



News and Notes

Prince George's County Historical Society



February 1997

Our 45th Year

Volume XXV Number 1

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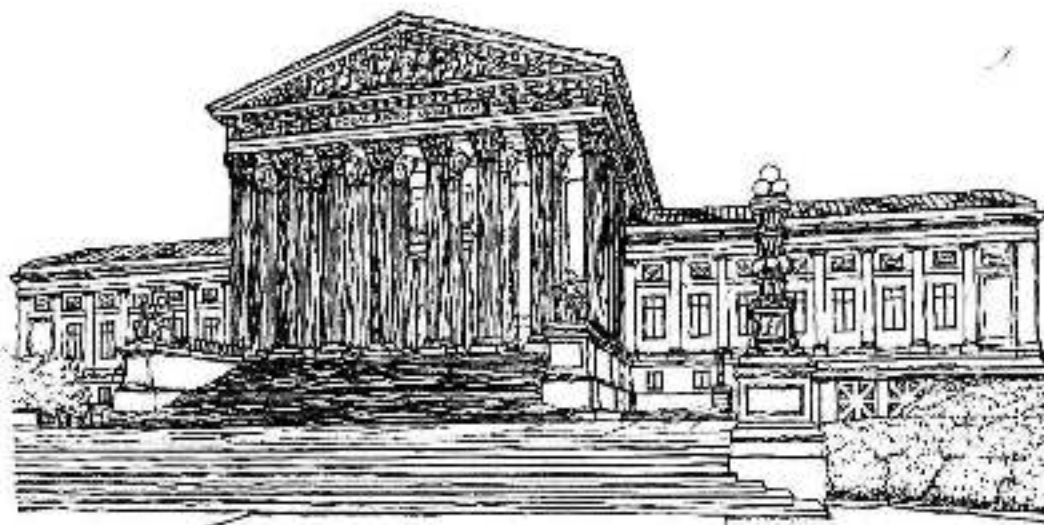


Illustration by **Fred H. Greenberg** from *Washington Itself* by E.J. Applewhite, 1986

JOIN US on SATURDAY, MARCH 8 at 2:00 pm at the **Glenn Dale Community Center**. **Mr David J. Danelski**, Supreme Court Historian, will speak on *Sons of Maryland on the United States Supreme Court: Thomas Johnson, Samuel Chase, Gabriel Duvall, Roger Brooke Taney and Thurgood Marshall*. Mr. Danelski has researched, taught and written extensively about the United States Supreme Court. He will share little known stories and attempt to *undo* some popular misconceptions about these men. We have invited the members of the Duvall Society to join us for this celebration of Gabriel Duvall. The reception following the program will be at Marietta, home of Gabriel Duvall.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Happy New Year. You will notice on the cover the new/old Board of Directors of the Historical Society and an announcement of the meeting on **Saturday, March 8** (2:00 pm, Glenn Dale Community Center) on "*Sons of Maryland on the United States Supreme Court.*" This issue begins with the continuation of a column called *Meet the Board* written by Secretary **Sarah Bourne**. We are happy to announce that the Board member so honored is, **Sarah Bourne**. Further activities of the Board and notices from the *Treasurer* follow. In an effort to meet the changing needs of the Society, the Board has engaged in a series of long-range planning meetings and a day long session hosted by **Eugene and Lynn Roberts** on a snowy day in January. The highlight of these meetings is presented in an article called "*Looking Ahead.*" The article on Queen Anne is from one of our youngest contributors **Anne Carter Bowie Roberts**, daughter of the aforementioned Roberts'.

PGCHS Member **James L. Walsh** of Fort Washington sent the concordance of the old (colonial) and new (post colonial) names of several waterways in Prince George's County. Mr. Walsh writes that perhaps readers would be interested in adding more names through letters to the Editor. I will happily publish such additions. Thank you, Mr. Walsh.

Also included in this issue is a book review I wrote for the Hyattsville Preservation Association *Quarterly* which I thought might also be of interest to members of the Society.

Mark your calendars and see you at the March meeting.

Meet the Board

The secretary of the PGCHS, **Sarah Bourne**, has lived in Prince George's County since the end of World War II. She attended grade school at the old Mr. Rainier elementary school. In that postwar period the public schools in Washington were superior to the local system, so Sarah was sent to Langley Junior High and McKinley High. This provided not only an outstanding educational opportunity, but also an introduction to **Dick Bourne**.

Sarah graduated from the University of Maryland and began to raise a family before starting a professional career as a special education teacher. She retired in 1996 after 28 years of teaching because "she didn't have enough time to do all the other things she wanted to do."

Sarah and Dick live in College Park where they are now working with the University of Maryland Program at Kiplin Hall in North Yorkshire, England. They are the proud parents of two sons, two daughters-in-law and three granddaughters.

Prince George's County - African American Heritage

Harmony Hall Regional Center has recognized Black History month with an exhibition called *Picture Memories: African American Sites in Prince Georges's County*.

This outstanding photographic display was created by Gail Thomas and the Black History Program of the MNCPPC Parks Department and Jeneanne Hunter, Arts Coordinator at Harmony Hall.

On February 4th, the Historical Society co-sponsored a reception at the exhibition opening. The book *African-American Heritage Survey - 1996* was introduced at the same time. This publication, researched and written by **Susan Pearl**, is the principal Tricentennial project of the Planning Department - Historic Preservation Section. Susan is a very active member of the Historical Society and we congratulate her on this latest achievement.

This reception, on a cold, rainy evening, was attended by a hundred people -- a clear indication of a broad interest in Prince George's County Heritage.

FROM THE TREASURER

Treasurer Jack Bourne wishes to welcome the following new members: **Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Fisher, Jr., Judy Soper Keifer and Eve Kinney**. He also writes that invoices for 1997 dues were mailed in December. If a Life member or a member who paid 1997 dues in conjunction with the September Fundraiser wants to pay

Maryland Historical Society dues through the PGCHS at the lower rates, i.e. Individual \$30.00, Husband and Wife \$40.00, simply mail a check payable to PGCHS to P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014, for the applicable amount.

Labels on this issue of News and Notes reflect the year through which your member dues payments have been received by the Treasurer as of February 6, 1997. Please note: If your label reflects "96" underscored in red and your payment is not in the mail already, please promptly mail your payment so a "Second Request" does not have to be mailed to you.

Life Memberships: A gift of PGCHS Life Membership (\$400.00) to a loved one (or even to yourself) not only helps assure the Society's continuance, it says you will be remembered for the recipient's lifetime.

"TRICENTENNIAL"

The final event of the Prince George's County Tricentennial Celebration will be the presentation of "*Tricentennial*" on April 23rd. This sculpture of three larger-than-life horses will be unveiled at the County Court House in Upper Marlboro as a part of the Art in Public Places program.

"*Tricentennial*" was created by **Raymond Kaskey**, a Prince George's County sculptor who has civic works in cities throughout the United States. Locally, his work includes statues at the U.S. District Court in Alexandria, NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring, and the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial at Judiciary Square in Washington.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the Tricentennial winds down, the Prince George's County Historical Society is winding up!

A group from the membership has met regularly for the past year to consider the future of the Society. As they looked at the membership profile, attendance at meetings and activities, finances and the Society's home, several concerns became apparent.

Membership remains a fairly constant figure.

Attendance at meetings has dropped; attendance at events is from the same small group.

Marietta is a good location for the Society and the Library at present, but its future is uncertain.

The financial status is good but would not support an independent location.

As a first step in addressing these concerns, the Board of Directors has developed a calendar for 1997 with several innovations. It is clear that while the regular Saturday afternoon meetings are very popular with a small group, they are not reaching out to the membership as a whole. We will continue to have several Saturday afternoon events, but we are planning others with different timing and format.

On March 8, David Danelski, Historian for the Supreme Court will present a talk about the Marylanders on the Supreme Court. The details of this afternoon appear elsewhere in this publication. It is planned that March of each year will focus on Gabriel Duvall and Marietta. April 20th will be the St. George's Day dinner at Trinity Church in Upper Marlboro.

In May we plan to take advantage of the Peale exhibit at the Corcoran Gallery with a two-part opportunity— lunch / lecture about the Peales and a bus excursion to the exhibit. Watch this space for further details.

June will feature a Family Day at Marietta. Several ideas are under consideration for September and October. More about these later.

In November we are changing from a Saturday afternoon meeting to an evening event with dinner. This will be at a local restaurant facility and will include an appropriate program, probably focusing on the newly opened College Park Airport Museum.

December will be our always successful Christmas Party. We are not changing a *Good Thing!*

The Board of Directors hopes that these events will bring a new way of thinking about the Society and increase participation. Comments, criticism or ideas from the membership would be greatly appreciated.

Submitted: by Sarah Bourne, January 1997

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 1 Board of Directors meeting, **9 AM**, Marietta
(Previously scheduled as selection day for St. George's Day awards but changed because of the cancellation of the February 8th Board)
- 8 St. George's Day selection meeting, **9 AM**, Marietta
Membership Meeting, Glenn Dale Community Center, **2 PM**
See cover for details

Prince George's County Genealogical Society, Inc. Announces their spring "Searching for Your Ancestors" Genealogy Seminar Series. Five sessions from March 4 to March 22 will be held at the Beltsville Library, 4319 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD 20705. For information, call **Phyllis Smith Jensen**, Education Chairman, at 301-577-0688.

Session I on Tuesday, March 4, 1997, from 7:00-9:00pm is called "*How to Get Started and Evaluating Sources and Keeping Records*" by **Shirley Langdon Wilcox**, President, National Genealogical Society.

Session II on Saturday, March 8, 1997, from 10:30-12:30pm is called "*Genealogy for People of Color*" by **Thelma Doswell**, Certified Genealogist.

Session III on Tuesday, March 11, 1997, from 7:00-9:00pm is entitled "*Genealogical Sources at the National Archives*" by **James W. Reep**, Past President of Prince George's County Genealogical Society.

Session IV on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, from 7:00-9:00pm is entitled "*Using Libraries and Archives*" by **James W. Reep**, Smithsonian Series Lecturer.

Session V on Saturday, March 22, 1997 is a double Session: "*Communications: Letter & Phone and Can you Use a Computer?*" (10:30am-12:30pm and 1:00-3:00pm) by **L. Meade Hanger**, Genealogist and another afternoon session or Open Workshop on help with your research problems from experienced genealogists on a one-on-one basis. (1:00-3:00pm)

Gleanings from the Records of The Francis Gasch's Sons Funeral Home, Prince George's County, Maryland, 1860-1940; compiled by the Records Committee of the Prince George's County Genealogical Society, Inc., 1996.

Daniel D. Hartzler, New Windsor, Maryland, writes in the Forward: "I see this publication as being a reference tool to point the critical investigator or just assiduous inquirer to further information. This text provides a definite time period in which more conclusive facts can be derived from newspaper obituaries, last will and testaments, and courthouse records. There are a few unheralded sources which have been of great assistance to me: the *Prince George's County Genealogical Society Library* in Bowie, through the willingness of Karen Duffy Miles and the *Prince George's County Historical Society*, at Marietta in Glenn Dale, through the generosity of Fred DeMarr." Mr. Hartzler goes on to say "I would highly recommend this publication for the serious historian of Marylandia or to just a student interested in family history. This work is a serious effort to close the knowledge gap and expand the opportunities for research."

In the Preface, K. Diane Stultz adds that the original information from the Gasch files was enhanced with death notices, obituaries and stories relating to the deceased. Over a five year period much of this additional information was located in the McKeldin Library, University of Maryland.

The History of Gasch's Funeral Home

Ernst Franz Bernhard (Francis) Gasch was born in Doebeln, Saxony, Germany, on

November 26, 1830. His father was a school teacher; at age fourteen he was apprenticed to a cabinetmaker in Frankenberg. After obtaining a pass from the German authorities he left for the United State arriving at the port of Baltimore in July 1850 with only 50 cents.

"Francis's first work in Maryland was for John Bowie of Hyattsville. Mr. Bowie's home was destroyed by fire, and Francis repaired the furniture that was saved." He married, moved to a house in Bladensburg and later purchased a house just "north of the George Washington House (now called the Indian Queen Tavern)." "The funeral business began in 1859 mainly because in those days cabinetmakers usually built coffins, which Francis did for the people of the Bladensburg/Hyattsville area on an individual basis. Soon, people were asking him to attend to all of the funeral details..." Ernst died in 1938 and today the funeral home is run by Constance Gasch and the fifth generation of Gasch's -- Claudette Gasch and Coni Lyn Gasch-Grady.

Additional preliminary pages discuss "American Funeral Customs Through the Years" by M. Ruth Ingram Stultz. The pages with instructions on "How to Use This Book" describe the variant spelling of names, the handling of infant deaths, dates, places of burial, cemeteries, hospitals, and churches. Like a massive jigsaw puzzle all these bits of information lead to other bits of information.

This publication is available for purchase from Prince George's County Genealogical Society, Post Office Box 819, Bowie, Maryland 20718-0819 for \$40.00 plus \$5.00 for postage and Maryland tax or for review at the Historical Society Library at Marietta

Queen Anne's Life

by Anne Carter Bowie Roberts

Queen Anne was born in 1665. Anne was born at Saint James's Palace. Her parents' names were James II and Anne Hyde. Anne had brown hair and light brown eyes. She did not go to school, since girls did not go to school back then, instead, they had tutors. Anne was never a good scholar. Anne had a lot of books in her house, in fact she had a library in her house. She learned to read, write, speak French, do embroidery (a kind of needlework), play the guitar, dance, perform and ride. Anne was a magnificent horse woman. In 1683 when Anne was only eighteen she married Prince George of Denmark. Anne and George had fourteen children, but only one lived through infancy. He died when he was only ten. As a matter of fact, he died the day after his tenth birthday. His name was William, Duke of Gloucester. Anne lived in Saint James's Palace and later at Richmond, Kew, Whitehall, Windsor and Hampton Court. As young children Anne and her older sister Mary visited France and lived there for a couple of years. Anne was a Protestant, a branch of Christianity that broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. Some of the things Anne was taught were also her hobbies, like riding and performing. Anne became queen in 1702. Anne became Queen because her sister Mary died from smallpox and then Mary's husband, King William III died from falling off a horse. Anne was always strict with her family and friends in a caring way. When Anne was Queen she helped society by being a good queen. Anne did not suffer any hardship because of her work as Queen. Anne had some close friends and advisors named the Marlboroughs who helped her rule the country. Anne had a very sad and lonely life because so many people close to her died. In 1670 when Anne was only five her mother died. In 1700 Anne's father died, the same year Anne's only living son died. Then in 1708 only eight years after the death of her father, Anne's husband Prince George died. Anne lived in the late 17th and the early 18th centuries. Anne was weakened by many illnesses. She only lived to be forty-nine years old. She died in 1714.

Queen Anne has influenced our life in Maryland. We have Queen Anne

furniture, Queen Anne School, Queen Anne Bridge, Queen Anne Road, Queen Anne County and Annapolis all named after her. The town of Upper Marlboro, where I live, was named after Queen Anne's good friends and advisors, The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough.



WATERWAYS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

THEN AND NOW

BY JAMES WALSH

During colonial times, rivers became creeks, creeks became runs, and streams became branches by a stroke of a quill pen. These changes, usually accompanied a change of ownership and a brand new name, have created a confusing genealogy for the waterways of Prince George's County. To help clear up this confusion, I have compiled the following preliminary concordance of "then and now" names for waterways in Prince George's County. It is, admittedly, incomplete. In fact, it is being offered as a "starter kit" for other members to add to until it becomes a valuable resource for future PGCHS members.

NOW (Post Colonial)

Swan Creek
Oxon Creek
Henson's Creek
Broad Creek
Tiber Creek
Covington's Creek
Borges Creek
Henson Creek
Anacostia River
(nee Eastern Branch)
Mattaponi Creek
Swanson's Creek
Notting Creek
North Branch of
Patuxent River
Fransum Creek

THEN (Colonial Era)

Jerome Creek
St. John's Creek
Kosconco Run
St. George's Creek
Goose Creek
Tottehays Creek
Clash Creek
St. Philip's Creek
St. Isidore's Branch

Brooke Creek
Indiantown Creek
St Thomas Creek

Snowden's River
Indian Creek

Source(s): Jourdan, F.G. "Land Records of Prince Georges County , Maryland."

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events
Call 301-464-0591

Marietta Tours -Friday, 11 - 3, Sunday,
12 - 4 - and by appointment -
Information 301-464-0591

THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a wide selection of books, gifts,
toys and small antiques. Open Friday,
Saturday and Sunday, 12 -4 PM and
during special events. Call 301-464-
0590.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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News and Notes

Prince George's County Historical Society



March 1997

Our 45th Year

Volume XXV Number 2

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL ST. GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH, 1997



*Drawing by
Kathryn R. Clagett*

The St. George's Day Awards have been presented each year since 1974 by the Prince George's County Historical Society to honor individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution to the preservation of the County's heritage.

And the winners are: **Susan Pearl** for her *African American Heritage Survey*; **Iris McConnell** for her Northampton interpretation; **K. Diane Stultz** for the Prince George's County Genealogical Society's publication of *Gasch's Funeral Home Records*; **William and Ellen Shipp** for their Locust Grove restoration; the **Western Shore Conservancy** for the Belt Woods Preservation; the **Town of Riverdale** for their *75th Anniversary Book*, and **Daniel Filippeli** as a restoration contractor and preservation volunteer. Tricentennial Celebrations Awards will also be given to the **Prince George's County Government**, **Prince George's County Council**, **Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission**, **Tricentennial Trust**, **Tricentennial Celebration Committee**, and the **Tricentennial Coordinating Committee**.

The invitations are in the mail for this annual event to be held at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 14519 Church Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The Southern Maryland buffet will be preceded by a Social Hour beginning at 1:30 p.m. followed by the dinner and awards. See you there.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

We begin this issue by calling your attention to our 301st birthday celebration and our annual St. George's Day Awards. These awards have inspired many of us to great heights and we feel this year will be no exception. One of our recent award recipients was featured in the Friday Home Report, of the Prince George's County Edition of the Journal on March 14, 1997. Entitled "Labor of Love: Restoration work doesn't faze admirers of historic properties," the article highlights Andrew Wallace's outstanding rehabilitation work at *Black Walnut Thicket* in Baden, Maryland. Next, Board Member Melinda Alter is introduced to the membership. Like Andy Wallace, she and her husband received a St. George's Day award for their restoration of two historic properties in Mt. Rainier. *Riversdale*, one of the County's major restoration projects, will be the recipient of the County's share of the proceeds from the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. A related article called "Railroad Communities" was shared with us by Ann Ferguson, former Board Member, President of the Riversdale Historical Society, Mayor of Riverdale and Chairman of the Pilgrimage for Prince George's County. And last, but certainly not least, we present a series of Letters from Paul [Lanham] who needs no introduction, least of all from me. My apologies to Paul for allowing so many to go unpublished. He is my most faithful correspondent and I promise to "restore" his column.

"States Offer Tax Incentive"

The previously mentioned Journal article describes newly enacted programs in Virginia and Maryland which allow some state tax

credits for "eligible properties ... certified by local, state or national authorities as historic or otherwise culturally significant." In both states, the income tax credit is 10% of eligible expenses incurred in 1997. The article goes on to say that "Wallace's most recent project was Black Walnut Thicket in Baden, in rural southeastern Prince George's County. The 1850s plantation house, which has an 18th century kitchen wing, was a 'wreck' when Wallace bought it in 1989. Over the next 18 months, Wallace virtually dismantled the house, worked out which parts he could salvage and which he needed to replace, and reassembled it. After another four or five years' intermittent work on the interior, the house was fully restored -- and Wallace now wants to sell it in order to buy another historic house nearby." A one-man revolving fund!

MEET THE BOARD

We introduce Melinda Alter who has just began her second term as a Board Member. Melinda is originally from Southern California but grew up in Europe. She came to Prince George's County for educational reasons, acquiring both a B.A. and an M.L.S. (Master of Library Science) from the University of Maryland. Her interest in history and Victoriana through Susan Pearl's publication on Victorian Pattern Book Houses, led her to respond to a newspaper ad for "Two Houses for the Price of One." These houses, one Victorian and one Sears kit house, are located in Mt. Rainier. Both were "fixer-uppers!" She and her husband, Art Garroway, fixed them up and received a St. George's Day award in 1993 for their efforts. Melinda works in the Old Executive Office Building, which she describes as "one of the District's truly great historic buildings." She has two grown children, a

daughter employed by a computer company and a son, employed by Oceanering Technologies, Inc., Upper Marlboro. He is currently sifting through debris from TWA Flight 800 in an airport hanger on Long Island. A grandson and a dog named Rex complete the family.

"Railroad Communities" Host Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage

On Saturday, May 10, 1997 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, the 60th Annual Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage will visit northern Prince George's County. *Riversdale* will be the centerpiece of the tours and Calvert Memorial Park, which surrounds the family cemetery of the Calverts of *Riversdale*, will display a beautiful array of flowers, trees, and shrubs. Homes in Riverdale, Hyattsville, University Park, and College Park will offer visitors an inside look at antique furniture and personal collections cherished by the homeowners who are revitalizing the earliest suburbs of Washington, D.C. Gardens are an added feature at many sites.

Early development of the northern area of Prince George's County adjacent to the District of Columbia consisted of the thriving Bladensburg seaport and substantial homes of historical importance such as *Bostwick* and *Riversdale*. *Riversdale*, begun in 1801 by Belgian aristocrat Henri Joseph Stier, was completed by his daughter Rosalie Eugenia and her husband George Calvert, a descendant of the Fifth Lord Baltimore.

The area of Prince George's County close to *Riversdale* was linked to the Federal City and Baltimore as early as 1814 by the Baltimore and Washington Turnpike, and travel to and from the area was enhanced in 1835 when the B&O Railroad began operation. Although small pockets of

country villages grew up along these transportation routes, there was no significant development here until after the Civil War.

In 1860, the population of Washington was 61,000; that doubled during the 1860s and grew by a third in both the 1870s and 1880s. Hundreds of new federal employees and their families needed places to live, and Washington was not especially appealing because of its high prices, crime, and unhealthy living conditions.

Christopher Clarke Hyatt and Benjamin F. Guy, recognizing the potential for affordable housing located along transportation routes, developed the land along the railroad line in the 1870s. Hyattsville became the first major suburb in Prince George's County. In 1887, the Calvert family sold *Riversdale* and 475 acres of land to New York real estate developers, who surveyed the property, named it Riverdale Park, and offered lots for sale. By the 1890s, College Park was established as homes were built around the Maryland Agricultural College, now the University of Maryland, to provide housing for professors and college staff.

In what is sometimes called the "railroad suburbs," development along the B&O Railroad corridor boomed after the opening of the first electric car line in 1897, and at the turn of the century, the "streetcar suburbs," were born.

Affordable housing, small-town atmosphere, and convenient transportation first drew people to this area; these amenities still exist today and continue to appeal to a new generation of homeowners, who are restoring the homes of the past and present centuries, thereby assuring their survival.

Inauguration of the MetroRail Green Line in 1994 added a new link to this transportation corridor and spurred development that includes "Archives II," the

newest National Archives building; the American Center for Physics; and Riggs Bank Operations Center.

Riversdale is a National Register Historic Site and has been nominated for National Landmark designation. Many of the houses on the tour are listed in the Prince George's County Inventory of Historic sites.

For information and tickets for the tour, call the Pilgrimage office at (410) 821-6922 or Ann Ferguson at (301) 927-6381.

LETTERS FROM PAUL (*with apologies to the correspondent to the Corinthians*)

More on Commodore Barney

The Nov/Dec. 1996 issue of News and Notes reported on the plaid and checkered shirts made by Society seamstresses Sarah Bourne and Julie Rhoads for the Barney barge flotilla sailors.

Should the occasion arise to consider matching sailors' trousers, it is suggested that page 39 of reference A. be taken into account. The item illustrated thereon is described as follows:

"Oarsman's bench: This item has been configured to fit the human posterior, making the laborious duty of rowing somewhat less unpleasant."

On a more serious note, the reference A is an inexpensive but comprehensive illustrated history of "The United States Chesapeake Flotilla." This is but one of co-author Donald G. Shomette's many excellent research publications on Chesapeake Bay history.

--Reference A: War on the Patuxent, 1814, A Catalogue of Artifacts by Fred W. Hopkins, Jr. and Donald G. Shomette, 1981. (Available at the Calvert County Maritime Museum, \$2.00) *NOTE: Don Shomette was a 1996 recipient of our St. George's Day award and has twice spoken before our members.*

B: Sept. 94, News & Notes, pages 9 & 10 review of Shomette books by SHS.

C: August 1996, News & Notes, Joshua Barney's Barge, The Chesapeake Invasion 1814-1974, by SHS.

D: August 1974 News & Notes by James H. Sibreeve (reprinted August 1996, News & Notes)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Some Society members will recall a bus trip of some years ago arranged by Warren and Julie Rhoads to the 63 acre park-museum and mansion in Towson called *Hampton*. Regrettably, the Washington Post of February 8 reports that the National Park Service is in financial difficulties in repairing *Hampton's* roof and air-conditioning. This despite the elimination of the salary of a permanent on-site superintendent some time ago.

Hampton's problems sound very similar to those of historic *Sotterly* in St. Mary's County particularly the needs of both for roof repair and a general lack of maintenance services. Historical preservation enthusiasts of Prince George's County can consider our county very fortunate that our valuable inheritance of *Marietta*, *Montpelier* and *Riversdale*, to mention just a few, are legally protected for future generations to enjoy.

Memories of the Army Air Force

A small but informative publication has just joined the list of significant references concerning county history. Titled Andrews Air Force Base and Prince George's County 1943-1995 *Winning Together*, this interesting publication was prepared jointly by the Prince George's

The Peale Family ~ Creation of a Legacy ~ 1770 to 1870
at the
The Corcoran Gallery of Art
April 26 to July 6

In conjunction with this exhibit, the Prince George's County Historical Society is sponsoring or participating in several activities.

May 1, at Marietta, Susan Pearl will present a slide - lecture about the Peale family and its connections to Prince George's County.
Lunch will be provided. (reservation form below)

May 18, Lillian Miller, curator of the exhibit, will be recognized at a reception at Riversdale.

MNCPPC is planning several bus excursions to the exhibit, scheduled on both week days and weekends and departing from different parts of the county.
(details of reception and excursions in next News & Notes)

* * * * *

Peale Lunch / Lecture on May 1 at Marietta
Lunch 12 PM \$5.00 Lecture 1 PM

Name _____ Tel. no _____
_____ reservations @ \$5.00 each = \$ _____ (checks payable to PGCHS)

mail to - Sarah Bourne 6808 Dartmouth Ave. College Park, Md. 20740
301-277-5468 deadline April 28

DARNALL'S CHANCE UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL--NATIONAL HISTORY MONTH

Saturday, April 19 : "John Carroll Catholic Heritage Bus Tour" to historic sites in Montgomery and Frederick Counties.

Leaves Darnall's Chance at 7 AM, returns at 7 PM. (Optional pick-up/drop off point at Forest Glen, Montgomery)

Cost: \$40. Prince George's and Montgomery County Residents, \$48, for others.

Lunch extra at "The Cozy Inn" in Thurmont.

Reservations required. Checks payable to "MNCPPC". Mail to Darnall's Chance, Box 32, Upper Marlboro, 20773. **Further information: Call 301-952-8010.**

MAY--MARYLAND PRESERVATION MONTH

Saturday, May 3: " Right In Your Own Back Yard": Preserving Historic Burial Sites

8:30 AM to 1 PM. A seminar sponsored by Darnall's Chance and the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc. examining recent legislative advances in Annapolis; "Family Remembrance Week"; development of State computer data base from tax maps; Prince George's County successes in graveyard preservation; the African American burial site; how to restore a burial site; how to read tombstones for priceless data.

Lunch followed by demonstration of tombstone rubbing and tour of the burial vault.

Cost: \$12. each.

Reservations required. Checks payable to "MNCPPC". Mail to Darnall's Chance, Box 32 Upper Marlboro, 20773. **Further information: Call 301-952-8010.**

Saturday, May 10: Marlborough Day Free Tours of Darnall's Chance on the hour 10AM to 2 PM

Friday, May 16: "What's Love Got To Do With It?": The Eighteenth Century Bed Chamber.

Slide Lecture by Lynn Springer Roberts at Darnall's Chance.

Cost: FREE lecture, followed by optional lunch and house tour at \$6.00 per person.

Reserve lunch. Call 301-952-8010.

Sunday, May 18: Walking Tour of Historic Upper Marlboro.

1:00-3:00 PM. Begins at Darnall's Chance, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Dr., Marlboro. With stops at churches, post office, cemeteries.

Cost: \$3. per person, includes tour of Darnall's Chance. No reservations necessary.

County Chamber of Commerce and the 89th airlift wing at Andrews AFB.

Farmland owned by Darceys, Calverts, Pikes and Jenkins close to Long Old Fields and Centerville was absorbed by the Federal Government in 1942 to create the Camp Springs Army Airfield. This involved 249 land tracts owned by more than 100 county families. Included in the area were the historic buildings *Belle Chance* and *Forest Grove Church* as well as the Darcey family burial ground.

Today's base is named after Lt. Gen. Frank W. Andrews, whose initial commission after West Point graduation was as a 2nd Lt. of Cavalry. In 1917, he was assigned to the Signal Corps Aviation Division but his persistence in support of air power delayed his career until 1943 when he became the first air officer to command in a combat theater. Just over three years later and after 6000 flying hours in army aircraft, Gen. Andrews died in an aircraft accident in Iceland.

Today, the 4320 acre Base hosts approximately 26,000 military people and their dependents and is home to 40 separate air units including the not insignificant Presidential Fleet.

The commemorative publication is a praiseworthy one, and a commemorative coin is priced at \$5.00.

OVERDUE PLAUDITS

A regular event of our Society is the memorable annual (and on occasion semi-annual) historic bus trips organized by Warren and Julie Rhoads. Although time has obscured an exact count of these trips, it appears that the October 19, 1996 fall trip to Monacacy Civil War Battlefield was possibly number twenty five of the series.

Surprisingly, this nearby Civil War historic site is not very well known or heavily

visited. Not only did the Union stand here delay the Confederates attack against Washington, D.C. but that delay in turn probably saved the city from capture, as the vital Union reinforcements arrived literally just scant minutes before the attacking Confederate forces arrived at what is now the Walter Reed Hospital area. The commander of the small union force at Monacacy was General Lew Wallace who history notes was the presiding officer of the Lincoln conspirator's trial and also the author of the famous novel, Ben Hur.

That these bus trips are completed so informatively and comfortably is no accident! Warren and Julie scout each trip completely in advance to insure no adverse "glitches." On this trip, a side trip to Gov. Thomas Johnson's home at *Rose Hill* and lunch at a delightful restaurant in Frederick were typical of their efforts to insure a most enjoyable trip.

The National Park Service visitor's center at the Battlefield site offered an unexpected surprise in the size of the civil war literature and materials offered for sale and the comprehensive electronic map explaining the battle; small compared to the famous map at Gettysburg but just as informative.

A point of interest to the writer was the so-called "cucumber pump" at *Rose Hill*. Similar versions of this unique item of Americana are to be found at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, the Dorchester County Historical Society on the Eastern Shore and lastly, in this writer's backyard in Huntingtown.

AN INCIDENT AT THE COLLEGE PARK AIRPORT

Significant of the many "aviation firsts" attributed to the historic College Park airport was the first firing of a machine gun

from a military aircraft on 7 June 1912 by Captain Chandler, commanding officer of the airport. This successful unscheduled test put to rest the widely held theory that the vibrations of a machine gun upon an airship in flight would be unacceptably destructive. Although successful, the Army General Staff saw no reason to reverse the existing official position that military aircraft utilization had no future except as an intelligence scouting medium!

Older residents of College Park will well recall the Goldfish Lakes, a commercial enterprise in the Lakeland area on the north side of the airport dating back to the turn of the century. These lakes ultimately formed the basis for the beautiful Artemesia lake created at the time of the recent METRO construction.

Contemporary accounts of the firing test relate that Lt. Col. I.N. Lewis, Coast artillery, USA, had developed the world's first aerial machine gun (the so-called Lewis air-cooled, 30 cal) and had hand carried the weapon to College Park for an unofficial unscheduled in-flight test. Capt. Chandler enthusiastically nominated himself as the weapon operator with a Lt. Milling as pilot for the test.

The weapon was mounted on the air frame between the operators legs pointing downward at 45 degrees. Such mounting precluded any immediate observation of bullet impacts on a 6 foot by 7 foot target. Accordingly, Capt. Chandler augmented the target firings by flying over the aforementioned Goldfish Lakes and firing into the Lakes so as to observe the splash patterns of this new weapon.

On the ground, observers were panicked by the unexpected firings into Goldfish Lakes; the concern being that an unreliable trigger mechanism on the experimental gun would cause casualties as the plane landed. A grand rush for the

protective portals of the hanger promptly resulted!

Ultimately, the Lewis Machine Gun so proved itself as an aircraft weapon that ten of the twelve German Zeppelins shot down over London in WWI were officially attributed to the Lewis firing incendiary bullets into the Hydrogen filled German air ships. Official records are silent however as to the rapid race for cover at College park airport on 7 June 1912 occasioned by the world's first aerial machine gun.

The Machine Gun. Vol. 1, by Lt. Col. George M. Chinn, USMC. A Navy Bureau of Ordinance publications, 1951.

History and Development of the City of College Park, Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt and Adjacent Areas by T. Raymond Burch, Sept. 2, 1965.

NEWS FROM THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

On Wednesday, April 2, 1997 at 7:00pm in the Greenbelt Public Library, 11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, the Prince George's County Genealogical Society will host Nichole Mattox of "Creative Memories." Her topic will be "Preservation and Presentation of Photographs." Contact: Mary Moien, Publicity Chairman, 6 Woodland Way, Greenbelt, 20770. Telephone (301) 474-4713 (before 6 pm).

Also on Wednesday, May 7, 1997 at 7 pm in the Greenbelt Public Library the same organization will feature Hanna Szczepanowska, Preservationist at the Maryland Hall of Records in Annapolis speaking on "Preservation of Documents."

BILLINGSLEY MANOR in Upper Marlboro is offering house tours on the 3rd Sunday of each month from February to June. Fee. Call (301) 627-0730 for info.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April, 1997 **Marietta** - "Is Madam at Home" a look at 19th century calling/visiting procedures." Continues through May 30.
- April 2 **Prince George's Genealogical Society Meeting** - 7:00 PM Greenbelt Library - *Nicole Mattox of Creative Memories* speaks on Preservation and Presentation of Photographs
- April 12-13 **Marching Thru Time Marietta Encapment** - 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- April 20 **St. George's Day Dinner** Trinity Church in Upper Marlboro 1:30 PM.
- May 1 **Luncheon/Lecture** "Prince George's Connections to the Peale Portraits - Bus Trip to the Corcoran Gallery to view the Peale Exhibit. **Marietta, Lunch at Noon,** Lecture at 1:00. See flier for details.
- May 4 **Marietta** May Day Celebration - Native Plants of Prince George's County on Sale Noon to 4:00 PM
- May 10 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage comes to Northern Prince George's County. 1:00 PM begin at Riversdale.
- May 18 Historic Hyattsville House Tour, 4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville. 1:00 to 5:00.
- June 1997 **Marietta** Exhibit "Dueling in Maryland" Through August 31.
- June 14 **Marietta** Attic Book Sale - AM
2:00 PM Membership Meeting - Presentation of the Skarda Awards. Old Fashioned Games for young and old - throughout the day.
- June 15 **Marietta** **Children's Old Fashioned Games - Noon to 4:00 PM**

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Call 301-464-0590

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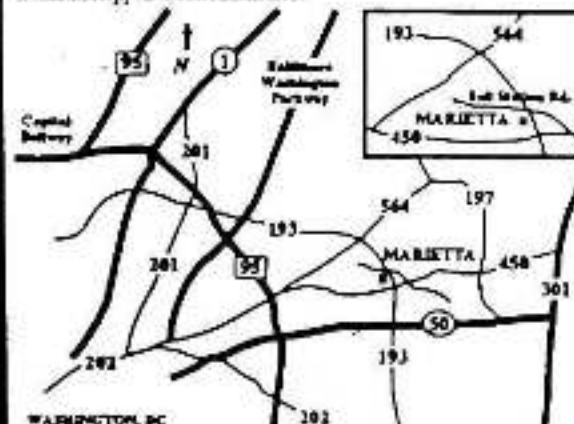
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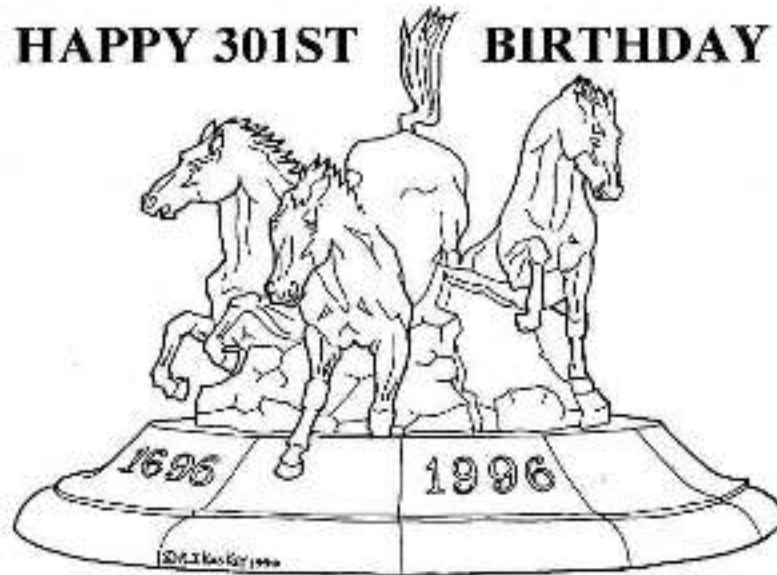
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Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.



HAPPY 301ST BIRTHDAY

*Tricentennial*

Published with permission
of Raymond Kaskey

Prince George's County, Maryland, April 23

Today, at 3:00 pm, Prince George's County Executive Wayne K. Curry unveiled *Tricentennial* by Brentwood artist **Raymond Kaskey**. The *Washington Post* of Thursday, February 6, 1997, reported on an exhibition of Kaskey's bronze and plaster models at the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center in Laurel. It closed on February 25. We have an extension on that closure now on view at the main entrance to the Court House in Upper Marlboro.

Kaskey, trained in modernist architecture, turned to figurative art in 1976 and received his first major commission in 1982 to design *Portlandia* for Portland, Oregon's public services building. The *Post* notes that "Since that breakthrough, Kaskey has won 17 major public commissions." The statue was commissioned by the county's Art in Public Places Program in 1991.

On Thursday, April 10, the *Post* further reported that the statue was cast at Laran Bronze foundry in Chester, Pennsylvania. It measures 11 feet from "hoof to upraised tail" and "captures the horses in various poses, charging ahead and holding their power in check. Each represents a century in the county's history."

And with this exuberant launch, we begin another year.

Welcome to New Member

M. Jean Speicher

The Treasurer also reported to the Board of Directors that 35 members were removed from the membership file because they did not pay their 1997 dues. This action is required by the Bylaws.

St. George's Day 1997

Historic Trinity Episcopal Church fellowship hall in Upper Marlboro was the setting for celebrating the 301st birthday of our county. It was a clear, sunny afternoon when one hundred Society members and guests gathered to dine and to pay tribute to those who have made significant contributions to Prince George's County heritage.

Vice-president **Gene Roberts** reviewed the Tricentennial year and recognized the organizations that played vital roles in the year-long celebrations. Three of the groups: the Tricentennial Celebration Citizens Committee; the Tricentennial Trust and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee, were populated mainly by members of the PGCHS. In accepting the award for the Celebration Committee, **Tim Maloney** paid tribute to the importance of the grass root effort that preceded the official committee appointments. Following the awards presentation, **Barbara Funk** (representing MNCPPC) confessed that she was sorry to see the Tricentennial end. Although she and her staff had worked extremely hard, she had met with so many new people that it was kind of a *let down now*.

The annual awards for outstanding efforts in preservation were presented to **The Western Shore Conservancy** for its role in

saving the Seton Belt Woods and the **75th Anniversary Committee of Riverdale** for the celebration and the anniversary history of the town. Individual awards were presented to **Diane Stultz** for gathering the records of The Francis Gasch's Sons Funeral Home in Hyattsville; **Susan Pearl** for her definitive Survey of African American Sites in the county; **Daniel Filippelli** for his many volunteer hours sharing his expertise in renovation of historic properties; **Iris McConnell** for gleaning family records to develop an interpretive project for the slave quarters at Northampton and the **Shipp** family of Locust Grove for the sensitive restoration of it into a family home. This particular concept was emphasized by the presence of their two charming young daughters to *help* accept the award. A surprise award was presented to **Wallis Cain** for her continuing work within PGCHS as a many-times chairman of St. George's Day and the Prince of a County Reception and developing a broader membership base for the Society.

The afternoon was enjoyed by all and we thank **Kathryn Clagett** and **Wallis Cain** for organizing the dinner. Submitted by Sarah Bourne.

Excerpts from Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, April 12, 1997

The Mad Hatter Tea Party on March 22 was an outstanding success. There were 90 guests (large and small) and a good time was had by everyone. The kitchen staff included: **Sarah Bourne, Sharon and Lester Sweeting, Dusty and Julie Rhoads, Lynn Roberts, and Wallis Cain**. This staff baked, spread and washed dishes from 10am to 5pm.

Reports were received related to the Peale Luncheon, Lecture and Exhibit Reception. Further details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

The annual Preservation Week Reception will be held at Riversdale on May 10 following the Maryland Pilgrimage.

MEET THE BOARD

The newest member of the Board of Directors is a true Marylander, **Phyllis Herndon**. She grew up in University Park in the same house where she and her husband, Bill, reside.

Phyllis and Bill are both University of Maryland graduates and have been active in Alumni activities. They have a son and a daughter and three grandsons. Among the high points of their family life were the four years they lived in Bangkok.

A long time PGCHS member, Phyllis has devoted most of her volunteer time to the DAR at the state level and to the P.E.O. Sisterhood, an organization devoted to assisting women in achieving their educational goals. She is presently completing a major office in P.E.O. and has agreed to fill the gap by assuming the newly created Historical Society board position as chairman for membership development.

We welcome Phyllis to the Board and appreciate the commitment that she has made to The Society.

"Hail! Prince George's!"

The "Prince Georgian" October 13, 1939 Special 12-page edition and William (Billy) Moore's 1939 Diary are fertile sources for a short tribute to Mr. Moore who wrote the music for the County's official song in cooperation with C. Frederick Orton who wrote the words. Both were long-time Hyattsville residents and collaborators on other musical compositions.

On October 14, 1939, after a grand parade from the Hyattsville Guard Armory to the new County Service Building, Governor Herbert R. O'Connor and so many other important people, listing them might be distracting, conducted the dedication ceremony of the new building. The hours-long program included recognition of Messrs. Moore and Orton as winners of the competition sponsored by the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Evelyn Randall, soprano, sang the song accompanied by the 60-members Washington Gas Light Company Employee's Band. Harlan Randall led the throng in singing two verses of the song.

Mr. Moore was born in Philadelphia April 10, 1895, moved to Hyattsville with his wife, Alice in 1920 and bought a roomy home on a large lot on what is now called Farragut Street near Magruder Park (William Pinkney Magruder died July 16, 1939 at age 82). He retired as Music Critic of the Washington Times-Herald in the late 1930s and as Editor of the Prince George's Post in the 1950s. The Moores had no children but they were active in the community: the Pinkney Memorial Church; its Choir, Sunday School and he in its Men's Club. Alice taught science at Dennison Vocational School located in northwest D.C.

He was an avid gardener (tulip bulbs were \$1.78 per hundred) and his favorite bird was the Wood Thrush. They often dined and visited with neighbors and frequently were hosts to same. Among their close friends and neighbors were Chestnut, Glaze, Naylor, Herring, Hurley, Orton, Hampshire, Vermeman, MacFadden, Albee, Crawford, Correlle, Burroughs, Teal, Perdue, Dr. Latimer, Owings, Hall, Fuller, Thompson, Gasch., Banes, Anglin, Reeside, Brown, Keir, Glasgow, Magruder, Lanhardt, Gude, Leakin, Rev. Ribble, Wilcox, Frey, Jarrell, Dr. Deitz, Cogar, Fisher, Day, Tull, Somers, Boswell, Dudrow, and the Lyons families.

The barn behind the house sometimes served as a social center. Ladies, dressed in formal attire, and their husbands climbed a vertical stair to the loft where they danced. Moore maintained a lily pond, a fifty-foot rose garden and he often repainted interior rooms. On October 5, he picked a quart of mushrooms from the Adventist Church yard. Aside from the aforementioned activities, Moore followed news events closely, e.g. the Chilean earthquake, the wars in Spain and in Europe, the rapidly rising securities prices, President Roosevelt's declaration of U.S.A. neutrality and his "New Deal Thanksgiving Day" proclamation, advancing the traditional feast a week -- rejected by twenty eight states.

The Moore's attended important community gatherings such as: Historical Society formation, Citizens of West Hyattsville protesting the proposed apartment project to be built on the Czarra Estate tract opposite Magruder Park and the wedding of Hilda Lanhardt to Thomas W. Hayes to name a few.

Moore recalled he and Orton were guests of honor at a Prince George's County Chamber

of Commerce dinner held at the Lord Calvert Inn. At that event some one hundred fifty men sang "Hail! Prince George's!" accompanied by Moore on the piano.

On December 26, 1939, Moore had burned some yard waste. He was telephoned at noon by neighbor, Earl Hampshire, and informed that a stiff wind had spread the fire to a hedge that endangered the barn. Moore extinguished the fire, saving the barn.

1939 was an event-packed year: on June 28 Joe Louis KO'd Tony Galento in the 4th round; on September 3, Britain formally declared war on Germany; Amish of "Plain People" were starting to migrate from Pennsylvania to St. Mary's County, Maryland, and a new carol "Slumber O Holy Child" composed by Moore/Orton was sung at Pinkney Memorial Church's midnight mass.

The Moore's neighbor Sheldon Jernigan, now residing in Upper Marlboro, remembers the opportunities he had to visit and chat with them, their collection of Victorian furniture and clocks. After William Moore's passing, Alice Moore decided to relocate to a facility for the elderly. Jernigan helped her clean up the house and she asked that he take all the "trash" to a dump. As soon as he realized that William Moore's collection of photographs and articles from his newspaper career, the 1939 Diary, etc., were included in this "trash" he wisely held onto them because of their seeming historical significance.

The author is very grateful to Mr. Jernigan for an opportunity to peruse some of Moore's memorabilia and hopeful that the Prince George's County Historical Library will be considered by him as a worthy depository of the materials at some future date. Submitted by John B. Bourne

Calendar of Events for PGCHS

May 1 Peale Luncheon & Lecture: Luncheon at noon; Lecture at 1:00
May 3 **Board Meeting (note change from regular date) - 9:00am**
May 4 May Day at Marietta: noon to 4:00pm
May 10 Maryland Pilgrimage (10:00am to 5:00pm); Preservation Week Reception
May 18 Peale Exhibit Reception (see enclosed flier)

June 14 Board Meeting; Family Day at Marietta



HIS LORDSHIP'S KINDNESS
Circa 1787

THE JOHN M. AND SARA R. WALTON FOUNDATION, INC.
7606 WOODYARD ROAD ♦ CLINTON, MARYLAND 20735
(301) 856-0358

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Christine Blazina
301-856-0358 Telephone and Fax

Clinton, Maryland, March 26, 1997—Celebrate spring by touring His Lordship's Kindness, one of two structures in Prince George's County designated as a National Historic Landmark. Located at 7606 Woodyard Rd., Clinton, MD, the mansion and grounds will be reopening for tours on April 11, 1997 with expanded hours for walk-in and group tours on Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. as well as tours by reservation only on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

His Lordship's Kindness, owned and operated by The John M. and Sara R. Walton Foundation, Inc., was constructed between 1785 and 1787 by Robert Darnall on the original 1703 land grant from Lord Baltimore to Colonel Henry Darnall, Robert Darnall's great grandfather. Visit the historic mansion, outbuildings and beautiful gardens to learn more about the history of the estate and the families who lived there.

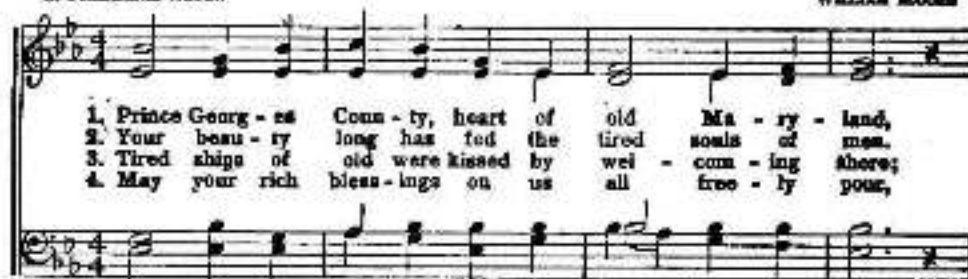
For information and directions call His Lordship's Kindness at 301-856-0358 or write to His Lordship's Kindness, 7606 Woodyard Road, Clinton, MD. 20735, E-mail: waltonfd@erols.com.

Hail Prince Georges

Official Song of Prince Georges County, Maryland

Words by
C. FREDERICK ORTON

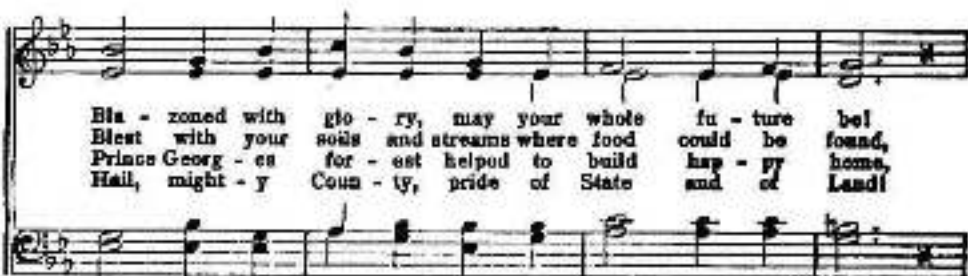
Music by
WILLIAM MOORE



1. Prince Georg - es Coun - ty, heart of old Ma - ry - land,
2. Your beau - ty long has fed the tired souls of men,
3. Tired ships of old were kissed by wel - com - ing shore;
4. May your rich bless - ings on us all free - ly pour,



Child of the Free State, long u - nit - ed both stand,
They have found rest in wood - ed hill and green glen,
Lord are of men come through your wide o - cean door,
On rich and poor a - like till time is no more!



Bla - zoned with glo - ry, may your whole fu - ture be
Blest with your soils and streams where food could be found,
Prince Georg - es for - est helped to build hap - py home,
Hail, might - y Coun - ty, pride of State and of Land!



Bul - wark of Tol - er - ance, and true Lib - er - ty.
All that men need - ed in your - self did a - bound,
Shel - tered in safe - ty 'neath the blue, star - ry dome,
Prince Georg - es Coun - ty, heart of old Ma - ry - land.

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CELEBRATES
THE PEALE FAMILY

Artists and naturalists, founders of art and educational institutions, lecturers, writers, and inventors, the Peale family of Maryland and Philadelphia made a lasting mark on the emerging American nation. Led by Charles Willson Peale, his brother James, and their daughters, sons, and a nephew, the family created works that illustrate life during the first century of the nation's independence. On the occasion of the exhibition, *"The Peale Family: Creation of a Legacy, 1770-1870"* at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Prince George's County will celebrate its many links to this renowned family.

LECTURES

Historian Susan Pearl will speak on *"Portraits of Prince Georgians: The Peale Family Legacy."*

**Thursday
May 1**

Lunch and lecture sponsored by the Prince George's Historical Society at Marietta in Glenn Dale.

Lunch at 12 noon followed by the lecture at 1:00

\$5.00 admission. Open to the public; advanced reservations required.

Call 301-464-5291 or 301-277-5468.

**Tuesday
June 3**

Lecture sponsored by the Friends of Belair at Belair Mansion in Bowie.

Lecture at 7:30, followed by light refreshments.

\$5.00 admission. For reservations call 301-805-7984 or 301-805-2169.

EXCURSIONS

"The Peale Family: Creation of a Legacy, 1770-1870" at the Corcoran Gallery of Art features a number of portraits, landscapes, still-life paintings, naturalist prints, and personal objects that trace the family's and the nation's evolution from the American Revolution through the Civil War.

**Thursday
June 5**

Central Area Trips and Excursions presents an Afternoon of Art/The Peale Family: Creation of a Legacy, 1770-1870.

12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

\$15 per person bi-county/\$18.00 non bi-county

Departs from Bowie Community Center at 12:30 p.m. and Peppermill Community Center at 1:00 p.m.; returns to Peppermill at 5:00 p.m. and Bowie at 5:30 p.m.

The trip includes shuttlebus transportation, admission to the Corcoran Gallery of Art and a tour of the exhibition, followed by an afternoon snack at Riversdale Mansion. For reservations call 301-249-9220/249-9223(TTY).

**Thursday
June 26**

Southern Area Trips and Excursions offers a Day of the Arts at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and Ford's Theatre.

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\$35 per person bi-county/\$42 non bi-county

Departs from Harmony Hall Regional Center at 9:00 a.m. and from Temple Hills Community Center at 9:15 a.m.; returns to Temple Hills at 4:15 p.m. and Harmony Hall at 4:30 p.m.

The trip includes bus transportation, admission to the Corcoran Gallery of Art and tour of the exhibition, and tickets to the 1:00 performance of "Paper Moon" at the Ford's Theatre. Lunch is on your own at the Corcoran with time for browsing through the galleries prior to departure for the theatre.

For reservations: 301-292-9006/292-7528(TTY).

LECTURE AND RECEPTION

May 18 "The Peale Legacy: Art and Family in 18th and 19th Century America"

A lecture by Dr. Lillian B. Miller, Ph.D., historian of American culture and editor of the Peale Family Papers, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.

3:00 PM with reception immediately following at Riversdale Mansion, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, Maryland

\$10.00 per person. Seating is limited, reservations required. For information and reservations call (301)864-0420 (TTY 301-699-2544)

"The Peale Family: Creation of a Legacy, 1770-1870" is on display at the Corcoran Gallery of Art from April 26 through July 6, 1997.

"Prince George's County Celebrates the Peale Family" is a program of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.

Arts programs of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation are supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. Additional support has been provided by the Riversdale Historical Society, the Prince George's Historical Society, Prince George's Heritage, Inc., and the Prince George's Historical and Cultural Trust.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation encourages individuals with and without disabilities to engage in leisure pursuits together. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for all programs and classes, except those of a drop-in nature (i.e. supervised gyms, playgrounds). Advance notice for accommodations is requested.



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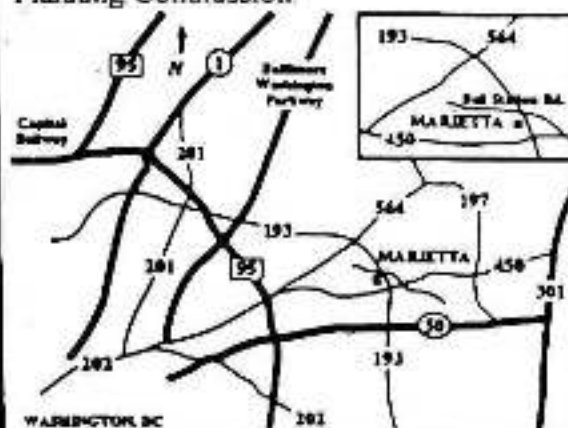
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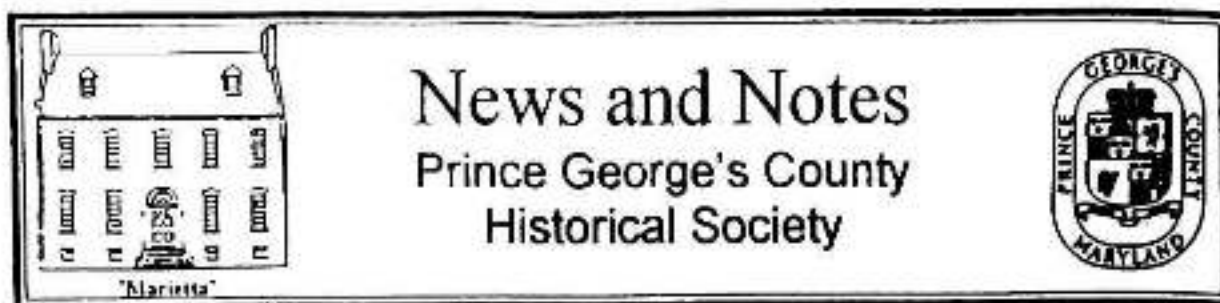
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May 1997

Our 45th Year

Volume XXV Number 4

BUY A BRICK AND PAVE A PATH TO THE NEW PRINCE GEORGE'S HERITAGE CENTER

As part of our Tricentennial Celebrations last year, the Prince George's County Tricentennial Trust, Inc. created a brick walkway of history between the County Court House and the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. Two Hundred Bricks have been installed, and the Tricentennial Trust is continuing to provide these unique mementos for those who wish to leave a bit of themselves or honor loved ones while contributing to the development of the Prince George's County Heritage Center. This is an effort that is fully supported by the Prince George's County Historical Society, and we are asking you to support it as well. These regular paving bricks are professionally etched with any name, date or other information you wish to use, up to 3 lines - 45 letters in all. The bricks sell for \$30 per line (\$60 for 2 lines, \$90 for 3 lines). They make wonderful wedding, anniversary, birthday, or graduation presents. Many of us have selected 'in memoriam' lettering honoring friends or family members who are important to us and to this great County where we continue to live "At Home in History"

To order a brick (or an entire walk) please contact the Prince George's County Tricentennial Trust, Inc. At 4703 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20781. Order blanks will be available at Marietta and other historic sites in the very near future. This is truly a way to continue the Tricentennial Spirit in Prince George's County.



Join the Hunt for Baltimore's History

From the Baltimore History Alliance

Baltimore natives with a flair for city history as well as tourists with an interest in local legend will have an opportunity to visit local cultural sites and win prizes as part of the 1997 Baltimore Bicentennial Celebration.

The Baltimore History Alliance (BHA), an organization of Baltimore's history museums working cooperatively to make the city's past come alive, has announced plans for its Bicentennial Scavenger Hunt, which began April 10, 1997 and will run through the end of 1997.

Two separate Scavenger Hunts have been created to encourage both children and adults to participate. Individuals and groups will visit BHA sites, answer questions or collect souvenirs, and submit their completed form to win prizes. Participants who visit 10 or more sites will receive a History Wizard prize by mailing their completed forms to the Baltimore Museum of Industry (Children's Scavenger Hunt only) and Evergreen House (Adult Scavenger Hunt only). All History Wizards will automatically be entered into the Grand Prize Drawing, scheduled for February 1, 1998. Separate Grand Prize entertainment packages will be awarded to the winners of the Children's Scavenger Hunt and the Adult Scavenger Hunt.

The Children's Grand Prize Package will include 2 tickets to tour Orioles Park at Camden Yards, a free birthday party at the B&O Railroad Museum, a special gift courtesy of the Music Box at Harborplace, and a Baltimore Bicentennial T-Shirt. The adult's Grand Prize Package will include a one night stay for 2 at Baltimore's Harbor Court Hotel, 2 tickets for an outing with

Harbor Cruises Ltd., dinner for 2 at Phillips Harborplace, two year-long passes on Ed Kane's Water Taxi & Trolley System, a special gift courtesy of the Music Box at Harborplace, and a Baltimore Bicentennial T-Shirt. Entries must be completed by December 31, 1997 to be eligible for all prizes.

Copies of the Scavenger Hunts will be available at the Visitors Center on the Constellation Pier, the Baltimore Bicentennial Kiosk in the Inner Harbor, and at all participating BHA sites, which include the following:

B&O Railroad Museum
Babe Ruth Museum
Baltimore City Life Museum
Baltimore Maritime Museum
Baltimore Museum of Industry
Baltimore Public Works Museum
Eubie Blake Cultural Center
Evergreen House
Flag House & 1812 Museum
Fort McHenry National Monument
Great Blacks in Wax Museum
Homewood House Museum
Jewish Historical Society
Mount Clare Museum House
National Museum of Dentistry
Nine North Front Street
Old Otterbein Methodist Church
Top of the World - World Trade Center

For further information or questions, call Elizabeth Sutley, Maryland Historical Society, at 410-685-3750, ext. 323 or Dorothy Fuchs, B&O Railroad Museum, 410-752-2464.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER
LUCILLE K. BOWIE**

A 'PIE -IN-THE-SKY' DREAM

By Paul Lanham

Martenet's Map of Prince George's County of 1861 shows the residence of Walter Worthington William Bowie (known as 3W Bowie), just east of today's intersection of Maryland Route 197 and U.S. Route 301, in the approximate area of Governor's Bridge.

W.W.W. Bowie is presumed to be the same individual whose three-part article published in the Maryland Farmer, 1873, enthusiastically described "a new system of growing tobacco" which purportedly not only would double a tobacco farmer's output and quality, but would, at the same time, permit an acreage reduction to three acres (from eight) as well as reduce the barn space and labor required for air-drying the annual crop.

In a place where, since Colonial times, tobacco (called "Bacca" in the trade) was literally and figuratively accepted as legal tender, one can only surmise the intense interest which sprang up as a result of this article, and the cries for further elaboration that grew therefrom, particularly in light of "3w"'s prominence and impeccable reputation in Maryland.

Alas, this new procedure did not live up to expectations in the Prince George's, Ann Arundel, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties tobacco belt. Growers in those geographic areas whose peculiar soil promoted growth of the high-quality Orinoco tobacco (now called Maryland Type 32 in the trade) quickly found that the proposed use of flue-drying of tobacco not only produced no magic monetary results, but actually could degrade Maryland's unique and profitable tobacco market.

Today, flue-drying tobacco leaves is a procedure limited to crops produced in other states. Maryland's crop remains, even in the 1990s, air dried.

"The Dorsey-Bibb Tobacco Flue", by James G. Gibb, in the Spring 1997 issue of The Calvert Historian, a publication of the Calvert County Historical Society, is an intensely interesting and well-researched article on this general subject. It documents the history of the Dorsey-Bibb Tobacco Flue in Calvert County. An existing barn and surviving furnace portion of a tobacco flue are quite properly described as two of Calvert County's most important historic artifacts. It would be quite interesting to learn if 'flue-drying' of the "bacca" crop in Prince George's County is part of the historical record of 3W Bowie's home county - either then or now.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR A PRINCE GEORGE'S HERO

On Saturday, June 29, 1997, at 2 PM, there will be a ceremony and service at Holy Trinity Church in Upper Marlboro, in honor of 1st Lieutenant Walter "Watt" Bowie, a member of Moseby's Rangers and an important person in the history of Prince George's County. The ceremony will include unveiling a new tombstone to mark the grave of Watt Bowie, who was a son of 3W Bowie, mentioned in the previous article. Although he died over a century ago, the new tombstone is being placed to replace one stolen by persons who attempted to secure a ransom from the Bowie family. This and other interesting facts about Watt Bowie will be the subject of another article by our faithful correspondent, Paul Lanham, in a later edition of **News and Notes**.

CELEBRATING OUR OWN PAST REPRINTS FROM THE FIRST 25 YEARS OF NEWS and NOTES

1997 marks the 25th year that News and Notes has been published by the Society. In honor of that, we are reprinting some of the early articles. Herewith is one from February 1972 (Vol 2 # 2), and another from September 1974 (Vol 2 # 9).

TROLLEY CARS AND LAUREL

One of the 176 things you probably didn't know about Maryland, (included in a 1972 booklet by Edgar Heyl that was available from the Maryland Historical Society (*I Didn't Know That*, \$3)) is the fact that the first streetcar line in the United States began operating in Baltimore in 1885 and then folded in about a year. In a vaguely related way, and with many thanks to streetcar buff Col. John E. Merriken of Simpsonville, Howard County, we can reveal another bit of early unsuccessful streetcar history that took place in Prince George's County just eight years after Baltimore's pioneering and short-lived effort.

Toward the close of 1893, in Laurel, about a mile of streetcar track was put down from the principal intersection of Main Street and the Washington Boulevard southward along what is now U.S. Route 1 to a point opposite Congressman Barnes Compton's home, "The Lawn", now the site of Frank's Hardware. The project was undertaken by the Washington-Baltimore Turnpike and Tramway Company, nicknamed the Boulevard Line, and Laurel was chosen as the scene of initial construction because it was half-way between Washington and Baltimore. Under the aegis of Edmund Saxton of Washington, prominent railway construction contractor, this ambitious

enterprise would include not only some forty miles of electric line tracks, but also a parallel roadway for carriages, presumably for the benefit of people who suffered from trolley car mal-de-mer, as well as sidewalks. The 1893-4 newspaper accounts that Col. Merriken has dug up state that about 200 men feverishly put down the mile of Laurel trackage toward the end of 1893, and then suddenly, as the new year dawned, abruptly did a disappearing act. The explanation was that the temporary track evidently had been laid, not for bona fide streetcar use, but as busy-work to keep alive the terms of a franchise. The tracks must have stayed in place for quite a while, because the project was again activated for discussion and consideration about two years later by a succeeding company -- which went bankrupt in 1898. Strange to say, none of the old-timers in Laurel, including Judge Ogle Marbury who died recently, have or had any recollection of any of the events recited above or of ever having heard them mentioned.

Trolley tracks did, of course, eventually extend from Washington to Laurel via another route, and the service between the Treasury Building and the trolley station that now serves as a tavern diagonally across from St. Phillip's Episcopal Church on Main Street, continued uninterrupted from 1902 until 1925.

Several Laurel septuagenarians can remember seeing construction start on a spindly trestle across the Patuxent chasm that would have taken Washington streetcars northward from the Laurel terminus on to Annapolis Junction. At Annapolis Junction, once a bustling transportation center that now doesn't even have a ghost to permit qualification as a ghost town, streetcars from Ellicott City, which was served by Baltimore

trolleys, would, it was planned, complete the hookup between the metropolises. If information received by word of mouth from several self-appointed authorities is correct, there could never have been through-car service from Washington to Baltimore, for the reason that Washington trolleys used tracks the same width as the coal-burning railroads, whereas genteel Baltimore built its tracks to accommodate the wheel gauge of buggies and carriages. Trolley tracks were never laid from either Laurel or Ellicott City to Annapolis Junction.

On October 22, 1904, at 6 a.m., the brakes on streetcar no. 406 failed as she careened, rattled, undulated, pulsated, and clanged helplessly toward the end of the line at Laurel, and, upon leaving the tracks, the vehicle hurtled down into the Patuxent River gorge fatally injuring the conductor. What is extraordinary and contemporaneous (in 1974) about this accident is that, 69 years later, in January 1973, it was learned from our County's affable Clerk of the Court, W. Waverly Webb, that he and his mother, en route from Hyattsville, were aboard a trolley that followed the fey No. 406 and that he still clearly recalls the scene and the excitement that prevailed on that long ago day in the somnambulant 1904 village of Laurel.

John C. Brennan

TELEPHONE FIRSTS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

On Prince George's County Heritage Day visitors were fascinated by the exhibit provided by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. The video telephones were the initial eye catchers, but of equal interest to some was the old-fashioned "tree" telephone, done up in a bright red instead of the somber black as most of us remember it.

This model is (was) now available for purchase by the company's subscribers. Also on display was an ancient turn-of-the-century telephone switchboard.

In the exhibit was included a newspaper account of the first telephone installed in Prince George's County, at the Maryland Agricultural College (now University of Maryland) in College Park. The text, as reported in the Baltimore Sun on Saturday, November 24, 1877, is as follows:

USING THE TELEPHONE

"The telephone has just been successfully tried at the Maryland Agricultural College. A short line of three-fourths of a mile was put up on Tuesday, connecting the institution with College Station, on the Washington branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. It has been fully tested by the professors generally. When everything is quiet the slightest whisper may be heard. Speeches have been made and distinctly repeated at the other end. Songs have been sung and every word and note beautifully repeated. Whistling, laughing, even the beat of a watch, can be carried along the line. Sunset Cox's now famous quotation, "La Rouge! La Rouge! Embrassez Moi!" was repeated at the other end with laughter. Patrick Henry, Shakespeare and a host of authors have been called upon to test the powers of this wonderful little trumpet. Even the tones of the voice can be distinctly discerned. Mr. Calvert, at the station, has already been able to recognize each professor's voice when he speaks. The arrangement will allow ladies and gentlemen who arrive unexpectedly to send messages to the college when the carriage or anything else is needed."

The first telephone exchange in Prince George's County was opened in Dr. Wells'

Drug Store on the corners of Maryland and Wells Avenues (now Rhode Island Avenue and Farragut Street), Hyattsville in 1901 by the Pan Electric Company. It served 18 subscribers, among whom were Dr. Charles A. Wells, Alfred H. Wells, George Tise, Joseph W. Aman, Duckett and Ford, and the President's Office of the Maryland Agricultural College. Population of the County at this time was approximately 30,000.

The second exchange came into being in Upper Marlboro in 1904 and the third in Laurel in 1905.

As a matter of general interest, the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company has *(had)* two very fine illustrated books on the early history of the telephone. One is entitled The Birth and Babyhood of the Telephone and the other is Alexander Graham Bell. Both were available for distribution to the public.

(Our appreciation to Mr. Charles Graham and Mr. Robert Urquart of the Hyattsville office of the C&P Telephone Company for making this information available).

And, finally, this appeared in the September 1974 edition as well:

CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THIS PUBLICATION

Nineteen months ago, (January 1973) the first edition of News and Notes was mailed to the membership. When the decision was made to launch this publication it was the general feeling that a need would be fulfilled.

The Prince George's County Historical Society had functioned for eighteen years. During this period the only contact with

members had been through the monthly meeting notices. Although the Society has maintained an attractive lecture series over the years, many have been unable to participate on a regular basis because of distance or schedule conflicts. This publication was designed to help maintain continued interest and support as well as to bring information concerning the heritage of Prince George's County's past and the latest developments affecting it.

In general, the response to News and Notes has been gratifying. Many old members have renewed their support of the Society's program and new ones are constantly being added to the rolls. The impression received is that these pages have brought the desired results.

At present (**September 1974**) News and Notes faces an uncertain future. A new editor and others to assist must be found in order for it to continue appearing in your homes each month. Your president assumed the editorship with the idea in mind that it would be easier to turn over an established publication to a staff, rather than try to interest individuals to start it from nothing. Aside from the occasional contributions of articles and news items from a few, and from one regular contributor - all of which have been deeply appreciated - no volunteer force has been forthcoming. This dilemma has been brought to the attention of the members at two regular meetings of the Society, and now to our reading membership through the medium of this article.

Along with personal obligations and responsibility for the Society's total program, the editing and production of News and Notes is more than can be fitted into your president's daily schedule. Unless a new staff can be found, News and Notes will

have to cease publication with the next (October, 1974) issue.

If you have any suggestions which will help solve this problem, please call Fred De Marr at XXX-XXXX (home) or XXX-XXXX (office).

FSD

Well, as we all know, News and Notes is now in its 25th year, and has become a regular part of the Society's outreach both to members and to the public. As one who has served as Editor, and being married to the current Editor, let me say that the job has not gotten easier, there still is a need for more contributors, but the Society (and especially the Board of Directors) has continued to support the publication and I for one hope it continues as long as the Society does.

Lester Sweeting

A DAYS OUTING

On Thursday, June 26, Southern Area Trips and Excursions offers a Day of the Arts at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and a Play at Ford's Theater. Busses depart from Harmony Hall Regional Center at 9:00 AM and from Temple Hills Community Center at 9:15 AM. Busses will return to Temple Hills at 4:15 PM and to Harmony Hall at 4:30 PM. The price, which includes the bus transportation and admission to both the Gallery and the 1:00 performance of "Paper Moon" at historic Ford's Theater, is \$35 per person bi-county/\$42 per person non-bi-county.

The tour begins at the Corcoran, where you can purchase lunch and also view the exhibits. The performance at Ford's Theater begins at 1:00 PM. For reservations, please call 301-292-9006/292-7528(TTY).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1997

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Editor - Sharon Howe Sweeting
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John Mitchell
William Uber

Past Presidents
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Warren Rhoads
W.C. (Bud) Dutton
Joyce MacDonald

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

by Jane Eagen

There are so many things going on it is hard to know where to begin. This column is

titled correctly. First, I find it disheartening to observe the MNCPPC budget process this year. The \$100,000 bond bill which we worked so hard to get passed last year will, apparently, not be realized, because the matching funding, which, under the bill, had

to come from MNCPPC, is being diverted to other uses. While I wholeheartedly support any improvements in our education system, and the construction of new schools is certainly worthwhile, I am dismayed to see the Council and the County Executive eliminate funds that has been set aside by the State Legislature. Had we known that this was a possibility, we certainly could have considered other alternatives for matching funds. Even so, I am pleased with what we have been able to accomplish at Marietta in the last year, because the house certainly is more reflective of its history and a more useable resource for the Society and the people of Prince George's than it was one short year ago.

The root cellar, which is in a state of collapse, and adds a rather uninteresting aspect to the vista from the front entrance of the mansion, is, however, scheduled for major maintenance, and partial restoration in this year's MNCPPC budget. Fully restored, and properly furnished to show how food was preserved in the early 19th century, this would be a marvelous adjunct to our programs. However, until full restoration is completed, that is but a dream.

June 14 is Family Day at Marietta. Julie Bright is planning the day and it will include games and other family activities. The Gift Shop staff are planning to have a sale table, with bargains galore. If you wish to contribute articles for the sale, please bring them in as soon as possible. If you bring them on June 14, please place prices on them. And remember - "One man's trash is another man's treasure!"

Speaking of the Gift Shop, we have been fortunate in recruiting additional volunteer staffers, six of whom attended an orientation session on May 15. They are **Helen Hirzel,**

Marcella Dove, Helen Smith, Belle Bush, Bonnie Connors and Ruth Kluth - who will be glad to show you the shop and help you spend your money. It should be noted that your volunteer hours are very important to the Society, because, regardless of what you do, those hours have value - which the Society can use as part of its matching pledge when we apply for or receive grants.

Our outreach continues to expand. We are becoming known to more and more people as a result of the Tricentennial. Ellen Jernberg, of the Tricentennial office, has agreed to be a special volunteer - taking over the computerization of the Gift Shop and helping with the Tricentennial Brick sales, as she did last year.

But, your help is still needed! The library can always use filers, the Mansion needs both painters and those who can help with exhibits, educational fliers and folders, videotaping events, and a thousand other small and large jobs. One thing that can be done from your home is to schedule the Gift Shop. While Kay Eisinger has done a marvelous job she is returning to the workforce and needs a replacement.

Good timing! Those of you who responded to our call for wine glasses helped enormously! The Gift Shop purchased 32 place settings of china in a 19th century design, and we were able to use them at a dinner for the Civitan Club of Hyattsville. Through the generosity of others we were able to set the table for a successful dinner meeting. But we now need flatware, so if you search the attic I am sure we can complete our place settings.

Susan Pearl's presentation on the Peale Family Exhibit at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, held at Marietta and including lunch,

was a great success - a sell-out in fact. While this is the first time we have ventured into this arena, be assured that there will be more!

Alan Virta. Author of the best-selling Pictorial History of Prince George's County, is working on a third edition - which will feature many photographic memories of the Tricentennial. We are working on financing of this edition, which will replace our depleted stocks. We are also seeing quite a few of the Van Horn Out of the Past being sold, and the 1861 Martenet Map, in its new format, is also finding its way into many homes. We hope to have a new publication by Susan Pearl in stock soon as well. More on that in the next issue of News and Notes.

The Library has been repainted and is looking very good. We are so lucky to have both the Frederick S. De Marr Library and its namesake available to us. Of course, he continues to need able assistants - and you are welcome to call 301-464-0590 to volunteer.

We continue to reach out to the local schools. Susan Wolfe and I made a presentation to 14 principals from local schools, and we are drawing them in. The fifth grade class from Catherine T. Reed visited Marietta to work on their mini-museums and all had a super time. Susan and Helen Smith worked with them and their thank you letters are a joy to read. One thing that Susan noted when she paid a return visit to the school is that there is a dearth of materials available to them in the classroom. We are now discussing how to rectify that.

The Historical Society was well represented in the Preservation Week activities, including especially the May 10 Pilgrimage, which

featured homes in College Park, University Park, Riversdale and Hyattsville.

It was nice to see Les Sweeting back in town for a few days from Moldova. He has returned and we wish him continued success in that venture. Dick and Sarah Bourne will be in Yorkshire - again at Kiplin Hall - for June, July and August.

We are undertaking an exciting new project in lieu of the proposed local history day seminar. Bud Dutton has arranged with Landover mall, Iverson Mall and Laurel Mall to have living history displays there this summer. Come out and see how we are keeping the Tricentennial spirit alive. If you wish to work on this project, please call 301-627 6722.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 1997 **Marietta** "Dueling in Maryland" - an exhibit thru Aug 31.
- June 14 **Marietta** - Board Meets - 10AM
Old Fashioned Games for young and Old - all day
Attic Book and Treasures Sale
- June 15 **Marietta** **Children's Games - Old Fashioned for New Youngsters.**
- June 29 **Visit to Corcoran and Ford's Theater - see article.**

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12 - 4 - and by appointment -

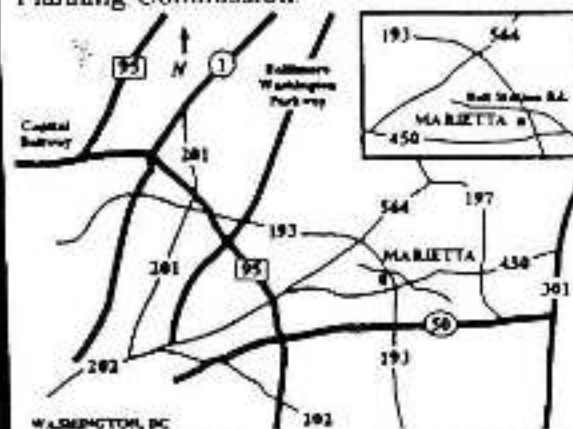
Information 301-464-5291

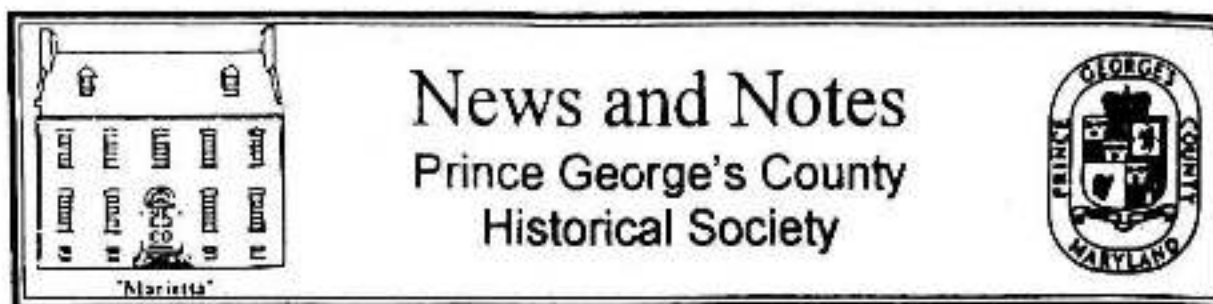
THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a wide selection of books, gifts,
toys and small antiques. Open Friday,
Saturday and Sunday, 12 - 4 PM and
during special events. Call 301-464-
0590.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.





June/July 1997

Our 45th Year

Volume XXVI Number 5

VOLUNTEERS

They are the individuals who keep organizations such as this vibrant. Presidential Commission's have been convened to celebrate them. A Points of Light Program has been established to identify and honor them. Jane Eagan, our current President, has been named one of them: Volunteer of the Year. The Frederick DeMarr Library has been named for yet another one.

I think the following poem by Sonia Freiss says it best:

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF THIS?

Many will be shocked to find
when the day of judgement nears,
that there's a special place in heaven
set aside for volunteers!
Furnished with big recliners,
satin couches and footstools!
Where there's no
committee chairperson,
no group leaders or car pools,
No eager team that needs a coach,
no hazaar and no bake sale

There will be nothing to staple,
not one thing to fold or mail,
Telephone lists will be outlawed!
But a finger snap
will bring cool drinks
and gourmet dinners
and rare treats fit for a King.
You ask who'll serve
these privileged few
who worked for all their worth.
Why, all those
who reaped the benefits
and not once volunteered
on Earth....

We most cordially invite you to participate in the following volunteer opportunities.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
AT MARIETTA MANSION
Summer, 1997**

Sunday, July 20, 1997 Noon to 4 p.m.

19th Century Children's Games: Badminton, relay races, lawn bowling etc.
Help supervise children playing games, and refreshments.

Wednesday, July 30 and Monday, August 11 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Summer Day Care Visit: 1st-4th graders and 4-5 year olds will come to Marietta for two hours; help supervise the children in variety of craft and play activities.

Fridays in July: 11, 18, 25 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Summer History Days: Elementary age children, includes lunch, history craft and activities. Help with paper making, paper marbling, making period toys, etc.

For further information or to volunteer for one or more of these activities please call SUSAN WOLFE at Marietta at 301-464-5291.

You must call and sign up in advance of the event and keep in mind that we will be depending on you to be present if you sign up to help. Thanks!

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Excerpts from Minutes

Board of Directors' Meeting

June 14, 1997 at Marietta

Treasurer **Jack Bourne** reported that all the relevant tax forms had been filed. He also reported on a problem with a membership renewal with the Maryland Historical Society. **Stella Uber** reported on the healthy balance in the Gift Shop account and presented the Society with a check for \$3,000.00. A major purchase of a needlepoint rug for the Mansion's parlor has already been made. Stella also mentioned that a volunteer coordinator for the Shop is needed. This is one of those Volunteer Opportunities described in previous pages. Many thanks to **Kay Eisinger** for all her work in this regard. Stella also mentioned several new items for sale including the *Maryland Road Side Marker* book. More on this publication later. Another new product to be added before Christmas will be wooden cut-outs of Marietta and possibly the Law Offices. These cutouts are produced by *Yestertime* and some sites are already on sale at other historic properties. Marietta Site Manager, **Susan Wolfe** reported that attendance was down. Few special events are planned due to lack of volunteers. Another plea for volunteers. The installation of the *Dueling Exhibition* has been delayed. See the attached flier of future events at Marietta. Susan also reported that the interior painting would resume after school was out and asked for volunteers to paint woodwork. A committee to review plans for interior furnishings and accessories was formed to include **Phyllis Herndon, Kathryn Clagett, Sharon Sweeting, and Dusty Rhoads**. The first meeting was held on June 24th focusing on items for the parlor to be furnished in the 1890s Victorian style. Please review the

enclosed list of items and either consider donating them or identifying where they might be purchased.

Susan Wolfe also reported that the Consortium of History organizations had received a \$3000.00 grant from the State for a brochure. The hope is that this brochure will facilitate tours of our wonderful resources and encourage tourism. This project will attempt to capitalize on the highly successful Tricentennial program *Passport to the Past*.

The Society is considering the re-publication of **Alan Virta's** classic *Prince George's County: A Pictorial History*. Mr. Virta has agreed to update the original to include the Tricentennial. The Board is currently considering several possible funding sources for this book to be reprinted by The Donning Company.

The Board reviewed the status of the bond bills related to the continuing restoration of Marietta. The results of these discussions were referred to the Society's Financial Committee and will be reviewed at their next meeting. Favorable articles on Marietta appeared in both the *Inquirer Gazette* and the *Washington Times*. The Board also considered possible sites for the *Prince of a County* reception. We look forward to your participation.

And finally, in an effort to reach a broader community, the Society considered the joint sponsorship of a series of Musicales with St. Barnabas Church. More on this subject in future newsletters. **Bud Dutton** reported on *Heritage Day at the Malls* scheduled for November 1, 1997. Additional details are in this newsletter.

ROADSIDE MARKERS IN MARYLAND

Hear ye, hear ye. All you history buffs jump into your car with a copy of *Roadside Markers* in hand. Compiled and edited by Charles S. Adams, a former educator and newspaper editor, this volume was published this year and its perusal would make a very worthy summer project.

On June 10, 1997, the *Prince George's Journal* carried an article by David Dishneau saying: "The 122-page paperback covers the state from the Verrazano Bridge on Md. 611, near the spot Italian navigator Giovanni Da Verrazano is believed to have landed in 1524, to the rock ledge overlooking Muddy Creek Falls, where Edison, Ford, tire tycoon Harvey Firestone and naturalist John Burroughs camped in 1918 and 1921."

In the Introduction, Mr. Adams relates his trials and tribulations in gathering the information for the book. Suffice it to say, it was not easy. Many signs had several locations described and some neglected to mention the name of the nearest town! The Maryland Historical Society, whose name appears on many signs, has not been involved in the Markers program since 1987.

The Maryland Historical Trust, now the repository, provided a copy of a computer disk and the State Highway Administration's Archaeology Library provided maps of the 23 counties around the State. The text of the markers, arranged by county, was then reviewed by the local historical society. The result is a very informative historical guide published with the caveat that the author did not personally visit each sign and he therefore solicits our help in making any necessary changes, additions, or deletions. A "Brief History of the Maryland Roadside Markers Program" and a thumbnail sketch

of the History of Maryland, prepared by the Hall of Records in Annapolis, complete the introductory pages.

The section on Prince George's County, reviewed by our extraordinary volunteer Fred DeMarr, begins alphabetically with the **Adelphi Mill** and the exact text on that marker reads: "This old grist mill built in the summer of 1796, probably by two brothers Issacher and Mahlon Scofield. In 1811 the mill was also used for wool carding. The miller's cottage is of the same period." This is followed by a detailed description of its location and who was responsible for erecting the cast iron marker and when. This marker is followed by one for **The First Agricultural College**. Next the familiar one at **St. Barnabus' Church**. Two of my personal favorites follow and both are dedicated to **Commodore Joshua Barney**. One is located on Maryland Route 4 and the other on the grounds of the Patapsco Senior High School. The wide variety of markers in the County identify **Beall's Pleasure**, the **Tomb of Dr. William Beanes**, **Belair Mansion**, **Belair Stud Farm** (laying the foundation of American thoroughbred racing), **Bellefields - Formerly Sim's Delight**, **Bladensburg**, **John Wilkes Booth**, **Broad Creek Church**, **T.B. - The Initials of Thomas Brooke**, **Calvert Manor**, **Birthplace of John Carroll**, **Cheltenham United Methodist Church**, **Christ Episcopal Church - Accokeek**, **Thomas John Claggett, D.D.**, **College Park Airport**, **De La Brooke Manor**, **Dueling Grounds** ("dark and bloody"), **The First Telegram**, **Greenbelt - 1937**, **John Hanson- Oxon Hill**, **His Lordship's Kindness**, **Hitching Post Hill or Ash Hill**, **Holy Trinity Church**, **Prince George's County - St. John's Church**, **Lincoln Cemetery**, **Marlborough**, **Mattawoman Run**, **Melwood Park**, **Methodist**

Marietta Mansion Calendar of Events

July - December, 1997

July:

- 20 **Children's Summer Pastimes.** Come play croquet, badminton, lawn bowling, marbles, games and other amusements that children from the 18th and 19th c. used to have fun. Sunday and Monday, 12 -4 pm. Free
Mansion open for tours. Regular tour fees.

August:

- 16 **17th Century Embarkation Muster:** Swedish and Mercenary Musketeers prepare for battle during the 30 Years War. 11 am - 4 pm
Admission includes tour of the house/regular admission.

September:

- 6-7 **"A Feathered Nest"** A living history presentation focusing on maternity practices and motherhood at Marietta, 1860. Saturday, 11-4; Sunday, 12-4. Regular tour admission includes tour of the house.
7 **Exhibit: "Marylanders on the U.S. Supreme Court",** through November.
27-28 **Legion XX, 1st Century Romans and La Belle Compagnie, 100 Years War** unit, encamp for the weekend. 11 am - 4 pm
Admission includes tour of the house/regular admission.

October:

- Exhibit: "Marylanders and the U.S. Supreme Court",** continues through November.
11-12 **Hastings Medieval Faire,** Annual Markland re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings. Norman, Celtic and Saxon Camps, Merchants, Food, Period Entertainment. 11 am - 5 pm Admission.

November:

- Exhibit: "Marylanders and the U.S. Supreme Court"** concludes at the end of the month. Exhibit only/free. Open during tour hours.
15 **Christmas Crafts of the Past.** Children ages 9 and up help make 19th century Christmas decorations for Marietta and one to take home. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. at the Glenn Dale Community Center. Free

December:

- 12-14 **Candlelight Tours.** Featured are decorations of the early, mid and late 19th c. Light refreshments. Regular tour fees.
Friday 6:30-8:30 pm; Saturday 6:30-8:30 pm; Sunday 1-3 pm & 6:30-8:30 pm.

Marietta is open for walk in tours Fridays, 11 am - 3 pm and Sundays, 12 - 4 pm.
Admission: \$3/Adults, \$2/Senior Citizens, \$1/Students, 5-18 years.

Preaching Place, Montpelier, Mount Airy, Mt. Lubentia, Northampton, St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Baden, Piscataway (Md. Rt. 210), Piscataway (Md. Rt. 223), Portland Manor, Queen Anne, Maryland, Site of Rhodes Tavern, Riversdale, Sacred Heart Chapel, Toaping Castle, St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Croome, St. Thomas' Paris Church, Van Horn's Tavern, Site of Van Horn's Tavern, Warburton Manor, Fort Washington (Originally Fort Warburton), George Washington House, George Washington Traveled This Road (Route 4), George Washington First Entered Prince George's County, and finally G. Washington Traveled This Road (Route 3).

Just reading the entries is a fabulous history lesson! This volume is available at our Gift Shop for \$14.00.

GIFT SHOP

Books for Sale: Van Horn reprint of *Out of the Past* (\$20.00); *African-American Heritage Survey* (\$6.00); *Young Frederick Douglas* (\$9.95). Many new children's toys and books. Tricentennial Tee Shirts, Large and X-Large (Special for \$5.00)

Welcome to NEW
MEMBER **Deloris M.
Simpson** and welcome back
to **Josef and Gloria
Brown.**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HERITAGE DAY AT THE MALLS November 1, 1997

The Prince George's County History Consortium, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the Historical Society have joined forces to sponsor this program. An organizational meeting, held on May 21, was attended by **Bud Dutton**, representing the Historical Society and The Hall of Fame; **Laurie Verge**, Surratt House Museum; **Louise Oertly**, the Surratt Society; **Helen Benton**, North Brentwood Historical Society; **Diane Thompkins**, Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society; **Susan Wolfe**, Marietta Mansion, and **Barbara Sikora**, Darnall's Chance.

Three County shopping malls have agreed to offer space to area museum and heritage organizations to promote themselves as Prince George's County history resources. Heritage Day at the Malls will take place at **Iverson Mall** on Branch Avenue in the southern part of the County; **Landover Mall** on Brightseat Road in the central part of the County; and **Laurel Town Centre** on Route 1 in the northern part of the County.

A letter has been sent to various county Heritage/History leaders to solicit participation. It states: "Please consider publicizing your museum or heritage organization at your own booth using pictorial displays and/or written material handouts, video presentations, hands-on activities for children and adults, or costumed docents or re-enactors. In-person representatives of your organization will be able to inform the "shopping" public of the valuable asset your group provides the County." More on this effort next issue.

MARIETTA
FURNISHING PLAN, 1997
1890'S PARLOR

Caroline Lansdale DuVal Inventory

Items listed in Inventory

Items disposed of at sale of her
personal estate:

	Music stand
1 Centre table	1 Mahogany table (between the windows)
1 Side table	1 Mahogany table right of fire place
2 Pedalster (pedestal) tables	1 Mahogany table card table
	1 Mahogany table tall & long
2 Plush sofas	1 Velvet sofa (north side)
	1 Velvet sofa (south side)
1 Lounge	1 Big walnut sofa
8 Chairs	
2 Common chairs	
3 Mirrors & sconce	Mirror on mantel
	Two mirrors on wall & sconces
	Pair candelabra
	Lamp
1 Bookcase	
Carpet	
Books	Volume Shakespeare
	Volume Byron
Pictures	Portrait, General Washington
(Gabriel	Portrait, Major Gibbon
father)	Duval's second wife Jane's
	2 Pictures - pigs and calves
	8 Small pictures
6 Curtains	
Ornaments	Back-gammon Board
	Water jug
	Horn
Andirons & fender	

PARLOR FURNISHINGS PLANNED

Music stand

4 tables:

centre

card

side

tall & long

3 sofas or

2 sofas and a lounge

8 chairs

2 common chairs

1 rocking chair

Mantel Mirror

2 wall mirrors & sconces

Bookcase

Books

Carpet

Andirons and Fender

Music stand

Horn (type?)

Melodian

Copies of 1890's sheet music

2 Pair Candelabra

Lamp (Electrified oil lamp)

Pictures and portraits

Ornaments, etc.

What not shelf

1890's bric-a-brac (unbreakable)

stereoscope

1890's phonograph

Summer and winter curtains

HAVE THAT CAN BE USED

Victorian mahogany round table

Walnut drop leaf (Riversdale)

Parlor set square table

Empire sofa

1890's parlor set, settee

4 parlor set chairs

Large Mahogany square mirror

Built ins- may want to do hangings over the bookshelves

Several shelves of books published before 1900

Flowered 9' x 12' area rug

Andirons

Melodian

one pair, borrow from Fred

George Washington

Gabriel Duval

Marion & Gabriella DuVal Duckett

Caroline Landsdale DuVal

Edmund Bryce DuVal III

Augusta McCausland DuVal

2 oil paintings, pastoral & Venetian scenes

Water carafe - Wolfe

back-gammon board

board games, optical games

have lace curtains for summer

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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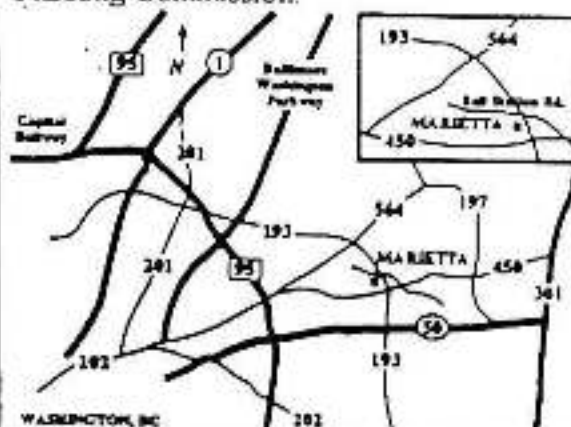
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Information 301-464-5291

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Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.





News and Notes

Prince George's County Historical Society



August/September 1997

Our 45th Year

XXVI Number 6

Archaeology

Archaeology, from the Greek; the scientific study of material remains (as fossil relics, artifacts, monuments) of past human life and activities. Several articles have recently been published reporting on various "finds" of such material remains in Calvert and Prince George's counties. One finding was in the water and the others were in the soil.

The headline of *Washington Post* staff writer *Eugene L. Meyer*'s article trumpeted: "**In Southern Md., a Maritime Discovery Underfoot.**" The name, maritime historian *Donald B. Shomette*, the place, *St. Leonard's Creek*, and the "find," Commodore Joshua Barney's flotilla were all captivating. A shipwreck "of a certain age" had been discovered. "The age was Revolutionary or post-revolutionary, perhaps early 19th century. ... This was the long-awaited search for the Chesapeake Bay flotilla ... scuttled to keep it from the British during the War of 1812." In another season, with more money, and digging permits, the work will continue, but for this season, just the knowledge that the material remains of submerged wooden floor boards had been located had to suffice.

Next we find the same Eugene L. Meyer "**Tripping Over History**" when "**Archaeologists Hit a Mother Lode in Field Session at Mount Calvert.**" He was reporting on the 27th annual field session of digging in soil, led by *Don Creveling*, manager of archaeological programs for MNCPPC. The article goes on to say "Archaeologists are finding a treasure trove of artifacts spanning the millennia; from 8000 B.C., when the site was inhabited by Native America; to Colonial times, when the site briefly was the first Prince George's County seat; to the ante-bellum 19th century, when slaves worked the land." The site, in private hands until 1994, was purchased with state and county funds and officials hope to use the site for educational and interpretive programs.

As the summer progressed, the *Prince George's Journal* ran an article on "**Unearthing county secrets**" by Brett Coughlin. The site this time was *Riversdale* and excavator *Donald Creveling* is reported to have said "We're going to find out about the other side of Riversdale, about the servants and slaves who did the work at the mansion." "Scientists have uncovered the basement foundations of nine structures, including an elaborate four-stalled privy, a four-story wooden water tower used to irrigate the estate's herb and flower gardens and provide water for the household chores, a wash house and a smokehouse." Research is also being conducted to determine the purpose of an ancillary building near the mansion.

And finally comes the report in the *Washington Post*, again by Eugene L. Meyer, of "sleuthing" not in water or mud or soil, but through historical records. This happy story involves our special friend **Shirley Baltz** and **Belair Mansion** in Bowie and the return of a series of 18th century paintings called "The Seasons." The paintings by Frenchman Phillippe Mercier left the property when the descendants of provincial governor Samuel Ogle lost the property and its contents to foreclosure in 1871. The research trail led from Olge family inventories to discussions with Olge descendants by Belair curator **Stephen Patrick**. The paintings were eventually located in the office of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and because they had no direct Virginia connections, they were willing to sell them. Enter again Mrs. Baltz and the Friends of Belair Mansion who raised the funds to facilitate the purchase. The paintings returned to Belair on July 22, 1997 and can be viewed on Fridays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. The Mansion is located at 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie.

To continue to mine in the Colonial vein, we are printing an article by our correspondent Mr. James I. Walsh of Ft. Washington.

Barrels for a "Middling Planter" in Colonial Prince George's County
by **Jim Walsh**.

Year in and year out, the average "middling planter" in colonial Prince George's County faced a daunting challenge: to find enough barrels to store his harvest, pack his meat and fish, hold byproducts of the plantation and assemble his tobacco for sale.

The challenge was daunting because barrels

were needed to store every food crop harvested and dried, every animal slaughtered and smoked, every byproduct processed, and every tobacco leaf gathered. The average "middling planter" in colonial Prince George's County must anticipate the number of barrels he would need to store his foodstuffs and ship his tobacco, then inventory the useable barrels available on his plantation and barter for the rest. Since he did not have the skills, tools, or time to build from scratch the barrels he needed, he had to barter for used barrels to recycle into useable barrels.

Until now the number of barrels annually needed has been little noted. Now, based on recent estimates of the volume of food stuffs and tobacco produced by an average planter and the standard capacities of barrels available during the period 1750-1775, it appears that nearly 200 barrels a year were required. The number that were bartered for each year still remains unknown.

Estimates of the annual volume of foodstuffs and tobacco produced by the average "middling planter" in colonial Prince George's County were made recently by historians at the National Colonial Farm at Accokeek. According to these estimates, 60 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of corn, 20 bushels of beans and peas, and 1,500 pounds of tobacco were produced annually per "middling planter." All of the wheat would have milled into 2,646 pounds of flour and some of the corn would have been milled into cornmeal. He would also raise flax for linseed oil.

In addition, he would have cultivated apple trees, peach trees, and cherry trees for fruit, cider, vinegar, and fermented drinks. He also could have raised about 30 hogs, 25 cows and 12 sheep. The substantial volume

of fish he caught and packed for future uses has never been estimated. Other food items produced for storage or shipment to market included pickles, vinegar, dried fruit, butter, cheese, fruit preserves and root crops, such as potatoes and turnip. All of these products had to be packed in barrels for storage or for shipment to market.

The barrels most frequently used were hogsheads, flour barrels, firkins and kilderkins. Each of these barrels were standardized by the colonial Maryland legislature to specific dimensions, contents, and capacity.

According to the Laws of Maryland Archives, a hogshead for tobacco was standardized to measure 48" high, with a head of 30" in diameter, and a bulge of 34", with standard capacity of 1,000 pounds of tobacco. The same dimensions were mandated for a hogshead for cider; however, the standard capacity of a cider hogshead was set at 63 gallons. The same dimensions were also legislated for a hogshead for wheat with a standardized capacity of 9 bushels.

The barrel most frequently used by a "middling planter" in Prince George's County during the late colonial period was a barrel with standardized dimensions of 28" high, with a head of 18" in diameter, and a bulge of 31 inches. The capacity of this standard barrel was regulated according to its contents. Indeed, it was designated by its contents (e.g., flour barrel, pork barrel, apple barrel.)

Thus, the capacity of a flour barrel was a set 196 pounds of flour or 3 bushels of wheat; a pork barrel capacity was set at 220 pounds of pork; a beef barrel had a capacity of 200 pounds; the capacity of an apple barrel was set a 3 bushels of apples, and a cider barrel

must contain 31 ½ gallons of cider.

The other barrels generally used by the planter included kirkins and kilderkins. All of these barrels were also regulated. The standards for firkins and kilderkins were less comprehensive. The capacity of a firkin was standardized as a half a barrel. The capacity of a kilderkin was set at a "quarter-barrel."

These capacity standards provide the basis for the estimated number of barrels needed by the planter between 1750 and 1775. Thus he needed 2 tobacco hogsheads to ship his 1500 pounds of tobacco, 9 cider barrels to store his cider and at least 62 flour barrels to store or ship his wheat, corn, beans and peas; 20 flour barrels with a standardized capacity of 3 bushels each to pack and ship his 60 bushels of what to a grist mill for milling into flour; 34 standard flour barrels to pack his 100 bushels of corn; and 8 barrels to pack his 20 bushels of beans and peas. He would also need another 14 flour barrels with a standard capacity of 196 pounds to hold the flour milled from his 60 bushels of wheat.

In addition, on St. Martins Day (Nov. 11), the traditional day for slaughtering animals for smoking and winter storage, the "middling planter" would need 50-60 pork and beef barrels to store his meat; 1 barrel for every two hogs he slaughtered, nearly 3 barrels for every 2 cows and 1 barrel for every 3 sheep. Additional barrels would be needed to store meat from poultry, game birds and other game animals.

The planter would also need as many as 50 other barrels, mainly firkins and kilderkins, to store other items produced on the plantation, including tallow, linseed oil, butter, fermented drinks, such as brandy, hard cider and beer, and several types of fish, including kippered herring.

An interpreted exhibit of the types of barrels needed by an average "middling planter" in Colonial Prince George's County may be found at the National Colonial Farm at 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD (301) 283-2113.

History Consortium Events

"Bert Sadler's Laurel" Exhibit, **Laurel Museum**, through December (301- 725-7975) Free.

Children's Life, The Accokeek Foundation, September 1-30 (301-283-2113) Free.

"The Booth Family: Fame & Infamy" Exhibit, **Surratt House**, through December (301-868-1121) Free.

Annual AirFair, College Park Airport Museum, September 13 & 14 (301- 864-6029/5844) Free.

John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Tour, **Surratt House**, September 13 & 27 (301-868-1121) Free.

Traditional Woodworking Demonstrations, **Duvall Tool Museum**, September 14 (301-627-6074) Free.

"Archeology of the Robert Burle House", **Montpelier Mansion**, September 17 (301-953-1376) Free.

Children's Day, The Accokeek Foundation, September 20 (301-283-2113) Free.

Open House History Tours, Billingsley Manor, September 21 (301-627-0730) Free.

Prince George's County Historical Society

Annual Membership Application

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone—Home: _____

Business: _____

Please indicate: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Check below the category you select:

<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time Student	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Member	\$ 20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	\$ 400.00

☐ Additional Contribution _____

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

☐ For membership in the **Maryland Historical Society**, include an **additional \$30.00** for individual or **\$40.00** for husband and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues and contributions. All contributions qualify for tax deduction. We appreciate your support.

Please make checks payable to **PGCHS**
Mail check and form to:

Prince George's County
Historical Society
Post Office Box 14
Riverdale, Maryland 20738-0014
301-464-0590

St. Barnabas' Candlelight Concerts

St. Barnabas' Church, Queen Anne Parish, is pleased to announce their Candlelight Concerts for the 1997-1998 season. The concerts are free of charge as a gesture of welcome to the community.

Concerts take place in the historic church, built in 1772, which offers an unusual and most attractive setting for chamber music. The performances spotlight local professional artists and many feature music contemporary to the church building. Following the concerts, which are approximately an hour in length, the audience is invited to a reception in the nearby library of Queen Anne School to meet the musicians and to enjoy special exhibits of visual art.

The first concert on October 19, 1997 at 4:00 p.m. is co-sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical Society and features Robert M. Birch, trumpet. Mr. Birch, a resident of Bowie, teaches trumpet and is coordinator of Wind and Brass Studies at The George Washington University. He recently retired as principal and solo trumpet player of the US Navy Band in Washington, DC. He has performed extensively in the United States, Europe, and Japan and has appeared with the Washington Contemporary Music Forum, the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra, the Baltimore Opera and the Washington Bach Consort.

Mr. Birch will be joined by Susan Bender, soprano, and Gary Kirkeby, keyboard. The program will include lyric repertoire for various trumpets, voice, continuo, piano, organ, and harpsichord.

On December 7, 1997, Leneida Crawford, mezzo-soprano, and Gary Kirkeby, baritone, will be joined by Susan Bender, piano. The Bellini Ensemble will feature Schubert's "Trout Quintet" on February 1, 1998. The season will conclude on March 8, 1998 with James Gholson, Jr. Mr. Gholson is a native of Prince George's County and is the principal clarinetist with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra.

All concerts begin at 4:00 p.m. The church is located at the intersection of Church Road and Oak Grove/Leeland Roads in Upper Marlboro. For more information, call the church office at 301-249-9671.





The Prince George's County Historical Society

1997-FALL TOUR-1997
JOIN US ON A VISIT TO CHARLES COUNTY
Saturday October 18th

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE(1700)-A Tidewater home constructed in a hall and parlor manner.Built by the Dent family and restored by the Charles County Historical Society.

HABRE de VENTURE(1745)-Plantation home of Thomas Stone,a signer of the Declartion of Independence.

BURCH(CATSLIDE)HOUSE(1720)-Started as a one story structure with a hall and parlor floor plan,it was changed in the early 19th century to provide for a second floor.The roof was altered to a long slope which gives it the nickname "CATSLIDE"

COUNTY COURTHOUSE(1819) & ONE ROOM SCHOOL(restored)-Features early 19th century exhibits on tobacco growing and farm life.

Luncheon at Casey Jones Resturant-SEE BELOW FOR FOOD SELECTIONS

The price of \$32.50 per person includes all entrance fees,transportation and luncheon.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

LEAVE FROM "MARIETTA" SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS
5626 BELL STATION ROAD PROMPTLY AT 8:30 A.M.

DEADLINE OCTOBER 12th--NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE

LUNCHEON SELECTIONS AND NAME/NAMES

CRABCAKE.....
.....
GRILLED CHICKEN.....
.....

Please make checks payable to:Prince
Georges County Historical Society

Mail to Warren Rhoads,12501 Kemmerton Lane
Bowie,Maryland 20715

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

ERECTED ON ST.GEORGE'S DAY, APRIL 23, 1696

MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM EVENTS

September

- 6-7 **"A Feathered Nest"** A living history presentation focusing on maternity practices and motherhood at Marietta, 1860. Saturday, 11-4; Sunday, 12-4
- 7 **Exhibit:** "Marylanders on the U.S. Supreme Court", through November. Open during tour hours/Exhibit only/Free.
- 27-28 **Legion XX, 1st Century Romans and La Belle Compagnie, 100 Years War units**, encamp for the weekend, 11 am - 4 pm. Admission includes tour of the house/regular admission.

Prince George's County Historical Society Calendar

- September 13 PGCHS Board Meeting, 9 am.
- September 20 Prince of a County Reception at William Plains; (You should already have your invitations by the time you receive this)
- October 11 PGCHS Board Meeting, 9am
- October 18 FALL BUS TOUR to Charles County (Use the enclosed flier to sign up)
- October 19 Sunday afternoon **Musical** at St. Barnabas Church (see the notice in this newsletter.)
- November 1 **History Day at the Malls** (Contact Bud Dutton)
- November 8 **Annual Membership/Dinner** meeting, 94th Aero Squadron, College Park (More details to follow)
- December 13 Christmas Party at Marietta

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1997

President - Jane Eagen
Vice President - Eugene Roberts, Jr.
Secretary - Sarah Bourne
Treasurer - John B. Bourne
Historian - Frederick S. De Marr
Editor - Sharon Howe Sweeting
Membership Development - Phyllis Herndon

Directors 1997 - 1999
 Mildred Ridgeley Gray
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 Katherine Clagett

Directors 1996 - 1998
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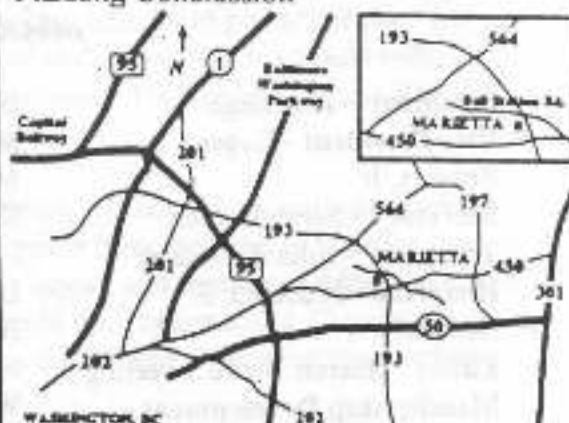
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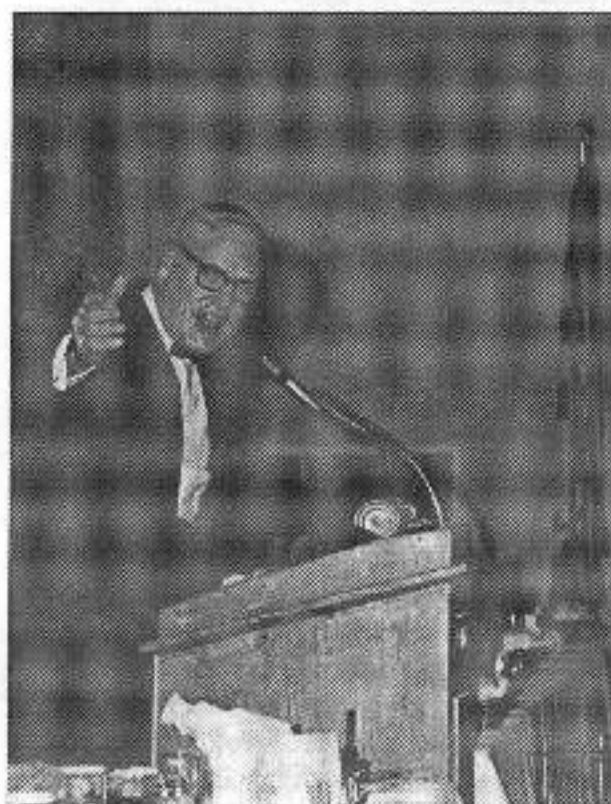
LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission



IN MEMORY OF FREDERICK S. DeMARR, 1928-1997

On September 5, 1997, of Hyattsville, MD, brother of E. Louise Tatspaugh, Virginia V. Straight, Paul H. DeMarr, Creighton O. DeMarr and Robert M. DeMarr. Also a number of nieces and nephews survive. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph A. And Elizabeth R. Roeder DeMarr, and brothers, James D., William A., C. Kenneth and Joseph A. DeMarr, Jr. Relatives and friends may call Monday, September 8 at the GASCH'S FUNERAL HOME, 4739 Baltimore Ave., Hyattsville, MD from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral service (the Burial Office) will be held at 11 am., Tuesday, at the St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 36th Ave and Nicholson St., Hyattsville, MD. Interment Ft. Lincoln Cemetery, Brentwood, MD. Memorial contributions may be made to the Prince George's County Historical Society, PO Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738 or to the St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 5901 36th Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20782.



The following eulogy was delivered by Historical Society President *Jane Eagen* at the Burial Mass celebrating the life of our beloved Fred:

"It has been my privilege to be closely associated with Fred for several years. I have known who he was since we were both students at Maryland. Whether he was in a ROTC uniform, a business suit, blazer, or team shirt and denims there was always an air of dignity about him.

He was Mr. Prince George's County Historical Society. He had been president for twelve years and historian and librarian forever, I believe. It was while he was the leader that the society grew from its beginning nucleus and had programs and activities to attract new members. He was always the traditionalist. He knew how it had been done down through the years. He was the one who always made sure the flags were displayed correctly at each event.

Many researchers are grateful to him, for he showed them how to use the available resources while he related the stories and background about the event or person in which they were interested. He was the friend who kept in touch with members who couldn't be as active as they once were or who had moved away.

When a publication was being harshly criticized by some, he would still add it to the collection and say, 'This may not be great, but it is a first effort, a beginning. It can be edited, corrected, and enlarged upon later. You have to start somewhere and this author has collected it and made a start.'

The last year or six months I spent about two days a week at Marietta and Fred and I spent a lot of time together, shelving books, moving books, filing, chatting, and solving the problems of the world. I learned a lot and a lot about him. He loved flowers, and said he had to stop going to Behnke's, because he kept buying plants and didn't have time to get them in the ground. He likened going to Behnke's to eating chips or cookies, it was very pleasant and very hard to control.

He brought me an hibiscus plant one day, a bolt out of the blue. He presented it with great aplomb quote, to the best present

Society president in office at this time, unquote.

His consistency was obvious. If he like something, he did it again and again, seeing no need to change what worked and what you liked. He was in the library every Saturday. If he had plans to be away, he made sure his trusted friend, Dusty Rhoads could be there in his place. Changing for the sake of change or something different was not a valid reason.

He had no respect, only disdain, for computers and technology. I use the computer for the gift shop record keeping. At times, I would make a mistake and become frustrated in my efforts to correct it and talk or mutter to myself. He would walk over and offer me a hammer and say, 'Here, try this.'

His sense of humor was well known, and we all tried not to do something he could really make fun of and give you a hard time about, because you can bet the rent money that he would get you. One Saturday, several of us were there and as I often did I went to the local general store and bought the sandwiches--two liverwurst and onion for two of us and a corned beef on rye for Fred. I brought them back and gave one liverwurst and onion to one person and then picked one up and bit into it -- It was Fred's corned beef that I bit into. Oh, I knew I was going to be had. I cut out that quarter of the sandwich and replaced it with a quarter of my liverwurst and onion. I quietly put it in the library where he was very busy helping someone. With only a little more computer work to do I raced to get it done, before he discovered it. As I was finishing he strode in with the sandwich in his outstretched hand and asked us all very seriously 'if there was a reason this sandwich was put together so

strangely?' We all laughed until we cried, and he never stopped looking at the sandwiches very carefully and warning others to do the same before biting into them.

We all knew Fred as the collector of all collectors, the bibliophile of all bibliophiles. Marietta's ground floor is filled beyond capacity and Louise (Fred's sister) has said there is a basement full yet to come.

Everyone here wants to honor Fred's life and the time he shared with us. Let each one of us take part of the responsibility to honor him by finishing the task he began by organizing and presenting his collection of books, artifacts, and papers as the finest local history library in the state, for the use of the people of Prince George's County, the county he loved so much and to which he devoted so much of his life. Thank you, Fred."

On Sunday, September 7, 1997, former *News and Notes* editor, **Lester Sweeting** wrote from his temporary home in Moldova:

"How does one begin to acknowledge such a special person? **Fred DeMarr** possessed unlimited knowledge of his roots - and had a real affinity for anyone who evidenced a desire to know about their own. He dedicated so many hours, days and years to ensuring that we in Prince George's County have the wherewithal to both learn about the past, but also to keep those things of the present which will allow those who come after us to understand their past as well. All too often, those with an historical bent fail to maintain current records - fail to see that those current records will become a record of today's part tomorrow.

I do not remember exactly when I met Fred -

it may have been as early as 1981 when we moved into Hyattsville, a couple of blocks from Fred and his sister Louise Tatspaugh. I do know when I really began to know him - when I answered Bud Dutton's call for an editor of *News and Notes* - several years ago. I went out to Marietta and met with Fred at the Library - to review past issues and discuss the kinds of things Fred felt should be covered. Fred had founded *News and Notes* over two decades earlier - just one of the gifts he brought to the Prince George's Historical Society. I began to read his early issues with great interest - partially to familiarize myself with what had been covered and partly to learn more about the County which became our adopted home in 1968.

As I became more and more involved in the Society Board, and spent more and more time at the Library and talking to Fred (and Dusty Rhoads, Paul Lanham, John Mitchell and others), I came to appreciate their dedication - they are descendants of the men and women who settled this area some four centuries ago. But Fred was the one who was always on hand -- to sort through old and new records, take a question on the phone, or help young and old researchers in this marvelous collection he has built almost single-handedly.

The Library is, to my mind, Fred's monument - his gift to us. We must, both as a Society and as a County, ensure its continued protection and growth. I can think of no greater memorial to the Society's Historian (and Past President) than to watch the installation of a plaque marking the large rooms set aside for the **Frederick S. DeMarr Library of Prince George's County History** -- whether at their present location -- **Marietta Mansion** - or in a new Heritage Center,

strangely?" We all laughed until we cried, and he never stopped looking at the sandwiches very carefully and warning others to do the same before biting into them.

We all knew Fred as the collector of all collectors, the bibliophile of all bibliophiles. Marietta's ground floor is filled beyond capacity and Louise (Fred's sister) has said there is a basement full yet to come.

Everyone here wants to honor Fred's life and the time he shared with us. Let each one of us take part of the responsibility to honor him by finishing the task he began by organizing and presenting his collection of books, artifacts, and papers as the finest local history library in the state, for the use of the people of Prince George's County, the county he loved so much and to which he devoted so much of his life. Thank you, Fred."

On Sunday, September 7, 1997, former *News and Notes* editor, **Lester Sweeting** wrote from his temporary home in Moldova:

"How does one begin to acknowledge such a special person? **Fred DeMarr** possessed unlimited knowledge of his roots - and had a real affinity for anyone who evidenced a desire to know about their own. He dedicated so many hours, days and years to ensuring that we in Prince George's County have the wherewithal to both learn about the past, but also to keep those things of the present which will allow those who come after us to understand their past as well. All too often, those with an historical bent fail to maintain current records - fail to see that those current records will become a record of today's part tomorrow.

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It is most difficult for me - 6,000 miles away - to realize that when I return Fred will not be there. But, knowing that his Library is there, and that the monument he built will be there for one and all throughout the next century of our history. Thank you Fred, and may you rest in a heavenly library with access to those who preceded you so you can continue to regale others with your monumental knowledge."

The *Washington Post's* **Eugene L. Meyer** wrote on Thursday, September 11, 1997: *County Icon Passes Into History*: "He was known as 'Mr. Prince George's History' for his extensive knowledge of and enthusiasm for county history, and for his unbounded willingness to share it with others.

When Frederick S. DeMarr, of Hyattsville, died suddenly at home last week, a local icon also passed into history. He was president of the Prince George's Historical Society from 1972 to 1984, started its monthly newsletter and founded its library, which ultimately come to contain thousands of volumes he personally donated.

The cause of his death was unavailable.

DeMarr was a university administrator, primarily at the University of Maryland in College Park, from which had retired, but his true love was local Prince George's history. 'He was really Mr. Prince George's County Historical Society,' said Jane Egan[sic], the current president. *'He was the center pole of the tent.'* [Editor's emphasis]

DeMarr, 69, a native of Mount Rainier, was a fixture at the society's library at Marietta, a 19th-century house in Glenn Dale. There on Saturdays, he regularly assisted anyone who

came to research ancestors, or to learn more about their own communities.

'It's what he did best and loved most to do,' recalled **Susan Pearl**, a historian for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. 'You could never go over to the library at Marietta without getting involved in a two hour conversation about whatever he was thinking about that day.'

Alan Virta, who succeeded DeMarr as newsletter editor and also wrote the text for a pictorial history of the county, said DeMarr was the man to call 'whenever anyone needed some fact, from the governor on down to schoolchildren. The only time I remember him expressing exasperation was when he got a call on Oct. 30 from someone who needed a rundown on haunted houses in Prince George's within the next hour.'

His kindness paid dividends for the society in the many manuscripts, ledgers, letters, scrapbooks and other memorabilia people donated through him. Egan recalled that when an exhibit on weddings was scheduled for the Marietta mansion, DeMarr 'came up with an 1890s wedding outfit from Hyattsville he had' in his collection. 'He was the collector of all collectors,' Egan said. He also could be an old-fashioned man. He refused, for example, to computerize the collections he so lovingly curated. He wanted originals,' Egan said. 'He wanted the real things. He wanted things that were typed and handwritten.'

At the time of his death, he was reorganizing his cherished society's library, moving things around and onto new shelves that had just been purchased. 'He had his own system,' Egan said. 'The challenge to the society is to have this done professionally as a memorial to Fred.' "

ABEUNT STUDIA IN MORES

In the weeks since Fred DeMarr's death, several members of the Society have been reminiscing about the dedication of the society library in 1984 as "The Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History." Questions began to be raised about the Latin quotation "abeunt studia in mores" which is engraved on the dedicatory plaque. Where had it come from, why was this particular line chosen, and what did it mean? A little poking around and talking with longstanding members has revealed that in 1984, just after Fred stepped down as president of the Society, members decided to make an official dedication of the library to Fred, who had built up the library from a single shelf of books to over a thousand volumes, complemented by a large collection of photographs, pamphlets, clippings and manuscripts. The Society's new president, John Giannetti, wanted to include an appropriate Latin quotation on the dedicatory plaque for the library. He turned to an old friend, learned in the classics, who suggested several possibilities. "Abeunt studia in mores" was chosen.

"Abeunt studia in mores" comes from the fifteenth book of the *Heroides*, a long poem by the Latin poet Publius Ovidius Naso (Ovid). Ovid (43 B.C. to circa 18 A.D.) lived and wrote in Rome, and is best known for his major later poems: *Ars Amatoria* (three books of witty impropriety on the art of love) and the *Metamorphoses* (15 books which describe Greek and Roman stories of transformation). The last decade of Ovid's life was spent in exile near the Black Sea, partly because of the nature of the *Ars Amatoria*.

The *Heroides* was one of Ovid's early works, probably written in the poet's 20s; it consists of 21 poems in the form of letters from well-known women of myth to their absent lovers. "Abeunt studia in mores" is from Book XV, a letter from Sappho to Phaon. Unlike most of the other characters in the *Heroides*, Sappho was a true historic personage (born circa 612 B.C.; date of death unknown); as a poetess living in Mytilene on the Greek island of Lesbos, Sappho wrote poems of considerable feeling and power. Phaon, the object of her passion, is generally believed to be an invented character, although one of the late legends which grew up around Sappho relates that she threw herself over a cliff for love of him. Book XV of the *Heroides* is Sappho's cry of unrequited love for Phaon. In this long poem, she bemoans the fact that her heart is far too vulnerable to the arrows of love, and she wonders whether it is because the Fates, when dealing out the threads of life, gave her no strength to resist this weakness in love, or whether "abeunt studia in mores", i.e., whether **her own eagerness for Phaon has developed into a way of life** for her.

The clause can be translated with many different shades of meaning (as students of Ovid will confirm): "taste changes into character," "habit

evolves into a way of life," or "serious study develops into tradition." It is probably the latter shade of meaning that best applies to Fred, whose devotion to his library has made it the main resource for County studies, and certainly a tradition to be carried on! The Prince George's County Historical Society can take comfort in remembering Fred's "habit," "taste," and "serious study", and take pride in continuing to build this "tradition" and "way of life" that was his legacy!

Susan Pearl (former instructor of Latin language and literature)
with thanks to John Giannetti, Alan Virta,
Joyce McDonald, and Paul Lanham



March 24, 1978 - Proclamation from County Executive Winfield H. Kelly, Jr. (Proclaiming April as History Month), from left, Robert Crawley, Chairman of the County Historical and Cultural Trust, Susanna Cristofane, Mayor of Bladensburg, (Mr. Kelly), Ed Beisler of Mitchellville, and FRED DeMARR, president of the County Historical Society.

Fred DeMarr - An Appreciation

The preservation community lost one of its most faithful and influential supporters with the sudden death of Frederick S. DeMarr on September 5, 1997. Born and raised in Prince George's County, Fred spent most of his life collecting and preserving the history of Prince George's County. He was an active member of the County Historical Society for most of that organization's 45-year existence, and served as its president from 1972 to 1984. During his tenure, he started the Society's monthly newsletter, and established the Society library. Once taking up a single shelf of books, the library's volumes now number in the thousands, complemented by a large collection of photographs, pamphlets, clippings and manuscripts; the collection is now one of the most important resources for the study of County history. When Fred retired as president of the Society in 1984, the board of directors named the library in his honor the "Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History." Fred was a fixture at the library, ever willing to answer the countless questions that he received from students, teachers, journalists, historians, and politicians.

Fred was closely associated with the University of Maryland, College Park, having received his bachelor's and master's degrees at that institution, and serving from 1970 until his retirement in 1995 as Coordinator of Public Functions at the Adele Stamp Union. Among his many history-related roles, Fred served on the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust in its early years, and was an advisor to the Prince George's Jaycees during the Bicentennial restoration of the George Washington House in Bladensburg. From 1979 to 1981 he served on the Citizens' Advisory Committee

for the formulation and adoption of the County's *Historic Sites and Districts Plan*, his advice was vital in the review and designation of the County's first inventory of Historic Sites. In 1991 he was honored by the County Executive as one of the Prince Georgians of the Year.

Fred DeMarr leaves behind an extraordinary legacy to all who study and treasure the history of Prince George's County. Those of us who were fortunate to know and work with him are left with memories of a selfless and dedicated man, a mentor and a friend, who was always willing to lend his time, knowledge and encouragement to our own historical pursuits.

BY: Alan Virta, First Chairman (1982-1986) of Historic Preservation Commission

BUS TRIP CANCELED.

We regret to announce that the 1997 Fall Tour to Charles County was under-scribed and had to be canceled.

COME TO MARIETTA

Each Wednesday, from 10:00am until, members are invited to bring sandwiches and scissors and work in the Library. Drinks and fruit will be provided. Let's do this for Fred.

Kudos and Thanks

to **Mrs. And Mrs. David Danelski** and **Julie Bright** for the splendid *Prince of a County Reception* on Saturday, September 20, 1997 at Williams Plains.

NOVEMBER 1 - HERITAGE DAY AT THE MALLS

The Society's Board of Directors, at a recent meeting, proclaimed that November 1, 1997, will be *Heritage Day at the Malls* in Prince George's County. County Executive **Wayne Curry** has told President **Jane Eagen** that he will issue a similar proclamation regarding this event.

As reported in June/June 1997 issue of *News and Notes*, area museum and heritage organizations are preparing informative exhibits and displays for three of our County's largest malls. We are seeking maximum participation of all related organizations. We are also recruiting volunteers to be at the exhibits to assist in meeting the "shopping" public. Volunteer and select your own hours between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, including set-up and clean-up.

To volunteer please call:

Pat Arbogast
301-725-7975
Laural Town Centre

Barbara Sikora
301-952-8010 or
Susan Wolfe
301-464-5291
Landover Mall

Mary Haley-Amen
301-218-9651 of
George Cooley
301-925-8300
Iverson Mall

For more general information or inquires, please call: **Bud Dutton**, 301-627-6722 or **Barbara Sikora**, 301-952-8010. **SEE YOU AT THE MALLS.**

Prince George's County Historical Society

Annual Membership Application

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone—Home: _____

Business: _____

Please indicate: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Check below the category you select:

- ☐ Full-time Student \$ 10.00
☐ Member \$ 20.00
☐ Sustaining \$ 50.00
☐ Life Member \$ 400.00

☐ Additional Contribution _____

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

☐ For membership in the Maryland Historical Society, include an additional \$30.00 for individual or \$40.00 for husband and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues and contributions. All contributions qualify for tax deduction. We appreciate your support.

Please make checks payable to **PGCHS**
Mail check and form to:

Prince George's County
Historical Society
Post Office Box 14
Riverdale, Maryland 20738-0014
301-464-0590

Election 1997

The following slate has been selected by the nominating committee and approved by the Board of Directors to lead the Prince George's County Historical Society for 1998.

President - Jane Eagen
Vice President - Eugene Roberts
Secretary - Sarah Bourne
Treasurer - Joyce Uber
Editor - Sharon Sweeting
Membership Development - Phyllis Herndon

Directors 1998 - 2000

Julie Bright
John Mitchell
William Uber

The directors elected in 1996 for a two year term continue to serve for another year. They are-

Melinda Alter
Kathryn Clagett
Mildred Ridgeley Gray

All past presidents are members of the Board of Directors also.

The office of **Historian** will remain vacant for the present.

The nominating committee has recommended that two additional directors be added to the board at this time. The membership will be asked to vote on this recommendation at the November 8 general meeting. If approved these positions will be selected by the Board of Directors at their next meeting.

Nominating Committee-

Sarah Bourne
Fred DeMarr
Dusty Rhoads

HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| October 11 | PGCHS Board Meeting, 9 AM at Jane Eagen's, 16215 Audubon Lane, Bowie, Phone: 301-249-6409 |
| October 18 | FALL BUS TOUR CANCELED |
| October 19 | Sunday afternoon Musicale at St. Barnabas Church (See notice) |
| November 1 | Heritage Day at the Malls (See notice) |
| November 8 | Annual Membership/Dinner meeting (SEE FLIER TO SIGN-UP) |
| December 13 | Christmas Party at Marietta (Details to follow) |



The Prince George's County Historical Society

The Prince George's County Historical Society has planned a dinner meeting in combination with the annual business meeting to cap off an exciting year that featured Prince Georgian, United States Supreme Court Justice, Gabriel Duvall and the Duvall Family. This will take place Saturday, November 8, 1997 at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant.

The Hall of Fame, Prince George's County will make its presentation of "Pioneers of Flight" at this time.

RECEPTION AND DINNER: 94th Aero Squadron
5240 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, Maryland

5:30 PM: Cash Bar Reception in the Lounge

6:30 PM: Dinner in the Charlie Room

ANNUAL MEETING: Follows Dinner

Please indicate your choice of dinner entree. All entrees include Homemade Cracked Wheat Bread, a vegetable and choice of Beer Cheese Soup or Garden Salad; and choice of dessert; plus coffee, tea or soda. Tax and Gratuity are included. Reservations must be received by Thursday, October 30th. No refunds after Saturday, November 1st. If you have questions, please call Phyllis Herndon, 301-927-2904.

Choice of Entree:

_____ Prime Rib, medium, served with baked potato....\$26.00
_____ Chicken Maryland, served with Rice Pilaf.....\$25.00
_____ Vegetarian Pasta Primavera.....\$20.00

Reservation names _____

Please make checks payable to:

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mail to: Phyllis Herndon
6807 Pineway
Hyattsville, MD 20782-1158

St. Barnabas' Candlelight Concerts

St. Barnabas' Church, Queen Anne Parish, is pleased to announce their Candlelight Concerts for the 1997-1998 season. The concerts are free of charge as a gesture of welcome to the community.

Concerts take place in the historic church, built in 1772, which offers an unusual and most attractive setting for chamber music. The performances spotlight local professional artists and many feature music contemporary to the church building. Following the concerts, which are approximately an hour in length, the audience is invited to a reception in the nearby library of Queen Anne School to meet the musicians and to enjoy special exhibits of visual art.

The first concert on October 19, 1997 at 4:00 p.m. is co-sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical Society and features Robert M. Birch, trumpet. Mr. Birch, a resident of Bowie, teaches trumpet and is coordinator of Wind and Brass Studies at The George Washington University. He recently retired as principal and solo trumpet player of the US Navy Band in Washington, DC. He has performed extensively in the United States, Europe, and Japan and has appeared with the Washington Contemporary Music Forum, the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra, the Baltimore Opera and the Washington Bach Consort.

Mr. Birch will be joined by Susan Bender, soprano, and Gary Kirkeby, keyboard. The program will include lyric repertoire for various trumpets, voice, continuo, piano, organ, and harpsichord.

On December 7, 1997, Leneida Crawford, mezzo-soprano, and Gary Kirkeby, baritone, will be joined by Susan Bender, piano. The Bellini Ensemble will feature Schubert's "Trout Quintet" on February 1, 1998. The season will conclude on March 8, 1998 with James Gholson, Jr. Mr. Gholson is a native of Prince George's County and is the principal clarinetist with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra.

All concerts begin at 4:00 p.m. The church is located at the intersection of Church Road and Oak Grove/Leeland Roads in Upper Marlboro. For more information, call the church office at 301-249-9671.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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RIVERDALE, MARYLAND 20738-0014

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HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Call 301-464-0590

Marietta Tours -Friday, 11 - 3, Sunday,
12 - 4 - and by appointment -

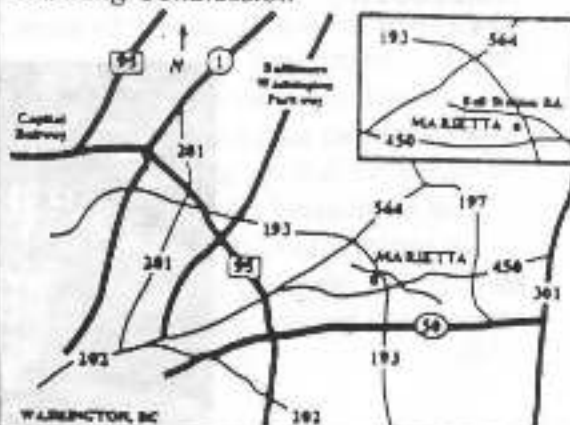
Information 301-464-5291

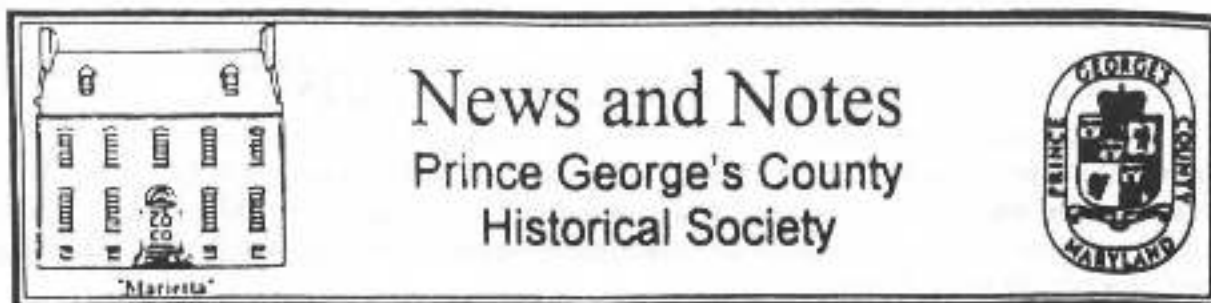
THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a wide selection of books, gifts,
toys and small antiques. Open Friday,
Saturday and Sunday, 12 -4 PM and
during special events. Call 301-464-
0590.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission





NOVEMBER 1997

Our 45th Year

XXVI Number 8

NOVEMBER 1 DECLARED HERITAGE DAY

At the September 13, 1997 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Prince George's County Historical Society the following resolution was approved:

Whereas, Prince George's County has a rich cultural and heritage background manifested in a great variety of sites and resources;

Whereas, the successful celebration of the recent Tricentennial increased public awareness of and organizational participation in heritage activities throughout the County;

Whereas, this awareness and participation should be continued and expanded by promotion and coordination among historic sites and heritage organizations;

Whereas, this involvement should be made known to all residents to increase their interest and knowledge in this rich heritage;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Prince George's County Historical Society declares that Saturday, November 1, 1997 be known as **Heritage Day at the Malls**.

CONCERNING VETERANS' DAY

Early in the years of the Great Depression, as a first grader, the real meaning of November 11th was impressed upon this writer. At 11am the school bell was rung and the children of all grades stood beside their desks for a minute of silence in commemoration of the Armistice which brought the Great War of 1914-1918 to an end.

Since 1918 the United States has been engaged in three other major conflicts and Armistice Day has been changed to Veterans' Day in honor of all of those who have served. This change is understandable. It is difficult to accept, however, the latest tampering with Veterans' Day. We refer to placing it on a Monday in October in order to provide a three-day holiday which is also becoming a gigantic sale day. In competition with the birthday of George Washington. Hopefully, without sounding too old-fashioned or sentimental, it is our feeling that it would be better to designate the October date as simply a "Business Holiday" and not desecrate the memory of those who served by calling it Veterans' Day. Under the circumstances where the meaning of the holiday is almost completely lost, better no Veterans' Day at all. [Editor's note: The author of this article must have been very pleased when the celebration of Veteran's Day was restored to November 11.]

Harking back to the Great War of 1914-1918, it is interesting to note that there are two memorials in Prince George's county which were erected to the memory of all of the citizens of the County who lost their lives in that conflict. In 1919, just one year after the Armistice, the county erected a monument (fountain) on the Court House lawn, bordering Main Street, in Upper Marlboro. In recent years the location of the monument was changed to the far left side of the lawn, set back from the street.

The Upper Marlboro monument bears the following Inscription:

THE RIGHT WILL PREVAIL.

This monument perpetuates the memory of the sons and daughters of Prince George's County who true to the traditions of their County and the traditions of their forefathers, served their county in the Great War of 1917-1918.

To the spirit of that service, tribute is here paid by a grateful people.

***J.M. Miller, Sc. (ulptor) W.G. Bucher, Arch. (itect)
J. Arthur Emerick Co., Founders, Baltimore
A.D. 1919***

On the opposite side of the monument is the following inscription:

ERECTED 1919

These men from Prince George's County made the supreme sacrifice defending the liberty of mankind. The most well known of the two memorials in Prince George's, primarily because of its imposing size and its location, is the Peace Cross Monument in Bladensburg. Situated in the center of the intersection of two major arteries, Bladensburg Road (Rt. L) and Defense Highway (Rt. 240, old Rt. 40), it has achieved landmark status over the years. (Until recent years it was the point of reference to the famous Bladensburg floods.)

The fund drive for the Peace Cross was begun early in 1919 by **Mr. John Riggles** of Lanham and **Mrs. J.H. Norman** of Hyattsville. Individual contributions ranged from 50 cents to \$100.00, and the three local newspapers (*The Washington Star*, *The Times* and the *Washington Post*) as well as three department stores (Woodward & Lothrop, S. Kann & Sons and Lansburg Bros.) Each contributed \$100. Numerous benefits were held and a total of \$1,523.16 was collected, but the drive began to wind down by late 1920. At this point the *Snyder-Farmer Post* of the American Legion agreed to assume responsibility for the completion of the Peace Cross.

Snyder-Farmer Post No. 3 of the American Legion was officially recognized on July 8, 1919, the third in the State of Maryland. Most of the Legionnaires had been members of Hyattsville's old Company F. Maryland National Guard, which became part of the 115th Infantry when they were mustered into Federal service and sent to France. (A charter member from another part of the County was the late **Rep. Lansdale G. Sasser** of Upper Marlboro.) The Post was named for **Maurice B. Snyder** and **George W. Farmer**, both of Hyattsville, who lost their lives on October 8, 1918 in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

The Peace Cross was dedicated on July 12, 1925. The total cost, including the wall around the mound to protect it from the floods, was approximately \$25,000. Of this amount, about \$23,000 was raised and donated by Post No. 3.

At the base of the huge cross these four words appear on each side: **VALOR, ENDURANCE, COURAGE, DEVOTION**. On the face of the cross at the junction of the two arms is a gold star bearing the letters "U.S." in red in the center. Encircling the Star is a blue wreath.

The inscription on the bronze tablet is as follows:

*1917 This Memorial Cross 1918
dedicated to the heroes
of Prince George's County, Maryland, who lost their lives in
the Great War for the Liberty of the World.*

Albert N. Baden H. Irvin Bennison Ernest O. Garner
Henry H. Boswell Wilmer A. Disney Milton E. Hartman
Herman E. Burgess Joseph B. Edelen Thomas E. Hawkins
Clarence Butler George W. Farmer Frank Holmes
Vincent G. Cooley Thomas N. Fenwick Henry Lewis Hulbert
James Cooper Edward H. Fletcher Charles E. Huntemann
Matthew Curtin Joseph Henry Ford William Lee

E. Pendleton Magruger William Redmond Edward Shoults
E. Monshuer Maxwell Frank Richmond Albert Smith
Clarence McCausland Harry P. Robinson Maurice B. Snyder
Lee Earle Merson Theodore Rochester John A. Sprigg
Isaac Parker Robert C. Rusk Kenneth P. Strawn

James F. Quisenberry John H. Seaburn William A. Tayman

Elmer Thomas Elzie Ellis Turner Walter E. Wilson
Benjamin E. Thompson Herbert J. White Herman Winter
Herbert Page Tolson

*The right is more precious than peace. We shall fight for the things we have always carried
nearest our hearts. To such a task we dedicate our lives. Woodrow Wilson*

The Peace Cross Monument is a tribute to the early members of Synder-Farmer. They
remembered their Comrades ... which is the true significance of Veterans' Day. By **Frederick S.
DeMarr** (first published in *News and Notes*, November 1973)

Reference: *Journal, First Annual Dance*, Snyder-Farmer-Bulter Post No. 3, Inc., Hyattsville,
Maryland, November 11, 1972. Compiled by the post Commander, **Francis X. Geary**, 28 pp.

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Prince George's History Consortium Calendar of Events — November 1997

- 1-31 Colonial Light, **The Accokeek Foundation** (Fee: 301-283-2113)
 2 "It all started with the Bee: Social Changes in quilting" - **His Lordship's Kindness** (Fee: 301-856-0358)
 2-23 "Marylanders on the U.S. Supreme Court" Exhibit - **Marietta Manor** (Fee: 301-464-5291)
 8 *Painted Floorcloth Seminar*, **Montpelier Mansion** (Fee: 301-953-1376)
 8 "Early Taverns and Tavern Life" **Belair Mansion** (Fee: 301-805-5029)
 15 *Christmas Crafts of the Past*, **Marietta Manor** (Free: 301-464-5291)
 15 & 16 *Annual Fall Open House*, **Surratt House** (Free: 301-868-1121)
 16 *Open House History Tours*, **Billingsley Manor** (Fee: 301-627-0730)
 19 "Creche's" Slide Presentation, **Montpelier Manor** (Free: 301-953-1376)
 29 *Holiday Craft Show*, **Oxon Hill Manor** (Fee: 301-839-7782)
 30 *Holiday Open House*, **Huntington Railroad Museum** (Free, 301-805-5029)

Prince George's County Historical Society Calendar

- November 1 *HERITAGE DAY AT THE MALLS*: Lural, Landover, Iverson, 9 am to 4:00pm
 (Contact: Bud Dutton)
 November 8 *Annual Membership/Dinner meeting*, 94th Aero Squadron, College Park
 (Contact: Phyllis Herndon)
 November 27 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
 December 7 *St. Barnabas Candlelight Concert*, 4:00pm (Leneida Crawford, messo-soprano,
 Gary Kikeby, baritone and Susan Bender, piano)
 December 13 *Christmas Party at Marietta*, 2:00 pm; bring your favorite appetizer (Contact:
 Melinda Alter)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1997

President - Jane Eagen

Vice President - Eugene
 Roberts, Jr.

Secretary - Sarah Bourne

Treasurer - John B. Bourne

Historian - Frederick S.
 De Marr

Editor - Sharon Howe Sweeting

Membership Development -
 Phyllis Herndon

Directors 1997 - 1999

Mildred Ridgeley Gray

Melinda Alter

Katherine Clagett

Directors 1996 - 1998

Julie Bright

John Mitchell

William Uber

Past Presidents

John Giannetti

Paul T. Lanham

Warren Rhoads

W.C. (Bud) Dutton

Joyce MacDonald

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

May I take this opportunity to remind our reader's to pay their respects, not only to veterans as described in Fred's article but to veterans of other, less-popular wars (not that wars are ever popular but for some the goal seems clearer). I was reminded of this only recently when my close Michelle buried her father in Arlington National Cemetery. He was a veteran of World War II and Korea and Vietnam. The respect and pageantry of the young military men and women who participated in his burial was in sharp contrast to what many perceive as a commercial, uncaring society. A recent visit with two English friends to the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials also re-enforced a more caring, respectful national image. And now, I read in the newspapers that a new memorial in Arlington National Cemetery honors *Women in Military Service*. Today, (October 18, 1997) "this memorial is being dedicated after a decade-long campaign led tirelessly by retired **Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught**, president of the organization sponsoring the project." (*Washington Post*) Heroic in scale, the memorial is described by the *Post's* **Roger K. Lewis** as "an artful, sensitive work of architecture woven skillfully and poetically into a sacred landscape and a previously crumbling landmark." I look forward to seeing it and to using the 32 cent U.S. postage stamp honoring the *Women in Military Service* issued this week. And I also paused today to remember our beloved Fred.

BITS AND PIECES

Did you see on a recent Sunday, the *Washington Post* comic strip called *Flashbacks* with references to **Gabriel**

Duvall? The strip was entitled "*The House With Many Names*" and referred to Dumbarton House built in Georgetown in 1798 for Samuel Jackson. In 1804 it was purchased by **Gabriel DuVall**, then Comptroller of the Currency of the U.S., who named it Cedar Hill. The strip goes on to say that Duvall became a Justice of the Supreme Court. In 1805 Duvall sold the estate for \$7,500.00 to Joseph Nourse, Registrar of the U.S. Treasury. Then "Nourse sold it in 1813 to Charles Carroll who dubbed it Bellevue. When Charles died in 1841, Mr. & Mrs. Whitall bought it. Eventually their daughter inherited it. Sarah Whitall married a Rittenhouse of Philadelphia. She called it Rittenhouse Place." If you are not already familiar with *Flashbacks*, on the front page of the *Post's* Sunday comics section, I suggest you look at it. It's fascinating and informative.

Congratulations to the City of Greenbelt

On Wednesday October 15, 1997, the *Prince George's Journal* ran an interesting article on *FDR's Living Legacy*. **Brett Coughlin** reports: "Built in 1937, the original homes of Greenbelt were expected to last only 60 years. As the town celebrates its 60th anniversary this weekend, the 'green town' of the New Deal and its activist residents are still flourishing." The story opens with the tale of Annie Halley's family move to Greenbelt from Washington in 1937. "When the Halley's left their apartment on R Street in Washington nearly 60 years ago and headed for Greenbelt, the family Ford made it as far as Bladensburg before breaking down." "The dream was of a utopian community, surrounded by a belt of greenery and populated by a middle-class, white collar, activist citizenry--and it belonged to **Ruxford Guy Tugwell**, Franklin Delano

Roosevelt's 'number one brain truster,' who proposed the creation of Greenbelt..."

"Built on what *The Washington Daily News* called '12,000 acres of burned out, used-up farm land, gone back to scrub wood and second and third growth timber,' the town was finish in mid-1937."

The article is accompanied by a time line which shaped Greenbelt's development: "1934: President Roosevelt visits proposed site; 1935: Ground breaking begins; 1937: Marine 1st Sgt. Julian M. Ashley and his family are the first to move into Greenbelt; 1942: Eleanor Roosevelt attends war bond rally; 1945: North End School opens; 1949: Elizabeth Harrington becomes the first female mayor in Maryland; 1953: Greenbelt sold to the Veterans Housing Corp.; 1959: NASA opens Goddard Space Flight Center; 1962: 25th year celebrated; 1964: Municipal Building dedicated; 1974: First Sunday in June declared Greenbelt Day; 1976: Eleanor Roosevelt High School opens; 1977: Greenbelt Homes Inc., formerly known as Greenbelt Veterans Housing Corporation, pays off original mortgage to the U.S. government; 1981: North End school closes; 1984: GHI completes \$17.5 million rehabilitation program; 1993: Greenbelt Metro station opens; and finally, 1997: Greenbelt designated *National Historic Landmark*, celebrates 60th anniversary."

For additional information on this fascinating town, I recommend: "*Greenbelt: History of a New Town 1937-1987*" which is the original 50th anniversary book, reprinted and updated. It is available from The Friends of the Greenbelt Museum (FOGM) for \$40.00 plus \$7.00 for shipping for non-FOGM members. The Friends address is P.O. Box 1025, Greenbelt, MD 20768.

Prince George's County
Historical Society

Annual Membership Application

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone—Home: _____

Business: _____

Please indicate: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Check below the category you select:

☐ Full-time Student \$ 10.00

☐ Member \$ 20.00

☐ Sustaining \$ 50.00

☐ Life Member \$ 400.00

☐ Additional Contribution _____

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

☐ For membership in the **Maryland Historical Society**, include an **additional \$30.00** for individual or **\$40.00** for husband and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues and contributions. All contributions qualify for tax deduction. We appreciate your support.

Please make checks payable to **PGCHS**
Mail check and form to:

Prince George's County
Historical Society
Post Office Box 14
Riverdale, Maryland 20738-0014
301-464-0590

The Life of Death

**Mourning and Funeral Customs
in Early Nineteenth-Century America**

**an exhibit at
Riversdale
4811 Riverdale Rd.
Riverdale MD 20737**

**Sundays, Noon to 4:00 p.m.
October 5–November 2, 1997**

**SPECIAL EVENT
A HOUSE IN MOURNING
Friday, October 31, 1997, 7:30 p.m.
\$8.00 per person
For information or reservations call
301-864-0420
Adults only please**

UNDERWRITTENED BY

F R A N C I S
GASCH'S
SONS
Funeral Home, P.A.

301-927-6100

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation encourages individuals with and without disabilities to engage in leisure pursuits together. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for all programs and classes, except those of a drop-in nature. Advance notice for accommodations is requested. A program of M-NCPPC, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Natural and Historical Resources Division.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 14
RIVERDALE, MARYLAND 20738-0014

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RIVERDALE, MD
PERMIT NO. 1948

D

Member # 12 Category L Yr 97
Mrs. Edith Bagot
3510 Longfellow St.
Hyattsville, MD 20782

DATED MATERIAL

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events
Call 301-464-0590

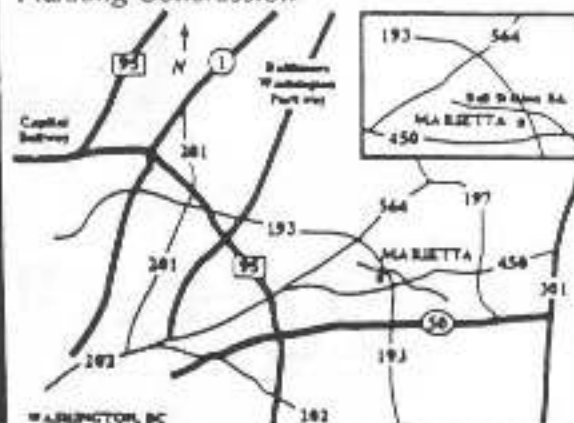
Marietta Tours -Friday, 11 - 3, Sunday,
12 - 4 - and by appointment -
Information 301-464-5291

THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a wide selection of books, gifts,
toys and small antiques. Open Friday,
Saturday and Sunday, 12 -4 PM and
during special events. Call 301-464-
0590.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission





December 1997

Our 45th Year

XXVI Number 9

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 13, 1997

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Marietta Mansion

Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president for several years and I look forward to serving next year also. As this year winds down, except for the fun and festivities, we have much that makes us feel good about our organization. That does not mean that there is not much to be done by each of us.

We have established a delightful gift shop, however it is not staffed every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Nor is there anyone to call and schedule volunteers to staff it. It is important that it be open and fully staffed either by gentlemen or ladies. The shop is an attraction at Marietta and the profits are designated to assist in the restoration and furnishing of Marietta. Many items have been purchased for the house already.

We have lesson plans for each grade level that visits Marietta, but we need people to help with these visits. By the time you read this each grade will have a packet of materials and plans copied for the volunteers and the students. Only one class is scheduled at a time. The material calls for the class to be divided making groups of eight to ten for each docent. If twelve volunteers each prepared for one grade level no one would feel overloaded.

In January the Board of Directors will meet and plan the year's programs. It would be helpful if you would call one of the directors and let them know of your desires for the next year and the programs you particularly liked this year.

Heritage Day at the Mall was a new program in which we participated. The evaluation meeting has not yet been held, but I do know that we talked to many people and handed out lots of membership applications and newsletters. You might have seen Susan Wolfe's hands helping a little girl knead bread in the Tuesday, November 4 issue of the *Journal* newspaper. A special thanks to **Sharon Sweeting, Bud Dutton, Susan Wolfe, and Julie and Dusty Rhoads** for working at the malls. I was amazed to find that there are a lot of people out there who think we are a closed organization and you have to be invited to join. We have a big education and public relations task before us.

Progress is being made in the library. **Sharon Sweeting** is chairing the committee to complete the reorganization and preparing it for public use. She and her husband made a very generous offer to donate \$1,000.00 to hire a consultant to work with the library committee in determining policy regarding what is to be included in the collection and how to organize it. This donation is made with the proviso that the resulting policies be enacted and that the reorganization take place. The collection includes archival material as well as books, clippings, photos, and artifacts. Preserving and conserving it is a major undertaking and will require many hours.

You do not have to be a skilled archivist or librarian to help. There will be times when you might be asked to make copies of newspaper items on acid free paper or to help with filing. Help is needed right now to type 3 x 5 inch cards. When an obituary is attached to a card to be filed in the obituary file, the family members of the deceased need cards typed with their names to be cross references. This does not take a lot of skill and you can work at your own pace at home.

We are keeping a record of the volunteer hours. When we apply for a grant it is very helpful to show that there are volunteers who have invested time in the projects. As a committee is reviewing grant applications they like to see that the project of the organization is supported by its members.

Each Wednesday at 10:00am the library is open for volunteers to come and work. Bring your scissors and a sandwich if you like. We make a pot of coffee and a pot of tea and usually have fruit and/or dessert. Good fellowship is developing and there is much laughing and sharing of tales and experiences.

I look forward to our great holiday party and seeing all of you there. Don't forget to bring a plate of goodies if you can.

APPOINTMENTS TO HISTORIC BOARDS

The Prince George's *Post*, October 23, 1997 - October 29, 1997, announced that County Executive Wayne Curry had nominated the following individuals to various boards. These nominations were considered during a County Council hearing on Tuesday, November 4, 1997. Many familiar names including our own Jane Eagen were considered. Congratulations to all.

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION COMMISSION:** Mr. Charles H. Day, Ms. Jane Eagen, Ms. Virginia R. Garretson, Ms. Druscilla J. Null, William M. Shipp, Chairman; Mr. Leland E. Edgecombe, Ms. Iris H. McConnell, Ms. Patricia Parker, Vice Chairman; and Mr. James D. Williams.

**Appointments to the Prince George's
County Historical and Cultural Trust:** Ms. Katharine D. Bryant, Ms. Mildred R. Gray, Ms. Druscilla J. Null, Mr. Robert H. Schnabel, Mr. Gilbert W. Francis, Ms. Retha E. Henry, Delegate James W. Hubbard, Ms. Mary Lehman, Mr. Clement Martin, Ms. Carolyn C. Rowe, Dr. Yvonne K. Seon, Ms. Nancy L. Thiessen, and Ms. A. Elizabeth Watson.

PGCHS BOARD 1998

At the Annual Meeting, held on November 8 at the 94th Aero Squadron in College Park, the following members were elected:

President - Jane Eagen
Vice President - Eugene Roberts
Secretary - Sarah Bourne
Treasurer - Joyce Uber
Editor - Sharon Howe Sweeting
Membership Development -
Phyllis Herndon

Directors 1998-2000
Julie Bright
John Mitchell
William Uber

Directors 1996-1998
Melinda Alter
Kathryn Clagett
Mildred Ridgeley Gray

Past Presidents
John Giannetti
Paul T. Lanham
Warren Rhoads
W.C. (Bud) Dutton
Joyce McDonald

Prince George's County, *The Maryland Gazette*, and Christmas 1774

The year-end is traditionally a time of both review and anticipation; a time for taking stock of what has been accomplished during the past 365 days and a time for making plans for the year ahead. Personal and professional plans are never made in a vacuum, though, for some of the events of the world and the national will always affect our personal lives.

Two hundred years ago this month [actually 223 years since this article first appeared in *News and Notes* in 1974] the residents of Prince George's County were undoubtedly going through the same processes of review and planning that many of us are today. Unlike today, however, the problem of December 1774 that most affected the personal plans of Marylanders was not the state of the economy but the state of the political system. The Lord Proprietor's government had collapsed in the Spring, and an impromptu Provincial Convention took power in Maryland.

Committees of observation and correspondence were elected in each county to administer local government and encourage a spirit of resistance. In the Fall, the First Continental Congress voted to boycott British good, and Marylanders staged their own version of the Boston Tea party by burning the *Peggy Steward* in Annapolis harbor. Perhaps the most alarming occurrence, though, was the recommendation of the Provincial Convention in November for the county committees to form military companies and to arm them.

The residents of Prince George's County learned of the events of the province and the world from a variety of sources, one of which was Maryland's principal newspaper, the *Maryland Gazette*. The *Gazette* in 1774 was published weekly, with four pages per issue and three columns per page. There were rarely any drawings and never any large headlines. The dispatches and news articles were almost always arranged in the same order in each issue: first came the international news, then news of Britain and the empire, then news from

other colonies, and finally news of Maryland and the counties. There were no column fillers; articles ran one right after the other from the beginning of column one to the end. Unlike modern newspapers, the *Gazette* was not designed for easy browsing.

At least six of the *Gazette's* twelve columns were devoted to advertising. These were always the final columns of each issue, for advertising was never mixed with the news. Advertisements were rarely more than one column wide and were separated from each other by heavy dark lines.

The Maryland Gazette did not have paid reporters in the other colonies or in Britain. Like the other colonial papers, it relied on English newspapers, official documents, letters from friends, word from travelers and merchants, and other colonial newspapers as its sources for outside news. The *Gazette* was part of an informal cooperative news network, for like the rest of the colonial press, it felt free to lift articles directly from other papers and print them word for word. Nevertheless, news

dissemination was much slower then than now because surface transportation was so much slower. News from Europe and Britain was often two months old before it was printed and news from other colonies was often a month old. Datelines were generally provided along with each article, however, so the reader would know just how old the news he was reading actually was.

Reproduced below are selections from the *Maryland Gazette* of December 29, 1774, that illustrate what might have been on the minds of the local citizens as they celebrated Christmas and looked forward to the New Year of 200 years ago. A few advertisements, particularly those that relate to the County, have also been reproduced. This issue is somewhat atypical, however for the individual counties were rarely given as much space as Prince George's County received in this news section. Indeed, local news usually comprised a very small percentage of the paper's content. The implementation of a call to arms was a revolutionary step, however, and the actions of the militant

Prince Georgians must have been a topic of conversation at Holiday gatherings across the Province.

The Maryland Gazette
Annapolis
December 29, 1774

Annapolis, December 29 -- On the --- instant, about nine in the morning, a storehouse belonging to Col. Fitzhugh took fire, supposed by a spark from his office chimney; the wind blowing hard, it was soon destroyed, together with wine, spirits, molasses, &c. To a very considerable amount; it was with the utmost difficulty he saved his dwelling house, which stood but a few feet from the store.

Prince George's County, December 21, 1774-- At a meeting of the committee for said county at Upper-Marlborough, to consider of a method to raise the sum of eight-hundred and thirty-three pounds, according to the resolution entered into at Annapolis by the provincial Congress--it was agreed to raise the said sum by subscription in classes--the first class not less than five pounds, the second class three pounds, the third class two pounds,

the fourth class one pound, the fifth class from ten shillings to two shillings and sixpence; and a very liberal subscription was immediately made by the committee and others present. Copies of the plan are making out for the same purpose through the county, and no doubt is made of the whole sum being very readily raised.

A general meeting of the county is earnestly requested on important affairs (that could not be entered on at this meeting) at Upper-Marlborough on Monday the sixteenth day of January, if the weather proves favorable, if otherwise, the next fair day.

It appears to this committee that then companies many be enrolled in this county, viz: At Upper-Marlborough and its neighbourhood one company. At Queen Anne and its neighbourhood two companies. At Bladensburg and its neighbourhood two companies. At Broad Creek and its neighbourhood one company. At Magruder's Landing and its neighbourhood one company. At Piscataway

and its neighbourhood two companies. At Nottingham and its neighbourhood one company.

The committee for Upper-Marlborough intends to meet at the place on Monday the ninth of January next, if fair, if other the next fair day, and it is recommended to all inhabitants to meet at their respective towns, or convenient places on the same day, to from themselves into companies, and choose their officers, according to the resolutions entered into at Annapolis on the eighth of this instant. By order, Hugh Lyon, Clerk.

Advertisements

Piscataway, December 6, 1774--Just imported in the Ocean, Capt. Dixon, from Whitehaven, and to be sold at a moderate advance for cash or bills of exchange: About 260 pound prime cost of goods; they consist of one hundred and four pieces of Kendal cotton in four packages of five or six different prices in each package, five packages of felt hats, with a few casters in each package, the cost of each package about 22 pounds; some course lawns, silk handkerchiefs, and White --- ounce thread

make up the rest.--John Baynes

To Be Sold By The Subscriber: for cash or London bills, the following tracts of land, lying partly in Charles, and partly in Prince George's Counties, viz: Littlewood Forest, 500 acres. Stephen's Hope, 98. Tanyard, 812. These three tracts lie together and have good improvements for quarters. The Curtail'd Rebecca, 2262 acres; on this is a tenement that is rented at 950 lbs. of tobacco annually. Poplar Thicket, 133 cares. It will be needless to enumerate on the quality of the land, as the land itself will show its value; a good title will be made the purchaser by -
-- Clement Wheeler

This day is published, by William Aikman, bookseller and stationer, Annapolis, in two large volumes, handsomely bound and titled, price 16 s currency: A New Voyage Around the World, in the years 1768, 1769, 1770, and 1771, undertaken by Capt. James cook in the ship Endeavour, drawn from his own journal and from the papers of Joseph Banks, Esq.; and published by order of the admiralty by John Hawkesworth,

L.L.D. with cuts, and a map of the whole navigation.

This edition of Cook's voyages contains the whole of the second and third volumes of Hawkesworth's collection of voyages, which was published in London in three volumes, and sold for three guineas.

-- Where may be had Poor Will's Almanack for 1775, price 8 d and Father Abraham's pocket Almanack, interleaved with writing paper, price 1 s.

December 1, 1774--The copartnership between the subscribers will end and be dissolved the 23rd day of next March, which has been carried on under the firms of Thomas Contee and company, and Contee and Bowie at Nottingham; therefore all persons indebted to them on bond, bill, or open account, are desired to make speedy payment; those that fail payment by the first February next must excuse us for disagreeable consequences, as we must take legal methods to enforce payments without respect to persons.

Thomas Contee
Fielder Bowie

Reprinted from News and Notes, Vol. II, no. 12, December 1974.

PRINCE GEORGE'S HISTORY CONSORTIUM

December Calendar

1-31	Holiday Spirit Accokeek Foundation	Fee 301-283-2113
5 & 6	Christmas Candlelight Tour Belair Mansion	Fee 301-809-3088
5,6,7	Candlelight Tours Montpelier Mansion	Fee 301-953-1376
12-14	Candlelight Tours Marietta Mansion	Fee 301-464-5291
12 & 15	18th Century Christmas Feast Darnall's Chance	Fee 301-952-8010
13-15	Christmas Candlelight Tours His Lordship's Kindness	Fee 301-856-0358
13-15	A Victorian Yuletide Surratt House	Fee 301-868-1121
14	High Tea His Lordship's Kindness	Fee 301-856-0356
14	Christmas Gala Riversdale Mansion	Fee 301-864-0420
14	History Tours Billingsley Manor	Fee 301-627-0730
14-Jan 11	1930s Holiday Decor Greenbelt Museum	Fee 301-507-6582

Prince George's County Historical Society

Annual Membership Application

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone—Home: _____

Business: _____

Please indicate: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Check below the category you select:

- ☐ Full-time Student \$ 10.00
☐ Member \$ 20.00
☐ Sustaining \$ 50.00
☐ Life Member \$ 400.00

☐ Additional Contribution _____

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POST OFFICE BOX 14
RIVERDALE, MARYLAND 20738-0014

NON-PROFIT ORG
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