maryland responded to the request for arming citizens. It was his opinion that fifteen good men could keep the entire army under control. He further stated that the arming of a citizens' company would be much more dangerous than Coxe's men; and besides, he did not have the equipment. In the meantime the Mayor and Common Council of Hyattsville, without hearings,

discussion or debate, had passed ordinances dealing with vagrancy, public speeches and parades.

It was at this time that Coxe, Browne and Christopher Columbus Jones had to begin serving their terms in jail which had been ordered as a result of the demonstration at the Capitol on May 1st. "Oklahoma Sam" escorted the Black Maria on the trip from the court house to the D.C. Jail. During his twenty-day enforced absence Jesse Coxe was in command.

Just four days after moving, the Coxeites were treated to one of the famous Bladensburg floods. A flash rainstorm put about three feet of the Anacostia's waters over their campground. The preliminary hail storm had beat down all of the tents. The men devoted their efforts to digging drainage ditches to carry off the water. A day later George W. Stegmaier, who owned a farm and tavern on the South side of the Anacostia from Bladensburg, came to the rescue. The area where his property was located, called Highlands, had sufficient elevation to protect the campers from the flood waters in the future. The offer was accepted, the camp moved, and Stegmaier began to do the brisk bar business which had earlier been enjoyed by the George Washington House.

After the initial skirmish in Hyattsville, the flood at Bladensburg and the move to Highlands, the army settled down to a somewhat routine summer. It was a routine marked by citizen complacency and army

and Ohio Railroad detective force. The result of this meeting was that a special train left Baltimore about 3AM Friday, carrying 50 members of the Baltimore City police force under command of Sgt. Gilbert. Upon reaching Hyattsville, the police walked to Highlands, surrounded the Coxeys camp, and placed 102 members of the army under arrest. Most of the men seemed happy to go and three cheers were rendered for the Baltimore police. They were marched back to Hyattsville where they appeared before Justice Carr on vagrancy charges. Unable to pay the fine, each man was sentenced to three months. The train, on its return trip to Baltimore, stopped at Jessup long enough for the prisoners to be deposited in the House of Correction located there. After three months the local citizens were able to breathe more freely.

The Baltimore Sun carried a story proclaiming that "the captured Commonwealers . . . will build good roads for the State of Maryland, notwithstanding Mr. Coxeys bill calling for the appropriation of \$900 million for this purpose was not passed by Congress". It seems that the road leading from the main highway to the prison was in need of work. Superintendent Jesse Moore of the House of Correction indicated "they've been clamoring for good roads . . . so it roadbuilding is their trade, I will let them follow it for awhile". Moore made a special trip to Baltimore to purchase enough picks and

shovels to put the crew to work.

About five days after their arrest, Gov. Brown sent to the House of Correction and interviewed each of the Coxeyites imprisoned there. He indicated that he would pardon those who would leave the state and would arrange for their transportation. In the meantime Coxey retained attorney J.N. Ralston of Hyattsville who questioned the legality of the arrests.

Locally, other scenes in the final act of this strange drama were occurring. The day after the arrest of the Coxeyites, two companies of Virginia militia were used to drive the remaining campers at Rosslyn across the Aqueduct Bridge into Georgetown, thus making their passage home the problem of the D.C. Commissioners. Stegmaier, whose bar had done a thriving business from visitors while the Coxeyites were camped on his property, was indignant over the governor's actions. He went so far as to offer 5 cents per man per day to all of those in Virginia if they would move over to his place. This plan became short-lived when Governor Brown said that any who did would be arrested.

Stegmaier employed three of the Coxeyites who were not arrested to watch out for the equipment left behind, claiming a lien because of rent. The general came out from Washington to pick up his seven horses left behind at Highlands. When the men there attempted to talk with him, Coxeys said he had no interest and that he had spent enough time and money on the

movement. The resulting anger of the men caused Coxey to leave hastily, with his former followers in hot pursuit.

On August 19, 1894, Governor Brown notified the Baltimore and Ohio that he wanted an engine and 2 cars at Camden Station, Baltimore, at midnight. Without fanfare or advance notice to anyone, Brown went to Jessup and told Superintendent Moore that he wanted all of those from the West to be released immediately. The surprised, yet jubilant men, 100 strong, shed their prison uniforms by 3 AM (The road they left behind had been named Coxey Avenue in their honor!) and marched with Governor Brown to the Jessup station. Shortly after 4 AM these men were aboard a Cincinnati train, bound for home, under the watchful eyes of B & O detectives. The Governor indicated that a general round-up of the marchers was adding about 30 per day to the population of the House of Correction. Under the circumstances because of the expense to the State, Brown indicated they would all be sent home in special trains as quickly as possible.

Marshall Carl Browne, who mysteriously disappeared from the camp just before Coxey announced the end, surfaced in Bridgeton, N.J. where he was again recruiting men for the lost cause. "Oklahoma Sam" Pfrimmer, who was with Brown, reappeared at the old campsite claiming that they would populate it again with a new army. Lawyer Ralston was busily serving his client by trying to get a writ of habeas corpus in

the Prince George's County Court although this was moot because of the gubernatorial pardons. A day or two later "Oklahoma Sam" appeared at D.C. Police Headquarters, requesting passage home. The 24 year-old stated that the cause was a good one, but he realized that it was impossible for a few men to reform the government. Obliging the police gave him transportation to Pittsburgh.

The Commissioners of Prince George's wrote finis to this nightmarish chapter of the County's history when they "ordered that a Warrant be drawn . . . in favor of George S. Dove, Sheriff, for one hundred dolls. to pay special Deputies at Hyattsville and Bladensburg".

VI. EPILOGUE

In retrospect, what was the outcome of that fitful summer in the Bladensburg area? Hyattsville returned to its staid role as a town of shopkeepers and government clerks, having two new ordinances on the books dealing with public speeches, vagrancy and parades. Bladensburg continued its sleepy existence, but with considerably less bar business. As in the case of the British campaign of 1814, Coxey's invasion of 1894 caused much alarm and no harm for the Prince Georgians.

On the national level Coxey's programs were to go down in defeat as a part of William Jennings Bryan's platform in 1896. It remained for FDR to adopt road building and public works as a part of his New Deal in the 1930's.

Coxey was the first to march to Washington with his "petition in boots", but he would not be the last. The most well-known of those which followed were the war veterans of the "Bonus Army" in the early 1930's and the civil rights and anti-war marchers of the 1960's and early 1970's. The latter two groups were different in that they were affluent enough to travel to Washington in relative luxury, whereas their predecessors came by foot in poverty.

In reading the press accounts of the civil rights campaign of the 1960's, a curious parallel with the Coxey movement is noted. As usual, the number of persons involved at any one time depended upon the source quoted. There was over-reaction on the parts of both local citizenry and local leaders. Those who led the movements found it difficult to join forces for greater strength because each was jealous of his position and found it difficult to curtail his ego trip. Likewise the leadership had little of their own worldly goods invested in the cause in which many of their followers had placed everything. Congress as a body, turned a deaf ear, but there were in those hallowed halls a few politicians who jumped on the bandwagon to get mileage for personal gain.

The major difference between the two movements came in the attitude of the press. In the 1890's scorn was heaped upon the participants, while in the 1960's the press gave its support to the cause.

Thus ended an episode in

American history on the local and national levels which accomplished at the time. The political philosophies and party platforms which emanated from this movement are remembered primarily by only the historians and the political scientists. But it did give the average person some words for his vocabulary. For since then - and even today - when a motley crew of individuals in a disorganized state is seen, in a derogatory sense they are likely to be referred to as resembling "Coxey's Army".

FROM THE TREASURER

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

MARY S. BROWNE

Thank you.
Jack Bourne

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please note the style change in the Calendar of Events Page which now shows eight weeks of activity: (1) it is never too early to plan, and (2) we don't want to surprise you.

In October, we kick off our Fall/Winter season with our regular meeting on October 8, at which past president Paul Lanham has promised an interesting afternoon with Don Shomette, who will lecture on "Ghost Ships of the Chesapeake." Mrs. Sweeting has kindly penned a review of this book which is reproduced below

Elsewhere, you will find details of the Fall Bus Tour, to be held on Saturday, October 15. Sign up early as space is limited.

Our Fall Lecture Series will take place at the new Archives II building in College Park,

and will begin in October. As this is a newly designed series, and we are no longer working with the Prince George's Community College, there will be no charge for the lectures. Three events have been scheduled. We kick off with a Saturday tour of the new Archives II building, on October 22, at 10:00 AM. We hope that, if you can make this event, you will call 464-0590 to reserve a space, because we need to know how many docents will be required.

On October 27th, a Thursday, at 4:00 PM, again at Archives II in College Park, the second lecture features information about the Archives extensive cartography collection.

The final lecture, which we have tentatively scheduled for November 10, again at 4:00 PM, will cover conservation techniques for archival materials.

Again, while reservations are not required, we would like to have an idea of the size of the group so we can let our hosts know. We want to express our deep gratitude to the National Archives and, especially, the staff of the Archives II building, for their hospitality and help in arranging this series. Sarah Moseley is also to be thanked for a job well done.

November brings our regular year to a close and we will have our annual meeting and election of officers for 1994-1995 on Saturday, November 12. In addition, we will hear from Betty Carney Taussig, author of the delightful Windfall of Inherited Treasures, a book about the Stones of Aquasco. Copies of the book will be available at the Fundraiser, by the way.

Planning for The Holiday Gala on December 10 at Riversdale continues under the able leadership of Sharon Sweeting.

So, you can see that we are continuing to maintain a full and varied schedule for our members. If there are any suggestions about specific topics for meetings, excursions, or other activities, please let us know.

Les Sweeting, Editor



FROM THE LIBRARY

Imagine this reviewer's surprise, whose previous bibliographic pursuits focused mostly on architecture and design and preservation, when a three-dimensional, colorful, historical perception of Prince George's County began to emerge as a result of this column. From Margaret Calcott's **Mistress of Riversdale** I learned much about life in the early 19th century and the difficulties associated with an economy based on tobacco, especially the shipment of hogsheads to Europe and the hazards of shipping during times of war, or peace for that matter. From **Knipe's Lost, a Brother** I met, for the first time, Commodore Joshua Barney, one of the real characters in the book, who patronized Bladensburg's Indian Queen Tavern. And now in my latest recommendation for "a good read", **Shipwrecks on the Chesapeake** by Donald G. Shomette (Tidewater Publishers, 1982), these bits of information take on a deeper, historical hue. The author, who will lecture in our fall series, describes the "Maritime

Disasters on [the] Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries, 1608-1978."

Donald Shonette is a marine archaeologist, "enthusiastic diver and an avid collector of data about shipwrecks. Over the past two decades, he has amassed a documented index of nearly 100,000 ill-fated vessels in the Western Hemisphere. Based on his extensive marine archaeological finds and historical re-search, he has written *Shipwrecks of the Civil War: The Encyclopedia of Union and Confederate Naval Losses*; *London Town: A Brief History*; and *Flotilla: Battle for the Patuxent*.

This volume is fast-paced, highly readable and more than a mere litany of disasters. It is exquisitely illustrated with engravings, many from the Department of the Navy's Naval History Division, and features maps at the beginning of each chapter to assist in locating the shipwrecks whose description follows. In addition to extensive footnotes, the documentation includes a forty-eight page appendix or "Chronological Index to Documented Vessel Losses in the Chesapeake" citing the date, name and type of vessel, and the type and location of each disaster. Every librarian's requirement for a Bibliography and a useful Index is fulfilled. But mostly this volume is about people and their dealings with the vicissitudes of the weather, of human failings, of shipbuilding and mechanical problems, of Wars: the Revolutionary, 1812, and Civil;

and about our forefathers relationship with the waters of the Bay. But for this beginning reader of local historical materials it expands my understanding of Rosalie Stiers Calvert's concerns on whether their hogsheads should be sent to their European agents, or held in warehouses for years at a time, and "fleshes out" a favorite guest at the Indian Queen, the Maryland native and Revolutionary war hero Joshua Barney who devised a "Much Vaunted Flotilla" to protect the Bay during the War of 1812. Little by little, book by book, this visually-oriented reviewer becomes more deeply engrossed in the historical significance of our county and state.

Sharon Howe Sweeting

EVENTS OF OUR FRIENDS

From time to time, we try to mention upcoming events taking place in the area that might be of interest to our readers, even though they are not Historical Society events. We have a few this month that one might consider.

The Prince George's County Genealogical Society will celebrate its Silver Anniversary on October 1, with a gala party at the new Archives II building in College Park, from 1 to 4 PM. Reservations are a must, call 301-249-8640. There will be no meeting on the regular Wednesday night in October for the Genealogy Society.

The newly formed Riverdale Preservation Association has given advance notice of their December 11, 1994 Holiday House Tour. Further information is available from the Association at 301-277-6615.

October 1994

Monthly Planner

October

- 1** Oct 1 - Oct 2 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM MILITARY ENCAMPMENT AT MARIETTA
PGCGS 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
- 8** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- 15** 8:45 AM - 6:00 PM PGCHS
BUS TOUR, LEAVE FROM MARIETTA
- 22** PGCHS FALL LECTURE SERIES #1 AT ARCHIVES II
- 27** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS LECTURE SERIES #2 AT ARCHIVES II

November 1994

Monthly Planner

November

- 2** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 10** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS LECTURE SERIES #3 AT ARCHIVES II
- 12** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Marietta Tours - Suspended Until
Further Notice - Information 301-464-
0590

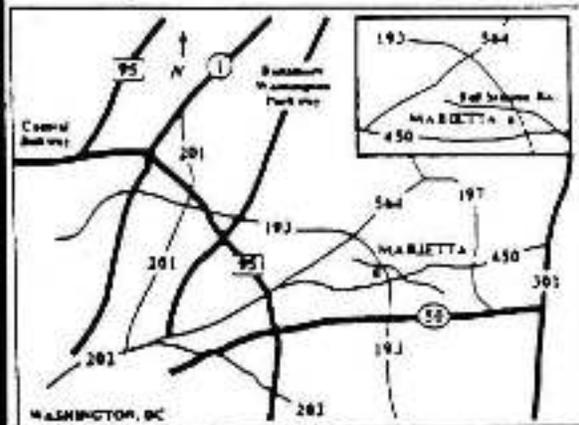
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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1994

OUR 42ND YEAR

VOLUME XXI NUMBER 9

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1994

President - Joyce McDonald
Vice President - John Mitchell
Secretary - Sarah Bourne
Treasurer - John B. Bourne
Historian - Frederick S. DeMarr
Editor - Lester H. Sweeting

Directors - 1994/1995

Eugene B. Roberts
Julie Bright
Sarah Moseley

Directors - 1993/1994

Jane Eagen
Wallis Hall Cain
Florence Riedesel

Past Presidents

W. C. (Bud) Dutton
John Giannetti
Paul Lanham
Warren (Dusty) Rhoads

SOCIETY TO ELECT NEW BOARD

This is to confirm a notice provided at the last Society meeting on October 8, 1994, that the November 12, 1994 Annual Meeting will take place on November 12, 1994 at 2:00 PM. Betty Taussig, who has researched and written extensively on the Stones of Aquasco, and "Sunnyside", her former home, will discuss her book and her stories.

There will also be an all important business meeting, at which three directorships and all officer positions will be subject to election by the membership. Nominations Chair, Sarah Bourne, presented the following slate to the October 8 Board Meeting, and it was accepted without dissent. President, Jane Eagen; Vice President, Eugene Roberts; Secretary, Sarah Bourne; Treasurer, John B. Bourne; Historian, Fred DeMarr; Editor, Lester Sweeting; Directors for the 1995/1996 term, Mildred Ridgeley Gray, Wallis Hall Cain, and James M. Ray; Director for

IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

NOV 10 PGCHS LECTURE SERIES, ARCHIVES II, 4:00 PM
NOV 12 PGCHS BOARD MEETING, 10:00 AM, MARIETTA
PGCHS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 2:00 PM, MARIETTA
DEC 10 PGCHS ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA, RIVERSDALE, 2:00 PM

Mr. Roberts Unexpired Term, John Mitchell. Continuing as Directors for the 1994/1995 period are Julie Bright and Sarah Moseley. Joyce McDonald automatically assumes the office of Past President and remains on the Board in that capacity, along with Bud Dutton, Dusty Rhoads, Paul Lanham and John Giannetti.

Charlotte Powers
 John P. and Sally W. Rankin
 E. F. Rivinus
 Donna L. Schneider
 Dr. Nancy A. Slicner
 Mr. and Mrs. Ted Stanwick
 Owen and Cherylyn Torguson
 Dorothy B. Troutman
 Cynthia Williams
 Sandra A. Williams

We also welcome a new Life Member

Florence Reidesel

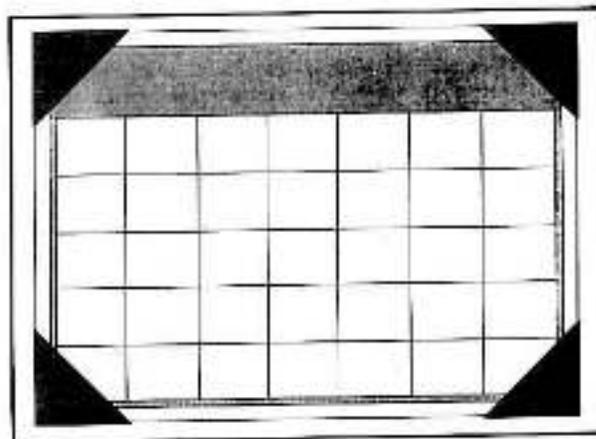
Thank you.
 Jack Bourne

Thank You

FROM THE TREASURER

As you know, one of the main purposes of our Fall event is to increase the size of our membership. Well, this is a banner year in our membership drive. In September, thanks, at least in part, to the wonderful setting, Sunnyside, home of Covington and Monique Stanwick, in Aquasco, and to the wonderful dedication of Wallis Hall Cain, the Society gained the following 24 new members:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Anderson
 Katherine K. Cawood
 Captain and Mrs. Bladen Dulany Claggett
 Mrs. Edward L. Coffren
 Colonel and Mrs. Henry F. Davis
 Mrs. Vivien N. Elkins
 Helen V. Frame
 Jane Gardner
 Mrs. David Gould
 The Honorable Louis L. Goldstein
 Jack Hammond
 Diane Hickok
 Madonna A. Leaf
 Gary Moore



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November brings our regular year to a close and we will have our annual meeting and election of officers for 1994-1995 on Saturday, November 12. In addition, we will hear from Betty Carney Taussig, author of the delightful Windfall of Inherited Treasures, a book about the Stones of Aquasco. Copies of the book will be available at the Lecture.

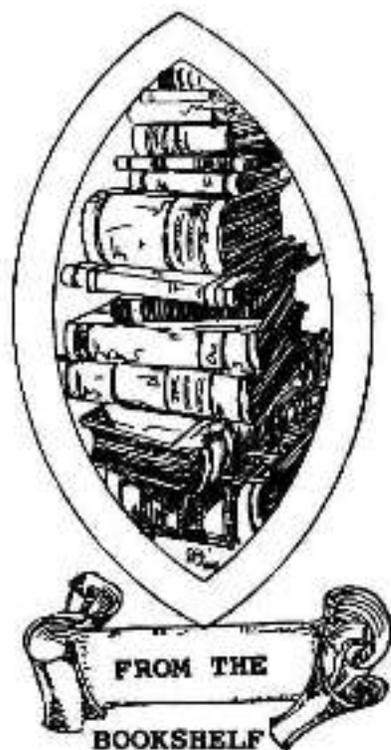
The Holiday Gala on December 10 at Riversdale. All members are encouraged to bring a guest, and, as always, admission in the form of a sweet or savory that is ready to serve (please mark your plate with your

name) is appreciated.

In addition to our Society events, we would also like to bring to your attention two other activities in which our members might have an interest. On December 3, beginning at 1 PM at the Mount Rainier City Hall, Mount Rainier will have its first Holiday House Tour. The following week, on December 11, beginning at 4:00 PM, the Riverdale Historic Preservation Association will present its Holiday House Tour. We wish both of these organizations success in these new ventures.

If there are any suggestions about specific topics for meetings, excursions, or other activities, please let us know.

Lcs Sweeting, Editor.



Like so many old adages, the one that says "You can't tell a book by its cover", or the

dust jacket in this instance, requires closer scrutiny. In this month's selection, the ethereal collage on the jacket, the typography and arrangement, style and appearance of the individual pages draws the reader in. But it is the quality of the writing and the historicity of the text that completely ensnares the reader. Once caught in the web of warps and wefts, the intricate tapestry evolves into a pleasurable experience. Women of Achievement in Prince George's County History by Therese C. Yewell, might have been a mere litany of women, identified in some self-serving manner, randomly and fashioned as women who (to quote Fitzgerald's *Gatsby*) "have connections". This is not a women's book, it is, rather, a detailed and complex book about women--their history, their contributions, and their diversity.

The book presents a microcosm of the history of women not only in Prince George's County, but also in the State of Maryland and the United States as a whole. There are no 'ordinary' women here, not in this book and maybe not at all! These are role models, inspirational women who have contributed throughout our 298 years to make this county what it has become and what it will be in the next century and beyond.

Their stories are told against a rich historical context. Arranged chronologically (for in this volume at least women's ages are proudly disclosed), the early entrants have, of course, passed on--but the patina of the early tapestry is deepened as a result. Diversity is, perhaps, the most common thread. Professions vary widely from the farm manager of 1700, to slave, to church founder, poet, preservationist, educator, elected official, volunteer, wife, mother, judge, lawyer, doctor, firefighter. Various ethnic backgrounds are well represented. Some entrants are well-known, some are obscure, none are uninteresting.

Thus, the reader is drawn to read the volume from cover to cover. That old adage about books and covers and quality does not apply here! THE TOTAL VOLUME IS SPLENDID from dust jacket to dust jacket.

Therese C. Yewell, Frances Hughes Glendenning, Melanie M. Shaw and John W. Rhoads are but a few of the people whose diligence and foresight made this volume possible. They should be heartily thanked and congratulated.

Sharon Howe Sweeting

Women of Achievement is available for \$29.00, plus \$4.00 shipping and handling, from *Women of Achievement In Prince George's County History*, Therese Yewell, Project Coordinator, CAB room 5016, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. Make checks payable to *Community and Ethnic Affairs Advisory Council, Inc.*



PRINCE GEORGE'S ORDINARIES

The following petitions for

licenses at the August 28, 1750 Court Sessions: All for "Ordinaries" the term then in use to denote a Public House:

Thomas Chittam, Bladensburg
Richard Wright, Welch's Ferry
Zachariah Lanham, Piscataway
Catherine Playfay, Piscataway
Benjamin Berry, Upper Marlborough
Elizabeth Taylor, Nottingham
Mark Townley, Upper Marlborough
Cavey Magruder, Upper Marlborough
John Brown, Jr., Bladensburg
Henry Lowe, Broad Creek
Charles Dawson, Piscataway
Elizabeth Brooks, Upper Marlborough
William McKay, Nottingham

Submitted by Paul Lanham under
"From the Pen of R. Lee Van
Horn



Religious Toleration and Maryland's First Jews

The first recorded Jewish presence in Maryland certainly gave no hint that one day the Jewish Community in Baltimore would be sufficiently successful and pious to be referred to as "Jerusalem in America."

In 1658, Jacob Lumbrozo, "The Jew Doctor," was accused of blasphemy for having been overheard to say that Christ was but a man and that perhaps

his resurrection had been accomplished by sorcery. Maryland's much-touted Toleration Act of 1649 which proclaimed religious liberty to all Christians, in fact mandated death for those found to have denied the divinity of Christ or the existence of the Trinity. In his defense, Lumbrozo freely admitted he was a Jew, but claimed that he had meant no disrespect for him "whom Christians acknowledge to be their Messiah."

The Court found him guilty and sentenced him to death, and Maryland's first known Jew would have become its first Jewish martyr had not a general amnesty decree, promulgated as a result of political events in England, freed him 10 days after his arrest.

Maryland adopted its first State Constitution in 1776, when there were fewer than forty Jews living in the State. This handful raised no protest despite the Constitution's limitation of religious freedom only to "all persons professing the Christian religion" and requiring that any who would hold state office must declare a belief in Christianity.

The U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1788, permitted a Jew to hold any federal office, including the Presidency. But in Maryland, a Jew could not even become the doorkeeper at the Annapolis State House. As Maryland's Jewish community grew in size and reputation, attempts were made to abolish the disability contained in the State constitution.

In the end, it was a Presbyterian by the name of

Thomas Kennedy, who successfully championed the cause of Jewish Equality. Kennedy, who had no Jewish constituency, was a state delegate from Washington County who in 1818 introduced what came to be know as "The Jew Bill" in the Maryland Legislature. This bill, the pre-abolition of any religious qualification for holding office in the state, was defeated in 1819, 1820 and 1823, but was resubmitted year after year at Kennedy's insistence. Kennedy lost his seat over it when his opponents labeled "The Jew Bill" an assault upon the Christian religion, but when he was returned to the Legislature in the election of 1824, he submitted the bill yet again.

It finally won passage in 1826. Thirty-eight years after the ratification of the Federal Constitution, Maryland finally caught up with its spirit of toleration respecting the State's Jewish citizens.

Reprinted from an article in the Calvert Independent, July 24, 1987, by Bernard Fishman, Director, The Jewish Historical Society of Maryland.

FAMILY TIES

by Pat Melville

[The following article appeared in *Antique Week*, December 18, 1989, as a reprint from the *Delphi Times*, May 19, 1893. Phyllis Moore, a historian/genealogist from Delphi, IN, provided the information. Pat Anderson supplied a copy of the clipping.]

In the early part of the winter of 1824, two young men clad in the homespun suits of that date, with their mothers and sisters made their appearance in Pulaski County [Ind.] Each selected a 150-acre tract of land lying on the banks of the Tippecanoe river near Winamac. They were James MEISLEY and Robert WALLACE. Each erected a log cabin and each married each other's sisters. In a year two babies were born, but the wives died and the two widowers sought consolation by marrying their mothers-in-law. Two more babies were rocked in the cradles, but the fathers were widowers again.

For the third time they bore the matrimonial yoke by marrying their mothers-in-law's cousins. Again their family cares were increased, and two more little ones rolled over the hewed log floors. Their wives died and the widowers married their mothers-in-law's sisters, and in a year two bright little ones clasped their little hands, and again two widowers solaced each other in their grief.

Again they were married, this time widows and a further increase was made to their families. Their wives died, and in the meantime their daughters by the first wives had grown up to womanhood and married and their daughters were blooming into the matrimonial market.

But Jim and Bob did not give up their matrimonial intentions, and they married again. In 1888 James Meisley died, and Wallace, once more a widower, married Meisley's second daughter, and one child was the

result of the union. Wallace's wife died in 1892, and the courts are called upon to decide what is the relationship of the children of both families to each other. Mr. Wallace says he believes if the right girl comes along, he will marry again, although he is 96 years old.

Many thanks to Susan Pearl who passed the above gem along.

WHAT IS HISTORY?

*Your Editor, regardless of what many may think, does find time to read purely for pleasure, in between meetings of this committee or that. Recently we re-read Leo Tolstoy's classic *War and Peace*, and were interested to see the following definition of History, which may be of interest.*

Absolute continuity of motion is not comprehensible to the human mind, laws of motion of any kind become comprehensible to man only when he examines arbitrarily selected elements of that motion; but at the same time, a large proportion of human error comes from the arbitrary division of continuous motion in discontinuous elements. There is a well known, so-called sophism of the ancients consisting in this, that Achilles could never catch up with a tortoise he was following, in spite of the fact that he travelled ten times as fast as the tortoise. By the time Achilles had covered the distance that separated him from the tortoise, the tortoise has covered one-tenth of that distance ahead of him; when Achilles has covered that tenth, the tortoise has covered another one-hundredths, and so

on for ever. The problem seemed to the ancients insoluble. The absurd answer (that Achilles could never overtake the tortoise) resulted from this: that motion was arbitrarily divided into discontinuous elements, whereas the motion both of Achilles and of the tortoise was continuous.

By adopting smaller and smaller elements of motion we only approach a solution of the problem, but never reach it. Only when we have admitted the conception of the infinitely small, and the resulting geometrical progression with a common ratio of one-tenth, and have found the sum of this progression to infinity, do we reach the solution of the problem.

A modern branch of mathematics having achieved the art of dealing with the infinitely small, can now yield solutions in other more complex problems of motion which used to appear insoluble.

This modern branch of mathematics, unknown to the ancients, when dealing with problems of motion admits the conception of the infinitely small, and so conforms to the chief condition of motion (absolute continuity) and thereby corrects the inevitable error which the human mind cannot avoid when it deals with separate elements of motion instead of examining continuous motion.

In seeking the laws of historical movement just the same thing happens. The movement of humanity, arising as it does from innumerable arbitrary human wills, is continuous.

To understand the laws of this continuous movement is the aim of history. But to arrive

at these laws, resulting from the sum of all those human wills, man's mind postulates arbitrary and disconnected units. The first method of history is to take an arbitrarily selected series of continuous events and examine it apart from others, although there is and can be no beginning to any event, for one event always flows uninterruptedly from another.

The second method is to consider the action of some one man--a king or a commander--as equivalent to the sum of many individual wills; whereas the sum of individual wills is never expressed by the activity of a single historic personage.

Historical science in its endeavor to draw nearer to truth continually takes smaller and smaller units for examination. But however small the units it takes, we feel that to take any unit disconnected from others, or to assume a beginning of any phenomenon, or to say that the will of many men is expressed in the actions of any one historic personage, is in itself false.

It needs no critical evidence to reduce utterly to dust any deductions drawn from history. It is merely necessary to select some larger or smaller unit as the subject of observation--as criticism has every right to do, seeing that whatever unit history observes must always be arbitrarily selected.

Only by taking infinitesimally small units for observation (the differential of history, that is, the individual tendencies of men) and attaining to the art of integrating them (that is, finding the sum of these

infinitesimals) can we hope to arrive at the laws of history.

The first fifteen years of the nineteenth century in Europe present an extraordinary movement of millions of people. Men leave their customary pursuits, hasten from one side of Europe to the other, plunder and slaughter one another, triumph and are plunged into despair, and for some years the whole course of life is altered and presents an intensive movement which first increases and then slackens. What was the cause of this movement, by what laws was it governed? asks the mind of man.

The historians, replying to this question, lay before us the sayings and doings of a few dozen men in a building in the city of Paris, calling these sayings and doings "the Revolution"; then they give a detailed biography of Napoleon, and of certain people favorable or hostile to him; tell of the influence some of these people had on others and say: That is why this movement took place and those are its laws.

But the mind of man not only refuses to believe this explanation, but plainly says that this method of explanation is fallacious, because in it a weaker phenomenon is taken as the cause of a stronger. The sum of human wills produced the Revolution and Napoleon, and only the sum of those wills first tolerated and then destroyed them.

"But every time there have been conquests, there have been conquerors; every time there has been a revolution in any state there have been great men," says history. And indeed human reason replies: every time conquerors appear there

have been wars, but this does not prove that the conquerors caused the wars and that it is possible to find the laws of a war in the personal activity of a single man. Whenever I look at my watch and its hands point to ten, I hear the bells of the neighbouring church; but because the bells begin to ring when the hands reach ten, I have no right to assume that the movement of the bells is caused by the position of the hands on the watch.

Whenever I see the movement of a locomotive I hear the whistle and see the valves opening and wheels turning, but I have no right to conclude that the whistling and the turning of the wheels are the cause of the movement of the engine.

The peasants say that a cold wind blows in late spring because the oaks are budding, and really every spring cold winds do blow when the oak is budding. But though I do not know what causes the cold winds to blow when the oak-buds unfold, I cannot agree with the peasants that the unfolding of the oak-buds is the cause of the cold wind, for the force of the wind is beyond the influence of the buds. I see only a coincidence of occurrences such as happens with all the phenomena of life, and I see that however much and however carefully I observe the hands of the watch, and the valves and wheels of the engine, and the oak, I shall not discover the cause of the bells ringing, the engine moving, or of the winds of spring. To do that I must entirely change my point of view and study the laws of the movement of steam, of the bells, and of the wind.

History must do the same. And attempts in this direction have already been made.

To study the laws of history we must completely change the subject of our observation, must leave aside kings, ministers and generals, and study the common, infinitesimally small elements by which the masses are moved. No one can say in how far it is possible for man to advance in this way towards an understanding of the laws of history; but it is evident that only along this path does the possibility of discovering the laws of history lie, and that as yet not a millionth part as much mental effort has been applied in this direction by historians as has been devoted to describing the actions of various kings, commanders and ministers, and propounding the historians' own reflections concerning these actions.

From section 1, Part Eleven, War and Peace, by Count Leo Tolstoy, as translated from the Russian by Louise and Aylmer Maude, The Easton Press, Norwalk, CN, 1981.

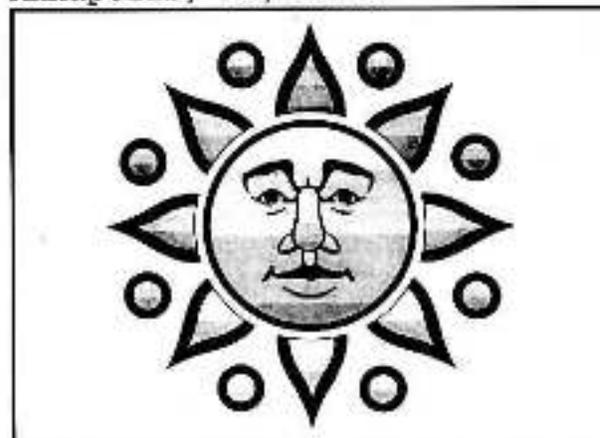
"Sunnyside" had been built by my great-great-grandfather, Dr. Michael Jenifer Stone, for his bride, Susan Ann Somervell, in 1844. The house was connected by a hyphen to an 18th Century outdoor kitchen containing a large fireplace dating it probably to 1740.

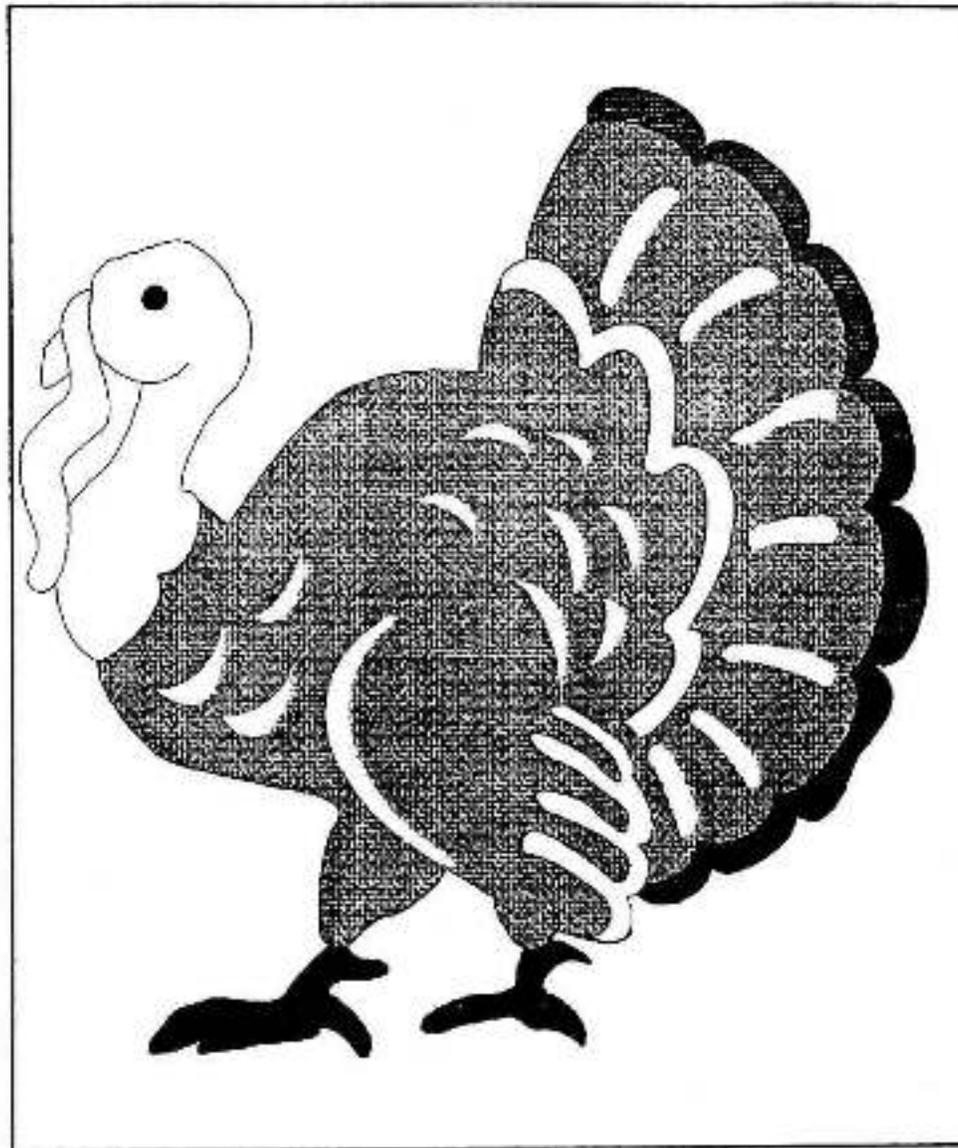
The unraveling of the stories of these two people and the remarkable families from which they came was to unfold history from the beginning of Maryland through their own times.

I cannot help but feel that the story of Susan Somervell's family--the Somerville family is the same as the story of the Scottish ancestors of thousands of Americans if their ancestors came in the 17th or 18th Centuries prior to 1745, for England and Scotland were at odds and it is probable that all Scots in the English colonies came as prisoners and were of noble birth.

So much of this history has been lost, for the British destroyed castles, houses, and above all records during the Jacobite wars and even changed family names when prisoners were sent to the colonies as indentured servants. And here in America the history has been lost after nine generations. What fiber lies in these marvelous Scots who have given us over 50 percent of our presidents, so out of proportion from the tiny Scottish population to our own huge one."

From the Foreword, Windfall of Inherited Treasures, by Betty Carney Taussig, Windfall Publishing Company, Inc., Annapolis, MD, 1983.





November 1994

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- 12** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING



December 1994

Monthly Planner

December

- 3** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM MOUNT RAINIER HOUSE
TOUR
- 7** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 10** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM PGCHS HOLIDAY GALA,
RIVERSDALE
- 11** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM RIVERDALE HOLIDAY HOUSE
TOUR

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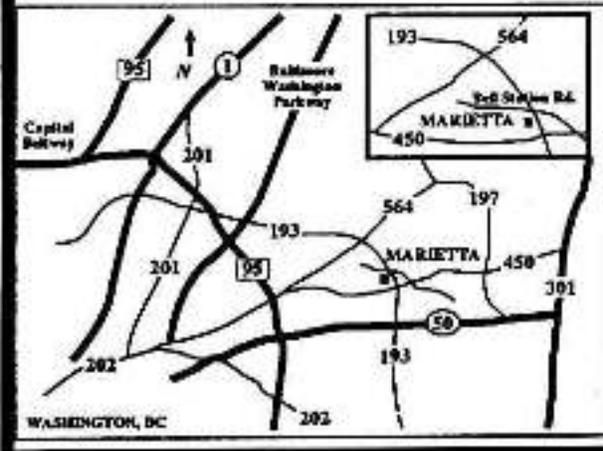
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