

## News and Notes from

### The PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### MARCH 1973

#### MARCH MEETING

Following the winter recess, our meetings will resume on Saturday, March 10, 1973 at Montpelier Mansion, Laurel. After a short business session at 2:00 PM our speaker will be John McGrain, past president of the Baltimore County Historical Society, whose subject will be "Maryland Mills" .A story on Mr. McGrain's extensive research on the early milling industry appeared in the Spring 1972 issue of Maryland Magazine. The lecture will be illustrated with slides. Refreshments will be served. Please bring a guest.

#### IN MEMORIAM - HON. R. LEE VAN HORN

It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of Robert Lee Van Horn this past December. At the time of his death Judge Van Horn was Historian of our Society. His charm and his many interesting stories of our County's past will be greatly missed by all of us. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to his widow and family.

#### 1973 MARYLAND HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

The 36th Annual Maryland House and Garden Tour is scheduled for April 29 - May 6, 1973. Although the list is quite short this year, enthusiasts will be pleased to know that St. Mary's County (Sunday, May 6) is back on the circuit. Queen Anne's County and Anne Arundel County are repeat performances from last year. Also open will be Riderwood, Baltimore County; Bolton Hill, Baltimore City; Guilford, Baltimore City; and Western Run, Baltimore County. A water cruise to St. Michael's will be held on May 12th. Tour tickets are \$7.00 each. Individual homes are priced at \$2.00. The cruise will be \$15.00, including lunch and the walking tour in St. Michael's. Tour books are available by mail after March 1st (\$1 each) from Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, 600 West Chesapeake Avenue, Baltimore 21204.

#### ST. THOMAS' HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

The benefit tour for St. Thomas' Church, Croom, will not be held this spring, following the procedure adopted by other areas that the tour not be held every year. The 1972 Tour was one of the most successful ever held in Maryland. We eagerly await its return in 1974.

#### BELLEFIELDS MARKER

The Committee on Historical Markers (Messrs. James Wilfong, James Shreve and John Giannetti) is pleased to announce that the marker at Bellefields, home of Mrs. John D. Bowling, was erected in mid-December. The Society wishes to extend appreciation to Dr. Harold Manakee, Director of the State Historical Markers Program, and to committee member James Shreve, who arranged for the marker to be set in place by the County's Department of Public Works. Bellefields is located on Duley Station Road near Croom.

#### MARYLAND DAY AT ST. MARY'S CITY

The St. Mary's City Commission will again sponsor a special Maryland Day program on Sunday, March 25, 1973, to which the public is cordially invited. At 11:00 AM a choral program will be presented in Trinity

Church by a student group from St. Mary's College of Maryland. (Early arrivals may wish to attend the regular 9:30 AM service in old Trinity Church.) A symbolic meeting of the General Assembly will be conducted in the reconstructed State House by Senator William James of Harford County, President of the Senate. The archeology laboratory will be open and there will be a new exhibit in the State House on Daniel Clocker, one of the first settlers. In addition to a new film, slide lectures will be given by the staff historian and staff Archeologist. Meals will be available to the public in the College Dining Hall.

Members of the Society are encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity to see the fine progress being made at our State's first capital city.

## RESEARCH INQUIRY

Allan Kulikoff, who is writing a dissertation on Prince George's County in the 18th century would appreciate any help that members of the Society might give him in locating old family papers of the 1730-1775 period. He is mainly interested in family correspondence, account books, diaries and other non-public documents. (Wills, deeds, inventories and other public records are all on file at Annapolis.) He particularly would appreciate any leads on two sets of family papers: Addison Papers used by Elizabeth H. Murray in *One Hundred Years Ago: The Life and Times of the Rev. Walter Dulaney Addison, 1769-1848* (1895) and Bowie Papers used by Lucy Leigh Bowie in her article on the Rev. John Bowie (*Md. Hist. Mag* 1943) As well, he would like to use any Bible records for Prince George's families (for the same period) that families might still possess. Mr. Kulikoff can be contacted by writing him at 902 Primrose Road, Apt. 301, Annapolis, Maryland or by calling 301-268-9608.

## TROLLEYS

A recent story in the public press concerning the takeover of the area transit system by METRO carried a very interesting chart on the evolution of the system from 1854. Copies of the chart will be available at the March meeting, or drop us a card and we will send you one. While some of us used the Benning Road or Glen Echo lines, or traveled to Beltsville or even Laurel on the trolley, how many of you ever rode the Washington, Spa Spring and Gretna R.R.?

## STATE ENCROACHMENT ON ANNAPOLIS HISTORIC DISTRICT

Historic Annapolis, Inc. has launched a campaign against the State's proposal to tear down the buildings on the area bordered by School St., State Circle and Main St. (across from the Government House and State House) for a large State Office Building - - - right in the middle of the National Historic District! HA has presented an alternate proposal which would call for remodeling the existing structures, using the main floors for business (helping the tax rolls) and having office space on the upper levels. All of this would maintain the present atmosphere of the area and answer both economic needs of the State and the City of Annapolis. A petition to the General Assembly will be available at our March meeting for your signature. If you can not attend the meeting please write your Senator or Delegate. The HA alternate plan is a good one. If a huge office building is needed for our growing State bureaucracy, then there is ample space along Rowe Boulevard on the outskirts of the city where the new Court of Appeals Building is located. We are fortunate that Historic Annapolis, Inc. is on the scene to protest this destruction of our capital city. They need our help!

## RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS

Seawright, Thomas B. *The Old Pike* (Edited, Designed and Illustrated by Joseph E. Morse and R. Duff Green) Green Tree Press. Orange, Virginia: 1971. 189 PP. \$10.

Written in 1894 by Thomas Seawright, who had spent his lifetime on the National (Cumberland) Road, this modern edition contains over 250 photos, prints and illustrations. The old pike was begun in 1811 as our first Federally-funded internal improvement program and it eventually stretched from Baltimore to Vandalia,

Illinois. By the Civil War, railroads had brought the decline of the road but in the 1920s it was incorporated into a coast-to-coast artery for the automobile. The large number of landmarks which still exist, such as taverns and bridges, are amply illustrated in this volume. (Available at Maryland Book Exchange, College Park).

Lemay, J. A. Leo Men of Letters in Colonial Maryland University of Tennessee Press. Knoxville: 1972. 407 pp. \$13.95

Surveying the Maryland writers for both a biographical and critical approach, Lemay discusses the lives and works of such men of letters as Father Andrew White, S.J.; John Hammond, Innkeeper; George Alsop, Indentured Servant; Ebenezer Cook, Poet Laureate of Maryland; William Parks, printer; Richard Lewis, schoolmaster; Jonas Green, printer; The Rev. James Sterling; the Rev. Thomas Bacon; and Dr. Alexander Hamilton, who exercised a dominant influence on much of the colony's literary life.

A further contribution by Lemay is the tracing of the development within the colony of such characteristic American literary themes and motifs as the initiation of the tenderfoot, the American dream, the tall tale, and the passing of the Edenic wilderness. Of particular value to researchers are the bibliographical notes and the extensive documentation.

## NEWS AND NOTES

It costs the Society 8¢ each to circularize the membership for every meeting. Therefore we are taking full advantage of the weight allowance with this publication. Your contributions and/or comments are solicited. Address: 4010 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville 20781.

## ON LEISURE TIME IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Today in the United States the leisure time of its citizens has developed into a multi-million, or even a billion dollar-a-year business. The sprawling population around the Washington Beltway contributes materially to this industry each year. But, this has not always been the situation.

During the greater portion of its 277-year history, Prince George's County was an agrarian region. Although the Industrial Revolution brought more free time for workers in urban settings, the work day of the tobacco farmer was never shortened. Church-related activities, agricultural fairs and horse-racing were the primary recreational activities of our citizens.

The organized club, or fraternal group became a national institution during the last quarter of the 19th century. They were nothing new, since Freemasonry had crossed the Atlantic in colonial days, and a lodge was chartered in Annapolis in 1750. Groups such as the Odd Fellows, Elks and Knights of Pythias were founded as time went on, but there was a phenomena] increase in the number and membership of these groups after 1880. The nation saw over five hundred such organizations born prior to 1900. Although they were founded for specific purposes and many times provided illness and death benefits, the need for relief from the humdrum of work and family life and the urge to become one of the crowd were the real reasons for the growth.

As small pockets of population, unrelated to the agrarian economy as such, began to spring up in Prince George's following the Civil War, these organized groups began to appear. In addition to the Masons, there were the Grange, the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans. The large numbers of Southern sympathizers in the county cause the historian to believe that there were other Confederate veterans' groups In addition to Beltsville's Capt. George M. Emack Camp of the UCV. In the late 1800's Branchville had its Order of Redmen lodge and after the turn of the century the Knights of Pythias were in Berwyn. (These are now all long gone.) Later came the volunteer fire companies and the American Legion. Freemasonry in Prince George's County clearly illustrates the growth of population and leisure time. The first group chartered was the Lafayette Lodge #30 at Nottingham in 1826, followed closely by Winder Lodge #82 in Upper Marlboro the same year. These were short-lived ventures, for their charters became inactive during the same year they were granted. Our county seat saw another short period of Masonic activity in the

Marlboro Lodge #156 which existed 1871-1882. Finally the Centennial Lodge #174, operating in Brandywine 1877-1889, was reactivated in 1893 and its meetings were moved to Upper Marlboro after that date.

The oldest lodge in continuous existence in Prince George's is the Laurel Wreath Lodge #149 (1869). The other county lodges listed in the 1931 records are: Mt. Hermon Lodge #179, Hyattsville (1882); Chillum Castle Lodge #186, Chillum (1890); Birmingham Lodge #188, Beltsville (1891); Seat Pleasant Lodge #218, Seat Pleasant (1927); and West Gate Lodge #220, Mt. Rainier (1930).

(Of collateral interest is the fact that three lodges existed in Maryland military units. During the American Revolution the Army Lodge of the Maryland Line was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1760. In 1863 the Monitor Lodge #113 was formed among Maryland Confederate troops, to exist at Fortress Monroe, Virginia until the end of hostilities in 1865. Finally, a group of men in the 1st Regiment, U.S. Volunteers constituted the Maryland Army Lodge #1 during the Spanish-American War, 1898-1900.)

In turning our attention to the subject of leisure time and the organized groups which were an outgrowth, we are considering what is a fascinating phase of our American history and culture. While some of the records still exist and some of the people who played a role in this development still live, it behooves us to record the complete story for future generations.

#### References:

FSD

Burch, T. Raymond History and Development of the City of College Park, Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt and Adjacent Areas Suburban Trust Co. Hyattsville:1965. 31 PP.

Dulles, Foster Rhea A History of Recreation: America Learns To Play. (2rid Ed.) Appleton-Century-Crofts New York:1965. 446 pp.

Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of AF and AM of Maryland. Waverly Press Baltimore:1931. 337 pp.

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We are pleased that Past President Paul T. Lanham is serving as our Membership Committee Chairman. Membership application forms are available from him at the meetings, or by calling his residence, 577-1718.

#### NEXT MONTH

Our meeting falls on April 14th, the anniversary of President Lincoln's assassination. Our speaker will be a Marylander who is a leading authority on the subject.

#### COLLEGE PARK AIRPORT

We were pleased to learn from the public press last week that the Prince George's County Council has purchased historic College Park Airport. It was on this field that the Wright brothers trained the first military pilots, and many "firsts" in aviation were later accomplished here.

The field will be under the jurisdiction of the Park and Planning Commission. Meetings are to be held by the Commission with College Park residents and other interested parties to determine whether flying should be continued from the field.

As a historic site which has great potential for tourism, College Park Airport should receive the attention of our Society.

*End of v. 1 no. 1 March 1973*

#### News and Notes from

#### The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTOPICAL SOCIETY

A PRIL 1973

## APRIL MEETING

Saturday, April 14, 1973 is the 108th anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in Ford's, Theater, Washington, D.C. It is appropriate therefore, that our speaker will be Brig. Gen. Clifford L. Sayre, AUS- Ret. whose subject will be "The Collaborators of John Wilkes Booth". General Sayre, who is from Leonardtown, has spent most of his lifetime gathering material on this dark spot in American history. The meeting is at 2 PM at Montpelier Mansion, Laurel. Guests are welcome

The 3rd Annual Antiques Show and Sale for the benefit of the church's restoration fund will be held on April 27-28, 1973. The hours on Friday will be 1-9 PM with dinner being served in the evening. Saturday hours are scheduled for 10 AM-6 PM with a mid-day luncheon. The church will be open for tours and historical items connected with the parish, including the colonial silver, will be on display. A half-hour recital on the 18th century organ will be given at 7 PM (Friday) and 3 PM (Saturday). Show admission is, \$1.50.

## LECTURE ON COLONIAL ARTIST

Of interest to Prince Georgians should be the Maryland Historical Society's Tuesday afternoon illustrated lecture on April 10th. The subject will be "Gustavus Hesselius, Painter in Colonial Maryland". A native of Sweden, Hesselius was for a time member of Queen Anne's Parish, Leeland. It was then that he painted a "Last Supper" altarpiece for the original St. Barnabas' Church. This was the first non-portrait work of art commissioned for a public building in America.

Dr. Roland E. Fleischer of George Washington University will deliver his lecture at 2:30 PM in the Society's headquarters in Baltimore.

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL TRUST

The Trust, whose directors were appointed by the County Executive just a few months ago, has had several organizational meetings. The officers are: Ellis J. Parker, Upper Marlboro, Chairman; David Rinn, Avondale, Co-Chairman; and Mrs. John Walton, Sr., Clinton, Secretary.

## LEISURE TIME REVISITED

The observations on leisure time in Prince George's County printed in last month's News and Notes brought a favorable response from our members. Many of them mentioned some of the clubs of local origin which are an important part of our cultural heritage. Although the article was primarily on the subject of national organizations which were predominant in the late 1800's, there was no intention of overlooking such local groups as the Patuxent Gun Club and the Marlborough Hunt. Nor must we forget the venerable Vansville Farmers' Club, perhaps the oldest group in the County still thriving.

We will have more to say about these groups in a future issue.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members voted at the March meeting of the Society.

NAME	ADDRESS	SPONSOR
Mrs., Edmond Bastek	Clinton	Mrs. Heissenbuttel
Miss Nancy Bagot	Hyattsville	Mrs. Bagot
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crawley	Camp Springs	Mr. Rinn
Mrs. Helen H. O'Leary	Broad Creek	Mrs. Heissenbuttel
Mrs. Helen G. Peterson	Greenbelt	Mrs., Heissenbuttel
Rev. & Mrs. Edward Raffetto	Croom	Mr. Shreve

Mrs. W. Hallam Tuck	Upper Marlboro	Mrs. Heissenbuttel
Mrs. R. Eugenia Walters	College Park	Miss Turner
Mr. and Mrs. John Walton, Jr.	Clinton	Mrs. Heissenbuttel
Mr. Alan Virta	Hyattsville	Mr. De Marr
Mr. Christopher Adams	Washington, D.C.	Mr. Lanham

#### FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND

A pamphlet carrying the above title is published by the Maryland Division of Tourism, Annapolis. For those who have not sent for a copy, we will publish selected events each month. Because of possible date changes and for detailed information, you are advised to telephone the contact listed with each event. April is the month of point-to-point races in Maryland (as well as that of garden tours.) Take a picnic lunch to enjoy while watching from a hilltop on an estate as the horses and riders race over the natural terrain.

- April 15 - 62nd Annual MY LADY'S MANOR Hunt Race Meet - Monkton, Maryland Contact: Col. John E. Rossell, Hitchcock Rd., White Hall, Md. 301-357-5611
- April 15 - 14th Annual Day in Oxford Tour of this quaint Eastern Shore village. Contact: Mrs. Robert T. Valliant, Sr., Morris St., Oxford, Md.
- April 21 - 70th Annual GRAND NATIONAL Hunt Race Meet - Butler, Maryland Contact: Walter W. Brewster, Pd., Glyndon, Md. 301-833-5355
- April 29 - 76th Annual MARYLAND HUNT CUP Race Meet - Glyndon, Maryland Contact: Charles C. Fenwick, Glyndon, Md. 301-833-4188
- Apr 29 thru May 7 35th Annual Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage Contact: Pilgrimage Headquarters, 600 W. Chesapeake Ave., Baltimore. 301-821-6933

#### SIDELIGHTS ON THE LINCOLN ASSASSINATION AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

All Americans are well aware of the basic details of the Lincoln assassination. Not so well known, however, are certain details of particular interest to the history enthusiasts of Prince George's County. For example, there is the tragic coincidence of Mrs. Surratt's visit on April 14, 1865 to her business manager, Mr. Gwynn, of Surrattsville. This was interpreted at her trial as evidence of her participation in the infamous crime of John Wilkes Booth to be perpetrated that evening. Her defense to that charge was that her visit was prompted by a letter addressed to her the previous day from Riversdale by George H. Calvert, Jr. That letter read as follows:

Riversdale  
April 13th, 1865

Mrs. M. E. Surratt  
Dear Madam

During a late visit to the lower portion of the County I ascertained of the willingness of Mr. Notley to settle with you, and desire to call your attention to the fact in urging the settlement of the claim of my father's estate. However unpleasant I must insist upon closing up this matter, as is imperative in an early settlement of the Estate- which is necessary. You wi11 therefore please inform me at your earliest convenience as to how and when you will be able to pay the Balance remaining due on the land purchased by your late husband—

I am, Dear Madam,  
George H. Calvert, Jr.

Yours Respectfully

It is ironic that Mrs. Surratt's prompt attention to this pressing matter (an indebtedness inherited from her late husband who had purchased land from Mr. Calvert, who had subsequently found it necessary to obtain two judgments for payment on this transaction from the Marlborough Court was to be a damaging circumstantial

factor in her conviction. Her testimony, that she was soliciting Mr. Gwynn's assistance to collect a balance of \$479 due her from a Mr. Notley so that she could satisfy Mr. Calvert's claim was afforded scant consideration.

The Calvert family was well known at that time. In fact, George H. Calvert, Jr.'s. uncle, Charles Benedict Calvert, was one of the wealthiest men in Prince George's County, with extensive land holdings and 45 slaves. He organized the Maryland Agricultural College, the first agricultural research institution chartered in the United States, and was first president of its trustees. The 250 acres from his estate, Riversdale, became the nucleus for today's University of Maryland. The family mansion still stands in solitary grandeur as a publicly owned building in today's Riverdale on Riverdale Road.

Another letter of more than passing interest on the same subject is quoted below. It was from Townley B. Robey, a 52 year-old farmer living at Robeys Town, more commonly known as Surrattsville, now known as Clinton. It was addressed to Dr. John.H. Bayne, a prominent Maryland physician residing at Oxon Hill, Maryland on his plantation "Salubria". Dr. Bayne owned 20 slaves but served as post surgeon to the Union garrison at Fort Foote (today a public park on the Potomac just below the Beltway bridge to Alexandria). At the time of this letter, he was 60 years old and serving as a Maryland State Senator.

The letter reads as follows:

Some ten days ago our neighbourhood was relieved of one of the vilest rebbels & one of the most reckless villains that ever disgraced any neighbourhood or society, in the person of John Z. Jenkins. While he was away, sir, all was peace and quietness. But on Thursday last he returns like a roaring lion, saying that Dr. John H. Bayne & Charles B. Calvert did make oath that he was a loyal man & they were determined to defend him. Now (,) Dr (,) I want to know if this is true.

This man is backed by all of the rebbels in this neighbourhood, namely B. F. Gwynn, Jarboe, Burch, Barry. He is the pet of Belt (,) the States Attorney. There is but three loyal voters in this district namely Enoch Ridgeway & 2 Robeys. At the Election last fall Dr. Hoxton & 2 sons voted the rebbel ticket. Dr.,H staid at the polls all day assisting the rebbel party. Jenkins was the leader, threatened to cut the heart out of my son and twenty soldiers. H6 was leader at the last Election & abused the President, said no man but a dam rascal would hold office under him, the Prov(ost) Marshalship had been offered to buy him. I look upon this man as dangerous. Mr. Ridgeway is afraid to travel about. His, Jenkinses, son has threatened to shoot him and the Robeys. Jenkins also declares we shall leave the county or die. This is not half I could say of the man. I know the kindness of your heart but we must have something done. I desire to hear from you before farther, steps are taken in the matter.

If you and Mr. Calvert intend to defend him, let us have a fair chance. If we are to be broken up by rebbels, backed by men who profess to be Unionist, then we must suffer. We can say, that since the commencement of this war, our time and money has been spent in sunshine 'and in storm to sustain our government without one dollar of pay.

After I hear from you, if nothing can be done, we will go to the President and lay out case before him.

John Zaddock (Zad) Jenkins referred to in the letter was a 42 year-old farmer living near Surrattsville. He was the older brother of Mrs. Surratt. His daughter, Olivia, was living with Mrs. Surratt at the time of the conspiracy at 541 H Street, NW, (now 604 H Street) Washington, D.C. John H. Surratt, Mary's son, was Postmaster at Surrattsville from September, 1862 until November, 1863 when he relinquished the office to Andrew Robey. Zad Jenkins and his 17 year-old son had been reported as bitterly quarreling with Andrew Robey at the time.

John H. Surratt, it will be recalled, was brought back from service in the Papal Guard of Italy in 1867 to stand trial belatedly in the assassination conspiracy. He was subsequently acquitted, became a school teacher in Rockville, Maryland and died in Baltimore in 1916.

- Paul T. Lanham

## NATIONAL REGISTER

Prince George's County's newest addition to the National Register of Historic Places is Mt. Pleasant, home of Mr. & Mrs. Ellis J. Parker. Located on the Patuxent River near Upper Marlboro, Mt. Pleasant is a one-and-a-half story brick, gambrel roof house which dates from the mid-eighteenth century. It is currently undergoing extensive restoration by the owners.

## ON THE POSTAL SERVICE IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

The United States Postal Service is perhaps one of the principal subjects of conversation in the country today. In order to improve the quality of service a regional postal facility was established in Riverdale just a few years ago. This was necessitated by the suburban growth in Prince George's County and by deliveries which had become intolerably slow.

With this modernization of the service several factors of interest to the historian have been lost. Many small post offices in the County which were witness to the importance of certain areas in the past have been closed. Most mail gathered from letter boxes in the suburban areas bear the postmark of the Prince George's Regional Facility in Riverdale. Of the offices that remain, only those letters mailed inside the post office building or in the letter box in front of the structure will bear the postmark of that office. All collections from letter boxes on the streets, with few exceptions, are processed at Riverdale.

Writers of the future will be lacking certain types of historical evidence associated with the mail. Consider that the telephone has largely replaced the personal letter which gives the historian an insight to the contemporary social and political conditions as viewed by individuals. For example, a letter in the Society's collections from Henry Clay to Charles B. Calvert, dated July 19, 1850, comments upon the supply of tomatoes at Riversdale and in the Washington markets, the local climate and a pending visit by Clay to Riversdale. Clay also mentions his proposed speech in the Senate which became the basis for the "Great" Compromise of 1850 concerning future territories and the slavery question. Had the telephone existed in 1850, a quick call would have sufficed and this interesting bit of history would have been lost. The ease and speed of personal contact by telephone has, in most instances, reduced the mail service to a vehicle of business communications. For most of us, bills and "junk" mail" (advertisements) seem to predominate.

The loss of local post office cancellations is also a blow to the historian. No longer will it serve as a clue to the date and location for the few personal letters still being written.

The postal service provides a clear picture of the early development in Maryland. The General Assembly devoted its attention to the mails in the 17th century. In 1704 the legislators obliged the sheriff of each county to deliver all official government communications within his jurisdiction. Much later a Royal Post was established by the Crown and then, in 1775, the Second Continental Congress authorized a Continental Post under Benjamin Franklin as Postmaster General. Bladensburg then became the first official post office in Prince George's County.

Prior to the launching of the new federal government in 1789 the records are sparse. On lists for 1776-77 and for 1782-86, Upper Marlboro appears in addition to Bladensburg...The only other offices located in the area south and west of Baltimore are Annapolis, Georgetown and Frederick. There were none in Charles, Calvert or St. Mary's Counties.

A fine source of information on the development of the postal system in Prince George's County is a publication prepared by the Associated Stamp Clubs of the Chesapeake Area in 1960. There is a group of stamp collectors who specialize in postal markings used prior to January 1, 1856, when Congress ordered the use of the first postage stamps. Listed below are those post offices which existed in Prince George's during-the stampless period prior to 1856.

(A note on the dates listed below: For example, 1832-33: this office was in operation in this period; when there is only one date, such as 1832: this office existed only on paper and apparently did not function. When the following is used, 1832-end, the word "end" indicated that the office was active in 1856 when postage stamps went into use.)

Aquasco 1797-end Also appears as "Acquasco" and "Acquasco Mills"  
 Beltsville 1835-end In 1835 the Vansville office was moved 3/4 miles south and the name was changed to Beltsville.  
 Bladensburg 1789-end  
 Brandywine 1835-end  
 Buena Vista 1851-end  
 Central Inn (?) 1823-1823 Location uncertain. Route book gives location as 11 mi. from Bladensburg and 6 mi. from Waterloo. If distance is correct, it was near what is Laurel  
 Croom 1855-end  
 Forrestville 1853-1853 see "Long Old Fields"  
 Fort Washington 1823-1839 1848-1849 1850-1853  
 Good Luck 1830-1852 "Magruders" was changed to "Good Luck" in 1830  
 Horse Head 1819-end  
 Laurel Factory 1837-end  
 Long Old Fields 1827-1828 1830 1832-1853 1853-end Ordered changed to "Forrestville" on Feb. 24, 1853 and ordered changed back on April 2, 1853  
 Magruders 1817-1830 see "Good Luck"  
 Magruders Mills 1819 Probably did not operate  
 Mount Welby 1853-1853 1853-1854 1854-1855  
 Nottingham 1796-end  
 Palmers Tavern 1829-1849 1849  
 Piscataway 1792-end  
 Queen Ann 1796-end Also listed as "Queen Anns"  
 Saint Ignatius 1853-1852  
 Surrats 1854-end  
 Upper Marlboro 1792-end  
 Vansville 1804-1835 See "Beltsville"  
 Warburton (?) 1813 Probably never operated  
 Welby 1814-1823

Although Upper Marlboro was in operation under the Continental Post, it does not appear on the U. S. Post Office Department list until 1782.

Besides the post office cancellations, there were markings used on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad during this 'period. The Washington Branch Railroad, a subsidiary of the Baltimore and Ohio, was chartered in 1833 and opened to Washington in 1835. The first mail contract was for Baltimore to Bladensburg in 1836. The cancellation used was "Balto & Wash RR". Stations listed on the railroad in Prince George's County in 1848 were Laurel Factory, Beltsville and Bladensburg. By 1851 the postal marking had been changed to "Washington Railroad" and the Prince George's stops were Laurel Factory, White Oak Bottom, Beltsville, Paint Branch and Bladensburg.

In 1960, samples of the postmarks from Beltsville, Bladensburg, Laurel Factory, Nottingham and Upper Marlboro were in the collections of the leading Maryland philatelists who specialize in this interest. None of the other offices' cancellations had come to their attention as yet.

Perhaps the "missing links" exist in our own personal collections of old letters.

FSD

#### References:

Letter of Henry Clay to C.S. Calvert. July 19, 1850. Collection of the Prince George's County Historical Society.  
 Powers, Roger T. (ed.) Postal Markings of Maryland, 1766-1855 (1st ed.) The Associated -Stamp Clubs of the Chesapeake Area. Baltimore: 1960 100 pp.

## NEWS AND NOTES

News of interest to the membership of the Society and articles of historical interest are solicited for publication. Likewise comments and criticism are invited.

Send any of the above to 4010 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, Md. 20781 or give us a call at 277-0711.

## RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS

Cassell, Frank A., Merchant Congressman in the Young Republic. Samuel Smith of Maryland. 1752-1839 University of Wisconsin Press. 1971. 283 pp. -\$15.

Most Marylanders remember General Sam Smith as the leader of the gallant defense of Baltimore from the British attack in 1814. This is but one small part of his long and eventful life. As a member of Washington's army, Smith fought at Long Island and Brandywine. In 1794 he led the Baltimore militia called into Federal service during the Whiskey Rebellion in Pennsylvania.

Born into a mercantile family, Smith was to be a leading advocate of Baltimore and American trade during his 80-year residence in the Monumental City. Perhaps the most interesting and least known part of his amazing career was the 40 consecutive years spent in the U. S. Congress. First elected to the House of Representatives in 1793, he alternated between the House and the Senate, serving under the first seven American presidents.

His intimate knowledge of critical financial, commercial and military problems made him a powerful influence in the Congress and a much-sought-after adviser to the White House. Students of the National Period of American history will find this absorbing study to be invaluable for the insights it gives on national and local politics.

Feasibility Study. National Park Seminary Site Preservation. Forest Glen, Maryland. Montgomery County Planning Board of the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission. Silver Spring: 1973. 82 pp.

This report covers the history of the site from 1887 when the Forest Glen Improvement Company made purchase for a development, through its years as a girl's school until it became an annex for Walter Reed Army Hospital in 1942 during World War 11. Placed on the National Register of Historic

Places in 1972, the facility will become surplus from their present military use in 1977. Although the Army would like to develop new housing facilities on the site, they are willing to relinquish it for use by an agency or organization which will preserve its significant architectural and ecological features.

The study is significant in several ways. First, it demonstrates how several agencies and groups, i.e. Montgomery Co. Planning Board, Montgomery Co. Council and Executive, State of Maryland, Montgomery Co. Historical Society, U. S. Army, National Park Seminary Alumnae Association and the Allied Civic Group can cooperate on a worthwhile preservation project.

Usually local groups wake up when the wrecker's ball is ready to strike. In this instance they have done the initial feasibility study four years in advance. Likewise they have inventoried all of the structures and have made recommendations on which should be saved and the costs involved. Finally, they have recommended future uses for the site,

The report contains photographs and detailed information on all of the buildings. Even if the site cannot be saved, they have produced a valuable historical document.

The Parking and Planning Commission and their associated groups are to be commended for their far-sighted work. We wish them success in their efforts to preserve Forest Glen for the enjoyment of future generations of citizens.

## HISTORIAN

At the March meeting Mr. James C. Wilfong, Jr. was elected as Historian of the Prince George's County

Historical Society to succeed the late Judge R. Lee Van Horn. Mr. Wilfong is a past president of the Society and is a resident of Hyattsville.

*End of Volume 1 number 2 - April 1973*

## **News and Notes from**

### **The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

MAY 1973 Vol 1, No. 3

#### **MAY MEETINIG**

During the past several months the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has been engaged in preparing an updated inventory of sites of historical and architectural interest in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. One of our members, Michael Dwyer, has been working on this survey as--an Historian for the Commission. Mr. Dwyer will speak at our meeting of May 12, 1973, and will share with us some of his experiences. Slides will be shown.

The meeting is at Montpelier Mansion at 2.-OO P.M. Guests are always welcome.

#### **NATIONAL REGISTER**

Two more structures in Prince George's County have been entered in the National-Register of Historic Places during the past month. Bowieville, constructed between 1814 and 1825, is an outstanding example of the Federal Style of architecture. It was the home of Mrs. Mary Mackall Bowie Wooten, daughter Governor Robert Bowie of Mattaponi, and was later owned by the Berry family. Bowieville is located off Largo Road at the intersection of (Brick) Church Road.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad station at Laurel is the other designated structure. When the B & O was opened from Relay, near Baltimore, to Washington in 1835, a stop was provided to serve the mill at Laurel (Factory). The present building is late 19th century Victorian architecture and is the only remaining station of this type on the B & O between Relay and-Washington.

#### **"IT MAKES SENSE . . ."**

A recent article in the Washington press carried an interesting comment on the subject of preservation. It seems that the Gulf Oil Corporation, facing the competitive market, had decided to replace one of their old stations with a modern structure. The Commission on Fine Arts, which is interested in preserving Washington landmarks, interceded with Gulf on behalf of the Embassy Gulf service station at the corner of 22nd and P Streets, N.W. This stone structure with arched windows and service bays was constructed in 1937. It was designed to complement, or at least not conflict with, the beautiful Church of the Pilgrims across the street. After a meeting with some members of the Commission on Fine Arts, Gulf has decided to restore, rather than destroy the building.

Carl Lotto, who has operated the station for 31, years, earlier had mixed feelings on the subject. New station or old he was willing to go along with the ultimate decision. Then one day a customer from an embassy came in and said, "You Americans will-never have any tradition. Whenever a building gets a few years old, you tear it down instead of trying to preserve it."

"it makes sense when you think about it," said Lotto.

#### **BOWIE HERITAGE DAY**

On Sunday, May 20, 1973, the 5th Annual Bowie Heritage Day will be held at historic Belair. Both the mansion and the racing stables will be open to the public from 2 - 5 PM. Singers and dancers, artisans

giving demonstrations and exhibits on the Ogle family and "The Horse in Needlework" will be featured during the afternoon program. All are cordially invited to attend.

#### FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND

May brings the last of the garden tours-, however, several towns and areas will be having open house activities. One of Maryland's greatest traditions, the Preakness, will have its 98th annual running at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore. This is the richest jewel in thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown, having a \$150,000 purse.

Because of possible date changes and for detailed information, you are advised to telephone the contact listed with each event.

- May 5 - 5th Annual National Capital Area Scottish Festival and Highland Games. Bagpipe Band and traditional Scottish athletic competition, Robert E. Peary H.S., Rockville. Contact: Robert Clarke, Peary H.S., 13300 Arctic Ave., Rockville, 942-8000
- May 5 - Anne Arundel County House and Garden Tour;
- May 6 - St. Mary's County House and Garden Tour Contact: Pilgrimage Headquarters, 600 W. Chesapeake Ave., Baltimore, 301-821-6933
- May 6-7 - 6th Annual Revolutionary War Days The Maryland First Regiment music and marching highlights demonstrating craftsmen's skills at "Smallwood's Retreat." Contact: Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Waldorf, 301-645-2693
- May 12-13 - 6th Annual Spring Tour of Pleasant Valley Gardens Harvey Ladew's home and extraordinary topiary gardens, Towson. Also May 19 & 20 and 27 & 28. Contact: Arnold Wilkes, Greater Baltimore Medical Center, 6701 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, 301-828-2131
- May 13 - 5th Annual Federal Hill Celebration An arts and crafts festival drawing attention to this historic Baltimore area. Contact: Mary Frances Garland, 1407 Williams Street, Baltimore, 301-752-3392
- May 19 - 98th Annual PREAKNESS
- May 20 - Catoctin Mountain Joust. An opportunity to witness Maryland's state sport, Emmitsburg, Maryland, 1:00 PM.
- May 20 - 6th Annual Bell and History Day Open house and tour, Frederick. Also, the First Maryland Regiment will muster in the town square. Contact: Chamber of Commerce, Francis Scott Key Frederick, 301-622-4164
- May 26-28 - 7th Annual Steam-up and Militia Days Music, musketry and battle tactic demonstrations of the American Revolution. Antique farm equipment. Carroll County Farm Museum. Contact: Museum, P.O. Box 255, Westminster, 301-848-7775

#### ANTIQUÉ GLASS SHOW

The first all-glass antiques show and sale to be held in the Washington Area is scheduled for June 8 - 9, 1973, at Christ Episcopal Church, Clinton, There will be free lectures on glass making and other related topics and door prizes will be awarded. The show will be open from Noon to 9 PM on Friday and from 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday. Admission: \$2.00. For information call Mrs. Orva Heissenbuttel at HI 9-5372.

As a Bicentennial project, the five DAR chapters in Prince George's County are trying to locate all of the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers and patriots in the County. They would appreciate any help we can give them. If you know of any of these graves, please contact the following:

Laurel Area Mrs. Bryan P. Warren, Brigadier General Rezin Beall Chapter, 725-2450

Glen Dale Area - Mrs. J. Richard Compton, Justice 'Gabriel Duvall Chapter, 776-6933

Bowie-Belair Area - Mrs. Abraham Dash, Bellaire Chapter, 262-1906

Hyattsville Area and Southwestern part of the County - Mrs. Truman E. Hinton, Toaping Castle Chapter,

864-3580

Upper Marlboro Area and Southeastern part of the County - Mrs. Charles E. Cook, Marlborough Towne Chapter, 839-3638

Two newsletters have recently been issued which should be of interest to our members. A quarterly, The Contemporary MARYLAND CONTINENTAL, will carry news of the Maryland Bicentennial Commission and other activities planned to commemorate the birth of our nation. The Maryland Historical Trust has published a monthly newsletter called SWAP (Some Words About Preservation). This is a gold mine of information on what is going on in all of the counties and on the state level in the preservation field.

If you are interested in receiving either publication, send your name in to the proper agency. Both may be addressed at 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

#### PRINCE GEORGE'S TRUST ACTIVITIES

During late May and early June the Cultural Committee of the Trust is planning a series of programs to be presented at Montpelier. Lectures on silver and architecture and a musical presentation are to be scheduled. Other programs at Riversdale and St. Thomas' Church, Croom, are also in preparation. More information will be available at the May meeting of the Society and in the public press.

#### NEW MEMBER

Mr. Theodore Machen of Hyattsville, sponsored by Mr. James Shreve, was elected to membership in the Society at the April meeting.

#### NEWS AND NOTES

Upon the suggestion of one of our members, this issue of News and Notes carries a volume and issue number on the masthead. Such a designation would indicate an intent that this publication is to become a permanent part of the Society's program. Our reader response has been good.

We have had some contributions of material for publication, but more are needed for greater variety and to remove some of the burden from the editor. Your assistance in sending items will guarantee the continuation of News and Notes.

Material may be sent to 4010 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781, or call 277-0711.

#### TO THE EDITOR

The following letter from Richard Ponsonby of Bladensburg appeared in the April, 1789, issue of the American Museum, one of the early periodicals published in the United States. This is reproduced from an original copy in the collection of the Prince George's County Historical Society

Mr. Carey,

FROM your laudable exertions to promote virtue, patriotism, and literary merit, I am induced to crave your acceptance of the following elegant ODE to EDUCATION, written by Mr. Samuel Knox, in seven stanzas, and spoken by an equal number of boys, alternately, on the conclusion of the elocutionary exercises of Bladensburgh grammar-school, under his judicious care, at an exhibition held the 18th and 19th of December, 1788. To your approbation and well-known impartiality I trust for an early admission of it in your excellent museum.

Bladensburg, February, 1789.

RICHARD PONSONBY

Spoken by master Thomas Dick

\*\*\* eqo nec studium fine divite vena  
Nec rude quid profit video ingenium. HDR

As nations rise, or infant-empires grow,  
And heavenly virtue guides their glorious course,  
What blessings great from various channels flow!  
Of ev'ry useful art the certain source,  
Fair freedom now in shining vestments pure  
Dispels the gloom, where GENIUS bury'd lay—  
Through azure skies, which no dark clouds obscure  
She leads the soul her own celestial way.  
Sweet SCIENCE, too, now smiles with grace sublime  
On each blessed youth who shall her paths pursue;  
Fostered in this our transatlantic clime  
New prospects, to her expanding view,  
Too long enslaved by some oppressive sway,  
The mind, now hopeful, hails a happier day,  
And bids fair EDUCATION's lucid train  
O'er all the land with brightening influence reign.

II.

Spoken by master O. H. Williams, neph to Gen. Williams.

Ye happy states! who for your freedom fought,  
In arms renown'd, let arts be now your care;  
Enjoy the privilege your bravely bought,  
And raise to learned fame, a temple fair.  
Let Maryland be foremost in the train  
To hail the muses to her happy shore—  
Let feats of science rise from ev'ry plain,  
And like the sun, her central radiance pour,  
To thee, great WASHINGTON! thy country's boast—  
To thee, whose soul, unshaken, bravely dar'd  
To banish curst oppression from our coast,  
Each grateful muse shall pay her best reward.  
The tender orphan tutor'd by thy care,  
In academic shades to thee shall rear  
A monument as lasting as thy fare--  
As dear to mem'ry, as thy deathless name.

III.

By master William Stuart.

O! be it thine, COLUMBIA FAIR, to shield  
And guard by wholesome laws, and dauntless breast,  
Whatever peace, or arts, or science yield,  
To render human life completely blest.  
Each virtue trace, each patriotic deed,  
That shone in Sparta, or in Athens flam'd;

Mark, how Demosthenes could speak, or Agis bleed,  
Or learn great SOLON's laws, for wisdom fam'd.  
Let all thy youth their studious hours engage  
To weigh their justice, government, and laws;  
Reap morals from old PLATO's flow'ry page,  
And plead, with Attic grace, their country's cause.  
Read ancient Rome; and all the lore of Greece—  
From when old Jason stole the golden fleece,  
'Till when the Macedonian madman dies,  
See how their slates could sink, or bravely rise.

\* Alluding to his excellency's bounteous annuity for the education of poor children in the Alexandria academy.

IV.  
By master John Howitt.

Let Xerxes' fate, and Caesar's bloody death,  
Crush vile ambition's arbitrary sway;  
Observe, the Godlike CATO's steady path  
To glory leads a more illustrious way;  
Whose noble soul, unshaken, bravely dar'd  
Alone to stem corruption's powerful tide,  
Each threatened danger with his country shar'd,  
And with expiring freedom boldly died.  
Let his example fire each glowing breast  
In virtue's sternless course to persevere;  
The soul of each enslaving view divest  
And all thy rigid rules, fair Astraea! revere,  
To this great end allure the guiltless young  
With all the flow'rs that florid from Tully's tongue;  
Let worth like this, their tender minds inspire  
And ev'ry age its Catos may admire.

V.  
By Mr. Thomas Contee Bowie

Ye gen'rous youth! who scan sweet Maro's verse,  
Beneath each academic grove retir'd;  
Or HOMER's lofty images rehearse,  
With his enthusiastic flame inspir'd--  
Your raptur'd minds, bold as the poet's eye,  
Shall nature view with an exstatic gaze,  
And through the universal system fly,  
Where planets roll, or constellations blaze.  
With epic grandeur ev'ry line replete,  
The soul with his fine phrenzy shall surprize—  
While vivid fancy with her pow'rs elate,  
In diction, stile, and sentiment shall rise,  
Say, with what transport must your bosoms glow  
As their bold, nervous numbers smoothly flow  
In all the elegance of classic song,

Sublimely great, majestically long.

VI.

By master George Ponsonby

Should avarice invade, or cares corrode,  
Harmonious Horace shall their pow'r destroy,  
His honest satire and his friendly ode  
Elate the heart with philosophic joy,  
And should the heart for loss of friends repine,  
Or from some peerless object sigh in vain--  
Tibullus read, thy weeping woes resign;  
Or soothe thy soul with Sappho's softning strain.  
Form'd by such elegance, the youthful mind  
No more on wanton joys it's hours shall waste;  
But scientific stores of pleasure find,  
And think, and speak, and write with classic taste.  
As rip'ning years the genius shall expand,  
Severer studies must your care demand--  
The vast extent of NEWTON's system weigh,  
And all a BACON's boundless sense survey.,

vii.

By master Allen Bowie Duckett.

Let learned LOCKE instruct the human mind  
Through each ideal labyrinth to steer,  
With pious KATT, to virtue be inclined  
Enslav'd by no enthusiastic fear.  
Ne'er let the ranting bigot's frantic strain  
Blind or bewilder reason's radiant ray--  
The freeborn soul rejects with just disdain  
Old cloyster'd superstition's stupid sway.  
Yet if affliction's wounded heart thou'dst heal  
Regard religion with a Christian care,  
And more revere an honest HERVEY's zeal,  
Than all the wit of infidel VOLTAIRE.  
Ne'er warp'd in metaphysic maze, presume  
On sceptic principles with haughty Hume;  
But with a Beattie's zeal, defend the truth--  
This comforts age--restrains licentious youth--  
Inspires the soul, when worldly joys decay,  
With hopes of heav'n to close life's final day--  
Exalts her pow'rs, transporting thoughts to gaze  
Where knowledge shines in one eternal blaze.

## RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS

Parker, Franklin, George Peabody, Vanderbilt University Press Nashville: 1971. 233 pp. \$8.95.

Most Marylanders have heard of the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, but few are familiar with the story of the generous man who endowed it. Born in 1795 to a Massachusetts family of modest means, George Peabody

was making his own way at the age of seventeen. He was to work in Maryland during his early years and the last half of his life was spent in England as an international merchant and financier.

In 1812 Peabody became a Georgetown merchant in partnership with Elisha Riggs. Success came early and the firm was later moved to Baltimore, the center of commercial activity. In time Peabody traveled to Europe to engage agents and to establish direct sources of supply for his Baltimore business. So successful were his international efforts that he made England his home after 1837.

George Peabody never departed from the Puritan principles of industry, frugality and humility by which he was reared. Through canny investments he gained a fortune; through impeccable honesty he gained a reputation for flawless integrity. In his lifetime as a banker and philanthropist, Peabody created, inspired, endowed or aided twenty-three separate institutions. Among these are the George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee and the Peabody Museums at both Harvard and Yale. In the realm of international finance, his firm was continued by his young junior partner, becoming J. P. Morgan & Company.

Peabody's philanthropies were not limited to his native country. In London he created the Peabody Donation Fund which provided housing for the city's poor. He was the first American to become an honorary citizen of the City of London and he received the personal thanks of the Queen.

In his will, George Peabody directed that he should be returned to his native Massachusetts for burial. After a funeral service and temporary entombment in Westminster Abbey, Queen Victoria directed that his remains be returned to the United States aboard H.M.S. Monarch, Britain's newest warship, escorted by the U.S.S. Plymouth.

This biography is a fascinating and well-researched account of a man who shared his worldly gifts with others, and who set the pattern for modern philanthropists.

IMPOSTOR?

For many years the late James Cardinal Gibbons was a familiar sight to many of our citizens as he visited the Roman Catholic churches in Prince George's County for confirmations. On one occasion the Cardinal and three priests had taken their seats on a B&O RR car when the no-nonsense conductor came to collect the tickets. The three priests promptly displayed their railroad passes. The Cardinal, a most distinguished man in both personal appearance and dress, politely identified himself and indicated that he had a pass in his pocket. To the dismay of the priests and the glee of the Cardinal, the conductor demanded the pass, saying "Why just about anybody could get on this train and say that he was Cardinal Gibbons!"

JC

BICENTENNIAL QUIZ

Maryland contributed many leaders to the cause during the American Revolution. Listed below are the names of seven Marylanders. What two things did they all have in common?

Richard, Potts  
John Rogers  
Benjamin Contee  
David Ross  
Daniel Carrol  
Thomas Sim Lee  
John Hanson

Answer will be given next month.

## News and Notes from

### The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 1973 Vol – 1, No - 4

#### JUNE MEETING

Our speaker for the last meeting of the summer will be Dr. Abell A. Norris, Jr., Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia. Mr. Norris is a man of many talents involving local history and will speak on subjects of his choice when he visits us. Included will be an illustrated coverage of the make-up of heraldic coats-of-arms including five Prince George's County families.

The meeting time is 2 p.m., Saturday, June 9, 1973, at Montpelier Mansion. Guests, as always, are welcome. Refreshments after the meeting are being handled by our Corresponding Secretary (Mrs. Bagot) while our regular refreshment chairman, Mrs. Rollo, is touring Europe via camper. (Congratulations, Vera, on your history B.A. from the University of Maryland, and our appreciation for your innovative refreshment arrangements which we all so thoroughly enjoy.)

#### BOWIE HERITAGE DAY REVISITED

On the 20th of May, your Society covered itself with distinction by an exhibit at the annual Bowie Heritage Day at the Belair Mansion. Thanks to the enthusiasm of Mr. Howard Larcombe of Silver Spring (who not only made available his personal unique and extensive memorabilia collection on the Pope's Creek Line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, but also came along to personally field the intensive questioning of a host of Bowie boosters who were Intrigued by his display), we were a big hit!

Fred DeMarr and Paul Lanham hastily retreated to a far corner of the room as the questions became more and more detailed, but Mr. Larcombe didn't leave one unanswered that we could see. A handout on Bowie's railroad was a hit as a memento.

Incidentally, the civic pride of the history boosters of Bowie-Belair is matched only by their accomplishment of establishing the Belair Mansion and Stables firmly in the public's historical eye! These folks have a County history of which they are proud and they show it with an enthusiasm which can't possibly be overlooked. Their achievements to date are only overshadowed by what they yet plan to do.

(Paul Lanham incidentally was dumbfounded to see framed in the Stable Lodge a photograph credited to his County history collection as he avidly toured the stable museum.)

#### NATIONAL REGISTER

The Surratt House in Clinton has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The role of this structure, and its owner, in the conspiracy to kill President Lincoln are well known to most Prince Georgians. Documentary and structural research have been completed and restoration will commence soon under the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the structure's owner. The project to save the Surratt House was initiated by the local Committee for the Restoration of the Mary Surratt House, and it continues to receive their support.

The members are Chairman Thomas S. Gwynn, Jr.; W. O. Dutton, Jr.; Edward O. Freeman; Larry G. Manuel; Mrs. Genella S. McGinniss; John A. Scheibel; Mrs. Blanche Van De Ree; John M. Walton; Harrison Weymouth, Jr.; Thomas V. Miller; and Delegate John W. Wolfgang.

Another recent addition to the National Register is Riversdale, the Calvert Mansion in Riverdale, owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and used as an office building by the County's legislative delegation. Begun in 1800 by the Baron de Stier, it was soon occupied by his daughter

and son-in-law, Rosalie and George Calvert. The 2,000-acre estate became a center for experimental agriculture under the ownership of their son, Charles B. Calvert, who was the principal founder of the Maryland Agricultural College at College Park.

The Prince George's County Historical Society held meetings at Riversdale during their first ten years of activity.

## RESEARCH INQUIRY

Mrs. G. E. Baltz of Bowie is collecting data on the Benjamin Taskers, Sr. and Jr, who were associated with the Belair estate in the early years. Any member having information or leads on these two men are invited to contact Mrs. Baltz at 12217 Fleming Lane, Bowie. Telephone: 262-0695.

Another project on which Mrs. Baltz is working is a complete history of Queen Ann, the once-flourishing seaport on the Patuxent in Prince George's County. Mrs. Baltz has very kindly consented to speak on this subject at a meeting of the Society during the coming year.

## PRESERVATION GOOD NEWS

Woodstock, the Magruder place located east of Route 301 below "Sasscer's Green" and north of the road to Croom has just been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Couser of Bowie. The kitchen wing is 18th Century and the main structure is early 19th Century. Located on the grounds is a magnificent holly tree. Woodstock had been vacant for about five years and was facing an uncertain future. Our thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Couser, who plan to restore and preserve this part of our County's architectural heritage.

Mt. Airy (the Dower House) and its 500 acres have been acquired by the Maryland Board of Public Works for development as Rosaryville State Park. Our congratulations to the State. A fine property has been saved and there will be one less real estate development.

Finally, in another part of the State, the General Assembly appropriated \$71,000 for preservation of the Sturgis House located on the Chesapeake Bay in Sandy Point State Park. Work will be under the direction of the Maryland Historical Trust. This late 18th Century house is "E" shaped, with-the staircase being in the center wing--a rare feature on the Western Shore. Our congratulations to the Maryland Trust for watching out for properties already in public hands.

## INDIAN QUEEN ACQUISITION

Jaycee Chairman and fellow member John Giannetti announces with pride the acquisition of the first piece of authentic County memorabilia designed to grace the walls of the Indian Queen when this survivor of old Prince George's County is finally restored. It is an original copy of the National Intelligencer featuring a first-hand account of the Battle of Bladensburg by its hero of the day, Commodore Barney. Authentic items of this nature are neither plentiful nor cheap and this first acquisition is an occasion for congratulations to the civic dedication of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

## BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG AND THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER TRAIL

Completion of member Bill Aleshire's efforts to establish a BW Scout Historic Trail titled as above was recently symbolized by the release of the National Capital Area Council, BSA, of Bill's historic brochure and trail map. The attractive medal which will spur scouts nation-wide to hike this historic route from Benedict to Bladensburg. The medal features a raised relief in bronze of a soldier symbolizing the minute-man spirit perpetuated at this significant episode in America's Second War of Independence. It is a fitting tribute to those local citizens, young and old, who answered their nation's desperate call for help. While the reluctance of those who ignored the call is understandable in view of the superb military capabilities of the invader, history's failure to recognize the effort is not. Today, as then, many so-called historians are betrayed by the shallowness of their professional appraisal.

Mr. Aleshire's commendation by the County Executive for his laudable and successful Project is well deserved.

## ANNE ARUNDEL RESTORATION

London Town Publik House, located on the shore of the South River just a few miles from Annapolis, is now open to the public. Built c. 1744-50, it was purchased by Anne Arundel County in 1828 and used as the Alms House. It is the only remaining building of once flourishing London Town, a stop on the Annapolis-Georgetown stage line. (Queen Arm and Bladensburg were the other stops.) Visiting hours are 10 AM – 4 PM daily and there is a nominal admission fee. For information call (301) 956-2727.

While you are in the area, it is suggested that you visit St. James' Church, Herring Creek and All Hallows' Church, Davidsonville. These are two of the thirty original parishes erected by the General Assembly in 1692 and both are good examples of colonial ecclesiastical architecture.

## PRINCE GEORGE'S – MONTGOMERY BOUNDARY

The age-old dispute over the boundary between Prince George's and Montgomery Counties has finally been laid to rest. This month County Executives William Gullett of Prince George's and James Gleason of Montgomery met in a wheat field near Calverton and planted the first of 18 engraved stone markers to be placed as a result of final surveys made.

When Frederick County was cut off from Prince George's County in 1748, the line designated was a straight one running from the mouth of Rock Creek on the Potomac River to Seth Hyatt's Plantation on the Patuxent River. Over the years the most controversial part of the boundary has been in the area west of Laurel. Various factions argues that through the years the boundary of the Hyatt plantation zig-zagged west and that the county boundary should do the same. (The real cause of this zig-zag boundary came about as a result of the property being broken up into smaller farms. When a farm straddles a county line, taxes are paid to that jurisdiction in which the principal dwelling is located. Thus a westward movement of the boundary could occur when a 100-acre farm might have the house on two acres in Prince George's County with the other 98 acres lying in Montgomery. Before this procedure of taxation was adopted, there were those living west of Laurel who used to receive tax bills for the entire farm from both counties! – ed.)

Over the years the General Assembly ordered surveys of the boundary on five different occasions, but no real results were achieved. In 1968 there was a dispute over 340 acres west of Laurel which included the Meromy Estates and Avalon Manor subdivisions. A bi-county referendum supported the zig-zag boundary and the General Assembly enacted this into law. The county surveyors have completed their work and with the placing of the markers a 225-year-old dispute is at an end.

## BICENTENNIAL QUIZ ANSWER

The seven Marylanders listed in the May issue of News and Notes had two things in common. First, they all had some association with Prince George's County. Secondly, each one was a member of the Continental Congress.

Most people think of the Continental Congress only in association with the Declaration of Independence in 1775. (sic) The First Continental Congress met on September 5, 1774, in Philadelphia. It became the legal representative body when the necessary number of states finally ratified the Articles of Confederation in 1781. The last session of the Continental Congress adjourned on March 2, 1789, and the new U. S. Congress convened in the same city two days later.

Daniel Carroll (Continental Congress 1780-1784), brother of Bishop John Carrol, was born in Upper Marlboro on July 22, 1730. He was a signer of the Articles of Confederation and a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, also signing the U.S. Constitution on behalf of his native state. Carroll served as a Representative in the First U.S. Congress (1789-1791) and as one of the commissioners to establish the District of Columbia. He died May 7, 1796, at Rock Creek and is buried in St. John's Catholic Cemetery, Forest Glen, Maryland.

Serving in the First U.S. Congress with Daniel Carroll was Benjamin Contee (Continental Congress 1787-88) who was born at "Brookefield" near Nottingham, Prince George's County, in 1755. He was Captain in the Third Maryland Battalion during the Revolutionary War. In 1803 he was ordained in the Episcopal ministry and moved to Charles County as Rector of Christ Church, Port Tobacco Parish. Contee died November 30, 1815, and was interred at "Bromont" his home near Port Tobacco.

Richard Potts (Continental Congress 1781 – 82) was born in Upper Marlboro on July 19, 1753, and later studied law in Annapolis. Most of his adult life was spent in Frederick County where he died in 1808 and was interred in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Frederick City. Potts was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1793 after the resignation of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Upon his own resignation in 1796, Potts was succeeded by Col. John Eager Howard of Revolutionary War fame.

Perhaps best known as First President of the Congress under the Articles of Confederation, John Hanson (Continental Congress 1780-83) was born at "Mulberry Grove" Charles County, and lived in later years in Frederick County. While visiting his nephew at "Oxon Hill", Prince George's County, Hanson died on November 15, 1783, and was interred there.

David Ross (Continental Congress 1786-88) was born in Prince George's County, the son of Dr. David Ross of Bladensburg. In his adult life he practiced law in Frederick County, where he died in 1800.

John Rogers (Continental Congress 1775-76) was born in Annapolis in 1723. He served as a member of the Maryland Committee of Safety and later as second Major of a battalion from Prince George's County in the Revolution. He was Chancellor of Maryland from 1778 until his death in Upper Marlboro on September 23, 1789.

Born near Upper Marlboro on October 29, 1745, Thomas Sim Lee (Continental Congress 1779-1783) served a second time (1792-94) and in 1798 refused election again. Upon his death on October 9, 1819, he was interred at "Melwood Park". In 1888 the graves of the family burial ground were removed to Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Upper Marlboro.

A total of forty-two Marylanders served in the Continental Congress during its fifteen year existence, 1774-1789.

Reference: Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1961. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington: 1961, 1863 pp.

## FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND

June continues the season of open houses and art festivals, from Calvert County to Cumberland. And for something different, there is the Delaware Highland Festival being held in Cecil County.

- June 1-2 Crafts Show – Prince George's County Memorial Library, Adelphi Road, Hyattsville.
- June 2 12th Annual Delaware Highland Gathering. A Scottish celebration of pipe band contests, individual piping, drumming, highland dancing, tossing the caber, and other traditional athletic events. Fair Hill, Cecil County. Contact: Maclean Macleod, 20 Wakefield Dr., Newark, Delaware, tel. (302) 731-5100
- June 2-3 Cavalier Days – Prince Frederick, Md. Parade, 10 AM Saturday. Displays, events (including jousting) at Fairgrounds, Prince Frederick, 11 AM – 7 PM. Strawberry Festivals at Methodist and Episcopal churches in evening. Sunday: Colonial church services at 11 AM, events at Fairgrounds, 1 – 7 PM.
- June 3 Community-University Day, University of Maryland, College Park. Seminars, exhibits, tours and entertainment are featured, covering a variety of subjects to reach all ages and tastes in this annual open house for the community. Central location is the Student Union Building. Park your car and use transportation provided around the campus. Noon - 6 PM. No charge
- June 8-9 All-Glass Antiques Show, Christ Church, Clinton. Noon - 9 PM on Friday, and 10 AM - 6 PM on Saturday. Four free lectures on glass topics each day,- glass- blowing demonstration Friday, 7 - 9 PM, dinner (\$1.75) Friday evening, door prizes. Admission \$2.
- June 15-17 11th Annual Annapolis Fine Arts Festival. Local and nationally famous talent is presented in

tents on the Annapolis City Dock. Contact: Elizabeth Ebersole, Festival Hdq. 18 West St., P.O. Box 228, Annapolis, tel: 267-7922.

June 22-24 5th Annual Heritage Days Pageant & tour of Washington's headquarters and other sites, Cumberland. Contact: Mrs. R. C. Isiminger, Sr., 400 McMullen Hwy., Cumberland, tel: 729-3272.

June 23-24 5th Annual Hagerstown Park Arts Festival, City Park, Hagerstown. Contact: Washington County Tourism Division, Court House Annex, Hagerstown, tel: 731-0110, ext. 203.

## A COLLEGE BOY'S LETTER OF 1861

M. A. C. May 11th - 61

Dear Jo

As you will not write to me I suppose I will have to write to you. I received a letter this evening from you, date Feb. 19 - 61, saying you wished me to go to Chestertown immediately on receipt of it. Well I have been there and come back. The letter was directed to Baltimore, which it reached about the last of April, when it was sent on here by Margaret, and has just reached here.

Well Jo this is a bad state of affairs, is it not? I can scarcely realize it. There are troops stationed all along the road from Washington to the Relay House. Three of them came up to the College the other day to get something to eat. They said that they had nothing for breakfast except three little crackers and a cup of coffee, and they said they were not used to that. I heard a report the other day that they were going to take this College as barracks for the troops. I wish-they would. You would see me in Chestertown in a very short time.

I received a letter from Miss Mary Sparks last night and she was going out to learn how to shoot. You I suppose will teach them, after you have become so expert in the use of the bird gun. You killed so many cedar birds in the mountains, especially when there were huckleberries near you.

I believe you told me that Merrit Beck had gone at last. I expect you will see Merritt coming home again soon.

Jo, are you studying law yet or not?

I believe that I am about the most unlucky fellow in existence. I have just got well of my boils and foot, and last night we got to tussling in the passage, and I have strained the muscles that are situated between the ribs and around the heart, so that I can scarcely use my left arm, and Dr. Johns says that I may be troubled with it for a year, and maybe not more than a week. It pains me a great deal when I breath (sic), just as if I had the pleurisy.

Grandfather and Margaret have gone to Somerset, and I wish that I could go too, but I can't. Grandfather has got me here, and he seems inclined to keep me here.

I must now close, as it is getting late. Give my love to your family and to all inquiring friends. Write soon and direct to (your sincere friend).

Thomas L. Lockerman

This newsy letter is the property of Washington College, Chestertown, where Joseph T. Burchinal, the recipient, graduated in 1860. This and other letters pertaining to M. A. C. were made available to us by Mr. Robert G. Bailey, Librarian. He tells us that Jo did study law under a Mr. Vickers. Later he sought a teaching job and there is a letter from Dr. Jones, who had been his teacher at Washington College, giving him several suggestions and a strong recommendation.

Dr. Montgomery Johns, graduate of the University of Maryland Medical School, was Professor of the Science of Agriculture, Chemistry, etc., from 1860 to 1865. He also taught at Georgetown Medical College in the 1860s.

Tom was right, there was a bad state of affairs in our country. In April Fort Sumter had fallen, Lincoln had

called for troops from the State to defend the Nation, and first blood of the Civil War had been shed in Baltimore when southern sympathizers tangled with Massachusetts troops passing through the City. On May 4 General Benjamin Butler, commanding New York troops, occupied the Relay House, after traveling by boat from New York to Annapolis. On May 13 he went on to Federal Hill in Baltimore and on May 24 McDowell's Union forces moved into Virginia. It was vital to the safety of Washington and the government that Maryland not secede.

Soldiers must have marched the road from Washington to Baltimore many times during the Civil War, passing the College and exciting students. The war brought many troubles, for instance, the Baltimore Rural Register, as quoted in the Country Gentleman, reporting on the new Agricultural College in October, 1861 found that some members of the faculty had "buckled on their armour and gone to the wars". Doubtless some students followed them. But the boys at college in '61 engaged in friendly tussles "in the passage" and thought of the girl friends at home. The troops did not take over, Maryland Agricultural College continued operations throughout the War.

Theodore L. Bissell

(This article by Professor Bissell appeared in the Maryland Alumni Newsletter for Spring, 1961.)

### A GOOD EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

Last week the Southern Maryland Antique Art Association presented a check for \$ 1,500 to John Giannetti, Chairman of the Indian Queen Tavern Restoration Committee, for that project. This amount represented the proceeds of a benefit auction held by the group on May 19th.

The Southern Maryland Antique Arts Association was founded less than a year ago and has about 80 members who meet monthly at the Oxon Hill Library. The organization is dedicated to the study and preservation of arts and crafts as well as local history, architecture, and genealogy. Tour and study groups are included in their program.

The Southern Maryland group is one of five chapters of the American Antique Arts Association located in the Washington area, which total an active membership of over four hundred. The national association was founded by Mrs. Orva Heissenbittel of Camp Springs, a member of this Society. Individuals interested in the work of the Association may get further information from Mrs. Heissenbittel, telephone HI 9-5372.

The Prince George's County Historical Society wishes to commend the Southern Maryland Antique Arts Association, and Mrs. Heissenbittel especially, for their active interest in our local heritage. With individuals and groups such as these setting the example, perhaps we can make up for lost time in the areas of historical education and preservation.

### RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS

Stein, Jr., Charles Francis Origin and History of Howard County, Maryland Published by the author. Baltimore: 1972. 383 pp. \$19.95

This is Mr. Stein's second book on the history of a Maryland County, since he authored the well-received A History of Calvert County in 1960. In this newest work you will meet pioneering characters who made their impress not on Maryland history alone, but who also figured prominently in the political, military and industrial annals of national affairs: Charles Carroll of Carrollton, General John Eager Howard, Commodore Joshua Barney, Luther Martin the barrister, Major Andrew Ellicott, Senator Arthur Pue Gorman, Governor Edwin Warfield, and Benjamin Banneker the negro scientist.

In total content, there are 162 pages of the history of the County, followed by a beautiful section showing 29 coats-of-arms in full color of prominent Howard County families. Following this there are genealogies of 54 Howard County families, including photographs of 32 historic residences of the area. Finally, there are lists of the Land Grants and Tax Lists, a bibliography, and a full index.

This book is recommended as a good basic reference work for all collectors of Maryland material.

## **News and Notes from**

### **The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

JULY 1973 Vol – 1, No – 5

#### **SOME SUMMER THOUGHTS**

Although our regular meetings have recessed for the Summer, the work of the Prince George's County Historical Society goes on. Publication of News and Notes will continue and planning is underway for the programs of the 1973-1974 season.

For the past ten years most of our meetings have been held at Montpelier. A more beautiful setting could not be asked for, yet we realize it is located in the extreme northwest tip of the County. For our friends and colleagues in the population centers to the south and east, it is not the most convenient place to reach on a regular basis. (On the other extreme, can you picture our regular monthly meetings being held in Aquasco?) With this thought in mind, the Program Committee is planning to schedule some of our meetings at appropriate locations in other sections of the County. Besides being a convenience and a courtesy to our current members, we hope that this approach might help us enlist the interest and support of potential new members from the entire County.

Further details on our 72-73 (sic) program will be published later in the Summer. In the meantime, may we have your suggestions for topics and meeting locations? Notify the President at 4010 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, Md. 20781 or call 277-0711.

#### **MONTGOMERY RESTORATION**

The Montgomery County Historical Society is engaged in the restoration of a 19th Century doctor's office. Belonging to Dr. Edward Stonestreet, this small building stood in his yard and was used by him from the 1860s through the turn of the century. When the property was sold after Dr. Stonestreet's death in 1903 to the Board of Education, the office was used as the Rockville town library. In 1940 it was given to the Rockville Fire Department and they used it as a ticket office at the Montgomery County Fair Grounds. When the fair grounds were sold last fall, it was given to the Montgomery County Historical Society. It has since been moved by them to the yard of their headquarters, the Beall-Dawson House, on West Montgomery Street.

The restoration has been a society-community project with the Boy Scouts, Jaycees and many other individuals volunteering their time for work. The exterior, painted gray with forest green trim, is now completed and they are now ready to furnish the interior. It will serve as a historical medical museum for children, many of whose grandparents and great-grandparents were delivered by Dr. Stonestreet.

This restoration has been under the enthusiastic direction of the Montgomery County Historical Society's President, Thomas M. Anderson, Jr., who serves as a member of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Our congratulations to Tom Anderson and the people of Montgomery County who have given new life to this structure which will remain as a monument to the medical profession of the horse-and-buggy era.

#### **NATIONAL REGISTER**

It is with a great del of pleasure that we report the addition of the Belair Stables to the National Register of Historic Places. Belair's fame as a breeding farm for thoroughbred horses began in the colonial period with such greats as "Selina", "Othello," Queen Mab," and "Spark." In modern times, two of the eight winners of racing's Triple Crown (Kentucky Derby-Preakness-Belmont Stakes), "Gallant Fox" and "Omaha" were raised there by owner William Woodward.

When Belair was developed in recent years, the mansion was preserved, eventually to become the Bowie City Hall. The stables, however, faced an uncertain fate. A group of women, all of them newcomers to the area, realized the historical value of the stables and through their efforts the building was retained and a racing museum established. Materials were collected, and with the support of the City of Bowie a part of the building has been restored. They house an excellent exhibit which is well worth taking the time to see. This is the only museum facility in Prince George's County open to the public on a regular basis. Information on hours may be had by calling the Bowie City Hall at 464-19xx

Our thanks and congratulations go to the ladies of the committee who helped organize this museum. Especially we wish to thank the Mayor and Council Of the City of Bowie for their continued support in preservation of this part of our heritage.

#### FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND

After an extremely busy Spring season, July days become lazy days in Maryland. Jousting, the State sport, is the major item of interest. Take a picnic lunch and watch modern day knights compete for their ladies fair.

July 15	MAYAONE 4-H JOUST, Accokeek (3 p.m.)
July 20-23	4th Annual Antique Show and Sale Convention Hall, Ocean City, Contact (302) 742-7781
July 21	JOUSTING
July 28	JOUSTING St. Mary's Catholic Shrine, Barnesville (1 PM)

#### COLLEGE PARK TO ANNAPOLIS ON FOOT

College boys have always gone to football games, come hell or high water. Before the time when most students found motor transportation there was "shanks mare" to ride.

So it was a group of students from old Maryland State College at College Park hiked to Annapolis to see their team play bitter rivals St. John's College, on November 4, 1916. It was an all night hike, and worth it because Maryland won decisively. There were seventeen in the party and all made it on foot. The distance was about 35 miles.

We left the campus at sundown, after classes, on Friday, each of us fortified with two generous roast beef sandwiches from the dining hall. Charlie Dory had cooked the meat, old Mac had baked the bread, and Mrs. Moore, dining hall superintendent, had put the makin's together and waved us goodbye. On the football field south of the Roszburg Inn (as it was called then) some less ambitious guys, who would take the train next day, were kicking a ball around.

Our route lay across country east to the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railway, north to the junction near Odenton and eastward again to our destination. Nothing to it! Campus cinder paths led through College Park to the B&O tracks. Many a cinder found its way into a shoe. From there to the WB&A the road was gravel or dirt.

At Seabrook on the Pennsylvania Railroad we stopped a few minutes at the home of Walter "Slim" Hardesty. Slim was not at home, but his mother and sisters generously entertained us with apples and cookies. Then another mile to the electric line where we found a smooth gravel path beside the tracks. We clipped along at a good four miles an hour, and reached the junction about 10 O'clock. Beside the tracks was a tool room, lighted and heated, here we stopped to rest until about midnight. There were only a few seats in the house, so most of us lay or sat on the floor. I suppose some of the fellows slept, but it was a poor rest for me.

Odenton junction to Parole Station was a long grind, and the seventeen of us must have strung out quite a distance. Four of us kept the lead: Bernard Dubel, class of '17 and three freshman—my roommate, Milton E. Poole, Joseph Alexander Gray, and I. We would hike three or four miles, stop and build a fire, eat a few bites of sandwich, and wait for the rest of the boys to catch up. J. Edward "Anne Arundel" Smith, sophomore, was the captain who cajoled laggards on to the end. The only others I can remember were Hanson T. "Cy" Perkins and Paul E. Crum, sophomores, and E.W. Higgins, sub-freshman. An older boy had lent me a pair of arch supports for my shoes, and with these I had no difficulty on the hike. Others found it

pretty tough. It was a dark road along the narrow carline with the silent gloomy woods on either side of the overcast sky only a little lighter. On the first stretch there had been an occasional train to break the miles, but I don't believe there was one after midnight.

Finally we emerged from the woods and reached Parole Station on the outskirts of Annapolis, where there was a heated waiting room and good solid seats. We must have stayed there forty minutes, waiting for "Anne Arundel" and the seventeenth man. When we left Parole on the home stretch, the sky was light in the east. I think we kept together this time, as no one felt a bit like sprinting, and we arrived on the St. John's campus at about 7 o'clock. A few cadets poked their heads out the windows to give us a hostile greeting.

We found a good hot breakfast in a restaurant and a short snooze in a barber shop. Another snooze in a dormitory, and then to the football game, where we found the rest of the Maryland student body, about 250 strong. Our Maryland team, coached by Curley Byrd, snowed under the St. John's team 31 to 6. We were truly jubilant, and were led by Austin Diggs, born cheer leader, through old Annapolis in a long snake dance. Down on the big square at the water front we paraded slam-bang through a suffragette meeting. The drummer of the women's band cheerfully marked time as we marched and sang "Maryland will shine tonight."

In the afternoon we went over to the Naval Academy and saw the Navy play Washington and Lee. I believe W & L won, but the score does not matter. Then we boarded the WB&A for Washington, and caught a streetcar to College Park. Finally the last little jaunt from the car tracks up to our rooms in Cabs House, later called Gerneaux Hall. What a long glorious day!

Theodore L. ("Ted") Bissell, '20

(This article by Professor Bissell appeared in The Maryland Magazine, September-October, 1959, a publication of the University of Maryland Alumni Association)

#### THE POPE'S CREEK LINE – BALTIMORE & POTOMAC RAILROAD

Prior to the Civil War the planters of Southern Maryland were interested in establishing a railroad to link Baltimore with the Potomac River, thereby providing fast transportation of their products to market. Among the earliest advocates of this enterprise were Col. William D. Bowie, Robert Bowie of "Cedar Hill," Gen. T. F. Bowie and Walter W. W. Bowie. As a result of their efforts, a charter was secured from the General Assembly of Maryland for the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in 1853. Oden Bowie, son of Col. William D. Bowie, was elected as president of the new road.

The intervention of Civil War meant that neither money nor men for construction were to be available until after cessation of hostilities in 1865. Then President Bowie approached the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to enlist their interest in the new road, but met with a cold reception. The alert Col. Thomas Scott, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, responded positively and railroad history would be made.

In 1834 the Baltimore and Ohio had opened their line from Baltimore to Washington and had enjoyed a monopoly on service from the North into the Nation's Capital. (In all fairness to the B&O, it must be stated that their relatively high passenger rates on this line were dictated by the General Assembly of Maryland.) As the Pennsylvania Railroad began to look southward for expansion, they eventually gained control of the Northern Central Railway Company, linking them with Baltimore. At this point their push for southern markets was blocked by the B&O. In both passenger and freight operations the B&O responded to the Pennsylvania RR with refusal of cooperation and exorbitant rates. It was for these reasons that the president of the Pennsylvania RR gave a sympathetic ear to the request of President Oden Bowie of the fledgling Baltimore and Potomac Railroad.

Under the terms of the charter, the Baltimore and Potomac was empowered to build a line from Baltimore through or near Upper Marlboro and Port Tobacco to a point on the Potomac River between Liverpool Point and Point Lookout. The matter of greatest interest to Col. Scott of the Pennsylvania was the provision that they could build branch lines up to 20 miles in length. The distance from present-day Bowie, Maryland to Washington is about 18 miles.

Construction was begun in 1868 on the seventy-three mile road to Pope's Creek, the selected terminus, as

well as the “branch” to Washington. On July 2, 1872 (sic – should be 1872) the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, with the exception of the tunnel in Baltimore, was placed in service to Washington. The following year the tunnel was completed and the main line to Pope’s Creek was opened. The total construction cost was \$9,888,736. A little over half of the stock was purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad and they guaranteed the bonds issued by the B&P. At last the Pennsylvania was in a position to break the B&O monopoly on the Washington run. The old Baltimore and Potomac Station was formerly located on the present site of the National Gallery of Art. It was there that President James A. Garfield was assassinated in 1881.

The station at the Baltimore and Potomac’s junction of the main line and branch line was named for the family which was so instrumental in establishing the road—Bowie. Oden Bowie was to serve as president of the road until his death in 1894. On November 1, 1902 the Baltimore and Potomac was finally absorbed into the Pennsylvania system.

The “Pope’s Creek Line”, as it is popularly called, was a profitable venture in its heyday. As many as six trains per day were run in both directions, carrying passengers and produce from Southern Maryland. Because of its reputation as a commercial center, Baltimore had closer ties through the railroad with the southern counties than did Washington. In recent years this was changed by the automobile. By the 1930s service had dwindled to one combination passenger-freight per day. Following World War II, in 1949, passenger service was dropped completely. Although large amounts of coal for the Potomac Electric Power Company are hauled on the Pope’s Creek Branch, some wonder why the line is still maintained on a minimal basis with three freight trains weekly over the line to Bowie.

History tells the story, for this is the Pennsylvania “main line” south of Baltimore. Under the terms of the original franchise granted by the State of Maryland, the Pope’s Creek Branch must operate in order for the Metroliners to continue service over the “branch line” from Washington to Bowie, on their way to Philadelphia and New York.

For many of our citizens, the Pope’s Creek Line occupies a very fond part of their memories. That trip to the city (Baltimore or Washington), or the holiday junket to visit relatives in the country meant getting on or off the “Pope’s Creek” at Collington, Mullikin, Halls, Leeland, Hills, Upper Marlboro, Croome, Linden, Cheltenham or Brandywine in Prince George’s County; or at Mattawoman, Waldorf, White Plain, La Plata, Port Tobacco, Cox, Lothair or Pope’s Creek in Charles County. One member of our Society who had regular business at the Court House in Upper Marlboro used to take the B&O from Laurel to Washington, thence by the Pennsylvania Railroad to Bowie and then down the “Pope’s Creek” to Upper Marlboro. The evening’s return trip was just the reverse. Life wasn’t as rushed and complicated in the twenties, thirties and forties!

F.S.D.

Reference: Scott, Robert E. The History and Construction of the Pope’s Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. An unpublished paper in the Maryland Room, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park: 1933, 24 pp.

## 1972 REPORT – MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Reports of state agencies to the Governor and General Assembly don’t usually make good home reading, but the Maryland Historical Trust’s 1972 Report is a welcome exception. This 38-page illustrated booklet is a “MUST” for all persons interested in the historic landmarks of Maryland.

All aspects of the Trust’s activities, such as current preservation projects, acquisitions policy, the state preservation plan, county inventory maps, education programs, technical advice and information programs, joint architectural surveys and Trust properties and easements are covered. There is also a complete listing and description of properties placed on the National Register during 1972.

This report has much information of use and general interest for members of local societies. A copy may be received by writing the Trust at 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Md. 21401.

## RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS

Beitzell, Edwin W. Point Lookout Prison Camp for Confederates, Published by the Author. Abell, Md.: 1972. \$8.

Southern Maryland historian Ed Beitzell has written the first history of the infamous federal prison camp for Confederates at Point Lookout, Md. The fully indexed 217 page book presents documentary evidence of horrors greater than those of Andersonville, with the Point Lookout camp having a death rate between 25-30 percent.

During the two-year period the camp was in operation, July 1863 to June 1865, over 50,000 men, both military and civilian, were imprisoned there. The camp was designed for 10,000 prisoners, but the number ranged from 12,600 to 20,100, not including civilian prisoners, guard and artillery units, slaves, horses, mules and cattle. Approximately 4,000 prisoners, including civilians, dies in a period of 22 months, many of them needlessly. Some of the men literally froze to death, and 38 are known to have been shot by the guards. The prisoners were housed in tents, many of them unfit for use, and the supply of wood and clothing was insufficient. In addition to the poor medical service and inadequate food supply, the surface wells were contaminated and the prisoners fell victim to diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid and congestive and intermittent fever, in addition to pneumonia, scorbis, measles and scurvy.

The approximate site of the prison is marked by a monument erected by the Federal government in 1910, bearing the inscription of the names of 3,389 Confederate soldiers and sailors who died at the camp while prisoners of war. The author has included the names and units of more than 3500 Confederate dead. The text is illustrated with over 80 drawings, pictures, and 45 of the famous sketches made by John Omenhausser while a prisoner at the camp.

Civil War historians, scholars and memorabilia collectors will find this a definitive reference on the subject hithertofore completely ignored by historians. The author's previous books include "Life on the Potomac River," (1968) and "The Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's County" (1960).

Orva Heissenbuttel

(The above review appeared in the March 1973 issue of the mid-Atlantic Antique Journal.)

## AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE STOCKHOLDERS

The General Assembly of Maryland in 1856 passed "An Act to Establish and Endow an Agricultural College in the State of Maryland." The preamble stated that "It is the province and duty of the Legislature to encourage and aid philanthropic citizens in their efforts to disseminate useful knowledge, by establishing an Agricultural College and Model Farm, which shall, in addition to the usual course of scholastic training, particularly indoctrinate the youth of Maryland, theoretically and practically, in those arts and sciences, which with good manners and morals, shall enable them to subdue the earth and elevate the State to the lofty position its advantages soil, climate, etc., and the moral and mental capabilities of its citizens, entitles it to attain."

In order to raise funds to provide a campus and facilities for the new school which was eventually located on Charles B. Calvert's Ross Borough Farm (College Park), shares of stock were sold at \$25 each. The stock was later split, giving it a \$5 value, in order to gain greater participation. Most of the people purchased shares out of a sense of support for the new school, rather than for investment purposes.

The list of names which follows are those which appeared on a broadside dated October 8, 1869. It is likely that this date is a typographical error. Charles B. Calvert, the first President of the M.A.C. Board of Trustees, who appears second on the list, had died in 1863. Another, Major Nicholas Snowden (Jr.), was a Confederate Army casualty. Perhaps 1859 would be a more correct date for this list. This is further supported by the fact that October 9, 1858 was the official opening and dedication day for the college.

The shareholders on this list represent a cross-section of the planter aristocracy of the State. There are a few notable exceptions, however. William N. Mercer, who heads the list with 1500 shares, was a

Marylander who failed financially only to go on and amass a fortune in New Orleans which was later wiped out by the Civil War. There was the Washington businessman and philanthropist, W. W. Corcoran, whose son was a member of the first class. Another philanthropist, Johns Hopkins of Baltimore, would later endow his own institution.

In publishing this list, we hope the reader will aid in identifying these people, especially those from Prince George's County. Please send a post card with pertinent information to the editor at 4010 Hamilton St., Hyattsville, Md. 20781.

Name	No. of Shares	Name	No. of Shares
Dr. Wm. N. Mercer	1,500	Henry Carroll	20
C. B. Calvert	880	John Bosley (of Wm.)	5
Ramsey McHenry	400	Robert P. Brown	20
James T. Earle	100	W. Tell Johnson	10
John H. Warring	60	Hugh Jenkins	10
R. Sinclair, Jr. & Co.	100	Robert M. Dennison	20
Johns Hopkins	100	L. Williamson	10
Samuel Sands	50	James Logan	20
J. J. F. Turner	50	Robert A. Taylor	30
J. C. Brune	100	J. Gorsuch	10
G. Page & Co.	100	Alfred McCourt	10
E. B. Roberts	50	William C. Wilson	20
F. Bareda & Bro.			
Per Gov. Carroll	250	Wm. Smith Reese & Bro.	20
John Merryman	100	Hugh L. McAvoy	5
John Carroll Walsh	100	Wm. D. Miller	10
Z. Barnum	50	A. Schumacker	20
W. F. Murdock	50	Hamilton Easter	20
C. Ridgely Hammond	100	Thomas Y. Canby	10
D. M. Berrim	50	John Kettlewell	10
J. Howard McHenry	200	Benj. Maithland	10
Wm. Fagart	50	James Johnson	5
Thomas Swann	100	James Whiting & Co.	5
Hugh Gelston	50	George Appold & Son	10
G. W. Lurman	50	Daniel Clarke	20
J. Q. Herblett	100	Wm. S. McPherson	10
Wm. Kennedy	50	G. M. Hiss	10
Thomas H. Gittings	50	George H. Carman	5
Charles G. Hanson	50	John Coats	10
G. Brown	50	Patrick McKenna	10
Obed Hussey	50	Caleb Kelly	10
M. T, Goldsborough	100	W. N. Dorsett	5
B. M. Rhodes	50	G. M. Gill	25
C. H. McCormick	50	M. P. O. Hern	5
Robert Wyley			
(per J. Merryman)	100	Wm. M. Kinn	20
Wm. B. Paca	100	John Fleming	10
James Crutchett	200	John O. Warton	20

Lewis S. Robins	50	L. Gittings	5
G. Patterson	40	Robt. Clarke	25
W. W. Corcoran	200	G. W. Newman	5
Scott & Fernandis	100	Hanson Penn	5
(to be continued)			

## MEMORY TEST

What was the name of a house built in the 1860s which was owned by a well-known Maryland family and was used for a private school during the 1930s? In the forties it was used as a public school and was later abandoned, only to burn at the hands of vandals in the fifties. Answer next month.

*End of Volume I no 5, July 1973*

## News and Notes from

### The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August 1973 Vol – 1, No – 6

#### WOODLAWN – A NEGLECTED DOWAGER

On the right side of the road from Largo to Marlboro at Oak Grove may be seen a pair of overgrown brick gateposts. Beyond, at the end of a long, tree-lined driveway, sits Woodlawn, in neglected splendor. The architectural features of Woodlawn, a mansion in the Greek Revival style, are unique to Prince George's County and indeed to Maryland. One usually associates the "Gone With the Wind" flavor with the antebellum mansions of the Deep South, but here in our midst is the mansion and the flavor—but going to rack and ruin for lack of identification and appreciation.

The proportions of Woodlawn, built 1853-55, are impressive. Its three stories are set on a basement which rises four feet above the ground. Floor length windows characterize the first floor, and the windows are successively smaller on the second and third floors. A simple but well proportioned cornice edges an inconspicuous roof. Four towering chimneys accentuate the symmetrical design. The front entrance, removed in 1936, had a small porch supported by four Doric columns covering the doorway and its two sidelights. The garden façade in the rear with its two-story columns supporting both a first and second floor porch makes Woodlawn unique in Maryland architecture, linking as it does local architectural taste with that of the Deep South—a reminder that Maryland was indeed a border state during the Civil War.

The interior of the mansion lives up to the ample proportions of the exterior. It was designed, not only to impress, but also to catch the cool breezes of summer. Heating in winter presented another problem. Although there is a fireplace in every room, the high ceilings and the center hallways on both the first and second floors with no provision for heating must have added up to a cold discomfort. A winding stairway with a carved acanthus leaf newel post extended to the third floor. To the right of the first floor hall are double parlors, each with a fireplace. To the left are two rooms, one originally either a library or music room, the other the dining room. Woodlawn was larger than the twelve rooms it has today. It had a two-story wing with kitchen and servants' quarters, which was removed in 1936. Four bedrooms on the second floor accommodated the family, while the four rooms on the third floor were used as guest rooms, a school room and a room for a governess.

Mount Lubentia, an 18th century house a few miles away and still standing, was built by Enoch Magruder

and inherited by his son Dennis. After Dennis' death in 1836, it was purchased by Otho Berry Beall, who moved there from his plantation, "Westphalia," also called "The White House," from which the present White House Road takes its name. Dennis Magruder's widow and daughter Mary Ann moved to Bladensburg to the house that is still standing and is known as the Magruder house.

Washington Jeremiah Beall (b. April 17, 1818; d. December 11, 1895), the son of Otho Berry Beall, married Mary Ann Magruder (b. May 19, 1823; d. June 13, 1884) on July 8, 1840. She was the only child of Dennis Magruder and his fourth wife, Mary Ann Beard. The following love letter, written by Washington Beall to his fiancé just a few weeks before their marriage, offers an interesting commentary on the contemporary political scene in Prince George's County.<sup>1</sup>

My Dearest Beloved and  
Unforgotten Mart –

Mount Lubentia, May 20th 40

I have received, my dear Mary, your very interesting letter of today's date, respecting our private affairs. And it affords me much pleasure to recognize in it a revival of Spirits. After promising you (my Dear'st of all things in this World) that I would accompany Mother to see you and the Old Ladies yesterday Had not the weather been so unfavorable for the exposure of an indisposed person, she and I would have very willingly come, for you know what pleasure it always offers me to be in your agreeable company. Mother intends coming over on Monday if fair, if not then the next fair day. I requested Nat to say to you that I would come to see you this evening. But after receiving a \_\_\_\_\_ message from Daniel Jenifer, Jr. who's now in Marlboro with his father (The representative)<sup>2</sup> who came down with the Hon. Henry Clay of the Senate to address the public at large, in favor of Old Tip's<sup>3</sup> election, stating that he will be with me, I have to deprive myself of the pleasure of beholding your angelic person and comely face. It seems Dearest that I have not seen you for a month. I cannot bear to be so long from you, (one on whom my future happiness is placed. I could Dearest and am anxious to write you a \_\_\_\_\_ Letter. But the Servant has just left the room, who informs that Thomas Berry and William Berry are down stairs weighting to see me. They are from Marlboro. I expect Thomas Berry is coming, therefore, I have to conclude by writing that I have the honour to be your obedient and unforgotten lover,

Yours until Death

Washington J. Beall

Mary Ann Magruder, after her marriage to Washington Beall in 1840, returned to Mount Lubentia and lived there until the erection of Woodlawn, a much larger and more imposing structure in the currently fashionable Greek Revival style. The builder of Woodlawn was the prosperous proprietor, along with his family, of several thousand acres in the Largo, White House Road and Westphalia areas of the County. He built a house in accordance with his ambitious life style and enjoyed it only briefly. A slaveholder, he was yet a Union man who hoped for the preservation of the status quo. His son joined neither the Union nor the Confederate army, but instead remained a student at the Maryland Agricultural College throughout the Civil War.

The family lived in the grand manner for less than a decade when the Civil War put the quietous on such a way of life. Yet, although mortgage-ridden, they remained. Mrs. Beall died there in 1884, followed by Mr. Beall in 1895. Their daughter, Mrs. Mary Beall Brooke, owned it until her death in 1936. In that year it was purchased by Mr. Richard Zantzingler, who made extensive changes but yet gave it loving care. About 1960 it was purchased by the Levitt Organization.

---

<sup>1</sup> Collection of Otho T. Beall, Jr.

<sup>2</sup> The representative, Daniel Jenifer (Sr,) was a nephew of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, a Signer of the U.S. Constitution for Maryland.

<sup>3</sup> Old Tippecanoe – General William Henry Harrison, the successful Whig candidate for President in 1840.

Since 1960 Woodlawn has faced an uncertain fate. For a period of time the house was kept in good condition and was used as an office. It has stood empty in recent years. At present Woodlawn's yard is surrounded by barbed wire and her first floor windows are boarded up. On the upper levels a window sash is missing here and there. In two instances the frames are gone as well. She looks very much like a neglected dowager, awaiting execution by fire.

It is quite difficult to understand the rationale of an owner who would purposely permit such a fine structure to go to ruin. Although the land was purchased for development, it seems that Woodlawn house, an irreplaceable Greek Revival structure, deserves a better fate.

## CHESAPEAKE BEACH CAROUSEL

During the past few months Mrs. Orva Heissenbuttel has written in both the public press and the antiques media about the carousel (merry-go-round) in the now silent Chesapeake Beach Park. The park has given way to a housing development and the carousel is on the market for sale.

The Chesapeake Beach carousel is a large one, having three rows of animals, totaling 45 hand carved horses and a rare variety of other animals including a buffalo, sea horse, goat, burro, ostrich, kangaroo, lion and reindeer. The finely detailed animals are believed to be the work of Denzel, one of the illustrious early makers of carousels. Probably built about 1900, it was installed at Seaside Park in California and was shipped to Chesapeake Beach in 1930.

Many of our County residents have enjoyed this carousel in the past when they rode the Chesapeake Beach train down from Seat Pleasant or Upper Marlboro for a summer Sunday excursion. Mrs. Heissenbuttel proposes that the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission purchase the carousel and install it in one of the Prince George's County regional parks. (The National Park Service operates the one at Glen Echo, and Fairfax County has two of them in operation.)

If you agree that our children, both young and old, should have the opportunity of enjoying this real fun bit of Americana, please make your feelings known by writing Mr. Hugh Robey, Director of Parks, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 6600 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale, Maryland.

## FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND

As the summer comes to a close, it's County and State Fair time in Maryland. Jousting continues as the State's oldest tournament, at Port Republic, Calvert County, is having its 106th annual meet.

August 6-11            HAGERSTOWN FAIR, Hagerstown  
                              GARRETT COUNTY FAIR, McHenry  
                              QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY FAIR, Centreville.  
                              5TH ANNUAL BRUNSWICK POTOMAC RIVER FESTIVAL, Brunswick. A railroad town displays history on the C&O Canal.  
                              HOWARD COUNTY FAIR, West Friendship  
                              SOMERSET COUNTY FAIR, Princess Anne  
                              PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, Upper Marlboro  
                              27TH ANNUAL JOUSTING TOURNAMENT, Mechanicsville. Modern-day knights joust at Horse Range Farm. (1 p.m.)  
                              MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR, Gaithersburg  
                              106TH ANNUAL CALVERT COUNTY JOUSTING TOURNAMENT, Port Republic. The State's oldest tournament. (1 p.m.)

August 27-September 5 92ND ANNUAL MARYLAND STATE FAIR, Timonium. One of the nation's largest state fairs, with exhibits covering the 100-acre Timonium Fairgrounds. Includes horse racing.

## HEADQUARTERS BUILDING FOR CAROLINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Goldsborough House in Greensboro on Maryland's Eastern Shore is the new home of the Caroline

County Historical Society. Heirs to the home, including George H. Goldsborough of Laurel, have presented it as a gift to the Society as a museum and a meeting place.

On Wednesday, July 11, a state historical marker honoring the distinguished services of the Goldsborough family to the Eastern Shore and Maryland was unveiled on the grounds of the property. The marker reads as follows:

## GOLDSBOROUGH HOUSE

Judge Laird Goldsborough lived here 1897-1970. A onetime Adjutant General of the Philippines he authored the islands' first constitution. Part of the house is of pre-revolutionary construction.

Among the other members of this Caroline County family distinguished for public service: W. E. Goldsborough, U.S. Consul, Amoy, China; T. Alan Goldsborough, longtime U.S. Congressman and Federal judge; Dr. G. Winter Goldsborough, general practitioner and state legislator; and Ewell Goldsborough, nationally famous electrical engineer.

(Editor's Note: From other counties of the Eastern Shore there were additional Goldsboroughs who played prominent roles in our State's history. Directly related to the Caroline County branch of the family were Robert and Charles Goldsborough of Dorchester County. Robert was State Senator, Attorney General and a member of the Continental Congress in 1774-75, while Charles served in the State senate, Congress (six terms) and as Governor in 1818-1819. Robert Henry Goldsborough of Talbot County was a U.S. Senator and Phillips Lee Goldsborough of Somerset County served as U.S. Senator and later as Governor 1912-1915.)

## 1860 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The battle over the slavery question had almost reached its peak at the time of the political conventions in the summer of 1860. The fragmentation of the Democratic Party over candidates and the slavery issue would mean that the voters would have four candidates to select from at the polls. The national results were: Lincoln (Republican) 1,866,452; Douglas (Northern Democrat) 1,376,957; Breckinridge (Southern Democrat) 849,781; and Bell (Constitutional-Union Party – status quo) 588,879.

The population of Prince George's County at the time was roughly divided in thirds, between whites, free Negroes and slaves. The County vote was as follows: Breckinridge 1,047; Bell 865; and Douglas 43.

Mr. Lincoln received one vote --- in the Aquasco District!

## RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS

Kellock, Katharine A. Colonial Piscataway in Maryland. Alice Ferguson Foundation. Accokeek, Md.:1962. 69 pp.

Ferguson, Alice L. L. and Henry G. The Piscataway Indians of Southern Maryland. Alice Ferguson Foundation. Accokeek, Md.: 1960. 46 pp.

Stephenson, Robert L. The Prehistoric People of Accokeek Creek. Alice Ferguson Foundation. Accokeek, Md. : 1959. 35 pp.

Mrs. Cammilus Clagett, a member of the Prince George's County Historical Society, still offers for sale at her general store in Piscataway, the three Ferguson Foundation publications at \$1 each. Colonial Piscataway in Maryland belongs on every county history buff's shelf and provides a graphic description of a day when Piscataway was a trade center of this county despite its wolves and Indians. The Piscataway Indians of Southern Maryland covers in depth with pictures and maps this little-known facet of our history. Local relations were good, as is attested by the cordial invitation to attend and witness torture ceremonies upon the capture of some roving Senecas and the concurrent warning (recorded in a publication of the Charles County Historical Society) that the enemy raiding party had Baltimore County as its objective.

In a different but fascinating vein, The Prehistoric People of Accokeek Creek, profusely illustrated,

documents an archaic people living in our county intermittently between 3000 B.C. and 500 B.C. (Several years ago, this society provided data to the Reader's Digest for inclusion in a proposed book on American heritage. It was indicated at that time that the lack of public awareness of these archaeological diggings plus their private ownership would probably preclude inclusion.) This book is accordingly of great value as a ready reference and has many surprises even for our local historians.

Paul T. Lanham

## MacALPINE – LAST OF THE “RIVERSDALE” CALVERT HOLDINGS

(MacAlpine was the house referred to in last month's "memory test" question.)

In 1866, two years after Charles benedict Calvert's death, Riversdale was divided among his heirs. His widow, Charlotte Augusta Calvert, received 300 acres, including the mansion, as her dower interest. The remainder of the property was divided into six zones which were distributed among his five children; George Henry, Charles Baltimore, William Morris, Eugene Stier and Ella Calvert Campbell.

Charles Baltimore Calvert received Zone 2, which was bordered on the west by the Baltimore Turnpike, on the north by present-day Albion Road (boundary between College Park and Riverdale), on the south by the stream which follows Wells Parkway in University Park, and on the east by Edmonston Road (Kenilworth Avenue). A small portion of the property extended east of Edmonston Road.

Charles Baltimore Calvert had managed the entire Riversdale estate during his father's last years. In 1863, he became the third graduate of the Maryland Agricultural College, whose Board of Trustees was chaired by his father, one of the founders. On June 14, 1866, young Calvert married Eleanor MacKubin, the only daughter of Dr. Richard Creagh MacKubin and Hester Ann MacKubin of "Strawberry Hill," Annapolis. The MacKubins were originally from Scotland and were members of the MacAlpine Clan. It is from this source that the estate "MacAlpine," got its name. (Mrs. Calvert's brother, James MacKubin, built a house in Howard County and also called it MacAlpine.)

Charles Baltimore Calvert was elected to the General Assembly of Maryland as a Democrat in 1864 and was re-elected in 1867. he also served as a Trustee of the Maryland Agricultural College and was an officer of the National Hotel Company in Washington. Calvert was one of the original promoters of the Washington to Laurel electric line which ran through his property. Family legend claims that Calvert and his family had pass privileges on the B&O Railroad until they were revoked after he voted in favor of the Baltimore and Potomac RR (Pennsylvania) while in the General Assembly.

The Calverts moved into MacAlpine after it was finished in 1868. It was located on the top of Cat-Tail Hill, just a short distance off the Baltimore Turnpike, facing east. The master of MacAlpine designed the house and supervised its construction. It was of brick, 39' x 35', with a wing on the south side 15' x 25'. Both the main block and the wing were original construction, being two stories high with full basement. A one-story porch 8' wide ran the full front of the main section. On the south end of the wing, there was a similar porch.

The main floor consisted of entrance hallway with stair, and library on the front of the building. To the rear were the dining room and parlor. The wing contained a back stair, pantry and kitchen. (The kitchen was originally located in the basement.) The second floor had three bedrooms in the main section and a bath (a post-1906 addition), bedroom and back stairs in the wing. The ceilings of the wing were lower than the 14' ones in the main structure. Two interior chimneys furnished fireplaces in each room.

Some years after its construction, MacAlpine was painted yellow, imitating the Federal Style of the late 18th-early 19th centuries. The estate was farmed successfully until 1890 when a labor shortage caused the operation to be abandoned. Farm buildings included a circular ice house, barn, carriage shed, corn shed and pump house.

When Charles Baltimore Calvert died on August 31, 1906, his wife received a life estate in the property, which was to go to the eight children after her death. The family remained until 1910, when they moved to Washington. One of the children, Charlotte Calvert Spence (wife of Dean Thomas H. Spence, University of Maryland) spent her summers there until 1917. For the next 17 years, until September 4, 1934, the Spences lived there year round. At that time the property was rented to Reese Longfellow Sewell, who operated it as the Longfellow School for Boys. Classes covering the first eight grades were held through the

beginning of World War II.

After the death of Mrs. Calvert on April 30, 1932, the property passed to the nine heirs: C.B. Calvert Carey and W. Gibson Carey, sons of Eleanor Calvert Carey (died October 5, 1920); Hester V. C. Lilly; Charlotte Calvert Spence; Richard C. M. Calvert; George H. Calvert, Jr.; Charles Baltimore Calvert; Rosalie E. S. Calvert; and Elizabeth Stuart Calvert Thomas.

During World War II the remaining property was purchased by the U.S. Government in order to erect housing for workers in defense plants. MacAlpine became an elementary school for children of the residents. By the early 1950s, the last of this temporary housing project, "Calvert Homes," had been torn down and MacAlpine stood vacant. Vandalism soon took its toll and the house had burned by the early 1960s.

During the 1960s the Army Reserve Center and the Prince George's County Regional Postal Facility were constructed on the property which was annexed by the Town of Riverdale. The remainder of the land stands vacant today. The ruins of the house's foundation and the broken concrete gateposts bearing the inscriptions "Calvert" and "MacAlpine" are the mute reminders of a once proud estate.

Reference: Phillips, Jack W. The History and Construction of MacALPINE at College Park, Maryland. Unpublished paper prepared as an initiation requirement for Beta of Maryland of Tau Beta Pi, December 1934. 36 pp. (Deposited in Maryland Room, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland.)

#### GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COLONEL WILLIAM FAIRFAX (1785)

"Mr. Ogle of Maryland has been so obliging as to present me six fawns from his pack of English deer at Ballair. With these, and tolerable care, I should soon have a full stock for my small paddock."

Quoted in Young, Joanne Washington's Mount Vernon. Holt, Reinhart & Winston, New York : 1973.

#### MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE STOCKHOLDERS (CONTINUED)

Name	No. of Shares	Name	No. of Shares
Charles Carroll	60	John Bowie	10
A. B. Gordon	10	Fielder Cross	10
Steward Hill	10	John C. Thompson	20
Richard Duckett	20	J. R. Emory	25
J. H. Lockett	40	Richard Ogle	5
Osborn Sprigg	10	John Contee	20
J. H. Lee	5	Ethan A. Jones	5
J. C. Mullikin	10	Michael Pew	20
Robert W. Brooke	5	James N. Goldsborough	20
Otho W. Eichelberger	10	B. S. Loney	10
Thomas H. Matthews	10	Wm. B. Duvall	10
Samuel Worthington of J	20	R. M. Magraw	20
John T. Worthington	20	H. W. Drakeley	10
B. F. Worthington	10	N. B. Worthington	30
Richard Johns	10	Samuel A. S. Kyle	5
Wm. Bently	10	Anthony Kimmel	20
John T. Jones	20	G. R. Dennis	20
Wm. Jessop	20	Henry Carroll, Jr.	25
Thomas Love	20	Richard Thomas	5
Charles McLean, M.D.	10	J. D. Linton	5
Isaac Webster	10	Samuel Sutton	20
Joshua Mathews	10	Clement Marner	5

Thomas T. Emory	10	Fildall Marbury	5
Geo. W. Duvall (of George)	5	Elliott Bennett	10
Daniel C. Diggs	10	James Inglehart	10
F. M. Bowie	5	John H. Hopkins	5
James Somerville	5	E. E. Tillard	5
William H. Tuck	10	William H. Peak	5
W. B. Bowie	5	Martin Fenwick	20
James G. Pumphry	5	Renald Pindell	5
Ractor Pumphrey	5	John Carm	10
J. E. Bowie	5	P. A. & Benjamin Welch	10
Richard D. Burroughs	5	S. E. Richardson	5
Richard B. B. Chew	5	James P. Magill	5

Name	No. of Shares	Name	No. of Shares
J. H. Skinner	10	James Owings Jr.	10
W. N. Burch	5	Thomas Owings	5
Anna Skinner	5	Thomas H. Gary	10
J. S. Skinner	10	W. Shepard	10
Jacob Horn (per J.M.)	5	B. Tongue	5
Edwin Scott	5	Thomas I. Hall	20
John D. Matthews	10	Edward Hall	5
John h. Bane	5	C. S. Contee & Bro.	10
Thomas Marshall	5	R. Sekman	5
George H. Kyle	5	J. B. Owins	5
R. Karrick	10	R. S. Stewart	20
J. A. Washington	20	William Tucker	10
John Booth	10	H. M. Duvall	5
Lemmon & Brogden	10	H. S. Dorsett	10
Thomas J. Wilson	20	John W. Iglehart	5
Washington Finley	10	G. T. Beall	5
James H. Stimpson	5	T. Jefferson Dorsett	10
H. Clay Duvall	5	Wm. Black	5
Nimrod Gardner	5	Thomas Davidson	5
Daniel L. Hoover	5	Thomas Iglehart	5
J. D. Roman	20	James Harwood	5
John McCracken	5	Thomas R. Kent	10
J. E. Toole	5	John Iglehart	10
W. B. Mathews	20	Richard Wooten	5
Thomas G. Gardner	5	George H. Hillery	5
P. W. Crane	10	Thomas F. Bowie	10
F. B. Green	55	Samuel H. Berry	5
E. M. Day	5	E. G. W. Hall	10
Robert Diggs	5	Richard Darnell	5
Grant Harris	10	G. W. Wilson	10

## News and Notes from

### The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 1973 Vol – 1, No – 7

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Society will open the Fall season with its first regular meeting to be held this Saturday, September 8, 1973 at Montpelier Mansion, Laurel. We are pleased to announce that our speaker will be Ellis J. Parker, Chairman of the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust. Mr. Parker will speak on the Trust and its programs, a topic which is of interest to all our members.

The meeting will convene at 2 PM. There will be a short business agenda and refreshments will be served. Guests are invited.

#### 1973-74 PROGRAM

At this writing our list of speakers for the season is incomplete, however we wish to mention a few of the planned programs so that you will have some advance notice.

Following our announced plan to have some meetings at other locations in the County, our October 13th meeting will be held at the Belair Stable in Bowie. After a formal program on the history of the racing stable and museum, both the museum and Belair Mansion will be open for our members.

On December 8th we will celebrate our traditional "Christmas at Montpelier".

In the new year, we will share the results of research conducted by two of our members. At the March meeting, Mrs. Margaret Cook will unfold the fascinating story of the early roads system of Prince George's County. The outstanding work of John M. Walton, Jr. on the architecture of "His Lordship's Kindness" and the career of its early owner, Henry Darnall, III will be presented in May.

In April we hope to celebrate St. George's Day (April 23rd), the official founding date of Prince George's County. Under the County Commissioners, it was the occasion for an official observance, but our new form of County government has seen fit to ignore it. Although still in the planning stage, we would propose to celebrate the 23rd of April (no matter what day it may fall upon in a given year) with a dinner given by the Society. This would be the perfect occasion upon which to present a series of awards which are being considered by a committee of the Society composed of Directors Suzanna Cristofane and Otho T. Beall, Jr. Although details remain to be worked out, the basic purpose of these awards would be to honor individuals and organizations each year who have made major contributions toward the preservation of our County's heritage. Further information on these awards will be available at a later meeting when our committee gives its report.

We hope that this preliminary information on our 1973-74 program will prove to be of interest to the membership. The complete schedule will be printed in our next issue of News and Notes.

#### B & O TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

About three weeks ago Hays T. Watkins, President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, joined Mayor William Schaefer of Baltimore for a press conference to announce plans for the B & O Museum and the adjacent area of the city. The railroad is going to restore the Mount Clare Station and Museum, something which is badly needed at present. In addition, plans include updated exhibits and new visual attractions. Mayor Schaefer will ask the City Council to designate the immediate neighborhood adjacent to the museum an urban renewal area. The city will acquire all vacant lots, remove billboards, install sodium vapor lights, plant trees and landscape the area, repair sidewalks and demolish unwanted buildings. Poppleton Street between Pratt and McHenry Streets will be closed and more parking will be provided for the museum visitors.

All of this is good news for one of the prime historical attractions in Baltimore and the State of Maryland.

## FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND

Although the September events listed are fewer in number, most of them fall in the "MUST" category. The nationally-renowned show of agricultural steam equipment at Westminster, St. Thomas' Antique Show, a walking tour of Chestertown and an opportunity to visit St. Clement's Island are the major events.

September 6-9	7TH ANNUAL STEAM SHOW DAYS Steam operated farming equipment demonstration and parade, Carroll County Farm Museum, Westminster
September 7-9	14TH ANNUAL TOBACCO BARN ANTIQUES SHOW AND SALE Benefit of St. Thomas Church, Croom, Edelen Brothers Warehouse, Upper Marlboro. 11 AM – 10 PM (11 Am – 8 PM Sun)
September 8	JOUSTING. St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, St. Margaret's Md. (near Bay Bridge) 1 PM
September 22	4TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC CHESTERTOWN Contact: Francis L. Lamb, Pres. Historical Society, Chestertown. 301 – 778 2312.
September 30	JOUSTING. St. Mary's County Fair, Leonardtown, 1 PM.
September 30	6TH ANNUAL ST. CLEMENT'S ISLAND BLESSING OF THE FLEET A commemoration where Maryland's first settlers landed in 1634. Entertainment and seafood. Free boat trip to Island. Contact: Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Waldorf. 301 – 645 2693

## TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO

On September 15, 1953, twelve distinguished citizens of Prince George's County met in the Music Room of Riversdale (Calvert Mansion) plans to organize an historical society. Those in attendance were T. Howard Duckett, Oden Bowie, M. Hampton Magruder, John S. Stanley, Leroy Pumphrey, Kent R. Mullikin, Robert M. Watkins, A. Gwynne Bowie, T. Hammond Welch, Jr., Mrs. Rhoda Christmas, Mrs. G. W. S. Musgrave and Mrs. Felix Cristofane. Mr. Duckett was elected Temporary Chairman and Mr. Stanley served as Membership Chairman.

The Prince George's County Historical Society was formally organized on November 19, 1954 with 190 Charter members and it was incorporated on January 5, 1955. because of his great interest in the Society, it was fitting that Mr. Duckett served as first president of the group. The other past presidents of the Society are Eugene B. Roberts, Herbert W. Wells, William Stanley, William H. Brooke, Forrest D. Bowie, James Wilfong, Jr., and Paul T. Lanham.

## OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee, chaired by John C. Brennan (498-1515), will present its report at the October meeting. Members are encouraged to give their suggestions to the chairman. Current officers of the Society are:

President	Frederick S. DeMarr	Hyattsville
Vice President	David F. Rinn	Avondale
Recording Secty.	Mrs. Pamela Roch	Laurel
Corres. Secty.	Mrs. Frank Bagot	Hyattsville
Treasurer	Col. Samuel Crook	Laurel
Historian	James C. Wilfong, Jr.	Hyattsville
Directors	Dr. Otho T. Beall, Jr.	Upper Marlboro
	Forrest D. Bowie	Upper Marlboro
	Mrs. Felix Cristofane	Bladensburg

## ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH CELEBRATES ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Laurel will hold a special service of commemoration on Sunday, September 16, 1973 at 4 PM. Both the Parish and the church structure are one hundred and twenty-five years old. The first parochial report from Laurel Mission, Zion Parish, Prince George's County was filed in May, 1847 by the Rev. Theodore Barber, Deacon. Barber's official letter of appointment as a diocesan missionary had been signed on July 2, 1846 by the Rev. William Rollinson Wittingham, fourth Bishop of Maryland. Services were commenced in Laurel Factory that same month. (Because of its cotton mill, the village was called Laurel Factory until it was incorporated as Laurel in 1870).

In May 1847, ten persons including Col. Horace Capron (husband of Louisa Snowden, the daughter of Nicolas Snowden of Montpelier) and his brother John M. Capron, petitioned the Convention of the Diocese of Maryland for permission to form a new parish under the name of St. Philip's Parish. The boundaries of this new unit included territory taken from two existing parishes; Zion Parish, Prince George's County and Queen Caroline Parish, Anne Arundel County. The petition was granted and on Easter Monday, April 24, 1848, the members of the congregation met in the village's old Assembly Hall to organize their new parish by electing a Vestry. Vol. Horace Capron was designated as Lay delegate to the diocesan convention in 1848 which officially recognized the new St. Philip's Parish.

The Rev. Theodore Barber, in his first report to Bishop Whittingham in 1847, stressed the need for a church building. Although his tiny congregation had "contributed most freely and cheerfully" according to their means, it was necessary to look to friends in Baltimore for help which did materialize. By the following year the number of church members had doubled to a total of eight and the Sunday School had remained stable at sixty scholars. The "simple, unadorned structure" which was "gratuitously and appropriately designed by a faithful son of the church" was completed in May. The Rector stated that only a few hundred dollars of the debt remained, but yet he re-emphasized the need for further financial aid from friends within the diocese.

St. Philip's was consecrated on Sat. Matthew's Day, September 21, 1848 by Bishop Whittingham. The structure was described as being "small and plain, but church like",

" . . . of stone, found in the vicinity, in the early English style, and consists of a nave, chancel, a vestry room on either side of the chancel, and a tower at the west end of the nave, intended to be hereafter finished with a spire. The plan was kindly furnished by J. H. Alexander, Esq. of Baltimore, and, in the opinion of those well qualified to judge, reflects credit upon his taste and judgment. It was a source of regret to many, that the strict necessity to consult economy had constrained the accomplished designer to omit some of the features of the early English style, but all were agreed in awarding to him the praise of having performed the difficult task of erecting an ecclesiastical looking building, capable of accommodating from two hundred to two hundred and fifty persons at a less cost than the unmeaning structures so often found in country parishes in Maryland. The features of the interior which called forth favorable comment, were the open roof, of simple but very striking design and the position of the altar in its place of due prominence against the East wall. It is intended that the windows shall ultimately be filled with stained glass, which will add richness to the internal effect."

The church lot, which was 120 feet deep and had a 100 foot frontage on the south side of Main Street, was deeded to the Vestry on the consecration day by the Caprons for a consideration of five dollars. The bell was from old St. Paul's Church, Baltimore, whose well-to-do parishioners were also a likely source of contributions to the construction fund.

The church, originally 52'6" in length, had two additional bays added (22') to the nave in 1892. It is difficult to distinguish the addition because the original architecture was meticulously followed. A new Parish Hall was constructed adjoining the west side of the edifice in 1927.

St. Philip's Church is the only pre-Civil War structure in Laurel for which there is a record of its having been designed by a person of professional training. John Henry Alexander was a graduate of St. John's College, Annapolis, and received professional training in Baltimore. Early in his career he was Professor of Engineering in the University of Pennsylvania. At the time he designed St. Philip's, Alexander was listed as an engineer located at 258 Lexington Street, Baltimore.

In selecting the Gothic style of an English country church, John Alexander produced what is perhaps the first of its kind in Prince George's County. By 1840 Baltimore as well as the rest of the country had seized upon

the Gothic as an appropriate style for a Christian church. Robert Carey Long, Jr. was the first major Baltimore architect to utilize the Gothic. (His famous architect father, Robert Carey Long, Sr. had assisted Maximilien Godefroy in his design of St. Mary's College Chapel (1806), the first neo-Gothic ecclesiastical structure in the United States). The eminent Benjamin Henry Latrobe had submitted two designs for the new Roman Catholic Cathedral in Baltimore, America's first, but Archbishop John Carroll had rejected the Gothic for the classical style. Young Long's first Gothic work was St. Alphonsus Catholic Church (1842) at Saratoga Street and Park Avenue. In 1844 he designed the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church which was dedicated in 1847. Long also designed the Mount Calvary Episcopal Church (1845) at Madison Avenue and Eutaw Street, and the gateway of Greenmount Cemetery (1847). These new, contemporary structures, as well as James Renwick's Smithsonian Institution in Washington most likely provided the inspiration for Alexander. Likewise there may very well have been the desire to adopt a style and appearance different from the existing Methodist and Roman Catholic edifices in Laurel Factory, which evidenced elements of the Colonial and Greek Revival.

It should be noted that the rectangular hall with an entrance vestibule at one end supporting a staged tower which were typical of the Georgian church, were easily "Gothicized". The walls could be continued above the eaves and terminated with crenellations, the arched windows and doors pointed, and the square tower could also be capped with crenellations. To a certain extent this is somewhat the approach made by Alexander in his design of St. Philip's, yet he did institute some variations. It must be remembered that the lack of funds caused some modifications of his design. In the absence of his drawings, these are open to conjecture.

The age of St. Philip's Church represents a fairly short span in the life of Prince George's County, however the church structure is a significant part of our architectural history since it represents the transition from Georgian to Gothic.

Source: DeMarr, F. S. The Pre-Civil War Architecture of Laurel, Maryland A Preliminary Study. Unpublished paper, 1973. 52 pp.

## RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS

Yingling, Earl L. The Big Tree Champions of Maryland. Maryland Forest Service, department of Natural Resources, Annapolis: 1973. 46 pp. \$1.

Our first State Forester, Fred W. Besley, compiled the original "Noted Tree List" for Maryland in 1925. It was published in booklet form in 1937 and again in 1956. The current booklet represents the latest list of the largest trees of the principle species.

The list of champion trees is constantly changing as disease and storm take their toll and new candidates are discovered. Seven Maryland trees are national champions, the most famous of which is the Wye Oak (white oak) on the Eastern Shore. Baltimore County has the largest number on the State's list – twelve. Six are noted in Prince George's County. They are: Saul's Oak on Sellman Road, Beltsville; Overcup Oak in the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge; Pale Leaved Hickory in the original part of the City of Bowie; and the Cucumber Magnolia on the Belair Mansion grounds. The other two listed are owned by members of the Society. The Black Willow is at T. Raymond Burch's "Hitching Post Hill", Hyattsville; while the Short Leaf Pine is on Forrest D. Bowie's "Mt. Lubentia Farm" near Largo.

One need not be a horticulturalist in order to enjoy this well-illustrated and informative publication.

## "OLD BOHEMIA"

Going south in the lower part of Cecil County from Chesapeake City toward Cecilton on the Augustine Herman Highway (US 213), the traveler will notice a state historical marker entitled "Old Bohemia". This sign indicates that 4 1/2 miles to the east is located St. Francis Xavier Church, founded in 1704 by the Jesuits on a part of Bohemia Manor.

After protestant control was established in the province of Maryland in 1692, the activities of the Society of

Jesus in Southern Maryland were greatly curtailed both by law and in practice. In 1704 the Rev. Thomas Mansell, S. J. established the mission which was located on a 1200 acre plantation. The revenue from this property supported their religious and educational activities which covered the Delmarva Peninsula and eastern Pennsylvania. (Philadelphia's first Roman Catholic church, St. Joseph's, Willing's Alley, was founded by Jesuits from Old Bohemia.)

"Old Bohemia" has associations with Prince George's County through the fact that its academy, founded in the 1740s, provided the early schooling for John Carroll of Upper Marlboro, first Roman Catholic Bishop in the United States. His cousin, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, also attended school there.

The present church was built in the 1790s and the adjoining Rectory was constructed from the bricks of the old academy in 1835. In 1898 the Jesuits relinquished the church to the Diocese of Wilmington. Because of its remote location, St. Francis Xavier has ceased to be an active parish. Its maintenance has been assumed by a group of interested people who have formed the Old Bohemia Historical Society. Membership in this group is open to all interested persons at a nominal rate. (Address: P.O. Box 61, Warwick, Md. 21912). The building and grounds are in excellent condition and a museum is maintained in the rectory. A good collection of farm implements is on display in the farm buildings.

Of particular interest is the boxwood-covered Jesuit cemetery and the 15' boxwoods which line the front walk to the church entrance. Eight hundred acres of the original plantation are still owned by the Jesuits. Of the 400 acres sold by them in 1931, almost all have been purchased by the historical society.

The museum is open on the third Sunday of June, July, August and September at 1 PM. Mass is celebrated on those dates at 4 PM. If you are going out for a Sunday drive on Sunday, September 16th, "Old Bohemia" would be a rewarding destination.

## REQUEST

The Maryland Room of McKeldin Library at the University of Maryland is interested in locating and preserving books, manuscripts, daybooks, letters, diaries, logs, maps, photographs, magazines and family papers relating to the development of Maryland agriculture, politics, and the University for its historical collections. For further information, contact: Mary Boccaccio, Archivist, Maryland Room, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. 20742. Telephone 301-454-3035.

## MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE STOCKHOLDERS (Concluded)

Name	No. of Shares	Name	No. of Shares
O. A. Ferguson	5	William S. Weedon	20
J. D. Gardner	5	R. D. Seldman	10
James S. Owens	20	William T. Spry	10
F. M. Weems	5	W. A. Wood	30
Edwin H. Webster	5	A. T. Emory	20
George W. Hughes	40	W. H. Johnson	5
F. F. Franklin	10	E. Whitman & Co.	30
T. Franklin Deale	10	W. P. Pumphrey	10
George W. Nutwell	10	Richard W. W. Bowie	5
John F. Wilson	5	James T. Briscoe	20
J. C. & F. Weems	10	S. Y. Dorsey	5
Charles C. Stewart	10	Hammond Stewart	5
Edward E. Gott	10	J. R. Quinan	5
Benjamin O. Hanna	10	Levin Stanforth	10
G. M. Eldridge	25	Thomas Holland	5
George H. Williams	20	Daniel Kent	5
C. McLean	20	Thomas J. Grayham	10

H. W. Archer	20	Richard Roberts	5
John L. Mines	10	Thomas J. Gantt	10
S. T. C. Brown	10	J. Y. Barker	5
John Selman	5	F. Lewis Griffith	20
Samuel Owing	20	James H. Brent	5
W. B. Scrivener	10	Benjamin O. Loundes	5
Thomas G. Hardesty	5	Nicholas Snowden	5
Thomas Welch	5	Richard G. Cross	5
W. A. Padgett	5	Henry W. Jenkins	10
William D. Bowie	20	Regester Beall	1
John D. Bolding	20	N. R. Merryman	1
John Dare	5	Remus Riggs	1
George Forbes	20	Samuel Ellicott	1

Names	No. of Shares	Names	Shares
W. B. Hill	10	Remus Riggs	1
Walter Mitchell	20	Samuel Ellicott	1
William D. Bowie, Jr.	10	Jessy Marden	6
Robert Bowie (of Walter)	10	Henry Johnson	1
William J. Berry	20	W. H. Grinnell	20
James Milliken	10	H. L. Carlton	5
William F. Berry	10	R. W. Bowie	1
Washington S. Hall	10	A. B. Hanson	10
G. P. Kane	10	James Giddings	20
Nicholas Martin, Jr.	5	James R. Busey	5
Richard C. Bowie	20	Gaunt & Bro.	5
S. Pinkney	5	Joseph A. Griffith	2
John C. Grooms	20	E. Hubball	19
R. W. Templeman	5	J. D. Hammond	5
T. D. Stone	10	Thomas Bayness	10
A. B. Davis	50	H. D. Gelston	6
J. M. Kilgour	20	Mrs. Joseph Holt	1
Richard J. Bowie	20	Mrs. James A. Stewart	1
J. L. Difief	10	Miss Eliza Riggs	1
J. W. Anderson	5	Mrs. Jonathan Proutt	1
F. P. Blair	20	Mrs. William Pinkney	2
W. D. Clark	10	Charles Ogle	26
Luther D. Jones	5	Benjamin Darby	1
N. H. Green	10	George Waters	1
A. Claude	5	D. Crawford	20
E. G. Kilbourn	5	Charles Clagett	10
M. Bannon	5	J. W. Brown	20
M. Mason	10	C. C. Hyatt	20
James Piper	5	George Thomas	10
Thomas E. Berry	20	Chapman Killingsley	5
Thomas Landate	10	Septimus J. Cook	10
Wilkerson Taylor	5	Walter H. Hilleary	10
William D. Beall	5	Enos Chapman	5
William T. Goldsborough	20	William S. Turpin	20
Dr. G. R. Dennis	20	Davis Gaither	4

A. Remare	10	Henry Sewall	5
William H. Purnell	10	George H. Plant	9
Freeland & Hall	20	S. P. Smith	2
Phil. Fuller	5	R. H. Lambell	5
J. H. Sothoron	50	G. H. Riggs	20
Benjamin E. Gantt	10	A. Green	2
P. Reebard	5	Edward Simpson	1
D. T. Morgan	5	B. Bayless	1
J. W. Mitchell	5	J. Grender	1
E. L. Spaulding	5	Y. D. Gillman	1
J. H. Key	5	Baldwin and Brother	1
William Coad	10	George and Thomas Parker	20
<b>Names</b>	<b>No. of Shares</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>No. of Shares</b>
H. S. Carroll	10	James Y. Davis	1
Robert W. Williams	5	J. P. Bartholow	2
H. Wallis	5	Middleton & Beall	2
A. S. Magruder	10	M. L. Wilson	1
Woolman Gobson	5	J. P. Popper	4
S. Crawford	5	Thomas J. Barkley	5

## CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTY SEAT

Much has appeared in the public press concerning the future of Upper Marlboro as the County Seat, a role that it has played for over 250 years. The latest information is that the county politicians have narrowed the site for the new county office building to a couple of locations: Largo and Upper Marlboro. They have asked for public reaction.

We feel that unfortunately, in the political shoving between Executive and Council, basic factors have been overlooked. It really isn't a matter of more convenient location. With present roads and planned improvements, it will only be a matter of time before location is irrelevant.

No, it isn't location, but rather the problem of having a place to leave your car after you reach the County Seat. –And this is where the county politicians and the town fathers as well, have overlooked the obvious. Just about everyone who thinks that the new office building should be located elsewhere is befogged by the notion that Upper Marlboro \_is now, and always will be Main Street. (About four blocks long, from St. Mary's Church to the Crain Monument and two blocks wide.) UPPER MARLBORO SITS IN THE MIDDLE OF AS MUCH UNDEVELOPED LAND AS DOES LARGO. Why should the citizens of the future have to travel to a number of locations, such as Hyattsville, Largo, Upper Marlboro in order to transact business with the county? Will this be convenience?

Our suggestion is that the politicians and town fathers join forces and BROADEN their horizons. Their goal should be a plan on the grand design for an Upper Marlboro of the future which could be adopted as a Bicentennial project, something which the county has been searching for. A rejuvenated and somewhat expanded Upper Marlboro, carefully blending the old and the new, would reflect tradition along with a progressive profile. It would give the town a new lease on life commercially, and it would better serve our citizens. DO OUR COUNTY AND TOWN LEADERS POSSESS THIS VISION?

## News and Notes from

### The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 1973 Vol – 1, No – 8

#### OCTOBER MEETING

As previously announced, the next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 13, 1973 at the Belair Stable in Bowie. After a short business meeting, Mrs. Shirley Baltz will tell us of the history and preservation of the Belair Stable which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Both the Stable Museum and the Belair Mansion will be open for our members. Meeting time is 2 P.M. We hope all of the members will avail themselves of this opportunity to see what some of our neighbors are doing in the field of preservation.

(To reach Belair Stable: Going east on John Hanson Parkway (Rte. 50), get off at Belair exit (Rt. 197) and turn west on Rt. 197 to Tulip Grove Drive on the right side; OR going east on Defense Highway (Rt. 450), take right on 197 at Belair to Tulip Grove Drive on left (about two or three blocks); OR going north on Crain Highway (Rt. 301), take left on Rt. 197 to Tulip Grove Drive on right. At Tulip Grove Drive are located the Belair historical marker, a Belair Stable sign, and a County Police sign. Follow Tulip Grove Drive to a dead end at Belair Drive. (You pass Belair Mansion.) At this intersection is a parking lot on your right. The stable is across the street.)

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is still receiving suggestions for the 1973-74 slate of officers to be presented for election at the October meeting. Committee members and their telephone numbers are: John Brennan, Chairman (498-1515), Mrs. Vera Rollo (577-2436) and Paul Deafenbaugh (937-1386)

#### BARNEY MARKER DEDICATION

Mr. Dennis F. Blizzard, President of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, announces the dedication of a State historical marker commemorating Commodore Joshua Barney at 3 P.M., Sunday, October 21, 1973. The ceremony will be held at the marker site, Hill's Bridge on Route 4 over the Patuxent, east of Upper Marlboro.

All members of the Society and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

#### FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND

Autumn, in all of its colorful glory, is near. October is the month to visit the Western Maryland mountains at the height of their color. Jousting championships are being held and the annual Fall open house is scheduled for Annapolis and Princess Anne. For the Bay enthusiast, the skipjacks will be in competition at Sandy Point.

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| October 6     | DEDICATION OF STONESTREET MEDICAL OFFICE. Montgomery County Historical Society, 103 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville. 4 P.M.   |
| October 6     | 23RD ANNUAL STATE CHAMPION JOUSTING TOURNAMENT. Carling Brewery Athletic Field, Baltimore County, Exit 9, Baltimore Beltway. 11 A.M. Contact Miss Alice Blum, Jessup 301-799-0398.                                    |
| October 7     | 7TH ANNUAL FELLS POINT FUN FESTIVAL. Arts and crafts, entertainment and tours of historic Fells Point and Baltimore Harbor. Contact: 301-727-5888   |
| October 12-14 | 5TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST. Baltimore's German Community heralds autumn with major culinary, cultural and folk art presentations, Fifth Regiment Armory. Contact: Wolfram Sommer, 419 Old Trail, Baltimore, 301-828-4815. |
| October 13-14 | 16TH ANNUAL OLDE PRINCESS ANNE DAYS. Candlelight reception at Teackle   |

Mansion highlights "Open House" in lovely 18th and 19th century Eastern Shore homes, Princess Anne. Contact: 301-651-1705.

- October 14 NATIONAL JOUSTING CHAMPIONSHIP. Washington Monument grounds. 11 A.M. Contact: Miss Alice Blum, Jessup, 301-799-0398.
- October 19-21 6TH ANNUAL ATLANTIC FLYWAY WILDFOWL CAVING AND ARTS EXHIBIT. Civic Center, Salisbury.
- October 19-21 17TH ANNUAL HERITAGE WEEKEND IN ANNAPOLIS. Candlelight, waterfront and open house tours (emphasis on Victorian houses). Plantation Dinner, Hunt Breakfast. Contact: Historic Annapolis, Inc., 301-267-7619.
- October 27 9TH ANNUAL CHESAPEAKE APPRECIATION DAY. The nation's last oyster fleet under sail competes for "top skipjack" title, Sandy Point State Park near Bay Bridge. Tel: 301-267-5517.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNTY SOCIAL SEASON – 1840

The following invitations from the collection of Otho T. Beall, Jr. present an interesting sidelight on the 1840 social season in Prince George's County. These invitations were received by Mrs. Dennis Magruder (Mary Ann Beard) of Bladensburg, formerly of "Mt. Lubentia."

#### MAY BALL

The honor of the Company of Mrs. Magruder is  
Respectfully requested at a Ball to be given at the  
Planters' Hotel in Nottingham on the 1st of May next.

#### MANAGERS

W. B. C. Worthington	John Brookes
Fielder Bowie	Dr. John H. Skinner
Thos. T. Somervell	Dr. Wm. D. Digges
Thomas Wood	Dr. Edward H. Calvert
John D. Brooke	Thomas Holland
Robert W. Bowie	Samuel S. Hodgkin
Theodore Hodgkin	Geo. H. Gardiner
James S. Horsell, Jr.	John H. Somervell
Wm. T. Wooten	Wm. H. Tuck
John H. Waring	Osborn Sprigg
Thomas F. Bowie	Wm. Wallace
John L. Turner	T. M. D. Baden

April 10, 1840

Prince George's County (and all of Maryland, for that matter) was Whig country. This explains the reason for at "Tippecanoe Ball" to push the candidacy of General William Henry Harrison, who won all of Maryland's Electoral votes and the presidency in 1840.

Miss Magruder (Mary Ann), the daughter of Mrs. Dennis Magruder, married Washington Jeremiah Beall, son of Otho Berry Beall of "Mt. Lubentia," on July 8, 1840. They lived at "Mt. Lubentia" until their new home, "Woodlawn," was built (1853-55). It is conjectured that Thomas Baldwin's Hotel was located in Upper Marlboro.

## TIPPECANOE BALL

Mrs. Magruder & Miss Magruder

The pleasure of your company is respectfully  
Requested to a BALL and SUPPER, to be given at Mr.  
Thomas Baldwin's Hotel, on Thursday, the 11th instant  
At four o'clock, P. M.

June 3, 1840  
MANAGERS

OSBORN SPRIGG  
DEWITT KENT  
JOSHUA C. HIGGINS  
CHRISTOPHER C. CLARKE  
DANIEL C. DIGGS  
THOMAS BRUCE  
WILLIAM F. BERRY

WILLIAM H. TUCK  
DR. JAMES HARPER  
JOHN BOWIE  
JAMES C. CARTER  
THOMAS H. KENT  
OCTAVIUS HARRISS  
WILLIAM W. HILL

## A PLEASANT RAILROAD – THE CHESAPEAKE BACH LINE

During the late 1800s and after the turn of the century, before the motor car became a universal thing, resorts in the mountains and at the seashore provided an outlet for the American people. For many Prince Georgians, there lingers the memory of an all-day excursion to Chesapeake Beach to break the monotony of a long, hot summer.

Chesapeake Beach was one of the first public facilities opened on the Bay. Its promoters built a hotel and an amusement park. Another corporation was established to provide a railroad which would transport the public to that somewhat inaccessible spot on the Chesapeake Bay.

The Chesapeake Beach Railway began construction in 1892, began operation in 1896, and ceased operation in 1935; running an excursion railroad over a 28.3-mile standard gauge (4-foot 8 1/2 inch) single track road from Chesapeake Junction (1.8 miles inside District of Columbia) to the Chesapeake Beach Station (200 feet from the Chesapeake Bay) at northeast Calvert County, Maryland; traversing central prince George's County, southwestern Anne Arundel County and northern Calvert County, Maryland.

Stations on the railway were: (1) Chesapeake Junction, where transfer of passengers was made with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; (2) District Line, where there were eight car sidings, sheds for three engines, coal pile, water tank, and a four-track, hand-operated roundhouse; (3) Seat Pleasant, where there were a 12-car siding and a passing track; (4) Brooks; (5) Behrend; (6) Berry's Concord, where there were a nine-car siding and a passing track; (7) Ritchie, where there were a three-car siding and a passing track; (8) Marr; (9) Brown, where there were an 11-car siding and a passing track; (10) Hills; (11) Clagett; (12) Upper Marlboro, where there were a 12-car siding and a passing track; (13) Pennsylvania, where junction was made with Pope's Creek line of Pennsylvania Railroad; (14) Mount Calvert, where there were a 13-car siding, a passing track, and a wooden trestle over the Patuxent River; (15) Pindell, where there were a three-car siding and a passing track; (16) Fischer, where there were a 12-car siding and a passing track; (17) Chaney, where there

were a four-car siding and a passing track; (18) Wilson; (19) Owings, where there were a 17-car siding and a passing track; (20) Mount Harmony, where there was a four-car siding; (21) Pushaw, where there was a two-car siding; and (22) Chesapeake Beach, where there were a 12-car siding, a one-mile turn-a-round siding connecting to the Railway's power plant which supplied electricity to the 798- acre town, a boardwalk, an amusement park, a hotel, and the great Bay itself.

With the exception of an unsuitable 1930 gas-electric engine obtained from the J. G. Brill Co., the locomotives used on the Chesapeake Railway were obsolescent steam engines, American type C-2, purchased from Atlantic Coast Line or rebuilt by Baldwin.

The Railway never had a profitable year. In 1900, its best year, it owned five locomotives, 32 passenger and baggage cars, 18 freight cars, enjoyed an \$868,500 mail contract, hired 70 people. Hauled an "excellent" summer excursion business and a "fair" freight load, and posted a \$15,000 deficit

Because the cinder roadbed using 70- 80- and 85- pound rails was rated "poor," and because the rolling stock was either old or rebuilt, the Railway enforced a 30-mile-per-hour limit.

In winter two trains a day sufficed; in summer 12 trains chased the clock across the delectable country.

Monthly school commutation tickets were priced at \$10.

The derelict Upper Marlboro station, burned in 1966, was removed in 1973.

The stations at Pindell and Chesapeake still stand.

James H. Shreve

References: Steiner, J.W. The History and Construction of the Chesapeake Beach Railroad. Unpublished paper in McKeldin Library, University of Maryland. 1933. 18pp.

Remembrances of Mr. James B. Berry, Jr., "Concord", Prince George's County.

## WEDGEWOOD SEMINAR

The Southern Maryland Antique Arts Association will sponsor a lecture entitled "Collecting Wedgewood" by Mr. Guy Manners of New York, Consultant to the Wedgewood Museum. The program is scheduled for 10 A.M. Friday, October 26, 1973, at the Oxon Hill Library. Members of the Society are cordially invited to attend. Participants may bring Wedgewood pieces for inspection and comment by Mr. Manners.

## AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE STOCKHOLDERS REVISITED

Hon. William Beanes Hill - 20 shares

When the list of Maryland Agricultural College stockholders was printed in our three previous issues of News and Notes, we asked that our readers help us to identify the Prince Georgians who participated in this pioneering venture to establish the school at College Park in 1856.

Mrs. Robert B. G. Sasscer of "Compton Bassett" very kindly responded with material on Judge William Beanes Hill taken from the Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men in Maryland and the District of Columbia (Balto: 1879) and family bible records. Mrs. Sasscer states that the stock certificate, signed by Charles B. Calvert as Chairman of the trustees, is still among their family papers. Judge Hill was the great-grandfather of her husband, Robert B. G. Sasscer, M.D..

Hon. William Beanes Hill, Judge, State Senator, and Secretary of State of Maryland, was born November 13, 1813, at "Compton Bassett," Prince George's County Maryland. He was the eldest son of Dr. William and Ann (Smith) Hill. (Judge Hill was named for Dr. William Beanes, a friend and medical colleague of his father. Dr. Beanes, of course, is remembered for having been taken prisoner by the British when they went through Upper Marlboro during the Washington-Baltimore campaign of August, 1814).

The Hill family came to Maryland with the first settlers and obtained a patent for the estate called "Compton Bassett" which descended through four Clement Hills to Dr. William Hill and finally to Judge Hill.

The first Clement Hill was Surveyor General of all land lying west of the Chesapeake Bay. The second Clement Hill was Commissioner of the Land Office. Judge Hill's great-grandmother was the sister of Archbishop John Carroll and Daniel Carroll, Signer of the Constitution.

Judge Hill was educated at St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland, graduating in 1831, when he

returned to his estate to take up his lifetime role as one of the leading planters in the State. William Beanes Hill gave generously of his time to public service as well. He was appointed Judge of the Orphans Court by Governor Pratt and was subsequently elected by the people to five successive terms, serving as Chief Judge during most of his tenure. He resigned at the beginning of his fifth term due to the illness of his wife. He was Secretary of State of Maryland in 1862 and was elected to the State Senate in 1877 for a four year term.

In 1835 Judge Hill married Catherine Beall Smith, daughter of Richard and Covington Mackall Smith. (Richard Smith was Cashier of the U. S. Branch Bank of Washington City).

There were nine children born to the W. B. Hills: Esther Graham, William Murdock (M. Aimee Hopkins), Annie Smith, Catherine Mackall, Covington, Elizabeth Chew, Helen Margarette (M. Buchanan Beale), Richard Smith and Walter Smith.

Mrs. Hill died August 12, 1874 and Judge Hill died August 23, 1890. Both are buried at "Compton Bassett". (Dr. Robert B. G. Sasscer is the ninth-generation owner of "Compton Bassett," which overlooks the Patuxent at Hill's Bridge.)

## SACRED HEART PARISH – A CRADLE OF AMERICA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

On a heavily wooded hill by Defense Highway (Rt. 450) about one-quarter mile west of Crain Highway (Tr. 301) stands Sacred Heart Chapel – Old White Marsh,<sup>1</sup> the earliest Roman Catholic establishment in Prince George's County. During the 18th Century White Marsh was the headquarters for the activities of the Society of Jesus in the north central region, serving Prince George's County, Baltimore, Annapolis, and Frederick.

About 2,000 acres called "Carrolsburgh" were deeded by James Carroll of Anne Arundel County under his will dated February 12, 1728. The transfer was made to two individual Jesuit priests residing at St. Thomas' Manor, near Port Tobacco, Charles County. This procedure was followed because under Maryland law the Roman Catholic Church could not hold property in its own name. Hence, church property was passed from one priest to another, by will, as private citizens. An excellent example of this procedure may be found in the will of the Rev. John Lewis, S.J., dated March 13, 1788. Father Lewis was Superior of the Jesuit mission at Bohemia Manor in Cecil County. He left all of his property to the Rev. Robert Molyneux, S.J., of Philadelphia, and it included three churches, two houses in Philadelphia, two parcels of land and two plantations, one of them being Bohemia, the Jesuit headquarters in northern and eastern Maryland as well as Pennsylvania.

Under the Act of Establishment passed in 1692, the Church of England was able to hold property. In addition, all citizens of whatever faith in the respective parishes were taxed for the support of the clergy and the construction of churches and rectories. In the case of the Roman Catholics, the priests, all of whom were Jesuits, were supported primarily by income from their lands. At White Marsh this proved to be a meager subsistence.

White Marsh was to be the scene of a meeting in 1783 of all of the clergy for the purpose of adopting some form of government for the Roman Catholic Church of America. They were also concerned with the ways and means of holding on to their lands. At this time all of the clergy in America were Jesuits. No secular clergy or members of other orders came over until at least ten years after the Revolution. The Jesuit order had become a casualty of European politics. It was suppressed by the official decree, *Dominus ac Redemptor*, issued by Pope Clement XIV on July 21, 1772. When the former Jesuits met at White Marsh, they were not only interested in gaining legal status under the state as a group to hold their lands. They were also concerned that this property might be secured, looking ahead to the day that the Society of Jesus might be reinstated by Rome. They were fearful that secular clergy or a secular bishop sent over by Rome might take the lands from them.<sup>2</sup> It wasn't until 1792 that the General Assembly passed "An Act for

---

<sup>1</sup> The extensive marshes bordering the Patuxent at this point have large quantities of mica in the sand found there. Under a full sun, the sand is sparkling white; thus, the name "White Marsh" was given to the area. The bridge over the Patuxent at this point was known as Priests' Bridge.

<sup>2</sup> This fear proved to be true when Ambrose Marechal, the non-Jesuit who followed Jesuits John Carroll and

securing certain estates and property for the support and uses of ministers of the Roman Catholic religion" (Ch. LV). The corporate body provided under this act styled itself "Corporation of the Roman Catholic Clergyman." This group still holds title today to all Jesuit property in Maryland.

At another meeting of the clergy at White Marsh in 1789, the Rev. John Carroll, S.J., a native of Upper Marlboro, received the support of his fellow former Jesuits to be recommended to Rome for consecration as the first American bishop. His Diocese of Baltimore, the prime See of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States, was to encompass all of the original 13 states.

Because of the loss of early records in a fire, the exact date that activities got under way at White Marsh is unknown. The original chapel, which comprises the present day sacristy and chancel, was built in 1741 or shortly thereafter. The date of the nave of the church is unknown; however, it was burned in 1855 and rebuilt the following year. In 1876 the frame tower was added. The dressed stone used in the construction is a reddish colored sandstone similar to that used in the construction of St. Mary of the Mills Roman Catholic Church and other structures in Laurel and is native to the Laurel area. Perhaps the Jesuits got this stone from Richard or Thomas Snowden of "Birmingham Manor."

The oldest portion of the church containing the sacristy and chancel shows evidence of superior workmanship. Dressed stone quoins are outset around the perimeter of the door and each of the windows, two on each side and two in the octagonal end. The 19th Century portion of the building is quite plain.

On the northwest exterior side of the sacristy there is evidence of the last resting places of two of the priests who served White Marsh in the 19th Century. Roughly chiseled on the stone of the church wall is one inscription which reads Edward McCarthy, June 16\_\_\_. The other reads: Petrus McDermott, S. J. Sacerdos. – Natus July 27, 1831. Obit. July 20, 1899. R.I.P.

Another unusual feature is the sundial located on the south wall. This unique instrument, having a weatherbeaten wooden indicator, is dated July, 1827. Judging from the latitude and longitude indicated thereon (Lat 38°55'N, Long 00°2'E), the sundial was not intended for Sacred Heart Chapel when it was made.

It was not until August 7, 1814, that the Jesuit Order was restored by the papal decree, *Sollicitudo Omnium*. Prior to this time steps were taken on an informal basis to re-establish the order in America. Bishop Carroll and his coadjutor bishop, Leonard Neale, both of whom were Jesuits, met with five priests of the order at St. Thomas' Manor in May, 1805. Father Robert Molyneux was elected Superior. In October, 1806, a Novitiate, the first in the United States, was established for new recruits to the Society at Georgetown. This institution was moved briefly to St. Inigoes (St. Mary's County) in 1814 and then to White Marsh in 1815. During 1818 it functioned again at Georgetown to be returned to White Marsh 1819-23. The constant moving of this novitiate could be attributed to the lack of sufficient facilities and food at each of the locations to properly support it. After further terms at both Georgetown and White Marsh, it was moved to Frederick in 1834.

In 1814, during the British invasion of the Bay area, livestock from St. Inigoes in St. Mary's County was moved to White Marsh to keep it from falling into enemy hands. Some of this stock was used to feed the students of Georgetown when food became scarce in Washington.

With the coming of the Baltimore and Potomac (Pennsylvania) Railroad and the development of Bowie as a town and railroad center, a church (Ascension) was erected there in 1893. A residence for the clergy was opened in 1903. This became the headquarters of the Jesuit activities and White Marsh was classed as a mission.

Another historic landmark at White Marsh is the Shrine of Our Lady at Rock Springs, the first in America to commemorate the vision at Lourdes, France. In 1874, 3000 pilgrims from Baltimore and Washington took the train to Collington station and walked to the shrine at White Marsh. In later years the site was allowed to deteriorate, but it was restored by the Knights of Columbus and rededicated on October 23, 1960.

In more recent years, with the large influx of residents brought by the subdivision of the Belair estate formerly owned by the Woodwards, White Marsh has become one of two independent parishes in the area. A new church has been built at the foot of the hill beside defense Highway to accommodate the large new

---

Leonard Neale as Archbishop, tried to gain ownership of the White Marsh property. He claimed that the Jesuit property had been given in fact for the Roman Catholic Church in Maryland rather than the Jesuit Order. Rome refused his claim and the Jesuits retained their lands.

congregation.

However, the familiar road to the top of the hill is still there. Asphalt replaces the deep ruts in the old gravel road which many remember from visits during the old annual "Homecoming" dinner and carnival in August. Upon reaching the plateau, a very pleasant sight beholds the visitor. The Rectory (Novitiate), hall and church all boast new coats of paint. A rail fence and well-manicured lawn adjoin the old cemetery, which has been reclaimed once again from the weeds and wilderness.

(Continued)

*End of Volume I no 8, October 1973*

## **News and Notes from**

### **The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

November 1973 Vol – 1, No – 9

#### **NOVEMBER MEETING**

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, November 17, 1973. (Please note the change in date.) This is the third Saturday, rather than our regular second Saturday meeting date.

We are fortunate to have as our speaker, Mrs. Amos T. Holland of University Park. She will present a slide-illustrated lecture on "Historic Howard County". Mrs. Holland is the author of Ellicott City, Maryland Mill Town U.S.A. (1969), and is currently working on a history of Howard County.

The meeting place is Montpelier Mansion, Laurel (Rt. 197) and the time 2 PM. As always, guests are welcome.

On December 8th we will bring our Fall schedule to a close with the traditional "Christmas at Montpelier".

#### **HON. OGLE MARBURY – 1882-1973**

The Honorable Ogle Marbury, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, 1944-1952, passed away on October 3, 1973 at the age of 91.

During his long career as a public servant, Judge Marbury was a member of the House of Delegates, Assistant Attorney general of Maryland, City Solicitor of Laurel, and attorney to both the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners. His service on the bench began in 1941 as an Associate Justice of the 7th Judicial Circuit and within three years he assumed the highest judicial post in the State of Maryland, that of Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. Judge Marbury also served as President of the Maryland Bar Association.

Judge Marbury was a charter member of the Prince George's County Historical Society.

#### **ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER**

The Prince George's County Historical Society's St. George's Day Dinner, in commemoration of the birthdate of the County in 1696, will be held on April 23, 1974. Details will be forthcoming at a later date, but please put a note on your calendar now.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Jean Speicher of Laurel will serve as Chairman of the Dinner Committee.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

The following new members were elected at the October meeting:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
Mr. & Mrs. Francis C. Howlett	Camp Springs	Mrs. Heissenbuttel

## 1840 SOCIAL SEASON REVISITED

In last month's issue of News and Notes, invitations received by Mrs. Dennis Magruder and her daughter during the 1840 social season were published. One of these was for the "Tippecanoe Ball" scheduled for June 11, 1840 in Thomas Baldwin's Hotel.

It was conjectured that Baldwin's Hotel was situated in Upper Marlboro. This location has proven to be incorrect. Actually Thomas Baldwin's Hotel was on the corner of Bladensburg Road and Upshur Street, opposite the George Washington House in Bladensburg. In later years the Bladensburg Elks Club was on this site. (It is now occupied by the storage yard of a fence manufacturing firm.)

Bladensburg was the major seat of organized Whig activity in Prince George's County. In 1841, the Bladensburg Whig Club encouraged the citizens of the County to assemble in the town and join the Club in a march to Washington for the inauguration of their hero, General William Henry Harrison. On another occasion a great Whig outing for followers from Baltimore and Washington was held at the Spa Spring grounds in Bladensburg.

Your editor had this information concerning Baldwin's Hotel in the files, but it was overlooked when writing last month's article.

## SACRED HEART PARISH (Concluded)

Upon approaching the church, a wooden plaque on the front of the building tells the story:

Sacred Heart Chapel was established in 1741. The original chapel comprises the sacristy and sanctuary areas. The addition to the original chapel was destroyed by fire in 1855 and restored one year later in 1856. The church tower was added in 1876 and the church was remodeled in 1916 by Rev. Michael J. Hogan, S.J. It was restored beginning 1972 (by) the Restoration Society of Sacred Heart Parish.

The people of Sacred Heart Parish, White Marsh, most of them new to the area, have built for the present and the future, but they paused to preserve their rich heritage which is one of the foundations of the Roman Catholic Church in America. Some of the other early parishes of Maryland have seen fit to abandon their heritage, but under the enlightened and energetic leadership of their present Pastor, the Rev. John F. Hogan, a native Washingtonian, Sacred Heart Parish has set an example which all Prince Georgians should emulate before it is too late.

F.S.D.

(In the first part of this article it was indicated that the Knights of Columbus restored the Shrine of Our Lady. It was upon the suggestion of the K of C that the restoration was accomplished by the Osma Caravan No. 110, Order of the Alhambra. This group has devoted its service program to marking and restoration of historic sites of the Roman Catholic Church.)

References:

History of Sacred Heart Church, Whitmarsh Plantation. 1953. 7 pp.

County News. May 18, 1967.

DeMarr, F.S. The Regulation of Religious Corporations in the State of Maryland. Unpub. Thesis. McKeldin Library, U. of Md. College Park, 1953. 93 pp.

## CHESAPEAKE BEACH CAROUSEL

On several occasions in the past News and Notes has expressed interest in the preservation of the Carousel located in the now-defunct Chesapeake Beach Park in Charles County.

Recently the President of the Society received a copy of a letter from Congressman Larry Hogan, which had been sent to Mr. Hogan by Philip Hogue, Chairman of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. In this letter Chairman Hogue indicated that the Prince George's Planning Board has taken an option to purchase the Carousel. It is their position that this would be a worthwhile acquisition for our park system.

Our thanks are extended to Chairman Hogue and his colleagues for bringing this bit of Americana to Prince George's.

## QUERY – DESCENDANTS OF DAVID BARRY

A Civil War researcher needs to contact the descendants of David Barry and his wife, Eliza, who lived near Surrattsville during and after the Civil War. Their children were: Edward, born about 1835; Arthur, born about 1839; William D., born about 1842; Emily, born about 1844; Fanny, born about 1847; Catherine, born about 1849; and Clement, born about 1852. Write to James O. Hall, 1044 Douglass Drive, McLean, Virginia 22101.

## FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND

With the arrival of All Hallows' Even, the touring season comes to a close. The chill winds of the Autumn air reminds us that Thanksgiving with its family visits is near, and that we must begin to think of assembling our gifts for the Holiday Season. Consult your local County newspaper for the dates of the many church bazaars held during November.

- November 9-11      3rd ANNUAL WATERFOWL FESTIVAL. Decorative and working decoys, waterfowl art, artifacts, antique gun collection. Easton. Contact: Bill Perry, 239 Brookwood Ave., Easton. Tel: 822-4240.
- November 10        22ND ANNUAL WASHINGTON, D.C. INTERNATIONAL RACE. Top thoroughbreds from the U.S. and foreign countries race for "Horse of the World" honors. \$150,000 purse, Laurel Race Course.
- November 10        23RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE. Old-fashioned church bazaar and luncheon. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Prince Frederick, 10 AM. Contact Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Waldorf. Tel: 645-2693.
- November 12-14    14TH ANNUAL ANTIQUES SHOW. Civic Center, Salisbury. Tel: 742-3201.
- November 16-18    8TH ANNUAL ANTIQUES SHOW AND SALE. American Legion Home, Cambridge. Contact: Philip L. Cannon, 408 Cemetery Ave., Cambridge. Tel: 228-4336.

## CONCERNING VETERAN'S 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 11 AM 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 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 designate 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.

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 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 tradition of their County and the traditions of their forefathers served their country in the Great War of 1917-1918.



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 Snyder-Farmer. They remembered their Comrades . . . which is the true significance of Veterans' Day.

--FSD

Reference:

Journal, First Annual Dance, Snyder-Farmer-Butler Post No. 3, Inc., Hyattsville, Maryland. Nov. 11, 1972. Compiled by the Post Commander, Francis X. Geary. 28 pp.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR 1973-74

At the October meeting of the Society, the following officers were elected to serve until October 1974.

President	Frederick S. DeMarr	Hyattsville
Vice President	David F. Rimm	Riverdale
Recording Secty	Mrs. John M. Walton, Jr.	Clinton
Corres. Secty	Mrs. Frank Bagot	Hyattsville
Treasurer	Col. Samuel Crook	Laurel
Historian	James C. Wilfong, Jr.	Hyattsville
Directors	Dr. Otho T. Beall, Jr.	Upper Marlboro
	Forest D. Bowie	Upper Marlboro
	Mrs. Felix Cristofane	Bladensburg

ARCHITECTURE EXHIBIT

The School of Architecture of the University of Maryland has prepared an exhibit, "Maryland Architecture: It's Documentation and Preservation," currently on display at the Architecture Gallery in conjunction with the formal dedication of the Architecture Building. The exhibit seeks to communicate the diversity and breadth that mark the living heritage of Maryland architecture, and especially to focus on some of the leading agencies at the local, state, and national levels engaged in the documentation and preservation of that heritage.

Through the exhibit, the School of Architecture aims to bring to the public's attention the growing importance of architectural preservation in our State, as well as to underscore its own commitment to furthering the study and intelligent use of our architectural patrimony in Maryland.

This exhibit, which continues through Friday, November 9, 1973, is located in the Architecture Building, situated on Campus Drive near the West edge of the Campus. Hours Monday through Friday are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. A free catalogue of the exhibit is available.

Among the structures included from Prince George's County are the Lyles House, His Lordship's Kindness, Barnaby Manor, and a Bladensburg house of 1746. The other drawings and photographs represent a fine cross-section of various types of structures in the State.

COUNTY BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

It would be interesting to determine which of our business establishments in Prince George's County have been in operation for the longest period of time. Over the years some have moved their location, while others may have changed ownership while retaining the original name.

Several existing business operations got under way following the Civil War. So, for openers, we would like to learn about any business in the County which is 100 years old or more.

Send your nominations in to the Editor at 4010 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, Maryland. 20781.

## News and Notes from

### The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 1973 Vol – 1, No –10

#### DECEMBER MEETING

On Saturday, December 8, 1973 at 2 PM the traditional Christmas Party will be held at Montpelier Mansion, Laurel (Rt. 197). There will be no formal meeting. Please come and bring your friends to help us inaugurate the Christmas Season at lovely Montpelier, as Major Thomas Snowden did in the 18th century.

There will be no meetings during January or February. The first of the Spring season will be held in March in Upper Marlboro.

#### COMMENT

This is the 10th and last issue of the first volume of News and Notes. Since March of this year, seventy-six pages of material have been produced<sup>1</sup> for the benefit of our readers. We think it has added to the general program of the Society and that it will continue to attract new readers and members in the coming months.

We hope that you, our old members who have been so faithful in supporting the Society's program over years past, have enjoyed it and will continue your support and send us material to include in these pages. Our second volume will begin with the January 1974 issue.

As 1973 draws to a close, we would like to share with you this greeting from  
The Virginia Almanack for the Year of Our Lord God 1771:

“We wish you health and good fires;  
victuals, drink and good stomachs;  
innocent diversion and good company;  
honest trading and good success;  
loving courtship and good wives;  
and lastly, a merry CHRISTMAS and a happy NEW YEAR.”

#### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Members of the Society are invited to bring their children, grandchildren and/or themselves to see Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol at the University of Maryland on December 7-9. This greatest of Christmas classics features the music from the film, "Scrooge".

Curtain times are as follows: Friday, December 7th, 7 PM; Saturday and Sunday, December 8&9, 1 & 3:30 PM. Call the Tawes Fine Arts Theatre at 454-2201 (10:30 AM – 4:30 PM Weekdays) for ticket reservation and information.

---

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that the hard copy version of Volume I does contain 76 pages, but the pagination is, of course, different in this electronic version. Because of the necessity for retyping the first few volumes of News and Notes which had been produced by typewriter and mimeo graphic copying techniques over a quarter century ago, pagination is different. The index and table of contents attached herewith follows the revised pagination for ease of research. L Sweeting – electronic editor.

## CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

The Society gratefully acknowledges contributions from the following members in response to our letter in the last issue of News and Notes. This list is complete as of November 18, 1973. If your contribution was not received until later, we shall acknowledge it in the next issue.

Mr. John C. Brennan  
Mrs. Walter R. Byrd  
Col. And Mrs. Samuel L. Crook  
Mrs. Paul H. Kea  
Mr. Paul T. Lanham  
Mr. James H. Starkey  
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Wilfong, Jr.

## ANCIENT ENGINE OF WAR

In his book, *Civil War Collector's Encyclopedia*, (Stackpole Books, 1965, \$17.50), Dr. Francis A. Lord of Bethesda, Maryland records the use in Prince George's County or Howard County of the Winans' steam gun, of which only one was built. Looking somewhat like an old-fashioned horse-drawn steam fire-engine with a clam-shaped iron shield, all mounted on four wheels, the weapon was built by Ross Winans, the Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, for Confederate use. Captured by members of the Sixth Massachusetts Infantry on May 11, 1861, the gun was placed to protect the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad viaduct over the Patuxent River at Laurel. Apparently it was never used in battle which causes one to question the claims of the inventor, Charles S. Dickenson, who asserted the gun was mobile and bullet-proof, could throw two hundred balls a minute a distance of two miles, and handle any size projectile from a bullet to a 100-pound cannon ball. (The single barrel mounted on a pivot was fed through a hopper.) Can it be that both the Union and the Confederacy missed an opportunity to make the Civil War even more deadly than it was?

--Samuel C. Crook

## POSTAL ARCHIVES BICENTENNIAL PLAN

As an unofficial part of the preparations for the 1976 Bicentennial, Peter L. Koffsky of Chevy Chase is attempting to organize a local postal history archives. The collection will emphasize private papers either original or copy, recollections set down on paper or tape, and photographs. The collection will be housed in the Smithsonian's Division of Philately and Postal History in Washington.

In its early stages, the archives have already received important submissions from two main groups: those who have direct experience with the postal services, and older individuals whose long use of the postal system enables them to compare its current condition with that of earlier days.

If you or your families have information on postal history which you would like to include- written, taped or photocopied, the material will be gratefully accepted. If you can put Mr. Koffsky in contact with others whom you feel might be able to add to knowledge of postal history, this would also be greatly appreciated. For further information write: Mr. Peter L. Koffsky 5515 Greystone Street, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015,

## FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND

The Christmas Season is upon us, and most of us will be busily engaged in doing our shopping and also making preparations for the visits of our loved ones and friends. Although spare time will be at a premium, there are a few holiday season events which are worthy to note for your possible enjoyment.

December 1-2      7TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. Unusual and handsome gift items from world

markets and local craftsmen. Carroll County Farm Museum. Contact: Museum, Rt. 6, Box 412, Westminster. Tel: (301) 848-7775.

December 2 8TH ANNUAL HOLLY TOUR. Downtown Baltimore homes and churches, especially decorated for the Christmas season. Contact: Mrs. John Boulden, 21 Florida Road, Towson. Tel: (301) 823-4207.

December 15-16 7TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AT MOUNT CLARE. Open house in this exquisite 18th century mansion. Contact: Mount Clare, Carroll Park, Baltimore. Tel: (301) 837-3262.

December 18 15TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GREENS SHOW. Christmas 200 years ago in the historic Hammond-Harwood House, one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in America. Contact: Mrs. H. W. McDonald. 19 Maryland Avenue, Annapolis. Tel. (301) 263-6773.

## TRACING SHADRICK AND SARAH TURNER, PIONEER METHODISTS OF BLADENSBURG

(This paper on the pioneer Methodist of Prince George's County was presented by Prof. Theodore Bissell at a regular meeting of the Society.)

On Sunday, October 29, 1972 United Methodist churches in Maryland held rallies to celebrate the bicentennial of the coming of Francis Asbury to this area. John Wesley had sent him from England to preach God's word and to organize the Church. Asbury spent here a life of 45 years traveling by horseback some 200,000 miles, from Maine to Georgia and west to Ohio, back and forth constantly preaching, converting people and organizing them into classes or churches. It is said Asbury knew more people than any other person of his day. His journal is a great sourcebook of history.

Methodists in Maryland observed the 200th year in a number of ways. The Baltimore Conference Historical Society published an authoritative history, *Those Incredible Methodists*, with Dr. Gordon Pratt Baker, pastor of Laurel First Church as editor. A movie showing Asbury's life was made. Then there were the rallies on October 29th.

Among the many homes visited by Asbury in the long ago was that of Shadrick Turner who lived "near Bladensburg." Members of the Hyattsville First Church during 1972 made a successful effort to trace Shadrick and his family as pioneer Methodists.

The tenth anniversary of our church, First United Methodist of Hyattsville, in its sixth location, sparked the search for Shadrick Turner. We had known of him ever since Dr. Asbury Smith, our pastor, had put Turner's figure in the stained glass window along with other Methodist stalwarts: John Wesley, Strawbridge, Asbury, Whitefield and Coke. Francis Asbury recorded in his journal nine visits to the Turners between 1777 and 1801 while on his unceasing and dedicated itinerary of eastern America, building the Church. Asbury called Shadrick his friend and rejoiced in Sarah's faith in the Lord.

Inquiries were started with the four families of Turners in our church, Mrs. Arthur, Kenneth, Mason and Thompson, but none of them knew of Shadrick. Asbury had simply said he lived near Bladensburg but inquiries there were fruitless.

The Land Records office in the Court House, Upper Marlboro, gave results at once. Shadrick is listed nine times in the first index – up to 1802. I assume the listings refer to the same man. In most cases the name is spelled as in the Bible, "Shadrach", but our man favored "Shadrick", though no actual signature was found.

The first entry, dated May 3, 1756, states that Shadrick brought to a county official a stray "small black horse bearing the brand OS." In 1780 another horse was found, "a bay gelding 12 hands high, branded with an M, and about 3 years old, astray and trespasser."

But the important find was a deed recorded in Liber PP (1747-1759), old series 14, folios 298-300, for a tract of 125 acres, sold by Benjamin Belt, Jr. and Andrew Beall, Planters, to Shadrick Turner, Planter, for the sum of 35 pounds 10 shillings, sterling. It is dated April 19, 1759. The tract was called "Wild Catt". It began at a "bounded white oak" and is described in proper surveyor's terms but the only hint as to location is that it adjoined a tract called "Friends Good Will", formerly owned by one James Leigh. The property included "Dwelling House Kitchen Quarters Tobacco Houses Barnes Orchards Yards Gardens and all other

improvements and advantages thereon.” The price would seem very fair to Shadrick, oddly according to the record, he paid the two owners only £10s plus 5s court costs.

There are other records of purchases and sales of land. At some time Shadrick acquired the adjoining tract, “Friends Good Will”, because it is included in his will. Another interesting paper in the land records, Liber JRM 1, Fol. 365-366, covers the purchase from John Hill in 1792 of a negro woman slave named Luce, price £ Immediately following is a paper in which Shadrick states an error has been made, that his son John, and not he, bought the woman.

At the Register of Wills office, Shadrick’s last will and testament was found, a well-written document. As beneficiaries he named his wife, Sarah, sons Samuel and John, married daughters Elizabeth Beall, Ann Godman, and Rebecca Orme, unmarried daughter Dorcas, and grandson, Shadrick, son of Samuel. The most important bequest is that of “Wild Catt” and “Friends Good Will” to wife Sarah and after her to John. The grandson was given a cow and a calf, a bed and furniture. A negro man “by name Will, by trade a blacksmith” passed to Sarah and after her marriage or death to the two sons jointly. Shadrick died in 1799. Incidentally, he lived the same years as George Washington.

Well, where was “Wild Catt”? The name has been forgotten. It is unknown at the Court House and at the Hall of Records, Annapolis. Mrs. Louise Joyner Heinton, who has done major work listing and mapping early land grants of Prince George’s County, did not know it. At St. Paul’s Protestant Episcopal Church, Rock Creek, in the District of Columbia we found that an early rector had owned and lived on a “Friends Good Will” but it could not have been the one we wanted. Later we learned that this name was used at least four times for tracts in the County. But constant questioning finally brought us to the Turners.

The Solution came when Mr. Mayo Attick, of Berwyn Barbers, said that as a boy living with his family on Edmonston Road, at the intersection of the present Capital Beltway, he knew a Turner family and had hunted with the youngest son, Lee. He remembered a family cemetery. Mayo sent me to his brother Albert, or “Buddy”, Director of Public Works in the City of Greenbelt. He directed me to the cemetery and told me of the old house and farm buildings, long disappeared. The cemetery has been enlarged for use of the citizens of Greenbelt and neatly fenced. Mr. Attick had removed the one legible, though broken, gravestone to forestall further vandalism. This stone is to Thomas P. Turner, died 1855, who we later found was the grandson of Shadrick I. The cemetery and this stone are pictured in an article by James C. Wilfong, “Around Greenbelt”, which appeared in The Prince George’s Post for December 11, 1969. It appears that earlier graves were marked only with common stones and no other inscriptions have been discovered.

The City Hall of Greenbelt provided us with a copy of their 25th Anniversary booklet which has a map locating the Turner property and cemetery. Greenbelt was established in 1937 on land purchased by the Resettlement Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture while Franklin Delano Roosevelt was President.

So to the National Archives in Washington. Mr. Joseph D. Howerton, Industrial and Social branch, unearthed a great mass of documents relating to Greenbelt and among them a map called “Preliminary Plat”, made in 1935, showing the properties the government wished to buy. Eventually 12,000 acres were bought, some of the area for Greenbelt and some for the Agricultural Research Center. Most of the land had ceased to be productive in farming. Conspicuous on the map, on the west side of Edmonston Road, was the Turner estate of about 500 acres. On the other side of the road lay the properties of Attick and Morris (more later). This seemed to be the right place, not so near Bladensburg now that there are closer communities, but certainly on the road from Baltimore to Georgetown, or reverse, that Bishop Asbury traveled 200 years ago.

Also at the archives we found the first census of the United States taken in 1790. In the Prince George’s County section Shadrick Turner is listed as Head of Family with one additional male over 16, one under 16, four free white females, and six slaves. This census also includes a map of Maryland, dated 1795. It locates Upper Marlboro, Bladensburg, London to the east, Georgetown to the west, and Washington in considerable detail – actually a prospectus of the Capital or “Federal City” as it was first called. In the census of 1800 Sarah Turner is included as Head of Family.

From the Atticks and from Miss Beatrice Furey who lives near the old Turner place I learned that the last generation included six children: Alice, Gertrude, Molly, William, John and Lee. Their father, John P. Turner, who lived 1841-1917, and mother, Ellen Shea Turner, 1858-1928, are buried in the Roman Catholic

Cemetery at Ammendale. We have not been able to find any of the children.

Albert Attick describes the Turner home as a two-story colonial with large front porch, and inside, two fireplaces of native stone.

At the Prince George's County Memorial Library, Hyattsville Branch, with Mrs. Frank Bagot's help I found that the Turners were included in an earlier census, "List of Inhabitants in St. John's and Prince George's Parishes, Prince George's County, Md., August 31, 1776", published in Brumbaugh's Maryland Records – Colonial, Revolutionary, County and Church, Baltimore, 1915. This census contains much useful data with names and ages. Shadrick is listed as 48, Sarah as 38, 4 boys and 5 girls, unnamed, with ages ranging from 25 down to 1, and 4 male slaves.

We also found Mrs. Helen Brown's Index to Register of Queen Anne Parish, 1686-1777, covering records of St. Barnabas Church, Leeland, Prince George's County. This birth is recorded: Shadrac b December 28 1732/33, son of John and Elizabeth. This Shadrac was only 44 in 1776.

Then back to the Register of Wills and the help of Mrs. Baden. There are many John Turners with wills or records of property exchange but two of them, father and son, seem to tie to Shadrick because of a property called "Ralphe" or "Ralpho" on the Patuxent River, which Shadrick disposed of later. The first John died 1720, the second 1738.

The records of estate settlements prove very interesting and informative as to the goods and services dealt in at the beginning of the 19th century. In the estate of John Turner, son of Shadrick, died 1822, there is a bill for three coffins from B. K. Morsell & Co., "for your child, \$3.00; for your mother, \$10.00; for your woman, Charity, \$4.50." The three were buried between 1817 and 1820. John Turner's widow bought for John a "fancy coffin" costing \$12.00. The dates of all these deaths are confirmed in Bible records found later. According to Martinet's Map of Prince George's County (1861), B. K. Morsell was a near neighbor of Mrs. Turner.

Another item: Rezin Beck's bill for tuition for John's son Thomas, 2 months and 10 days, \$2.50. Rezin had married John's sister, Dorcas.

Still another map, Hopkins map of Vansville District (1878), locates "Flavinia Turner" and "B. K. Morsel Mrs." Flaviller was the widow of Thomas P. Turner.

Then one day Mayo Attick introduced me to Robert S. Morris, now of Bladensburg, who had also lived near the Turners in the 1920's. "Yes, I knew the Turners and I have their Bibles", said Mr. Morris. He was one of a party employed by the Resettlement Administration to clean up the vacated properties about 1937. Two Bibles were found in the Turner barn.

These proved a find indeed. One leather bound Bible, 11 inches X 9 X 4, published in Philadelphia in 1804, bears the scrawled inscription, "Sarah Turner her Book – prise 8 dollars." In it are four pages of family records which carry from Shadrick and Sarah through three generations and into the fourth, plus a page of births which seem to refer to slaves. The latest birth in the family is that of John P. Turner, born 1840. He is the one who died in 1917 and was buried at Ammendale. The latest death recorded in the Bible is the father of John P., Thomas Parker Turner, died 1855, whose gravestone is noted above.

A second smaller Bible has no written entries but does have two newspaper clippings covering the marriage and death of John P. Turner. One clipping, which was from the Laurel Review said that John Turner and Ella Shea were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Laurel, by Father Caughy, but did not give a date. A recent inquiry of Father Keesler established the date as October 7, 1885.

These Bibles, preserved by Mr. and Mrs. Morris, not only give family statistics but confirm the location of the home, six miles from Bladensburg, that Francis Asbury visited and where he held Methodist meetings long ago. The house is gone but the site with gnarled fruit trees, spring bulbs, and an avenue of cedars is clearly visible, up the hill from the greenbelt cemetery.

More information on the Turner home. The Federal Tax Assessment of 1798, which I found at the library of the Maryland Historical Society, gives description and valuation of the property as follows: Single story frame dwelling house 28 x 14 with 4 windows 3 feet by 2 and 2 windows 2 feet 8 inches by 1 feet, 1 log kitchen 16 x 12, 1 log corn house 20 x 10; value \$200. Another paper records for Shadrach Turner 325 acres of land in 4 named parcels including "Wild Cat", and two tobacco houses; value \$750. And still another records 8 slaves, 5 of them between the ages of 12 and 50.

The diary of the Reverend Thomas Rankin, another dedicated preacher sent to America by Wesley, pushes

our knowledge of the Turners' as a "Methodist Preaching place" back to 1776, the year before Ashbury's first visit. Rankin came from Georgetown to hold a "quarterly day" of the Frederick Circuit. "Our love feast began about 10 o'clock and it was a time never to be forgotten. Numbers declared the great things the Lord has done for their souls". This diary was loaned to us by the Garrett Biblical Institute Library, Evanston, Illinois.

There are still two important facts to be discovered, Sarah Turner's maiden name and the date of her marriage to Shadrick. The marriage must have been outside Prince George's County.

On May 21, 1972, at our Anniversary and Homecoming Day, First Church Hyattsville, we had an interesting story of the early days.

## SARAH TURNER'S BIBLE

Sarah Turner, 1738-1819, was the wife of Shadrick Turner, 1732/3 – 1799, and they lived together on "Wild Catt" farm, near the present site of Greenbelt, six miles from Bladensburg, Maryland. For some thirty years their home was a Methodist preaching place where many circuit riders were entertained, among them Francis Asbury and Thomas Rankin, and these men noted the Turners in their journals. Quarterly meetings of the Frederick Circuit were held at the Turners several times in the 1770's, before the Baltimore Conference was organized. We assume that Shadrick and Sarah had a part in the founding of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Bladensburg. This church was admitted to the Conference in 1793.

In his will made in 1797 Shadrick named six children: Samuel, John, three married daughters: Elizabeth Beall, Ann Goodman, Rebecca Orme, and one unmarried daughter, Dorcas. He also named grandson Shadrick, son of Samuel.

Some time after Shadrick's death Sarah bought a fine leather-covered Bible and scrawled on the back of the title page, "Sarah Turner – Her Book – the price 8 dollars". On the inside cover is inscribed "John P. Turner", two times. This man, born in 1841, was Sarah's great grandson.

The Bible is the King James version, with Apocrypha, index to proper names, several tables of measurement, and John Brown's Concordance. There are "10 maps and 20 historical engravings". The title page states, "Philadelphia: Printed by John Adams, for Mathew Carey, No. 122 Market Street . . . July 25th, 1804."

There are five pages of family records – marriages, births and deaths, carrying the family in part through three generations and into the fourth. Three marriages are listed: Dorcas Turner to Rezin Beck in 1798, John Turner to Sara Parker in 1810, and Thomas Parker Turner to Flavilla Prather in 1834.

Births recorded: Sarah Turner Beck, 5 May 1800; Samuel Turner Beck, 13 May 1802; Rebecca Beck, 9 July 1804; Elizar Beck, 1 September 1806; Rebecca Turner, 29 April 1802, Thomas Parker Turner, 1 May 1811; Dorcas Salem Turner, 2 October 1814; Mary Elizabeth Turner, 17 September 1817. (The last three are assumed to be children of John and Sarah Parker Turner; Rebecca might have been the daughter of John and his first wife, or of Samuel.) Mary Amander Turner, 23 July 1836, and John Prather Turner, 25 September 1841, are assumed to be the children of Thomas P. and Flavilla Turner.

In the front under Sarah's statement of ownership of the Bible are recorded the births of ten children by first names only and hence no indication of parentage. The full birthdays are given, running from 1825 to 1850, but the year in each case is blotted out and is difficult to decipher. I suspect these were negro children, born of slaves.

Recorded deaths: Shadrick, 2 October 1799 and Sarah, 12 April 1819; their son Samuel, 7 May 1806 and his wife Susan, 3 November 1818; son John, 4 October 1822 and his wives (1) Sarah, 22 March 1806 and (2) Sarah Parker, 4 March 1834; grandson Shadrick, 10 December 1827; and finally Thomas Parker Turner (son of John), 25 September 1855. There are also deaths of Ann Parker, 9 November 1822 and Samuel Parker, 5 December 1822, the same year John Turner died, and Flavilla Parker, 16 January 1823. The three must have been John's in-laws. An epidemic is suggested.

An inserted document in the Bible shows that Thomas P. Turner on May 19, 1851 was appointed Supervisor of Public Roads for the "1st Collection District, New Scotland Hundred, Prince George's County", by W. Q. White, Commissioner. He was given an authorization of 195.00 (dollars?) and cautioned not to expend more without consulting the commissioner.

Thomas P. is the only one of the family for whom an inscribed gravestone has been found in the family cemetery, now part of the Greenbelt City Cemetery. Graves of earlier members apparently were marked with native stone that has left no inscriptions.

There are numerous marked passages in the Bible and often a certain sign is made, thus x On page 402 in the Book of Job, we see "Sarah Turners' Text" and it may refer to Job 14:14, "If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." At Joshua 6: 1 & 6-7, the initials S T appear. This is part of the account of Joshua's siege of Jericho.

On page 253 at II Samuel 14:14 there is written "Thos. P. Turner text Sept 28th, 1855." Thomas had dies on the 25th; it appears that this verse was used at the funeral. "For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person, yet doth he devise means that his banished be not expelled from him."

It is a well read Bible, used by Sarah and her descendants. It is now in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Morris, Bladensburg. Mr. Morris was a neighbor of the last generation of Turners to occupy "Wild Catt".

Theodore L. Bissell

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected at the November meeting of the Society.

NAME	TOWN	SPONSOR
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Brown, Jr.	Bowie	Mr. Lanham
Jane R. Cox	Washington, D.C.	Mr. Lanham
Mr. and Mrs. George Greer	College Park	Mr. De Marr
Michael Hirrel	Lanham	Mr. Virta

*This is the end of Volume 1, News and Notes.*

<i>F</i>	
<i>SIDELIGHTS ON THE LINCOLN ASSASSINATION AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY</i> .....	6
<i>NATIONAL REGISTER</i> .....	8
<i>ON THE POSTAL SERVICE IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY</i> .....	8
<i>NEWS AND NOTES</i> .....	10
<i>RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS</i> .....	10
<i>HISTORIAN</i> .....	10
<b>News and Notes from</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> .....	<b>11</b>
MAY 1973 Vol 1, No. 3 .....	11
<i>MAY MEETINIG</i> .....	11
<i>NATIONAL REGISTER</i> .....	11
<i>"IT MAKES SENSE . . ."</i> .....	11
<i>BOWIE HERITAGE DAY</i> .....	11
<i>FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND</i> .....	12
<i>ANTIQUÉ GLASS SHOW</i> .....	12
<i>PRINCE GEORGE'S TRUST ACTIVITIES</i> .....	13
<i>NEW MEMBER</i> .....	13
<i>NEWS AND NOTES</i> .....	13
<i>TO THE EDITOR</i> .....	13
<i>RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS</i> .....	16
<i>IMPOSTOR?</i> .....	17
<i>BICENTENNIAL QUIZ</i> .....	17
<b>News and Notes from</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> .....	<b>18</b>
JUNE 1973 Vol - 1, No - 4 .....	18
<i>JUNE MEETING</i> .....	18
<i>BOWIE HERITAGE DAY REVISITED</i> .....	18
<i>NATIONAL REGISTER</i> .....	18
<i>RESEARCH INQUIRY</i> .....	19
<i>PRESERVATION GOOD NEWS</i> .....	19
<i>INDIAN QUEEN ACQUISITION</i> .....	19
<i>BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG AND THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER TRAIL</i> .....	19
<i>ANNE ARUNDEL RESTORATION</i> .....	20

<i>P</i>	
<i>BICENTENNIAL QUIZ ANSWER</i> .....	20
<i>FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND</i> .....	21
<i>A COLLEGE BOY’S LETTER OF 1861</i> .....	22
<i>A GOOD EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW</i> .....	23
<i>RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS</i> .....	23
<b>News and Notes from</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>The PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> .....	<b>24</b>
JULY 1973 Vol – 1, No – 5.....	24
<i>SOME SUMMER THOUGHTS</i> .....	24
<i>MONTGOMERY RESTORATION</i> .....	24
<i>NATIONAL REGISTER</i> .....	24
<i>FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND</i> .....	25
<i>COLLEGE PARK TO ANNAPOLIS ON FOOT</i> .....	25
<i>THE POPE’S CREEK LINE – BALTIMORE &amp; POTOMAC RAILROAD</i> .....	26
<i>1972 REPORT – MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST</i> .....	27
<i>RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS</i> .....	28
<i>AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE STOCKHOLDERS</i> .....	28
<i>MEMORY TEST</i> .....	30
<b>News and Notes from</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>The PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> .....	<b>30</b>
AUGUST 1973 Vol – 1, No – 6.....	30
<i>WOODLAWN – A NEGLECTED DOWAGER</i> .....	30
<i>CHESAPEAKE BEACH CAROUSEL</i> .....	3
<i>FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND</i> .....	3
<i>HEADQUARTERS BUILDING FOR CAROLINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY</i> .....	3
<i>GOLDSBOROUGH HOUSE</i> .....	4
<i>1860 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION</i> .....	4
<i>RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS</i> .....	4
<i>MacALPINE – LAST OF THE “RIVERSDALE” CALVERT HOLDINGS</i> .....	5
<i>GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COLONEL WILLIAM FAIRFAX (1785)</i> .....	6
<i>MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE STOCKHOLDERS (CONTINUED)</i> .....	6
<b>News and Notes from</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>The PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> .....	<b>8</b>
SEPTEMBER 1973 Vol – 1, No – 7.....	8
<i>SEPTEMBER MEETING</i> .....	8
<i>1973-74 PROGRAM</i> .....	8
<i>B &amp; O TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM</i> .....	8
<i>FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND</i> .....	9
<i>TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO</i> .....	9
<i>OFFICER NOMINATIONS</i> .....	9
<i>ST. PHILIP’S CHURCH CELEBRATES ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY</i> .....	10
<i>RECENT MARYLAND BOOKS</i> .....	11
<i>“OLD BOHEMIA”</i> .....	11
<i>REQUEST</i> .....	12
<i>MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE STOCKHOLDERS (Concluded)</i> .....	12
<i>CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTY SEAT</i> .....	14
<b>The PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> .....	<b>15</b>
OCTOBER 1973 Vol – 1, No – 8.....	15
<i>OCTOBER MEETING</i> .....	15
<i>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</i> .....	15
<i>BARNEY MARKER DEDICATION</i> .....	15
<i>FOUR SEASONS IN MARYLAND</i> .....	15
<i>HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNTY SOCIAL SEASON – 1840</i> .....	16
<i>TIPPECANOE BALL</i> .....	17
<i>A PLEASANT RAILROAD – THE CHESAPEAKE BACH LINE</i> .....	17
<i>WEDGEWOOD SEMINAR</i> .....	2
<i>AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE STOCKHOLDERS REVISITED</i> .....	2
<i>SACRED HEART PARISH – A CRADLE OF AMERICA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH</i> .....	3
<b>News and Notes from</b> .....	<b>5</b>