

News and. Notes From -

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 1975

Vol. III, no 1

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICE

The Prince George's County Historical Society has recently acquired the Clay Room at Riversdale, the Calvert Mansion, for use as office space in conjunction with the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust.

The Society's files, books, and other possessions will be kept there. As our programs expand, we hope to keep the office open on at least a part time basis. If any member has a bookcase or two which they are willing to part with, we would be happy to have them. Please call the President, Frederick S. De Marr, at 277-0711.

Our thanks go to Commissioner Robert Crawley and Mr. Hugh Robey of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for making this space available.

HOPKINS ATLAS

About three years ago the Society authorized funds for the publication of the Prince George's County maps contained in the Hopkins Atlas of 1878. This project remained in limbo until it was revived recently by Society member Frank F. White, Jr., of the Hall of Records.

The atlas, which will be a Bicentennial project of the Society, will be available for sale in March.

NOMINATIONS - ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS

The Selections Committee for the St. George's Day Awards will meet initially during the first week of March. Nominations should be sent to the Committee Secretary, John C. Brennan, 513 Main Street, Laurel 20810, by March 1 in order to be considered.

ELLERSLIE

Recently two officers of the Society had the opportunity to visit Ellerslie, also known as Partnership, the early seat of the Hall family. This property, on which is situated the newly opened Wildlife Preserve fronts on Central Avenue near Largo.

Although vacant, Ellerslie has been protected against deterioration caused by weather and vandalism. Plans for adaptive use are being developed by the Wildlife Preserve Management. Current thinking calls for turning the building into a fine restaurant, something for which there is a real need in the area.

(More)

Our congratulations to the management of the Wildlife Preserve for not utilizing the usual tool of the developer, i.e. the bulldozer; and for recognizing the value of Ellerslie as a significant part of the cultural heritage of Prince George's County.

F.S.D.

RETROSPECTIVE BOOK REVIEW

Champion of Southern Federalism by Joseph IT - Cox (Port Washington, N.Y. National University Publication 1972. Pp: 230. \$12.50).

Joseph W. Cox is a Professor of History and Associate Dean, of the College of History, English, and the Social Sciences at Towson State College near Baltimore, Maryland.

This book analyzes the various degrees of the Southern Federalist view and activity which prevailed during the 1790s as exemplified by the life and political career of Robert Goodloe Harper, South Carolina Congressman from 1795 to 1801.

Ordinarily, discussion and literary treatment of the Federalist movement has been associated with Northern interests revolving around Alexander Hamilton and the High-Federalists. Though Robert Goodloe Harper's part in Southern Federalism has not been ignored by historians, the role which he played in the history of the movement has been generally regarded as a stigma on the name of the Federalist party.

Historian Cox has revealed the amazing diversity of principles and ideals of Northern and Southern Federalists, carefully having selected entries based on accuracy, organization, clarity, and point of view. By his penetrating and detailed exploration of this Southern orientation of the Federalist party, Harper has emerged in a sympathetic light heretofore not considered.

To the general reader this treatise presents a new and refreshing account of the political scene in the South, while the student of Federalist history will benefit by the treatment afforded the problems faced by the party in regard to its sharply opposed factions.

Not the least of the book's merits are the excellent sections on notes and source material as well as a well organized and comprehensive index. This places the entire monograph on a sound scholarly basis for the thesis as well as a fascinating narrative of the period.

--Elizabeth Ticknor

METHODIST HISTORICAL MARKER

The site of Wild Cat Farm, home of Shadrick Turner in Greenbelt, where early Methodist meetings were conducted by pioneer Bishop Francis Asbury, will receive a roadside historical marker in May. Under the Joint sponsorship of the Methodist churches in Prince George's County who trace their beginnings to this missionary preaching which dates to 1777. The project is chaired by Theodore Bissell of Hyattsville

Professor Bissell did the original research on the Turner family and addressed the Society on the subject in 1972. See Bissell, Theodore, "Tracing Shadrick and Sarah Turner, Pioneer Methodists of Bladensburg," News and Notes Vol I, no. 10 (December 1973).

COUNTY MILITIA UNIT -- 1824

A recent, check of the Adjutant General's Papers in the Hall of Records at Annapolis brought to light the roster of a local unit of the Maryland Militia, the 1st Bladensburgh Troop in the 2nd Cavalry District.

Although designated the "Bladensburgh" troop, a cursory glance at the roster indicates that the members were not only from that village, but also resided at points running from Vansville to the Largo area. Most of this upper region of Prince George's County had been linked economically to Bladensburg because of its seaport, tobacco inspectors and post office.

The two principal officers of the unit were among the outstanding political leaders of the county and state and were of opposite parties. Captain John C. Herbert, a Federalist, had served in the House of Delegates as Speaker and was a member of Congress 1815-19, He was married to Mary Snowden, daughter of Major Thomas Snowden of Montpelier. Their home was Walnut Grange at Vansville (Beltsville) now a part of the U.S. Agricultural Research Center. Second Lt. Thomas Snowden was his brother-in-law.

First Lieutenant Samuel Sprigg of Northampton was better known on state-wide level because he had recently served as Governor, 1819-22. Sprigg was a member of Jefferson's Republican Party.

--Frank White, Jr.

"At a meeting of the 1st Bladensburgh Troop held on Saturday the 12th of June 1824:

Resolved, that this meeting will now proceed to elect by Ballot the Officers required to fill the vacancies in the, Roll of Commissioned Officers -- 1st and 2nd Lieutenant and a Cornet. Upon balloting for a 1st Lieutenant Samuel Sprigg was unanimously elected.

Upon balloting for a 2nd Lieutenant -Thomas Snowden Jr. was elected.

Upon balloting for Cornet, Samuel Jackson was elected.

Resolved, that the Gentlemen be recommended to the Governor and Council for commissions and that a requisition be Made at' the same for arms.

Resolved, that the Captain be requested to Communicate these proceedings to the Govern and Council.

Extract from the proceedings, Certified,

John C. Herbert, Captain, 1st B Troop

A Roster of the 1st Bladensburgh Troop in the 2nd Cavalry District M.M.

John C. Herbert, Captn.
Samuel Sprigg, 1st Lieut. Elect
Thomas Snowden, 2nd Lieut. Elect
Samuel A. Jackson, Cornet Elect

Wm. B. Jackson, 1st Sergt.
Samuel Hamilton.. 2nd Sergt.
Rd. 1. Morsell, 3rd Do.
Wm. O Jones 4th Do.

Jesse H.D. Wall, 1st Corporal
Geo. W. Wilson, 2nd. Do
Milton W. Wilson 3rd Do.
M. Prather, 4th Do.

Jos. H. Wilson
Alexr Evans
Israel M. Jackson
Wm. Dudley Diggs
T.B. Crawford
Zach Berry, Jr.
Wm. F. Deakins
Alexander Keech
Josiah Redmond
Jonathan Philips
Samuel Philips, Jr.
Overton C. Philips

Henry Philips
Otho W. Beall
Al Beall
Charles L. Gantt
Jas. Wilson
Washington Hilleary

Philip Hill
Philip Cissell
Benjn Welsh
Edward Fenwick
John Peirce
A. Lanham
Washington Duvall
Wm. Morin
John S. Wilson
Wm. Harvey
Richard Jones
George W. Barnes

12th June -1824 Certified correct from the Roll of the
1st Sergeant --John C. Herbert Captain

SEARCHING FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S PAST

The student of Prince George's County history is well aware that there are many different sources of historical information that must be before his research, on whatever topic he may choose, can be considered complete. Unfortunately, a good working knowledge edge of what sources exist can only be developed over time, and

often, in the course of research on a particular topic, the researcher will find himself thinking,, "if I had only known that this work existed when I was studying. . . ."

There is a multiplicity of sources, both primary and secondary, that one can turn to when beginning research in Prince George's County history: general histories of Maryland and the county, works treating Maryland and county topics, whether they were written as histories or not; biographies and autobiographies, the Maryland Historical Magazine and other historical journals, newspapers, official government records, and papers of individuals and private concerns.

The list could go on.

This column will appear on a more-or-less regular basis in coming months and will attempt to survey some of the sources that can be utilized in searching for Prince George's County's past. It will not review individual works in great detail, but attempt to give the reader a broad overview of the types of material he can call upon in his research. The very broadest interpretation of the term "source" will be applied. Different classes of works will be surveyed, e.g., the general histories topic-oriented histories, newspapers as historical sources, and Journals, as well as specific collections. In the latter case, we will try to answer questions of the type, "What sort of historical material relating to Prince George's County can be found in the Hall of Records, or the county court house, or the county library?" Members of the society who are familiar with the certain classes of materials or certain collections are encouraged to contribute to the column.

SEARCHING FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S PAST: NUMBER I

The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections

The first resource to be considered in this column is a research tool rather than a source of historical data itself. It inaugurates the series not because it is the most important or the least important, but because the writer spends 40 hours a week, for money, contributing to its production, and is reasonably familiar with its form and content.

Not everything that anyone could ever want to know about Prince George's County's past has been written up in a book. Historians spend as much -if not more, of their time searching through archives and manuscript collections for what they want to know as they do in library stacks. After World War II, many American scholars expressed concern that there were so many manuscript repositories around the county that they were no longer able to keep track of the types and subject content of the manuscripts each held. The historian, they complained, could be conducting thorough research on an important topic but be completely ignorant of manuscripts in a repository halfway across the country that related directly to his object of study. For that reason, the Library of Congress established in 1959 a Manuscripts Section in the Descriptive Cataloging Division to produce a catalog of manuscript collections held in American repositories.

The Library of Congress describes manuscripts as "the written records of history." They are "letters, notes, diaries, accounts and other business records, logbooks, reports, drafts, and other documents and papers." Institutions holding manuscripts, be they public libraries, local or state historical societies, colleges and universities, governmental agencies, museums, or the like, are encouraged to report their holdings to the Library so the scholarly world will know they exist. Only reports of collections, and not individual manuscripts are included. The Library publishes the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, with a thorough name, place, and subject index, annually.

So what good will NUCMC be to the student of Prince George's County history? Aren't all the manuscript collections relating to county history in the Maryland Historical Society or the Hall of Records? Unfortunately the answer is no! While most are probably right here in Maryland, there are many scattered across the county, as the examples below will illustrate.

The form of the entries is simple. The first line contains the name of the person, family, or institution around which the collection is formed. The second line contains the title of the collection, with the dates of the documents and the size of the collection. The third line names the institution in which the collection is held. The main body of the entry follows with a brief description of the content of the collection. Notes on restriction on access, literary rights, finding aids, and the source of documents, complete the entry.

The following are sample's of a few of the entries relating to the county found in NUCMC. It should be noted that not all can be found simply by looking under "Prince George's County" in the index. Subject entries must be consulted as well. And be sure to write ahead to make sure the institution still holds the collection and that the holdings are really what you think they are! The [National Union Catalog of Manuscripts Collections](#) is available in the General Reference collection of the University of Maryland Library and in the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress.

Ferguson, Robert, d. 1780. MS 68-2185:
Papers, 1756-1850. - 1 box.
In State Historical Society of Wisconsin (Madison)
Mainly business correspondence of a merchant operating stores near the Piscataway River [Creek] in Maryland.

Burroughs, Richard D. MS 60-659

Papers of Richard O. and John William Burroughs, 1807-89. 2144 items. in Duke University Library.

Personal and business correspondence, household and agricultural accounts and other papers of a tavern keeper and planter, and of his son, also a planter, both of Prince George's County, Md. Most of the correspondence is from John William to his father, written while the son was attending Georgetown College, Georgetown, D.C. (1843-45) and College of St. James, Hagerstown, Md. (1845-48). The other papers are mainly personal and business accounts together with statements sent to father and son by, various Georgetown and Baltimore commission merchants, notably Thompson and Spalding in Baltimore.

Card index in the library.
Acquired. 1943.

Lansill I., John Scott. MS 72-1540
Papers , 1922-40. ft. (ca. 870 item)
In University of Kentucky Library (Lexington)

Government official. Correspondence, reports, press releases, drawings, and photos, chiefly 1935-40, relating to Greenbelt Town Program, a project of the Resettlement Administration, of which Lansill was director, of the Division of Suburban Resettlement. Includes information of the planned communities of Greenbelt, Md., Greenbrook, N.J., Greendale, Wis., and, Greenhills, Ohio, and on general town planning in a few American and English communities.

Unpublished inventory in the library.
Gift of Mr. Lansill, 1952.

Boyle, William Kent, 1840-1895.

Papers, 1861-89. 478 items.

In Duke University Library (Durham N.C.)

Methodist clergyman and editor of the "Episcopal Methodist" of Bladensburg, Md. Chiefly sermons written in the 1870s together with exegetical notes, other material related to the preparation of the sermons, and a small number of letters and legal and financial papers.

Card index in the library.

Gift 1961

ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Woodyard Archaeological site, in Prince George's County: Strongly connected to the early history of Prince George's County, Woodyard Plantation, is associated with numerous historic figures, particularly the Darnall family.

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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News and Notes From

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1975

Vol. 111, No. 2

March Meeting

Our Spring 1975 meeting schedule will resume on Saturday, March 8, 1975. We are most fortunate to have as our speaker Mr. Jack Burns of Greenbelt, whose topic will be "Wildfowl Decoys and their Makers in the Chesapeake Bay Region." A native of Cumberland, Mr. Burns established a deep interest in this local art form generated by practical need while he was associated with the public school system on the Eastern Shore. Over the years Mr. Burns has assembled a very, fine collection of wildfowl decoys.

The meeting will convene at 2 pm at Montpelier Mansion Route 197, Laurel. Refreshments will be served during the social hour which follows. Guests are welcome.

St. George's Day Dinner

Mark Wednesday, April 23, 1975, on your calendar. On that day the 2nd annual dinner in commemoration of St. George's Day will be held at the University of Maryland Adult Education Center. Outstanding contributions to the history or historic preservation of Prince George's County will be recognized at that time.

Invitations will be mailed out the last week in March; members are invited to bring guests. The seating capacity is approximately 200, so return the reservation card as soon as possible. If you have any questions, call Mrs. Jean Speicher General Dinner Chairman (776-3036), or Mrs. Edith Bagot, Corresponding Secretary (927-3632). Prince George's County was established on St. George's Day 1696.

Reprints Available

Reprints of two basic genealogical reference works on Prince George's County are now available from the Genealogical Publishing Company, 521-523 Saint Paul Place, Baltimore, Maryland.

Member Helen W. Brown's Index of Marriage Licenses, Prince George's County, Maryland, 1777-1886 contains almost 14,000 names (cross-indexed) and is perhaps the most important single genealogical finding tool for Prince George's County. The Price is \$10.00.

Across The Years in Prince George's County by the late Effie Gwynn Bowie was originally published in 1947 and is indeed a welcome reprint. Although known as an extremely detailed genealogical work referring to about 12,000 individuals, Mrs. Bowie's work contains much general material on the County. Valuable information on ownership of various properties, major events, and a history based upon personal reminiscences, make this monumental work a must for any Prince Georgean's bookshelf. The price is \$30.00.

"Doorways to the Past"

Saturday, April 19, 1975, will bring the renewal of the very successful house and garden tour of Southern Prince George's County for the benefit of the restoration fund of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church of Croom.

In addition to St. Thomas' Church, the homes to be open and their owners are: Weston, Hr. H.C.B. Clagett; Woodstock, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Couser; Bellefields, Mrs. John D. Bowling; Mattaponi, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Smith; Duvall Farm Museum, Mr. Wm. Henry Duvall; Waverly, the Duvall family; and Mt. Calvert, Mr. and Mrs. David E. Brown, Jr. and Mr. David E. Brown III. New to the tour this year are Governor Robert Bowie's Mattaponi; Waverly, which is back after an absence of many years; and Woodstock. Purchased about two

years ago by Mr. and Mrs. Couser, Woodstock is an interesting example of an early house in the process of restoration on a "do-it-yourself" basis by the owners

Admission for the entire tour, which runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. is \$7.00 per person. Individual house admissions are \$2.00 (no charge for admission to St. Thomas' Church). A buffet luncheon will be served (3.85 per person) at St. Thomas' on a first-come-first-served basis (no reservations). Organ music will be played in the church on each hour from 10-3. Maps will be available at each house and signs will be posted along the route. Advance sale tickets may be obtained by calling Mrs. Lisa Raffetto (627-3877) or Mrs. Nancy West (627-2563).

Contribution to the Society

The Society wishes to acknowledge a generous contribution from Mrs. Eleanor Tompkins Lewis of "Sky Hill", Delaplane, Virginia, given in memory of her father, George H. Calvert, Jr. Mr. Calvert was the son of Charles Benedict Calvert of "MacAlpine" and the grandson of Charles Benedict Calvert of "Riversdale." The gift will be used in setting up the Society's office at "Riversdale.

1975 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage

The 38th renewal of this traditional event will occur between April 25 and May 10, 1975.

The schedule of locations is as follows; Friday, April 25, Downtown Walking Tour in Baltimore; Saturday, April 26, Kent County; Sunday, April 27, Queen Anne's County; Wednesday, April 30, Ruxton--Lake Roland, Baltimore-County; Thursday, May 1, Howard County; Friday, May 2, My Lady's Manor, Baltimore-Harford Counties; Saturday, May 3, Anne Arundel County; Sunday, May 4, Calvert County And Patuxent River trip. The Chesapeake Bay Cruise from Baltimore to St. Michaels is set for Saturday, May 10.

Tickets for each town are \$7.00 each (full charge for children) and single house admission is, \$2.00. The water cruise tickets' (by reservation only) are \$20.00 each including lunch and St. Michaels land tour.' Tour books with full information on house included in each tour are available at \$1.00 each from the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, 600 West Chesapeake Ave, Baltimore 21204. Telephone: 301-821-6933. The major beneficiary of this annual tour is the Hammond-Harwood House at Annapolis,

Voting in Maryland

The history of voting rights in Maryland is a history of continual change and modification. Not all of this change has been in the direction of greater citizen participation, for the two major changes in the voting laws before the Revolution lessened, rather than increased, the numbers of eligible voters. Furthermore, the Revolution itself did not bring a dramatic broadening of the franchise. It was not until 1802 that universal white manhood suffrage was enacted.

The charter of Maryland issued by King Charles I in 1632 granted Lord Baltimore the power of naming the province's Governor, but decreed that the laws of Maryland were to be enacted "with the advice, assent, and approbation of the free men of the Province ... or of their delegates or deputies." In the early years Lord Baltimore dispensed with the bother of holding elections and simply summoned all the white men who were not indentured servants to St. Mary's to act as a General Assembly. He levied fines on those who did not show up unless they offered some good excuse and had granted someone else a proxy to vote for them. This system soon became impractical, for Maryland's population steadily grew and expanded away from St. Mary's. By 1650 a representative form of legislature was adopted, and the free men were electing delegates to act for them in St. Mary's.

Though all free men could vote, Maryland was by no means a democracy in the sense of the word, because the Lords Baltimore possessed immense powers. The Lord Proprietor appointed the province's Governor, most civil servants, and the Governor's Council, which also served as the Upper House of the legislature. He could

veto any laws the elected Lower House passed and could not be reversed. In some cases, he could enact laws himself. In 1670 he exercised that right by severely restricting the franchise. Arbitrarily he declared that only free men of property could vote. In order to qualify, one had to own either 50 acres of land or possess a visible estate of 40 pounds sterling. A further restriction was enacted in 1718 by the General Assembly itself, when it forbade, Catholics from both voting and holding office.

These restrictions remained until the Revolution. In August 1776 a state constitutional convention was elected, and many Marylanders expected it to abolish all of them and institute universal white manhood suffrage. The convention did re-enfranchise Catholics, but it would not abandon the principle that only those with considerable property should vote. Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, supported the property requirements. If they were dropped, he declared, "anarchy will follow as a certain consequence; injustice, rapine, and corruption in the seats of justice will prevail, and this province in a short time will be involved in all the horrors of an ungovernable and revengeful Democracy, and will be dyed with the blood of its best citizens. The requirements were eased somewhat, however, to either 56 acre's or 30 pounds current money. As the current money depreciated in value in relation to sterling, more gained the right to vote; more than the convention had anticipated. The principle remained, however, and for twenty-five more-years the legislature, elected by one-fourth of the state's white males, refused to extend the franchise to the rest.

Change came in 1801 with the election of a new legislature. For the first time Jefferson's Democratic-Republicans seized control of the Maryland General Assembly, and in 1802 they enacted universal white manhood suffrage. From then on, all white males over the age of twenty-one possessed the right to vote. With few exceptions, the changes in the voting laws since then have broadened the franchise. By amendments to the United States constitution, black males gained the right to vote in 1870, women in 1920, and eighteen to twenty year olds in 1971.

There have been three significant movements within Maryland since 1802, though, to eliminate certain classes of voters. In 1851 a state constitutional convention seriously explored the possibility of disqualifying many immigrants from voting by denying voting rights to anyone who had not lived in the United States for at least ten years. This movement failed, but the institution of strict naturalization and citizenship procedures by the federal government later did disqualify many recent immigrants from casting ballots. The second attempt at eliminating voters came in 1864 when a Unionist government in Maryland forbade Confederate sympathizers to vote. The outcome of elections during the last years of the Civil War was thus legislated in favor of the Unionists, but the provision was eliminated soon after the war ended.

The attempt at disenfranchisement which involved the greatest number of voters came in the early years of the twentieth century, when it was proposed that blacks be disenfranchised. After the Civil War, blacks consistently voted Republican. Their votes never had, much impact, however, because Republicans were such a minority in the state that few were ever elected to office, except in the counties of Western Maryland. In the 1890's, though, the situation began to change. Many voters quit voting the straight party line, and Republicans began to win a few elections. In 1895 a Republican was elected Governor for the first time, and the GOP won a majority in the state legislature. When the Democrats regained control in 1899, some urged that blacks be barred from voting because of their consistent Republican habits. In 1904 the legislature passed an amendment to the state constitution limiting the franchise to those who could read or to those whose ancestors had been qualified to vote on January 1, 1869. These provisions eliminated most blacks, and if the amendment was approved by the voters of Maryland in referendum, the Republican ranks would be decimated.

The amendment went to referendum in 1905 and failed. Many Democrats, as well as Republicans, voted against black disenfranchisement. Thousands of immigrants in Baltimore voted solidly against the amendment because they felt the restrictions could be employed against them as well. Another attempt was made in 1909 to disenfranchise blacks, but it, too, was unsuccessful.

Mareen Duvall of Middle Plantation

Plans are being made by the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants to sponsor the printing of a paperback edition of Harry Wright Newman's Mareen Duvall of Middle Plantation. This basic genealogical work covers many of the early families of Prince George's County and is a must for any basic Maryland collection.

Members of the Society interested in-reserving a copy are invited to contact J. Alston Fisher, 10216 Prince Place, Apt. 103, Upper Marlboro 20870.

The BAY Cruises

In the December issue of News and Notes the editor asked if any members of the Society had taken the overnight Bay cruises that were common before World War II. Mrs. George Musgrave of Lake Wales, Florida, responded that she had been on several. A special Tercentenary cruise was chartered in 1934, and passengers attended tile dedication of the reconstructed State House at St. Mary's.

Taxes and Canines--A Century Ago

Personal property as well as real estate was subject to the scrutiny of the tax collector in the Town of Bladensburg in 1875--just a century ago. As a result, we find that the animal population added up to 39 horses, 18 cows, 4 mules, and a pair of ponies, while the vehicle count was as follows: 22 wagons, 8 carriages, 7 buggies, 3 sleighs, a rockaway, a phaeton, and a hearse (belonging to Francis Gasch).

The Tax Book of the Corporation of Bladensburg (1875-1890) provides a great amount of information for the historian as to the economic status of the town and its individual inhabitants. The 1875 assessment list contains sixty-five dwellings and seven structures specifically named as commercial buildings, involving 49 owners and 50 renters. The renters were assessed only for their furniture.

The 1875 tax rate was 15c per hundred dollars in valuation, (1975=50c per hundred dollars) and in 1876 it was raised to 20c. A year later the rate was lowered back to 15c however. The following entry appears in the Tax Book for 1877: "In this year the citizens of this Corporation was (sic) not called on for the taxes--the corporation having sufficient to carry on the corporation without." It is almost impossible to imagine a situation in which the local politicians would admit to having enough money in the public treasury and thereby waive collection of taxes for a year as a result of the surplus.

Perhaps the most interesting feature found in this tax record is the meticulous accounting-of the town's dog tax. Researchers are used to finding lists of names of individuals, ships, slaves, and horses, however the Bladensburg tax collector has come up with a first. Following each owner's name is that of his pet along with the appropriate tax levied. Upon reading this list we find them to be rather common canine titles. Only two, (U.S.) Grant and Andrew Johnson, would tend to put the list into its proper time setting of one hundred years ago.

---FSD

A List of dogs and bitches in the Corporation in the year 1875

Cook, Ernest	one dog	Prince	\$1.00
Heller, Henry	one dog	Jack	\$1.00
Tuttle, George	one dog	Prince	\$1.00
Mangum, Mrs. Anne	one dog	Charlie	\$1.00
Anderson, Dr. Ther.	one dog	Teaser	\$1.00
Florah, Max	two dogs	Fido &.Greeley	\$2.00
Constantine, John	one dog	Tip	\$1.00
Janey, Saml.,	one dog	Bull	\$1.00

Cowles, Loyal	two dogs	Jake & Laik	\$2.00
Stephens, N.C.	two dogs	Jeff & Andy	\$2.00
Hartley, George, sr.	one bitch and one-dog	Flora & Guy	\$3.00
Jones, Charles	one dog	Jack	\$1.00
Lewis, C.O. Dr.	two dogs	Ned & Snap	\$2.00
Cross, Mrs. E.	one dog	Dixie	\$1.00
Wells, Dr. C.A.	one dog	Rover	\$1.00
Sweeney, Mrs.	two dogs	Watch & Jack	\$2.00
Moss, Reuben C.	one dog	Ring	\$1.00
Shaw, John	one dog	Guess	\$1.00
Kennedy, Geo. E.	two dogs	Nero & Dick	\$2.00
Kennedy, Mrs. M.	one dog	Prince	\$1.00
Hilleary, Julius	one dog	Carlo	\$1.00
Butten, Giles	one dog & one bitch	Jack & Florence	\$3.00
Greenleaf	one dog	Boss	\$3.00
Wilson, James	one dog		\$1.00
Sims, Levi	two dogs	Jack & Stringer	\$2.00
Saunders, Thos.	two dogs	Luke & Dixie	\$2.00
Sims, Dick	one dog	Rover	\$1.00
Richardson, J.F.	two dogs	Nip & Pat	\$2.00
Gasch, Francis	one dog	Prince	\$1.00
Hurley, Michael L.	one dog	Blackenbox	\$1.00
Jones, John	one dog	Tip	\$1.00
Peterson, Mrs. Margaret	one dog	Tiger	\$1.00
Day, John H.	one dog & one bitch	Springer & Fannie	\$3.00
Harrison, Mrs. Betty	one dog	Bruno	\$1.00
Hodson, John	one dog	Andrew Johnson	\$1.00
Godman, E.P.	two dogs	Ben & Whack	\$2.00
Ross, Mrs. Lucy	one dog	Ruler	\$1.00
Hurley, Danl.	one dog	Milo	\$1.00
Hill, Walter	one dog	Ratter	\$1.00
Melling, George	one bitch	Jinnie	\$2.00
Minor, Edwd.	one dog	Ruler	\$1.00
Boman, G.	one bitch	Carlo	\$2.00
Harvey, Charles	one dog	Nellie	\$1.00
Barron, F.M.	one dog	Pack	\$1.00
Ernest, Saml. T.	one dog	Grant	\$1.00
Wallis, H.	one dog	Rollo	\$1.00
Bridwell, George E.	one bitch	Gipsey	\$1.00
Coldenstroth, Geo. C.	one dog	Fido	\$1.00
Swain, Wm. H.	one dog	Dott	\$1.00
Lancaster, J.	one dog		<u>\$1.00</u>
			\$ 71.00

Maryland Day Celebration 1975

This year's celebration of the founding of Maryland will take place on March 29 at St. Mary's. Phone Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland at 301-645-2693.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

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News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 1975

V. III, No. 3

Meetings

There will be no regular meeting in April. Instead, all members and their friends are encouraged to attend the St. George's Day Dinner to be held at the Adult Education Center, University of Maryland, on April 23.

Invitations have been mailed, however, if by chance you have not received one, please call Mrs. Edith Bagot (927-3632) or Mrs. Jean Speicher (776-3086). Reservations should be returned by April 8, 1975.

The regular May meeting will be held on Saturday, May 10 at 2:00 p.m. at Montpelier Mansion, Laurel. Our speaker will be Col. John E. Merriken whose topic will be "Trolley Lines in the Washington Area."

Correction

In the February issue of News and Notes we erroneously listed George H. Calvert, Jr., as being the son of Charles Benedict Calvert of MacAlpine. The correct information is that "Mr. Calvert was the son of Charles Baltimore Calvert of MacAlpine and the grandson of Charles Benedict Calvert of Riversdale." We regret the error.

Greenbelt Historical Markers to be Dedicated.

A historical marker indicating Greenbelt's significance as one of the planned "garden towns", undertaken as a New Deal experiment in the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt will be dedicated by the City of Greenbelt on June 1. Prince George's County Historical Society member Bill Aleshire's energy and enthusiasm has made this marker a reality.

Another historical marker, entitled "Methodist Preaching Place, 1776-1803" will be dedicated Sunday, April, 27th, at 3:30 p.m. The marker will be located west of Greenbelt on the side of Edmonston Road, above the Capital Beltway, near the Shadrick Turner homesite. The marker is erected from contributions of the United Methodist churches in the area and the Prince George's County Historical Society, and through the cooperation of the City of Greenbelt. The speaker at the dedication will be Dr. Asbury Smith, Baltimore Conference Historical Society, United Methodist Church. All members and friends are welcome to attend.

New Members of the Society

The following were elected to membership at the March meeting

<u>Name</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Ann M. Ferguson	Riverdale	Mrs. Lescure, Jr.
Page B. Clagett	Washington	Mr. De Marr
Joseph C.V. Ferrusi	Oxon Hill	Col. Crook
Admiral and Mrs. Bradford Bartlett	Falls Church	Mr. De Marr
Karen L. Bautz	Laurel	Mrs. Doris Bowie, Mrs. Christophane, Mr. Brennan
Barbara A. Peters	Temple Hill's	Mrs. Heisenbittel
Donald and Mrs. Alice V. Skarda	College Park	Mr. Giannetti
Mr. and Mrs. Larry S. Bornefeld	Lanham	Mr. De Marr
Mrs. Anne L. Bowman	Laurel	Mrs. Bagot
Jeffrey L. Davidson	Riverdale	Mr. Lanham

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. Ashby H. Canter

Upper Marlboro
Falls Church

Mr. De Marr
Col. Do Marr

New Carrollton History

On March 6, the New Carrollton Planning and Finance Committee, chaired by Emanuel Brancato, dedicated the "New Carrollton Corner" in the New Carrollton branch of the Prince George's Library. The purpose of this innovative action is to provide a repository into which historical documents, papers, pictures, cartoons, and other noteworthy items can be regularly added, so that the record of city history will be periodically updated. This action, closely following the issuance of the booklet "New Carrollton Coming of Age, 1953-1974" (see News and Notes for December, 1974) is a logical corollary to that booklet and should ensure that the city's history does not drift into obscurity as has unfortunately occurred in the case of many of the older, towns of Prince George's County. Many of our older towns have laboriously researched and published excellent local histories but have neglected any continuing updating procedure. This is regrettable as significant changes are occurring today which could eclipse even those events of the past which, as we all know, are so difficult to accurately recapture after the passage of a few short years.

--Paul Lanham

Dues for 1975

For many reasons, including our Treasurer's surgery, bills for 1975 dues are being mailed a few at a time. If you haven't received your bill, you will receive it soon. The Treasurer is most grateful to those who have sent in their dues without waiting for a bill. The 1975 dues to the Maryland Historical Society have been paid for all current members who also belong to the state Society through our organization. Dues for 1975 are unchanged and are:

Student membership, Prince George's Society only	\$ 2.00
Single membership, Prince George's Society only	5.00
Single Membership, Prince George's and Maryland Societies	15.00
Husband/Wife Membership, Prince George's and Maryland Societies	19.00
Student Membership, Prince George's and Maryland Societies	12.00

John Eversfield: 18th Century Cleric

The Rev. John Eversfield (1702 -1780) was,-one of the most notable and interesting early residents of Prince George's County. A native of Kent, England, and a graduate of Oxford, he was ordained to the Anglican priesthood in 1727 and arrived in Maryland early the next year. Promptly appointed rector of St. Paul's Parish, he officiated there for almost 50 years and founded the present St. Thomas' Church, Croome, as a chapel of St. Paul's. By his wife, Eleanor Clagett, he left a large family and many descendants. His nephew-in-law and pupil was Thomas John Claggett, first Bishop of Maryland.

W.W. Bowie's The Bowies and Their Kindred (1899) says of Eversfield (p. 449): "he was a man of very methodical habits and kept a minute record of his personal and domestic affairs in a large parchment-bound volume, which is yet in the possession of one of his descendants.' This book is in itself a curiosity, containing memoranda of his genealogy, deeds of land, receipts, notes, bonds, letters, and items on every subject which interested the writer." Mr. Bowie had obviously seen the book, and drew on it for his account of the Eversfield and Clagett families.

Unfortunately, Mr. Bowie omitted to name the descendant in whose possession the, book was in 1899. For many years I tried to locate it, without success until 1974 when I traced it to William Octavus Eversfield, of Riverdale. There could be no more appropriate custodian, for, curiously, Mr.,Eversfield appears to be the only adult male Eversfield now living in the United States, all the other male lines having died out. (He has two sons and a nephew; so a resurgence seems likely.)

At about the same time I located the book, it also came to the attention of the Rev. Edward C. Raffetto, Jr., the present rector of St. Thomas, Croome, whose wife is descended from the Clagetts. Father Raffetto arranged to have the book microfilmed by the Hall of Records, in Annapolis, so that henceforth it will be fully available to researchers of early Prince George's.

It is a volume of 756 very large (9" by 15") closely written pages, and even contains an index. Its title is: "A Record book containing all the patents, conveyances, deeds and evidences appertaining to the right and title of the Revd. John Eversfield's lands as also of the sundry deeds of gifts made to his children with divers other domestick affaires and family occurrences as they were copied from the originals and, copies of the provincial or county records and duely examined by Saml. Clagett." (The Rev. Samuel Clagett was Eversfield's brother-in-law and Bishop Claggett's father.) Much of the book is in Clagett's hand, much in Eversfield's. The first entries are dated 1735.

Probably a little more than half the contents deal with Eversfield's many land transactions; a list of his properties totals more than 4000 acres. The deeds, copied in full, are perhaps the least valuable materials, since they exist also in the official records. Of greater interest are surveyor's plats for many of Eversfield's tracts. There are also a number of land patents and petitions for surveys and resurveys.

The remainder of the book, which most inquirers will find of greater interest, is a grab-bag of great variety. There is much genealogical data on the Eversfields including copies of correspondence with relatives in England and Ireland, an autobiographical sketch, and a brief note on the Clagetts. These materials are haphazardly organized, and a close-perusal of them reveals that W.W. Bowie miscopied and misinterpreted them in several important respects, leading, to errors in his accounts of both the Eversfields and the Clagetts. These will be corrected in new forthcoming book on the Clagetts and their descendants.

A particularly surprising bit of intelligence is that Eversfield lacked his right arm, having lost it at the age of 19 "by a blow given him on the elbow by Thos. Lane Esqr., grandson to Sir Thomas Lane, Knight who was Lord Mayor of London in the year 1694" (page 698).

Of value to the social and intellectual historian will be meticulous lists of the books brought by Eversfield to Maryland (87 titles), and of those brought by him over many years thereafter. He gradually amassed an extensive and varied library encompassing history, biography, theology, law, Hebrew Grammar, Logic, Greek texts, Latin poets, mathematics, philosophy, medicine, royal genealogies, and a number of maps.

Another conspicuously interesting section is a ten, page outline of a course in theological education entitled: "A Preparative Method for the Studying Divinity with a few select Divinity Books proper to be Read by Candidates for Holy Orders" (page 612). This was the course pursued by Bishop Claggett and other future clerics instructed by Eversfield.

Notes on legal forms, copies of legal opinions, legal maxims and principles, and medical notes and prescriptions underscore the extent to which an educated Marylander of the colonial period tried to be, and largely had to be, his own expert in all the professions.

Of greatest human interest, perhaps, are several sections containing miscellaneous proverbs, philosophical observations, and "remarkable sayings, apothegms and maxims which variously occurred to John Eversfield in the course of his reading and here set down for the use of his children and posterity." One of these indicates some reservations on Eversfield's part about the people of his adopted home: "Shun a Maryland gift least you pay dear for it in the upshot, for a pretended Maryland gift upon making up of accounts will be assuredly found a most extravagant debt as the awfull (?) experience of many can testify."

Kept with the book are a number of detached items, including original land patents, copy of the Eversfield pedigree and arms from the College of Arms in London, and a mathematics notebook, dated 1764, kept by Eversfield's son Charles as a schoolboy.

This remarkable volume has been preserved carefully and lovingly by six generations of Eversfields and is in superb condition. Even a pressed flower between pages 226 and 227 remains intact—a vivid and touching memory of 18th Century Prince George's County.

---Brice Clagett

Mr. Clagett, who resides at Holly Hill Anne Arundel County, is President of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Reminder

"Doorways to the Past," the St. Thomas' Church House and Garden Tour, is on Saturday, April 19, 1975. Hours are 9:30 a.m. through 5:00 P.m. Admission is \$7.00 for the entire tour and lunch will be served for \$3.85 at the church.

For further information or advance sale tickets call Mrs. Lisa Raffetto (627-3877) or Mrs. Nancy West (627-2563).

Maryland Loyalists

The current issue of National Geographic Magazine (April 1975) carries an article on -"The Loyalists: Americans of a Difference," which tells of those Americans who sided with the Crown during the American Revolution. Only in very recent years has any effort been made to study the history of these people who had to leave their homes and settle elsewhere, primarily in Canada.

While Marylanders are familiar with the role played by the more prominent Loyalists (Tories) such as the Rev. Jonathan Boucher of Queen Anne Parish, a definitive study of who they were, their roles in the Revolution, and where they later settled, has not been made.

The correspondence printed below was recently located by Mrs. Helen Brown in the Revolutionary War Papers, Hall of Records, Annapolis (Box.130 Folder 7). It relates to a list of Loyalists from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia who were returned to their native colonies following their capture in North Carolina. Some of the names may be recognized as Southern Maryland names.

Of note is the mention of Gabriel Duvall of Marietta who was a patriot in the Revolutionary cause in Maryland and who is better known for his long service as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Halifax, No. Carolina
16th April 1776

Our Committee of Secrecy having written to your Council Committee of Safety announcing their resolution of sending to your Colony Certain prisoners taken in our late Commotions, who cannot be properly Secured here without great hindrance of our Military Exertions and Manifest danger-of escaping and exerting their dangerous influence over the disaffected part of our Inhabitants.

I am directed by the Congress now sitting to request of you that you will receive them and order them to be so-secured that we may have nothing to apprehend from their return during the present Situation of our Colony,, and I am also authorized to assure you that upon any similar occasions this Colony will take every Measure in their power to assist yours and every of their neighboring Colonies. The List inclosed differs in some particulars from that sent by our Committee of Secrecy Occasioned by some Amendments made by the Congress to their report.

I am by Order and in behalf of the Congress

Your most Obedt. Servant

Saml. Johnson, Prest.

News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SOCIETY

May 1975

Vol. III, no. 4

May Meeting.

Col. John E. Merriken, an authority on the history of rail transportation, will give an illustrated lecture on "Trolley Lines in the Washington Area" at the May meeting. For those over 30, it should recall those Sunday excursions and travel to work and school; while those younger in age will discover many of the fun times no longer available.

The meeting will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 10, 1975, at Montpelier Mansion Rte. 197, Laurel (just west of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Come and bring a friend.

Society Mailing Address

Over the years the Prince George's County Historical Society has operated with no set mailing address. Members and strangers alike who desired to contact the Society sometimes had great difficulty in accomplishing it. On many occasions the mail would be sent to the Court House at Upper Marlboro and then forwarded to the incumbent president.

Since the Society now has an office at the Calvert Mansion we have procured a post office box in Riverdale (P.O. Box 14). Communications addressed to this box or to the Society at the Calvert Mansion, 4811 Riverdale Road. Riverdale, Md. 20840, will reach us in the future.

Hopkins Atlas

Because of a priority printing job which took precedence, the Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County was not ready for initial sale at the St. George's Day Dinner. It will be available at the May meeting of the Society, however.

The Hopkins Atlas is a 56 page reprint of the maps, by election district, of Prince George's County first published in 1876 and now very rare. Most libraries do not have of copy. In addition to the maps, the publication also contains those maps of the District of Columbia covering the territory which was once a part of the county. A major attractive feature of this atlas which will be of great assistance to researchers, is the complete index of the places and the property holders whose names appear on the maps. This index and an introduction are by Society member Frank White, Jr., who was responsible for the total project.

Copies, which are priced at \$3.50 including tax and postage, may be ordered from the Society at P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Md. 20840.

Retrospective Book Review

Man in Motion by Michael Mewshaw. New York: Random House, 1970
247 p.

One of the recurrent themes in the literature of the 1960's is the search for identity. Man in Motion is a novel out of the 60's which treats that theme, a story of a young writer's struggle to find his place in society and settle down. A book of this sort is not the kind usually reviewed in this column, but even those members of the Society, who are not the least interested in this type of literature should find Man in Motion quite interesting. The protagonist is a resident of Prince George's County, and familiar names and places—Cottage City, Route-I, the George Washington House, Lustine Chevrolet, and NASA, as examples, appear throughout the

book. This local color is not the real reason the Man in Motion should be added to any, Prince George's County collection however. Its value to future students of County history is that it presents a picture, though one that is not altogether complimentary, of life in suburban northern Prince George's County, 1968.

The novel is the story of Walker Hawley's identity crisis. He finds himself drifting along with no perceived meaning to his life here in the County, so when family pressures mount, he flees toward golden California, with a Maryland coed. They drive across country, eventually ending up in Mexico, but he discovers that he no more knows "who he is" there than he did before. Constant travel and motion lose their appeal and the settled life of home begins to look attractive. Even the pleasure of sex with his travelling companion--explicitly described--seems to dull, and he longs for his steady girl back in Greenbelt. After a few weeks on the road, Hawley returns.

The Prince George's County Hawley was running away from was a place he initially described as "the dullest place in the world." He frequently drove up Baltimore Boulevard from his home in Cottage City to the University of Maryland, and he described the scene along the route as a "nightmarish collision of the old and new, suburban towns growing and dying at the same time, like fruit left too long on the vine." His garden apartment complex in Greenbelt, where "even through closed windows, televisions, radios, hi-fi sets, electric can openers, and toothbrushes, made a whirring noise in the night air. The sound of a great machine, the steady buzzing transistors unscrewing the tense lid of suburban minds."

Hawley's trip across country changed his outlook, though, for he finds nothing in such a rootless existence. On his return, at-Christmas, he travels again along Route 1, and "the scene reminded Walker of his childhood, of the time before he knew, or thought he knew, how bad Cottage City was. Back then he had stared with wondering eyes at the silver star which capped the Peace Cross monument and thought how beautiful the town was. Now, despite the warehouses, billboards, gas stations and bars, it looked that way again."

Even though much of the story takes place here, Man in Motion is not really a novel about Prince George's County. It could have easily been set somewhere else, for the novels message is about 'home' not Prince George's' County. The fact that the home used in conveying the message is ours, however, makes Man in Motion especially interesting reading.

Alan Virta

St. George's Day Awards—1975

The St. George's Day Awards, instituted by the Prince George's County Historical Society to recognize persons and organizations who have made a significant contribution toward the preservation of our County's heritage, were presented at the second annual St. George's Day Dinner held at the Center of Adult Education, University of Maryland, on April 23.

The nine honored were-

Mrs. Margaret W. Cook of Forest Heights, for her contributions through meticulous research and writings on County history. The recently completed "Inventory of Prince George's Historical Sites before-1800," an architectural and cemetery inventory, and the history of the County road systems, with maps, between 1775 and 1828, are evidence of her extensive work. Over the years her research has been shared generously with others, especially through talks to school children and through assistance to other scholars.

James Henry Shreve of Upper Marlboro, who authored the 250th anniversary souvenir book, for Upper Marlboro, commemorating its establishment as the county seat in 1721. Accomplished in a very short time to meet a stringent deadline, this major effort was but one of many to his credit over the years.

William Henry Duvall of Croome was recognized for the pioneer work in establishing his farm museum, which contains one of the finest collections in the East, having been started almost 30 years ago.

John C. Brennan, of Laurel, for his work as a writer and photographer and as a member of the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust and the County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust. His superior literary talent was reflected in the production of the Laurel Centennial Souvenir Book of 1971.

Mrs. John D. Bowling of Croome, for the restoration of "Bellefields" and sharing it with the public, as well as originating the St. Thomas' House and Garden Tour to benefit the church's restoration. As a newspaper columnist, owner, and trainer, she has helped perpetuate the traditional country sport of horseracing.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Walton, Sr. of Clinton for their efforts in behalf of the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust, the County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust and the Surrat House Restoration Committee. Mr. Walton's collection of antique carriages is an index of the transportation history of the county. Over the years the Waltons have shared their home, "His Lordship's Kindness," with numerous children's groups and garden tours.

The First Baptist Church of Riverdale represented by the Rev. Fred Snowden, Associate Pastor, for the rescue of the Greek Revival Mansion "Woodlawn," near Largo, from destruction, and for returning it to its previous grandeur for use as a parsonage.

The Historical and Restoration Society of White Marsh Church, of Bowie, represented by Mrs. Thomas W. Terry, Jr., for their effort in the retention and restoration of old White Marsh (Sacred Heart) Church, a cradle of the Roman Catholic Church in America. In addition to the restoration, this group published a history of the church, which was the scene, of the election of the Rev. John Carroll of Upper Marlboro as the first bishop of the Catholic Church in America.

Greetings were extended to those present by Mr. P. William Filby, Director of the Maryland Historical Society, and by Lt. Gen. C.E. Hutchin, Jr., (ret.), Executive Director of the Maryland Bicentennial Commission. Other guests included County Councilmen Frank Casula of Laurel and Parris Glendenning of Hyattsville, Mayor Michael Roll of District Heights, Mayor Robert O'Connor of Cheverly, and Mayor Susanna Cristofane of Bladensburg. Also present were Harry Durity of Upper Marlboro, Chairman of the County Bicentennial Commission, Chairman Frank White, Jr., of Riverdale, of the County Historical and Cultural Trust, and a majority of the members of these two groups.

Society President DeMarr indicated during the program that 12 county residents had met to organize the historical society in 1952. Of the six of these founding members who are still living, the three present at the dinner were introduced. They were Mrs. John D. Bowling of Croome; Mrs. Felix Cristofane of Bladensburg; and, Mrs. G.W.S. Musgrave of Lake Wales, Florida, formerly of Laurel.

Mrs. Jean Speicher of Laurel was again the chairman of the St. George's Day Dinner. Its great success can be attributed to her efforts and those of the committee composed of Mrs. Vera Rollo, Mrs. Edith Bagot, Mrs. Betty Ticknor, Col. Samuel Crook, and Mr. and Mrs. John Giannetti.

Tavern Restoration Progress.

Over the past few months major progress has been made on the George Washington House-Indian Queen Tavern-Restoration.

During the fall and early winter the exterior of the tavern began to assume its early appearance, with its 2 level porch being rebuilt. Although work stopped when the Jaycees \$30,000 loan was exhausted, other activities were being pursued which would guarantee an early completion date. In January the new County Council designated the tavern as Bicentennial Headquarters to house a museum and serve as a visitors' center. During early April a financially successful benefit cocktail party was held. At this function the first of a series of dioramas which will be housed in the museum was unveiled. The scene depicts the infamous duel between Commodore Stephen Decatur and James Barron on the Bladensburg Dueling Grounds.

The most heartening event occurred in the past few weeks when the General Assembly of Maryland included a \$1 50,000 item in the state budget for the completion of the restoration work on the building. This was accomplished through the efforts of Delegates Charles Blumenthal and Andrew Mothershead of Prince George's County.

At this stage of development, administration of the state grant and general supervision of the restoration work will be under the guidance of the Maryland Historical Trust. General Chairman John Giannetti, who has spent many long hours on this project from the beginning, and the Prince George's Jaycees have set St. George's Day, April 23 1976 as target date for the dedication.

Bicentennial Commission Staff

A major step forward was made by the Prince George's County Bicentennial Commission in February when it was provided with a full-time staff to coordinate activities in the County.

Robert D. Lucian is the new Executive Director and Claire Doyle, Andrew Fornoroff, and Janet Roy serve as Research Coordinators, for the Commission. The secretarial staff consists of Verly Taylor and Laura Sullivan.

After a brief sojourn in cramped space at the County Service Building, the staff is now located in offices on the second floor of the Calvert Mansion, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale. The telephone number is 441-1776.

A monthly newsletter, Fife and Drum, is now being published by the Commission. News of Bicentennial places and events in Prince George's County will be carried in this paper. If you want to be added to the mailing list, please contact the Commission office.

Contributors to the Society

The Society gratefully acknowledges generous contributions from the following persons and business organizations:

Rita E. Bastek	Clinton
Theodore L. Bissell	University Park
Anne Mildred Hoyle	Hyattsville
Edith H. Heiskell	Washington
Mr. & Mrs. Robert N. Marshall, Sr.	Laurel
Mrs. A.H. Seidenspinner	Hyattsville
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Walton, Sr.	Clinton
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Wilfong, Jr.	Hyattsville
Mike Casey Realty	Suitland
M.E. Smith, Inc., Realtors	Suitland

College Park Restores MacAlpine Gates

As part of its community beautification program, the City of College Park has restored the old gate posts of "MacAlpine" the former estate of Charles Baltimore Calvert located on Cat-Tail Hill. (See News and Notes, August 1973).

When the committee for beautification was considering plantings to beautify the corner of Albion Road and Baltimore Boulevard, the fallen gate posts were noticed in the underbrush. Upon examining them, it was discovered that they bore the inscriptions "Calvert" and "MacAlpine." Being unfamiliar with the background of these markers, the city officials contacted Society President Fred DeMarr who furnished some basic information and put them in touch with Theodore Bissell. A letter from the Society urged the preservation of

these gate posts, and the citizens' committee and the City Council decided to incorporate them as a part of the beautification project.

A dedication ceremony was held on Saturday, April 26, which was led by 1st District City Councilman St. Clair Reeves. Among those participating were Professor Bissell, Mr. DeMarr, former Mayor William Reading, and Delegate Andrew O. Mothershead.

Sidelights from the-Maryland Historical Magazine, Spring 1975

Those members of our County Society who annually take advantage of the bargain of combined membership with the Maryland Historical Society probably noted the Prince George's County references in the Spring 1975 issue of the Maryland Historical Magazine.

For those others who may have overlooked these references however a brief recap is provided. Page 68 starts an informative article on Fairfield of Sandy Spring, Montgomery County (once Prince George's the home of the Pierce-Iddings-Willson family for one hundred and fifteen years. Pages 93-96 contain interesting data on William Wirt (1772-1834) of Bladensburg, for twelve years Attorney General of the United States.

Further, the article "The First. Professional Theater in Maryland in its Colonial Setting" by Dr. Kathryn Painter Ward of the University of Maryland relates a fascinating story of the theater in our colonial county as it played in the cultural centers of Piscataway and the "Great Ballroom in Upper Marlborough. Dr. Ward takes note (p 40) that on September 14, 1752, our county registered a cultural first when "for the first time in the history of opera in America, the employment of an orchestra is recorded." Dr. Ward footnotes this as taken from Early Opera in America by Oscar Sonneck. It is also most interesting to note that the stated performance which took place on September fourteenth took place just ONE day after September second. This confusing situation 'was a result of an Act of Parliament which phased out the old Julian calendar and instituted the Gregorian. Presumably, from a legal standpoint, the intervening eleven (for is it twelve?) days in 1752 must be counted forever in the "Limbo of the Lost." Should some county cultural group ever decide to commemorate Marlboro's significant first in the history of opera, it will be most interesting to observe how the specific day of commemoration will be decided!

--Paul T. Lanham

DAR Bicentennial Publication

Just off the press is a Bicentennial publication prepared by the Belle Air, Brigadier Rezin Beall, Marlborough Towne, and Toaping Castle Chapters of the DAR under the general chairmanship of Mrs. Louise Hinton. Published by the Prince George's County Memorial Library, Reminders of Revolutionary Days in Prince George's County contains photographs and biographical data relating to the lives and graves of soldiers and patriots buried in the county.

Copies will be available at the May meeting of the Society or can be obtained in the near future at any branch library for \$1.00 each.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

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News and Notes From

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

June 1975

Vol III no. 5

June Meeting Cancelled

Because of certain scheduling problems the regular June meeting of the Society will not be held. Therefore, because of our summer recess, the next meeting of the Society will be in September.

Although we still be enjoying our vacation, planning for our bicentennial year program will continue over -the summer months. Program and project suggestions are welcome from all of our members.

Additions to the National Register of Historic Places

The Maryland Historical Trust reports that the following sites in Prince George's County have been added to tile National Register of Historic Places:

Ammendale Normal Institute. A Victorian structure of eclectic character, the buildings were constructed between 1883 and 1888 and have been the home of tile Christian Brothers Novitiate since 1880. The Institute is located off U.S. Route 1, just north of Beltsville.

Nottingham Archeological Site. Analysis indicates that the indigenous cultures of this area of the Patuxent represent the remnants of Tidewater cultures displaced by the Potomac Creek, pottery producing people and the northern tribes.

Van Horn Manuscript

Over the past several months, a committee chaired by past president Paul Lanham has been working diligently on the editing, typing, and proofreading of the manuscript prepared by our late Historian, R. Lee Van Horn. This document covers the history of Prince George's County from its founding until the opening of tile Civil War. Having consulted all official records as well as the newspapers of the period, Judge Van Horn collected a great deal of information on everyday life in the county. Of great interest to future researchers will be the hundreds of names which will appear in the index.

A Fall publication date is anticipated. Working with Mr. Lanham on this project are Mrs. Vera Rollo and Frank White, Jr.

Review of a Recent Maryland Book

Maryland and the Empire, 1773: The Antilon-First Citizen Letters. By Peter S. Onuf (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1974. 236 p. \$10.00)

In this new and annotated publication of the "Antilon-First Citizen" letters, Peter S. Onuf has sought to illustrate what he regards as the most important social, economic, and political attitudes which dominated English political thought and colonial revolutionary philosophy during the eighteenth century.

Early in the year 1773, Charles Carroll (First Citizen), a well established and popular lawyer, and Daniel Dulany (Antilon), a wealthy and influential colonial thinker of the period, conducted a debate through an exchange of letters which were published in the Maryland Gazette.

The overriding concern running throughout their correspondence was the question of the legality of Governor Eden's proclamation establishing the rates of officers' fees in the Maryland colony. Carroll was 'the leader of the patriot faction while Dulany acted as the major representative of the Loyalist elements. Although their

exchange of letters was primarily involved with an issue on the regional level, the conflict between the two opposing factions represented the embodiment of the colonial dilemma of parliamentary authority versus local autonomy which put an end to the first British Empire.

All letters are reproduced in this edition as they first appeared in the Gazette.

In his detailed introduction Onuf points out the development of sharply opposing stands in the interpretation of English history, legal precedents, and the constitution. His notes present a careful and scholarly analysis of the celebrated collection of letters which preserves for us so much of the detail of the intellectual issues which developed during the period of the Revolution.

Onuf, who is currently with the Department of History at the University of California, has directed this work primarily to the advanced student or historian with an in-depth interest in the particular area of Maryland history. Although no bibliography is included, the index is carefully detailed and inclusive.

--Elizabeth Ticknor

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following new members of the Society who were elected at the membership meeting on May 10:

Name	Town	-Sponsor
Mrs. Leon N. Brunelle	Hyattsville, Md.	Mrs. Sidenspinner
Mrs. Harian V. Smith	Hyattsville, Md.	Mrs. Sidenspinner
Miss Betty Lee Vernon	Adelphi, Md.	Col. Sam Crook
Miss Nelda Davis	University Park, Md.	Mildred Hoyle and Mr. De Marr
Mrs. John Wall	College Park, Md.	Mr. De Marr
Mrs. Virginia S. Reinhart	Hyattsville, Md.	Mr. DeMarr

The Burning of Washington: A Retrospective Book Review

When They Burned the White House, by Andrew Tully. 1961.

A new antique shop opened a little more than a year ago on Main Street in Laurel, and the personable Mrs. Della Wilson, who "mans" the store for the owner, owns a copy of a Simon and Schuster book by Andrew Tully which she helped research and which, in its opening pages, credits her a "special debt." A clipping that Mrs. Wilson saved and placed in her copy indicates that President Kennedy wrote the author in 1961: "It is an extraordinary story which you have told in a most entertaining and spirited style."

Differently from some other books, Mr. Tully's tells the whole narrative of the War of 1812 in a simple, logical, understandable way. The unfolding events hew to the diary of a British lieutenant named George Robert Gleig which was found in the National Archives.

Among the things to be learned from this book is the highly interesting fact that General Robert Ross, who met his death near Baltimore on September 11, 1814, was an Irish gentleman who became a hero of major proportions in the Napoleonic Wars, that there is a monument to him in St. Paul's, and that he was posthumously raised to the peerage as "Ross of Bladensburg."

Napoleon, who was ultimately transported to exile on Elba in a ship commanded by the Sherman-like Sir George Cockburn (pronounced COE-bun), characterized that roughneck who had raided and pillaged and looted Chesapeake villages for two years (Havre de Grace on the Susquehanna was a notable victim), as "overbearing, vain, choleric, and-capricious."

The Congreve rockets, whose "red glare" was especially noted at Fort McHenry, constituted a new and frightening weapon to our side, especially at Bladensburg, even though to the British they were known to be unreliable. They were initially used by Cockburn during the sacking of Havre de Grace in May 1813.

Whether President James Madison or his Secretary of War, John Armstrong, or the "capital's defender," Brig. Gen. William Henry Winder, was the most ineffectual person in a crisis, Mr. Tully does not say. In contrast, however, Secretary of State James Monroe shows up sharply as a man of spirit and daring.

About 5,000 Britishers, without horses, landed at Benedict, on the Patuxent River in Charles County, in mid August 1814 and started out toward Washington through Prince George's County on foot with three days' provisions and ammunition. There was a two hour thunderstorm the first night out, which added to the soldiers' misery in the summer heat. About fifty horses had been confiscated by the time Washington was reached.

The British passed near Nottingham, a village of four short streets, and the reconnoitering Monroe barely escaped being taken prisoner there.

At Upper Marlborough, General Ross spent Monday, August 22 in the hospitable home of Dr. William Beanes, a "fanatic opponent of the War with England."

Meantime, in Washington, a prescient State Department employee named S. Pleasanton had begun packing papers and files (presumably including the Declaration of Independence), for transportation first to the gristmill of Edgar Patterson on the Virginia side of Chain Bridge and then to Leesburg.

The Americans watched the British advance through the County toward Washington, and decided to stop the British as they crossed the Eastern Branch (Anacostia River) at Bladensburg. "A few brick houses lined the streets of Bladensburg" in 1814. General Winder's army, which had camped at what is now Forestville the previous evening, arrived on the day of the battle to join General Stansbury's Maryland militia, which should have, but didn't, demolish the Eastern Branch bridge to prevent the enemy from crossing. Among the notables present when the British arrived and attacked were James Monroe, Lieutenant Francis Scott Key (who had recently done a 100% about face to become a fire-eating zealot), Baltimore's John Pendleton Kennedy, who, unable to find his boots, did battle in his dancing pumps, Attorney General Rush, and James Madison, the only President ever to be with an American army in combat.

Within thirty minutes after the attack a major portion of the American army had retreated from the battlefield. Colonel William D. Bell and his eight hundred Annapolis militiamen disobeyed Winder's retreat order- as did the heroic Joshua Barney, whose five hundred sailors, with harnesses on their shoulders, had dragged their cannonading implements from the Navy Yard. Barney's sailors and marines had learned how to let go with a terrifying screech, "a yell that was to be much favored by the Confederacy during the Civil War." The National Intelligencer, whose English-born editor, Nat Gales, was especially hated by Cockburn subsequently estimated the British fatalities at Bladensburg at 200, the American fatalities at 26.

About two hours after the Battle of Bladensburg, with his men rested, General Ross, with 1,500 fusiliers, resumed the march to Washington--whose outskirts he reached at 8 p.m. Ross wanted prize money for sparing the city, and he tarried at the open field now occupied by the Library of Congress, seeking contact with someone who would be authorized to discuss indemnity,. However, the swaggering and coarse Admiral Sir George Cockburn wanted vengeance for the burning of the Parliament building in Canada the year before by a mob of American militiamen. The wings of the Capitol, connected by a covered wooden bridge and whose interiors were not yet finished, plus the Library of Congress, housed in the Capitol, were put to the torch at 9:45 on the evening of August 24, 1814. Simultaneously, to avoid capture and seizure, the Navy Yard was burned by its own commander. Having quenched their thirst at the town pump located near the small red-brick Treasury building at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Fifteenth Street, the British burned the White House and then the Treasury.

At 1 a.m. the British headed back for Capitol Hill, resisting the temptation to burn down the offices of the National Intelligencer because they were flanked by civilian residences. After daylight, 900 of Ross' soldiers marched back to view the ruins of the White House, to finish off the Treasury building, and to kindle the State, War, and Navy building. A British soldier, court-martialed for looting, was condemned to the firing squad.

Cockburn carted the presses, type, and flammable items out of Nat Gales' Intelligencer building into the street, where they were pounded and burned.

After experiencing a Washington "tornado" in the afternoon, and fearing an attack from Virginia militiamen, General Ross departed Washington that evening with many of his soldiers suffering from dysentery and fever. At Bladensburg he left the sick and wounded in the care of the valiant Commodore Barney, himself wounded and captured by the British.

After the British had marched past Upper Marlborough, former Governor Robert Bowie and Dr. Beanes organized a band of vigilantes to deal with straggling British looters. Six such soldiers were arrested and jailed, but a seventh got away to rejoin his outfit and reveal Dr. Beanes' changed hospitality. Dr. Beanes and his houseguests, Dr. William Hill and Philip Weems, soon found themselves apprehended and en route to Benedict; and Gov. Bowie was also imprisoned when he followed their trail to intercede for them. All the prisoners were soon released except Dr. Beanes, who, because he had been born in Scotland, was to be held for treason. The rest of his story, in which Francis Scott Key played a major role, is too well known to bear retelling here.

The pride of the nation was sorely hurt by the burning of Washington, and there soon emerged a feeling of unity and patriotism. A "Little Capitol," later to be known as Old Capitol Prison, went up on the spot now occupied by the Supreme Court building. Dr. William Thornton, a friend of Benjamin Tayloe as well as the Madisons, asked Mr. Tayloe if the Octagon House might be leased to the Federal Government as a temporary White House--and of course it was.

Some English newspapers of the time were outraged at the vandalizing and burning of the U.S. Capitol, and elsewhere there was disapproval. Messrs. Latrobe and Hoban entered respectively, upon the tasks of rebuilding the two principal structures destroyed. At the peace negotiations the British at first wanted cession of most of Maine and control of the Great Lakes, but eventually the Treaty of Ghent resulted in the status ante bellum.

Marylanders would wish that the "Col. Charles Carroll, "whom President Madison had left to guard the First Lady before the attack on Washington had been further identified, but of great interest is the revelation that their safety was given to a civilian named Duvall, "who was the nephew of a prominent judge," after the couple had been temporarily reunited in Virginia. Another oblique reference to Justice Gabriel Duvall of Prince George's County in the statement that, by September 9, 1814, "the State Department was operating in the house lately occupied by Judge Duvall."

---John Brennan

Contributors to the Society

The Society gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions made by the following individuals and business organizations:

Miss Eunice E. Burdette	Bowie
Mrs. Donelson Christmas	Upper Marlboro
Miss Minnie M. Hall	Washington, D.C.
Rev. and Mrs. Edtiard C. Raffetto, Jr.	Croom
Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Scherer	Glenn Dale
Mr. James H. Starkeyl	Crofton

Maryland Historical Society Closes July and August

A serious financial crisis has caused the Council of the Maryland Historical Society to close the Society in July and August. During this period telephone calls cannot be accepted, but correspondence will be answered with some delay.

The County Song

Few residents, even the native variety, realize that Prince George's, County has an official song. With words by G. Frederick Orton of Hyattsville and music by William Moore, then editor of the Prince George's Post, Hail Prince Georges contains four stanzas and has a very pleasant melody.

The song was adopted as the official song of the county in 1939, but was only "rediscovered" a year or so ago. The text is printed below. Any member who desires a copy of the music should write the Society at P.O. Box 14, Riverdale 20840.

Hail! Prince Georges

Prince Georges County, heart of old Maryland
Child of the Free State, long united both stand
Blazoned with glory, may your whole future be!
Bulwark of Tolerance, and true Liberty.

Your beauty long has fed the tired souls of men
They have found rest in wooded hill and green glen
Blest with your soils and streams where food could be found
All that men needed in yourself did abound.

Tired ships of old were kissed by welcoming shore;
Leaders of men came through your wide open door
Prince George's forest helped: to build happy home
Sheltered in safety 'neath the blue starry dome.

May your rich blessings on us all freely pour
On rich and poor alike till time is no more!
Hail, mighty County, pride of State of Land!
Prince Georges County, heart of old Maryland.

(Copyright 1339, by Prince Georges Chamber of Commerce)'

The Prince George's County Historical Society

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News and Notes From

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 1975

Vol. III, no. 6;

The Hopkins Atlas

Members of the Society are reminded that copies of the 1878 Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County are still available. A fee of \$3.50 includes tax and mailing costs. Place your orders with The Prince George's County Historical Society, P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Maryland 20840.

Tax Deductibility of Dues

The Internal Revenue Service has formally ruled that dues to the Society, as well as contributions, are tax deductible. The Maryland Historical Society has informed us by letter, June 19, 1975, that its dues are also tax deductible.

Contributors to the Society

The Prince George's County Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution from the Southern Maryland Heritage Chapter No. 58, WAC Veterans Association. In last month's News and Notes, the name of contributor Minnie M. Hill of Washington, D.C., was misspelled. The editor apologizes for the error.

Notes on County History From Recent Writings

Although The Face of Maryland by A. Aubrey Bodine accords little treatment to Prince George's County, this magnificent photographic study of Maryland is a masterpiece which is worthy of a place in the library of any Maryland resident. Purists will shudder, however, at seeing our prized Montpelier described as being in Bowie, but students of the Battle of Bladensburg will note with interest that the colonial Barracks at Frederick once housed British prisoners from that battle of the War of 1812.

A matter of considerable interest to county history enthusiasts is covered in the Summer 1975 issue of Maryland Magazine. Benedict Arnold's transformation from an American hero and patriot to his infamous status as a traitor of the Revolution was apparently triggered by war scandals which also involved William Hest of the Woodyard. This Prince George's County personage described as Deputy Clothier-general and as Deputy Quartermaster General was twice involved in situations in which General Arnold profited from unusual handling of government assets for private gain. Although only a reprimand was recommended for Arnold, one month later he offered his services to the British, apparently as a direct result. Further research in this matter would be most interesting in view of William West's involvement.

--- Paul Lanham

Topiary Gardens Open for Summer Tours

The Harvey Ladew Topiary Gardens, located on the Jarrettsville Pike approximately one-half hour above Baltimore, opened in April and will remain open through October.

Topiary is the art of training or trimming shrubs and trees into ornamental shapes. The Gardens include outstanding examples of formal topiary, as well as other plants and flowers, ponds, fountains, and statuary.

Admission fees are 50¢ for children and \$2.00 for adults. To visit the Gardens or to arrange group tours, call 301-557-9466 or write to the Harvey Ladew Topiary Gardens, Box 58, Monkton, Maryland 21111.

Absalom Wofford of Prince George's County-

The October 1967 issue of The United Daughters of the Confederacy Magazine carried an item of some interest of students of Prince George's County entitled "Brigadier General William Tatum Wofford, CSV by Mrs. Luther Isbell of Atlanta.

While the interesting story of the life of General Wofford (born 1824 in Habersham County, Georgia) properly is a matter of Georgia interest, it is noted that his ancestry traces back in this country to early Prince George's County, Maryland. The general was the great-great grandson of one Absalom Wofford of Maryland who, in turn, descended from William 3, William 2, and William 1 (emigrant).

Absalom Wofford of Prince George's County married (about 1727) Sarah Hosey (Hosea? Husse?) and had five sons, four of whom served in the American Revolution. All five sons ultimately settled in what is now Spartanburg County, South Carolina.

While we can only speculate at this late date what occasioned the decision of Absalom's sons to relocate away from Prince George's County in the Deep South, Mrs. Isbell's well written article leaves no doubt that our county's loss ultimately resulted in Georgia's gain. Absalom Wofford of Prince George's County would have been justifiably proud of this great great grandson whose brilliant military exploits were only exceeded by his dedicated services during the Reconstruction Era, culminating with his election as a delegate to the Georgia constitutional convention in 1877.

--Paul Lanham

Reminder: Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Society' will be on the second Saturday in September.

Suburban Development in Prince George's County

All of us are familiar with the promotional literature sent out by the vacation camps and communities, and most of us have learned to be some what skeptical of the claims contained in those advertising pieces. On visiting these paradises, potential buyers sometimes find a rough wilderness, with dirt roads, no sewer hookups, and recreational facilities "still under construction," instead of the model community portrayed in the promotional booklet.

In 1870 a similar promotional booklet circulated around Washington. It was not promoting a vacation land in the Shenandoah Valley, however, but a suburban community called "The City of the Highlands" in Prince George's County. Portrayed in the booklet as a model community with wide avenues, parks, fine houses, and easy commuting to Washington. A detailed street map was even provided to assist buyers in choosing their lots. The community was to be located just over the District line between Bladensburg Road and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line, the present day site of the town of Cottage City.

The 1878 Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County, however, indicates that the city of the Highlands had not materialized by then. A comparison of the proposed street pattern of the Highlands with that of today's Cottage City reveals development along quite different lines.

What, then became of the Highlands? Evidently it did not develop as proposed. But whether Cottage City is the Highlands in another form or another project entirely, is a matter for further investigation. The following pages contain excerpts from the 21 page booklet circulated in 1870.

Alan Virta

THE CITY OF THE HIGHLANDS

Prince George Co., Md.
Principal Office: 910 F Street
Opposite U.S. Patent Office
Washington, D. C.
1870

Overlooking Bladensburg and Hyattsville on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, both places being in full view, lies "The Highlands," the future "Ne Plus Ultra" of suburban places about Washington!

This place was late the magnificent residence of J.P. Bartholow, and riding out from the Capitol City by either the Baltimore and Ohio Railway or the Baltimore Turnpike, it is found lying just between these two important thoroughfares and fronting upon both.

By a ride upon this turnpike, acknowledged to be one of the finest suburban drives about Washington, the time necessarily consumed is but thirty minutes and by rail only eight minutes.

So naturally adapted to the purposes to which at last it has been dedicated, is the location and ground at this point, that the late owner was often earnestly requested, by many who specially desired to purchase and build, to lay off at least a part of the place in building lots.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, The Baltimore and Washington Turnpike, and the Georgetown Road which latter passes through the place, all furnish fronts for building upon, outside of the many wide avenues laid out.

The bill, which has recently passed both houses of Congress, and has been approved by the President, incorporating the Columbia Railway Company, will soon put a third and convenient mode of travel from the City to The Highlands, to wit: A line of street cars,--thereby giving the choice of three different means of transit to and from the city, and putting residents there in as frequent and perhaps more easy communication with the business centre of Washington than they would have if residing in the remote streets thereof, or in Georgetown. This line of cars leave 15th street at the Treasury Department, following New York avenue to its intersection at Seventh street and Massachusetts avenue, and thence on Massachusetts avenue to the intersection of the same with H street, and thence following H street to the Toll Gate and the City Boundary, thence by the line of the Columbia Turnpike passing the entire length of The Highlands and running to Bladensburg. The bill fixes the fare at not to exceed seven cents from 15th street west.

The advantages of having these several distinct means of frequent communication with the city will not fail to commend itself above that of having but one means of transit to and fro.

The Regular Station, known upon the cards of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company as "Penn's Crossing," is upon this ground.

Commuted tickets, enabling passengers to pass to and fro, between Washington City and The Highlands, as often as they desire, are issued at an expense of but from ten to twelve cents per day--less than the business men of Washington and others pay daily to ride upon the street cars to their homes in those streets distant from the business parts of the city itself, with a large saving of time.

The Situation of the Highlands

is unsurpassed in every particular, and it is absolutely more delightful in its location and all its picturesque surroundings, with all the requirements (in way of Churches, Schools, Stores, Mills, etc.) for an immediate home, than any other spot that could be chosen.

The thirty minutes' drive by the pike or the eight minutes' ride by rail into the city are each attended with ease and comfort, partaking of real pleasure.

The place has the acknowledged benefit of a Railroad Depot upon the spot, which, in these modern times, has become the almost demanded requirement for a town or city site. It is also entirely free from nuisances, and by the most stringent restrictions will be thus preserved in every respect.

The Building of Cottages, Villas, Dwellings

of various kinds is, if desired, combined here with the sales of the building sites, such arrangements having been made with prominent builders, and care will be taken that a class of residences and buildings shall be erected, which shall do honor to the place and make it the suburban place of Washington, where the merchant or other business man may retire at the close of his day's labor, and find contentment and pleasure in looking about him, together with the most unexceptionable neighbors and society; and as the number of building spots are very limited, the proprietors can safely promise that this shall be carried out "to the letter."

Plans of several fine Villas and Dwellings

are on exhibition at the Office, containing six to ten rooms each with modern improvements, which will be built on these lots, at an expense of from fifteen hundred to three thousand dollars, with but one fourth payable when work is complete, and the balance in monthly payments scarcely exceeding city rents. The attention of the Public is especially directed to this important feature, and they are invited to call and see the Plans of the houses, which it is proposed to build upon these terms.

Too much cannot be said of the present Improvements in and around this place, and of the great advantages it thus possesses. Forty thousand dollars worth of houses and other improvements already upon the ground, it being in the immediate neighborhood of the villages of Bladensburg and Hyattsville, both of which afford a fine view from the place, and surrounding Country Homes thickly dotted on every side, together with what will at once be built upon the building lots already disposed of, all being within the immediate reach of the heart of the city, make these villas and building lots as desirable as the city property, and in very many respects vastly - preferable to such.

It is widely known that the late proprietor of the naturally beautiful place lavished a fortune upon it, declaring it to be his intention to make the same the "Paradise of the Southern Country." By an expenditure of thousands of dollars in fertilizing he brought every foot of the ground here offered to the highest possible state of cultivation--the crops resulting from which have been the wonder of the country around. He then proceeded with an outlay of many thousands additional in beautifying and further improvement--hundreds of dollars were also expended in walling up of choice springs. The place soon became widely known as the "Model Farm."

The "Prince Georgian," a newspaper of the county in which The Highlands is situated, in speaking of this Place, just before it was subdivided for a town site, pronounced it "one of the finest, if not the very best pieces of property in the State of Maryland."

The Want of Homes

to which a family may become attached, and around which the memories of a happy and healthful childhood may cluster in after years--a home where the wife may have her conservatory and other home pleasures away from the dust and unwholesome clamor of city life, in the quiet and peace of beautiful scenery, amid the green fields, fresh air, and religious surroundings of nature --is felt very greatly by city people. To such a home, children's love will cling and each tree and nook, valley and stream has its lessons to them of joy and gladness

and health, totally unknown to the feverish and unwholesome life of the city. To such a home the weary merchant, or jaded professional man may return after the perplexities and toils of the day are over as to an elysium, and to such it may not be uninteresting -that life insurance statistics assert that of those who transact business in the city, the longevity of the life of all who sleep in the country is increased fifteen per centum.

The matter of having but Nominal taxes

is one of no small consideration. The Highlands being situated just outside the District line, the heavy District taxes are avoided. The Taxes upon these lots for the present year have been paid by the proprietors.

The Highlands is bordered upon the west by the fine estate of the late John C. Rives, which, by his will, dated April 24th, 1864, upon certain contingencies not improbable to occur, becomes the property of the United States Government, in which case, from its proximity to the United States Capitol, it will, no doubt, be transformed into a fine public institution. AS A FURTHER INDUCEMENT all purchasers of sites for homes at

THE HIGHLANDS

who commence to build thereon previous to
March 1, 1871,

will receive from the proprietors, without expense, a FREE COMMUTATION PASS, good for one year upon the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, entitling the holder to pass to and from upon all trains between

Washington City and The Highlands.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

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News and Notes From

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
August 1975 Vol. III No. 7

Riversdale is Site of September Meeting

The first meeting of the 197-76 season will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday September 13, 1975 in the Music Room of "Riversdale," the Calvert Mansion located at 4811 Riversdale Road in Riversdale.

Our Speaker will be Mrs. Shirley Baltz whose topic will be "Queen-Anne Town: An Early Patuxent River Port." Those of you who attended our October 1973 meeting at Belair Stables will remember the outstanding presentation given by Mrs. Baltz on the history of Belair Mansion and the racing stables. She has recently published a monograph on The Quays of Annapolis which is drawn from contemporary accounts of everyday life during the colonial period. Mrs. Baltz is currently preparing her manuscript on the Belair story for publication by the Bowie Bicentennial Committee next spring.

"Riversdale" was the site of the founding of the Prince George's County Historical Society and the location of its meetings during the early years.

Please bring a friend with you. Refreshments will be served.

Laurel Bicentennial Exhibition

The Bicentennial Committee of the City of Laurel will sponsor an exhibition at the City Hall on September 11-14, 1975.

An extensive collection of photographs, objects and memorabilia has been assembled from local sources which portrays the history and heritage of the city from the earliest time to the present.

All are cordially invited to attend.

St. Thomas' Parish Antiques Show and Sale

The sixteenth annual Tobacco Barn Antiques Show and Sale, sponsored by St. Thomas' Episcopal Parish, Croom will be held Friday, September 5 through Sunday, September 7, at Edelen Brothers Tobacco Warehouse, Upper Marlboro. Seventy-eight dealers, chosen from a waiting list of over 800, will present a large variety of furniture, china, glass-ware, silver, books, toys, and other items. The admission fee is \$2.00 per person, or \$1.50 for those with an ad, card, or clipping or mention of a radio or TV station that advertises the show.

Edelen Brothers Warehouse is located at the corner of Routes 301 and 408 in Upper Marlboro. Free parking will be available at the Race Track, in Upper Marlboro, with a continuous shuttle bus running from the show. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call 627-3877 or 372-6945.

1975 Membership

The 1976 membership list has been mailed to each member. Please check your address and check the last page to help find our lost members. To those forty-two members who have not as yet paid their 1975 dues, reminders were mailed at the same time. Since bill for the 1976 dues will be mailed about October 1 we will appreciate receiving the 1975 dues before then.

--- Samuel Crook, Treasurer

Further Note on Benedict Arnold and Maryland

In the July 1975 issue of News and Notes the Continental Army's Deputy Quartermaster General and Deputy-Clothier General was identified as William West of the Woodyard, in Prince George's County. Further, investigation has indicated that such may not be the case. Although Stephen West Jr. (b. 1727) did have a son Richard William, we are no longer sure that he was associated with Benedict Arnold. We hope to have the conflicting identities cleared up by next issue.

The Middle Class in Colonial Maryland

The following was extracted from the series "In Search of the American Dream" was presented by the Washington Star last year. The quotation comes from an article by Michael Kammen entitled "Sense of Identity Grows" which appeared on October 27, 1974.

The colonies had a very substantial middle class, even in the plantation colonies of the Chesapeake and lower South.

Historians have recently discovered that in Maryland, for example, the percentage of planters with personal wealth in the "middling Bracket" --between 100 pounds, sterling and 1000 pounds (approximately equal to \$2,577-and \$25,770 in 1969 purchasing power) steadily increased during the period 1710-1760. In the early part of this period, from 1710-1719, 84, percent of the planter families had a net worth in personal property of 100 pounds or less, while fewer than 1 percent of such families had net worth of 1000 pounds or more. By the 1730s those at the lower end of the scale constituted only 73 percent, with 2 percent worth 1000 pounds or more; and by the 1750's the comparable figures were 67 percent and just under 2 percent. Thus the intermediate stratum of planting families—with personal wealth between 100 pounds and 1000 pounds—increased from 15 percent to 25 percent to 31 percent in these years, while the lower echelons decreased in size proportionately.

By 1760, two-thirds of the planter class in Maryland were really lesser farmers, and they were primarily responsible for the growth of that colony's tobacco export.

Maryland's Revolutionary Leaders:

"Maryland's leaders were reluctant revolutionaries, men who wished an end to their colonial status without permanent alteration of their Provincial society." – Russel P. Menard, in Journal of American History, June 1975, p. 100.

Terror in the Dark—The Confederate Guerilla Boyle

Little written evidence of the tragic and terrifying environment which existed in lower Prince George's County during the War between the States is available at this late date. Students of that war must accept the historian's rather superficial references to divided loyalties between neighbors and even between members of the same family, but we can only speculate as to the resulting impacts on daily living. News and Notes of April 1973 reproduced some evidence in a letter from Unionist Townley B. Robey of Robey's Town (later Surrattsville---now ,Clinton) to Dr. John Bayne of Salubria (vicinity of today's Oxon Hill). This letter reported death threats against Enoch Ridgeway and two Robeys, purportedly the only Unionists in the entire area, made by Zad Jenkins, brother of Mrs. Surratt, who "is backed by all the rebels of the neighborhood, namely B.F. Gwynn, Jarboe, Burch, and Barry." The letter also labels State's Attorney Belt and Dr. Hoxton as rebel leaders.

A two part article in the Charles County Independent-Beacon (May 7 and May 14, 1975) titled "The Guerilla Boyle" graphically illustrates the situation of those dark days. Written by Mr. James Hall of Virginia, a recognized expert on the Lincoln murder, the article documents the activities of a notorious rebel guerilla whose very name evoked horror in Southern Maryland residents of the time.

Boyle's career has been assured a place in the history by the early assumption in the investigation of Lincoln's assassination that he was a part of that tragic event. Specifically, Lt. Dana, who commanded the first Federal Cavalry troops pursuing the assassin, reported from Piscataway that reliable information indicated that I Boyle had been the assailant of Secretary Seward. The attack on Seward had occurred concurrently with the attack on Lincoln. Some researchers feel that Dr. Samuel Mudd's so-called "delay" in reporting his treatment of a man later identified as Booth was occasioned by concern of retaliation by Boyle, who was being aggressively hunted at that time. Mrs. Mudd so swore in 1865. It is conceded that Dr. Mudd's delay was one of the most significant factors in his guilty verdict and that Boyle may well have been responsible for that minor delay.

Mr. Hall his meticulously researched Boyle's life and his impact on Southern Maryland. The referenced article is too voluminous to abstract, but a few instances are of particular local interest.

Capt. John H. *Boyle had* been arrested in Upper Marlborough on January 20, 1863, in Confederate uniform, and as a result, like some other Prince Georgians, became personally knowledgeable of the "Old Capitol" Prison, which stood approximately where the Supreme Court does today. Exchanged on May 19, 1863, Boyle served Maryland's General George H. Steuart, CSA, commendably at Gettysburg.

On September 13, 1864, Union Captain Thomas Watkins, on sick leave at his home in Davidsonville, Maryland, recovering from war wounds, tracked a stolen horse to J.T. Hardesty's Store at Collington, which is at the intersection of today's Route 197 and 450 in Bowie. Apprehending Boyle in possession of the horse, Watkins and his brother engaged him. Boyle shot Capt. Watkins' horse but was subsequently disarmed, "worked over pretty good," and then tied up for delivery to Baltimore. En route, Boyle succeeded in attacking Capt. Watkins and fled to St. Mary's County where he became active in the Confederate underground which extended through all of Southern Maryland.

On November 9, 1864, at the head of fifteen men, he sent death threats to Dr. George mudd, Unionist cousin of Dr. Samuel Mudd, and later to his earlier enemy, Capt. Watkins of Davidsonville. On March 25, 1865 at 8 p.m. Captain Watkins was killed by two pistol shots while reading the newspaper in his living room. On the following day, an abortive robbery attempt which caused one death at Coffren's Store in Croom was attributed to Boyle as he returned from the murder scene. One robber, in Confederate uniform, was apprehended but was pardoned after the war. The three robbers were later presumed to be part of a group of six Mosby raiders who were to attempt to capture Union funds on deposit in Leonardtown, Maryland. Many people of Southern Maryland, however, credited the bloody episodes to Boyle and concluded that it would be best to have no truck with the *Federals* while he was on the loose.

Boyle, together with George Baden, William Berry and James Judson Jarboe of the Baden area of the County, has been credited with terrorist action in Prince George's County and neighboring Charles County during the 1860 election. *The effectiveness of such action* may have contributed to the 1193 to 6 vote against Lincoln in Charles in 1860 and the 967 to 27 vote against him in 1864.

Boyle was eventually swept up in the dragnet laid out for Lincoln's assassin at Frederick, Maryland, on the-same day that Booth visited Dr. Samuel Mudd for treatment. He was convicted of the theft of Capt. Watkin's horse and his nine year sentence precluded standing trial for Watkin's murder, however. Pardoned in 1872 by Maryland Governor Whyte, Boyle vanished into obscurity although one story purports that he was hunted down in Virginia by a former trooper of Capt. Watkins and shot to death.

Mr. Hall's scholarly account is a significant addition to Southern Maryland Civil War history. His manuscript in preparation, Murder at Ford's Theater is awaited with considerable impatience by Civil War readers in view of his known expertise and research.

--Paul Lanham

Townsend's Upper Marlboro

The poem on Upper Marlboro reprinted here appeared in Tales of the Chesapeake, a collection of legends by George Alfred Townsend.

Townsend was born in Georgetown, Delaware, in 1841, the son of a carpenter who also served as itinerant Methodist preacher and later as a practitioner of medicine. During the latter part of the Civil War George Alfred Townsend's writings as a correspondent covering the battles and finally the assassination of Lincoln brought him national recognition.

Following the war Townsend was on the lecture circuit, covering every state in the Union as well as Canada, the West Indies, and Europe. During his career he continued a daily output of two columns of copy and his income was reported to range between \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually.

In the 1880's Townsend purchased a farm on South Mountain, not too far from Maryland's Civil War battlefield. In addition to several buildings, he erected a monument to the correspondents of the Civil War on the property. In recent years the site has become Cathland State Park. Cathland is derived from "Cath" Townsend's pen name which was formed by adding "h" to his initials C.A.T.

Besides Tales of the Chesapeake published in 1881, "Gath" also wrote The Entailed Hat (1884) and Katy of Catoclin (1886), both of which are set in Maryland.

The footnote below on "The Woodyard" is Townsend's. He refers to the destruction by fire "a few years ago." According to the research of Society member John M. Walton, Jr., it occurred sometime between January 22, 1866 and November 18, 1867.

In 1960, Miss Helen Zilch, a former Secretary of the Prince George's County Historical Society, delivered an address on the life and work of "Gath" at one of the meetings of the Society.

F. S. D.

Upper Marlboro'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By the high white gravelled turnpike trails the sunken, copse-grown route
Where the troops of Ross and Cockburn marched to victory, and about,
Halting twice at Upper Marl'ro, where 'tis still tradition's brag,
That 'twas Barney got the victory though the British got the swag.

But the Capital rebuilt, counts 'mid towns, rebellious this
Standing in the old slave region 'twixt it and Annapolis,
And the cannons their embrasures on *the* Anacostia forts
Open tow'rd old ruined Marl'ro and the dead Patuxent ports.

Still from Washington some traveller, tempted by the easy grades,
Through the Long Old Fields continues cantering in the evening shades,
Till he hears the frogs and crickets serenading something lost
In the aguey mists of Marl'ro' banked before him like a frost.

Then the lights begin to twinkle, and he hears the negroes' feet
Dancing in the old storehouses on the sandy business street,
And abandoned lawyers' lodges underneath the long trees lurk,
Like the vaults around a graveyard where the court-house is the kirk.

He will see the fallow old men drinking juleps, grave and bleared—
But no more their household servants at the court-house auctioneered;
And the county clerk will prove it by the records on his shelves
That the fathers of the province were no better than ourselves.

* "The Woodyard," the finest brick mansion on the western peninsula of Maryland, the seat of the Wests, twelve miles from Washington burned down a few years ago by the unaccountable ignition of the great beam of wood over the big chimney-place, which had stood there for nearly 200 years. Either seasoned by, the fire or fired by spooks, it caught in the night, and a heap of imported bricks stood next morning in the place of the Wodyard.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

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News and Notes From

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 1975

Vol. III, no. 8

October Meeting: The Search For Henry Harford

The Society's October meeting will be held at "Riversdale" on Saturday, October 11, 1975, at 2:00 p.m.

Mrs. Vera Rollo of Lanham, a member of the Society, will speak on "The Search for Henry Harford." Harford, for whom the Maryland county was named, was the illegitimate son of Frederick Calvert, the last Lord Baltimore. When Frederick died in 1771, he willed Province of Maryland to Harford, who became the last Proprietor, but did not succeed to the title of Lord Baltimore. The Revolution brought Henry Harford's proprietorship to a quick end and in following years he fought with both the Maryland and British governments over his property rights.

During two summers in England Mrs. Rollo was able to trace the life and times of this unknown man who was so closely connected with the history of our state.

Open House at His Lordship's Kindness

On Saturday afternoon, October 18, 1975, the Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust will sponsor an open house at His Lordship's Kindness, the beautiful 18th century mansion which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Walton, Sr. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, and proceeds will be contributed to the printing of the history of Bladensburg's Indian Queen Tavern. Music and refreshments will be provided, and Mr. Walton's fine collection of antique carriages will be on display.

His Lordship's Kindness will be open between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. It is located at 7606 Woodyard Road, near the intersection with Rosaryville Road, in Clinton. For more information call John Giannetti at 345-1790.

Addition to the National Register of Historic Places

The Maryland Historical Trust reports that Bostwick, one of the earliest houses in Bladensburg, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. Built by Christopher Lowndes, a prominent county merchant, in 1746, Bostwick was later owned by Benjamin Stoddert, first Secretary of the Navy. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Felix E. Cristofane.

Hospitality Committee

Mrs. Lloyd Knox of Hyattsville has very graciously consented to chair the Hospitality Committee. Other volunteers are needed to assist. Please call Mrs. Knox at 927-8685.

Van Horn Manuscript

The manuscript of Judge R. Lee Van Horn's history of Prince George's County is now being set in type by the printer. It is anticipated that publication date will be around the first of the year. More information concerning the actual date and price of the book will be forthcoming at a later time.

Future Meetings

The first meeting of the 1975-76 season was most gratifying. A group of about 60 members and friends were present at Riversdale to hear Mrs. Shirley Baltz speak on Queen Anne Town.

During the coming season some of the prospective meeting places will be College Park Airport, St. Barnabas' Church, the Mary Surratt House, and the Ferguson Farm. Christmas will take us to Montpelier once again and the St. George's Day Dinner will be held on April 25, 1976.

Contributors to the Society

The Society gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions made by the following individuals:

Mr. and Mrs. Felix E. Cristofane	Bladensburg
J. Douglas Hallock	Bowie

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following new members of the Society who were elected at the September meeting:

Name	Town	Sponsor
Mrs. Andrew Beveridge	Hyattsville	Mrs. Seidenspinner,
Mrs. Herbert C. Embrey	Adelphi	Mr. De Marr
Mrs. Catherine M. Eversfield	Hyattsville	Mrs. Ditman
Carl E. Flynn	Riverdale	Mr. De Marr
Mayor and Mrs. Jordan Harding	New Carrollton	Mr. Lanham
The Honorable Marjorie S. Holt,	H.C. Washington, D.C.	Mrs. Speicher
Mrs. Virginia Kutish	Upper Marlboro	Mr. De Marr
Leslie L. Newsom	Mt. Ranier	Mrs. Ditman, Col. Crook
Mrs. John C. Pearl	Bowie	Mr. Lanham
Dr. and Mrs. Zekin A. Shakhashiri	College Park	Mr. De Marr

Miss Ada Hill

We note with regret the recent passing of one of our charter members, Miss Ada Hill. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to her sister, Miss Minnie Hill.

On Imported English Brick

Mr. James Wilfong, a member of the Society and a writer of local history for several county newspapers, has contributed an interesting piece of information relating to the myth of imported English brick. In last month's issue of News and Notes, a footnote was printed along with George Alfred Townsend's poem, "Upper Marl'ro'," which implied that the Woodyard was built of imported brick. Mr. Wilfong points out that Mr. Townsend himself, in a paper he delivered before the Columbia Historical Society in 1903, stated that it was doubtful that any home in the state had been built of imported English brick. Brick could be made very easily locally, and ships had much more profitable cargoes to carry in their holds. Evidently sometime during the twenty-three year period between the publication of Tales of the Chesapeake and the preparation of his paper on the subject, Mr. Townsend received new information on "imported brick."

Mr. Wilfong devoted a full article to the subject of the myth of imported English brick in the Prince George's Post of April 12, 1973.

Current Items of Local Interest

Two matters initiated by the Society some years ago have been successfully completed and the cause of local history preservation benefitted as a result:

The city of Bowie has acted to preserve and maintain the Mitchell cemetery in Pointer Ridge. Stones for John Mitchell (born April 11, 1788 and died September 14, 1862) and his wife Mary Lanham (born October 26, 1801 and died July 1, 1859) are still legible, but a more lasting evidence of the name is the "Mitchellville" designation of the general area. Historian James C. Wilfong, writing in the Prince George's Post of September 25, 1959, details the land history back to an August 1, 1673 grant to Demetrius Cartwright. The brochure John Mitchell of Mitchellville (by George Mitchell Phipps, 1965) at the Maryland Historical Society, covers the area and family history in depth.

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission has acted to preserve and erect a colonial tobacco "prize" at the Watkins Regional Park in Largo. These huge wooden mechanisms, designed to compress tobacco leaf into a hogshead, are rapidly vanishing from sight and memory. Failure to capture a representative example would have been an irretrievable loss. Members interested in the historical background of the colonial money crop are referred to the booklet, Maryland and Tobacco (1971) published by the Tobacco Institute of Washington, D.C.

--Paul Lanham

On Public Education in the State of Maryland

Frank White, Jr., a member of the Society and an archivist at the Maryland Hall of Records in Annapolis, has uncovered an interesting document relating to the history of public education in Prince George's County. The document is the Annual Report of the State Board of Education for 1908, which contains a "Report of Prince George's County for the year ending July 31, 1907, on Free Text Books." The report lists the books that were used in the county school system during that year and is printed below.

Besides being a general survey of state history through the Spanish-American War, Passano's History of Maryland, (listed two-thirds of the way down the list) contains short descriptions of each county. The principal author, Leonard Magruder Passano, was born in Baltimore and died in Laguna Beach, California, in 1943. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1893 and joined the staff of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which he retired in 1935 as Professor Emeritus. Besides the History of Maryland(1901 and 1904) he wrote a text on trigonometry. His obituary in the New York Times described him thusly: "Students knew him as 'the Count' because of his aristocratic manner and careful dress. He took part in extracurricular affairs, writing several college songs and a play which was published in Boston."

Martin Bates Stephens, author of the county descriptions in the History of Maryland was born in 1862 near Denton, Maryland. He served as teacher and principal at the Greensborough (Mo.) Academy from 1885 to 1900, and received a PhD. from Washington College in 1901. From 1900 to 1920 he served as State Superintendent of Public Instruction for Maryland. He died in 1923. His description of Prince George's County is also reprinted below.

Report of Prince George's County for the Year Ending July 31, 1907 On Free Text Books

List of Books	Name of Publisher	Price
Ward's Rational Method in Reading Primer	Silver, Burdette Co.	\$.36
Cyr's The Children's Primer	Ginn & Co.	.24
Cyr's The Children's First Reader	" "	.28
Cyr's The Children's Second Reader	" "	.36
Cyr's The Children's Third Reader	" "	.50
Cyr's The Children's Fourth Reader	" "	.60

Cyr's The Children's Fifth Reader	""	.70
Heath's Primer	D.C. Heath & Co.	.25
Heath's First Reader	#1	.25
Heath's Second Reader	If	.35
Heath's Third Reader	if 11	.40
Heath's Fourth REader	11 11	.45
Jones' Reading by Grades, Book I	Ginn & Co.	.30
Jones' Reading by Grades, Book II	If If	.35
Jones' Reading by Grades, Book 111		.45
Jones' Reading by Grades, Book IV		.45
Giffin's Civics for Young Americans A. Lovell & Co.	.70	
Hazen's Grade Speller, Book I	Ginn & Co.	.15
Hazen's Grade Speller, Book 11		.30
Kittredge & Arnold's Mother Tongue, Bk. 1		.45
Kittredge & Arnold's Mother Tongue, Bk. 11		.60
Buehler's Modern English Grammar	Newson Co.	.60
Swinton's Mew Word Analysis	American Book Co.	.35
Hazen's Elementary History of the U.S. Silver, Burdette, & Co.		.60
Montgomery's Leading Facts of Amer. Hist. Ginn & Co.		1.00
Montgomery's The Beginners Amer His.	if If	.60
Montgomery's Leading Facts of Eng. His.	it 11	1.12
Passano's History of Maryland	J.C. Dulany Co.	.90
Frye's Elements of Geography	Ginn & Co.	.65
Frye's Grammar School Geography	11 It	1.25
Gibb's Natural Number Primer	American Book Co.	.25
Prince's Arithmetic by Grades, Book I to Book,VIII, each	Ginn & Co.	.20
Wentworth's First Steps in Algebra	11	.60
Wentworth's New School Algebra	if	1.12
Wentworth's First Steps in Geometry	It	.60
Wentworth's New Plane and Solid Geometry	It	1.25
Sadler-Rowe Bookkeeping	Sadler-Rowe Co.	1.60
Colton's Elementary Physiology	D.C. Heath & Co.	.60
Burkett, Steven & Hill's Agriculture for Beginners	Ginn & Co.	.75
Collar & Daniell's First Latin Book	11 11	1.00
Webster's Academic Dictionary	American Book Co.	1.50
Ginn's Medial Writing Books, per doz.	Ginn & Co.	.60
Manhattan Spelling Blanks, per doz.	Wm. J.C. Dulany Co.	.75

Prince George's.

Prince George's County, named in honor of Prince George of Denmark, husband of Queen Anne, was formed in 1695, having been originally a part of Charles. The seat of local government was first established at Mount Calvert, on the Patuxent River, but it soon removed to Upper Marlboro (named for the Duke of Marlborough in 1706). The number of white children of school age is 6,175, and the number of colored children, 5,179. Prince George's is one of the most progressive and prosperous counties of the State. Its growth is promoted largely by its proximity to the national capital. The resources of the county are mainly agricultural. In the upper section, bordering upon the District of Columbia, trucking is followed to a large extent. In the middle and southern sections corn, wheat and tobacco are cultivated--the last named on an extensive scale, forming the staple product. The annual output of the county is larger than that of any other of the tobacco growing counties. The principal towns are Upper Marlboro, Laurel, Hyattsville, Bladensburg, Forestville and Woodville. At Laurel there are cotton duck mills, and a cereal mill has recently been established at Hyattsville. Bladensburg has the distinction of having been the scene of one of the most significant battles of the War of 1812, and of many

noted duels. The academy at Upper Marlboro, established in 1835, is managed by a board of seven trustees, and has always had for its principal a capable teacher of the classics. Many persons who attained eminence in public and professional life were educated at this school. Even in colonial times Prince George's County was conspicuous for being the home of cultured and educated people; and as early as 1745 Rev. Dr. Eversfield, Rector of St. Paul's Parish, established a private school near his residence, which he continued until his death, in 1780. He taught Greek and Latin and furnished pupils with board at \$53 per annum. The Maryland Agricultural College is in this county. The area of Prince George's is 480 square miles, and its railroads are the Baltimore and Ohio, Baltimore and Potomac, Pope's Creek, and Chesapeake Beach lines. Back in the thirties the "Patuxent Manufacturing Company" was incorporated and established the present cotton mill at Laurel, the old name of the town being "Laurel Factory." The iron industry in Prince George's dates back over a century. The Snowdens, among the original settlers of the county, established furnaces at various points in southern Maryland. The Patuxent Furnace and Forge was long a notable industry. The only iron works now in operation in the county, or in rural Maryland, is the Muirkirk Furnace, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, at Muirkirk. It was erected in 1847 by Andrew and Elias Ellicott and modeled after a furnace at Muirkirk, Scotland. The population of Laurel is 2,079 and of Hyattsville, 1,222.

[The History of Maryland was published in 1901 and 1904 by Wm. J.C. Dulany Company of Baltimore, Maryland.]

A Gravestone Inscription

The following inscription was found on a gravestone in St. James Church Yard in Anne Arundel County. It was dedicated "To a Wife who died and has since 1665 been there buried." Mr. John Brennan of Laurel uncovered this record of the inscription in a junk shop.

This Register is for her bones
Her Fame is more perpetual then ye Stones
& Still her vertues, though her life be Gon
Shall live, when earthly monuments are none
Who reading this can chuse but drop
A tear for Such A wife and Such A
Moter Deare
She ran her rase And now is laid to Rest
& Allalughia Sings Amongst the blest

The Prince George's County Historical Society

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News and Notes From

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 1975

Vol. III, no. 9

November Meeting

Our regular meeting for this month will be held one week later than usual, on Saturday, November 15, 1975. The time is 2 P.M.-and the place is "Riversdale", the Calvert Mansion in Riverdale.

The Nominating Committee will report and election of officers will be held. Certain new proposals will be discussed and members are invited to raise questions or make suggestions concerning any facet of the goals and operation of the Society. There will be a short program and refreshments will be served.

Because of a delay caused by our treasurer's illness, some members did not receive their statements for 1975 dues until late summer. We want to get back on the normal schedule, so the bills for the 1976 calendar year are now being placed in the mail. We appreciate your indulgence in this matter.

The December Meeting

The Society's traditional Christmas party will be held this year on Saturday, December 6, at 2:00 p.m. at Montpelier Mansion in Laurel. Please note that the party will be the first Saturday of the month, not the second.

Friends and family are more than welcome.
bring a sample along with you to share with us.

If you have a Christmas food specialty, please

There will be no business meeting in December.

New Members of the Society

The following were elected to membership at the October meeting:

Name	Town	Sponsor
Mary Anne Tolzman	College Park	Mrs. Hienton
Mrs. Doris K. Perry	Temple Hills	Mrs. Heissenbuttel
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ruskin	Accokeek	Mr. De Marr
Mrs. Sue Jenkins	Mitchellville	Mrs. Heissenbuttel
Mrs. Eileen Dann	Laurel	Mr. Brennan, Fr. Keesler
Howard R. Adams	Bowie	Mrs. Heissenbuttel

Fires in the County

The following appeared in the April 24, 1861, issue of the Planters' Advocate and Southern Maryland Advertiser of Upper Marlboro:

"We regret to learn that, early on Monday morning last, the venerable Mansion House on the 'Graden' estate, the property of Dr. Geo. W. Berry, was burned to the ground. The furniture, etc. was saved, and there was an insurance. Graden was one of the older seats in the county, and was widely known by its long years of hospitality.

"The Parsonage attached to the Brick Church, Queen Anne Parish, about five miles from this village, was totally destroyed by fire on Friday last, together with the furniture, clothing, etc. of the Rector, the Rev. Mr. Chesley."

The Maryland Standard Yard

Few people living in this era of guaranteed land titles surrounded by such marvels as the television set and automobile, can appreciate the state of chaos which confronted our ancestors before the establishment of standards for length, weight, temperature, etc., in this county.

As our nation currently ponders the adoption of the scientifically designed metric system, it is interesting to look back to the day when the State of Maryland found it necessary to provide its growing county governments with a universal standard of length.

Constructed by one J.H. Alexander about 1845, the Maryland "Standard Yard" was made from a single piece of brass to resist corrosion and was encased in a mahogany box protected in turn by an outer softwood case. Twenty-three of these standards are believed to have been distributed and, if so, certainly Prince George's County, as a growing center of commerce, was one of the recipients.

Antique buffs would be well advised to keep alert to the possibility of encountering one of these rare relics of the early history of metrology, the science of precision measurements.

Reference. Sketch of the County Weights and Measure's Department, July 13, 1950.

--Contributed by Paul Lanham

The Longevity of Prince George's County's Inhabitants

Joseph C.G. Kennedy, Director of the U. S. Census of 1851 for the State Of Maryland, made note in his report on the census in Maryland of an interesting fact regarding tile inhabitants of Prince George's County. The following account of Kennedy's sidelight was written by the late Judge R. Lee Van Horn.

Mr. Kennedy reports that his Assistant, a Mr. Marshall, taking the 1850 census in the town of Bladensburg, wrote this report concerning tile longevity of the inhabitants of Prince George's County. He writes: "This part of Maryland is remarkable for the health and longevity of its inhabitants, many living to the age of 100 years and upwards." An old mulatto woman who had been blind for twenty years informed Mr. Marshall when he was taking the census in Bladensburg, that she was the mother of two children at the time of the Revolution. One other woman, now 105 years of age, remembered the excitement produced by the defeat and death of General Braddock. A very old lady informed him that the village of Bladensburg fostered the author and musician who composed Washington's March, and that the first time she heard it performed by the author on a fife, he was accompanied by a boy beating a drum and this boy afterwards became the celebrated lawyer and Attorney General of the United States, William Wirt.

Commemorating Veterans' Day

Those who fought long and hard for the restoration of the traditional date of November 11 for the commemoration of Veterans' Day are undoubtedly pleased with the federal government's decision to abandon the "Monday holiday" observance and revert to the original date. Although the reversion cannot take effect for at least three years, veterans' groups and other interested individuals can certainly view with satisfaction the success of their efforts.

Veterans Day was originally Armistice Day, a celebration of the anniversary of the ending of World War I and an honoring of the war's veterans. After World War II, the name of the holiday was changed to Veterans' Day, and veterans of all wars were honored. Only in the late 1960s was the date of observance changed from the traditional November 11.

Prince George's County's first official celebration of the end of hostilities was held in October 1919, with a welcome home ceremony for the returning soldiers. A parade was held in Upper Marlboro, the cornerstone for a commemorative fountain was laid, and a tablet listing the war dead was dedicated.

Reprinted below is the program of the ceremonies, contributed by Frank F. White, Jr.

PROGRAM OF EXEPCISES
for

THE WELCOME HOME,
to those who served in the World's War from
Prince George's County
and

Laying of Cornerstone of Commemorative
Fountain, and Dedication of
Tablet to the Dead

Upper Marlboro, Maryland
Tuesday, October 7th, 1919

[Page 2]

Prince George's County, in grateful acknowledgement of the splendid achievements of her sons on the field of battle and in the armed camps of the Country during the Great War of 1917-18 and in recognition of the service performed by the living and the sacrifice of the dead, has determined to erect by popular subscription, a befitting monument.

To the boys who went from among us, and from the other Countries and Cities of the Union, all honor is due and it is most desirable that the shaft here begun should forever stand as an imperishable token of that esteem, which the citizens of the County, in these ceremonies, seek to express.

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PARADE

Forms in Fair Grounds at 10 a. m. Moves at 11
a. m. West and then North to the Concrete Road, following Main
Street through Town.

Chief Marshal
John M Bowie and Aids

Mounted Guard of Honor
Bureau Printing and Engraving Band
Soldiers, Sailors and Marines
Red Cross
Soldiers, Sailors and Marines
Band
Floats
Decorated Automobiles

At the conclusion of the line of march the Soldiers

Sailors and Marines will keep their formation and march back in front of the Stand.

[Page 4]

PROGRAM

LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE (Noon)
Centennial Lodge of Masons
and their Guests.

The Corner-stone Box will contain:

- A list of the names of those who served in the World War.
- A copy of each County newspaper.
- A copy of this program.
- Coins, etc.

The Memorial Fountain:

The platform is to be of Maryland Granite, five and one-half feet square, the pier and basin are to be of limestone. The shaft will be five and one-half feet wide and twelve feet high. The face will bear a bronze relief seven by four feet, and the reverse the tablet to those to those who lost their lives.

Invocation

Rev. Francis E. McManus

[Page 5]

PROGRAM

Address of Welcome

Judge Fillmore Beall

Address to the Men of the Service

Honorable Blair Lee

Responses by-- Gordon C. Bailey, of the Army

William B. Clagett, of the Navy

Lucien Van Doren, of the Marines

Address Hon. James E. Watson, U.S. Senator

Unveiling of Tablet

Benediction Rev. Francis Loughran.

The Star Spangled Banner

Dinner For the men and women of the Service.

Lawn of the Marlboro House at 1.30.

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IN MEMORIAM

Those Who Made the Supreme Sacrifice.

Albert H. Baden	Lee Earle Merson
Henry Harrison Boswell	Isaac Parker
Herman Elmer Burgess	James Francis Quisenberry
Clarence Butler	William Redman
Vincent Genger Cooley	Frank Richmond
Harry Irvin Dennison	Robert Curtis Rusk
James Cooper	Theodore Rochester
Matthew Curtin	Harry Preston Robinson
Wilmer Aubrey Disney	John Henry Seaburn
Joseph Benedict Edelen	Edward Shoults
George W. Farmer	Albert Smith
Thomas Notley Fenwick	Maurice Benjamin Snyder
Edward H. Fletcher.	John A. Sprigg
Joseph Henry Ford	Kenneth Pearce Strawn
Ernest O. Garner Pierre C. Stevens	
Thomas Edward Hawkins	William A. Tayman
Frank Holmes	Elmer Thomas
Henry Lewis Hulbert	Benjamin E. Thompson
Charles F. Huntermann	Elzie Ellis Turner
Milton E. Hartman Herbert Page Tolson	
William Lee Herbert J. White	
Essel Monshuer Maxwell	Walter Ernest Wilson
Clarence McCausland	Herman Winter
Ernest Pendleton Magruder	

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
Fillmore Beall, Chairman
T. Howard Duckett, Secretary
H. J. Patterson,
Wm. D. Pyles
T. Van Clagett
Mrs. H.J. Patterson
George W. Waters, Jr.
Oliver S. Metzertott

Chairman Committees:
Finance Wm. S. Hill
Refreshments Mrs. H.T. Davis
Program A.T. Robinson
Music T.P. Littlepage
Decoration Mrs. Irving Bowie
Publicity C.L. Opperman
Parade & Pageant:.... E..S. Burroughs
Invitations M. Cary McNab

[End of Program]

News and Notes From

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 1975

Vol. III, no. 10

A Citizens' Petition, 1817

To the Honorable Justices of Prince George's County Court:

The Petition of the Subscribers, Chiefly inhabitants of the upper part of Prince George's County, respectfully sheweth that by an arbitrary misuse of the occupancy of lands through which the road passes from this part of the County by the Adelphi Mills to Rock Creek Church and Georgetown, they have been and are at this time entirely excluded from the use of the old Road and the only road leading from this part of the County to Georgetown. Your Petitioners also beg leave to represent that the said road has been opened and used as a Public Road for a great length of time (It is believed longer than the oldest Inhabitants of our neighbourhood can recollect) and that many years since this Road was straightened and amended by the entire consent of all the proprietors of lands through which it passed, and at the Expense of the Neighbourhood who were in the habit of Using said Road. Since which time they have been Improving it at considerable Expense and Trouble. And Further, in the Fall of the Year 1815 it was very considerably Improved by the Stage proprietors & others by whom it was made us of for a considerable time as a stage Road to Ellicott Mills and Baltimore and a new bridge erected over the North West Branch at the Adelphi Mills by the Proprietors of said Mills & Stages for the use and accomodation of all persons who travelled the road. And also that by the said Road being now stopped on the land of Mr. Wm. D. Digges, through some part of which it of necessity must pass, we are entirely deprived of any direct Road to market and the Benefit of all the labour and Expense which has been bestowed upon the same.

It is understood that some years ago Commissioners were appointed to locate and lay off a County Road from Crow's Mill on the Patuxent by the Blanket Factory & the Adelphi Mills to the line of the District of Columbia near Rock Creek Church, which for some cause unknown to us, was never fully acted on and that said Commissioners are now mostly removed from the County or dead.

Your petitioners therefore beg leave to submit to the consideration of the Honorable Court the Propriety of appointing other Commissioners to locate and open said County Road or such portion thereof as the Court may deem necessary on the nearest and most Eligible route and at as Early a period as may be practicable. And Until such County Road may be open for Use that the old Road from the Adelphi Mills passing through the lands of Wm. D. Digges may be kept open for use as heretofore. All which is respectfully submitted by your Petitioners, who as in duty bound will pray.

Eighty-three persons signed this petition, among them several Bealls, Belts, Edmonstons, Chews, Prathers, and Bowmans. One of the more interesting signatures is of a "Richd Nixon." It is interesting to speculate how the local citizenry would react today if they found one morning that Riggs Road was closed!

In Memoriam-Mrs. Paul T. Lanham

We regret to report the untimely passing in October of Shirley Pyle Lanham, wife of Paul T. Lanham, immediate past president of the Society. Mrs. Lanham was a native of College Park, where her father, the late Milton Pyle, was Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the University of Maryland.

The Society wishes to extend its deepest sympathy to Mr. Lanham and his family.

New Member of the Society

Sponsor

Name
Robert A. Truax

Town
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Lanham

Mr. Truax, a distinguished member of the Columbia Historical Society in the District of Columbia was; elected at the May 1975 meeting, however his name was inadvertently omitted from an earlier issue of News and Notes. We regret the delay in reporting his election.

Prince George's County and the "Bank War"

With the election of General Andrew Jackson as President of the United States in 1828 there was the triumph of the "common man." For the first time a candidate from the West became President, a man who was not a part of the eastern aristocracy. Although President John Quincy Adams had been a candidate for reelection, Jackson's principal adversary had been another Westerner, Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky. Jackson was triumphant, but the intrigues involved in the major realignment of political parties and the emergence of the states beyond the Allegheny Mountains as a center of electoral power, caused his administration to be a turbulent one. One of the major upheavals during Jackson's two terms of office involved the second Bank of the United States.

When Alexander Hamilton became first Secretary of the Treasury under President Washington, the credit of the new United States was at a low ebb. In addition to assumption of the state war debts by the national government and the establishing of a tariff, Hamilton recommended that Congress charter a national bank to serve as fiscal agent of the government.

The Bank of the United States was a semi-private institution having ten private directors and five directors appointed by the President. About six million dollars in stock was purchased by the government and in addition, all funds of the United States were deposited therein.

Over the years the Bank of the United States contributed to building the fiscal reputation of the new government. Sound banking practices meant that its drafts and notes were honored at near par in all Parts of the new nation. On the other hand, notes issued by state chartered local banks were not universally accepted and often great sums were lost in the discount process.

During the Madison administration the charter of the bank was allowed to expire. The earlier curtailment of trade during Jefferson's embargo and the War of 1812 brought economic chaos during the post war years. Realizing the need for stability, the bank was rechartered by Congress in 1820.

The principal figure in the second Bank of the United States was Nicholas Biddle of Philadelphia, its president. The triumph of Jackson, however, was seen as a threat to the future of the bank.

President Jackson recognized the value of the Bank in the stability of the American economy, however he expressed extreme reservations about the profits of the private stockholders (Biddle and friends) from the non-interest bearing federal funds deposited there.

Ultimately Biddle, with the backing of Senators Clay, Webster, and Calhoun decided to do battle with Jackson over the issue of a new charter for the bank, which was due to expire in 1836. Jackson retaliated by directing the Secretary of the Treasury to withdraw government funds from the Bank of the United States and deposit them in the state chartered banks. Battle lines were drawn and the conflict was to bring economic havoc in the nation for a period of several years.

In the fight to recharter the Bank of the United States, every possible approach was used by both sides to sway public opinion and force Congress to vote in a particular way. Bank money was used to buy members and also to grease the machinery of the public press. Loans were made available to key people and in some cases loans were written off.

Another major form of attack used upon the Jackson forces by the Bank was the ancient right of petition. Memorials from citizens of all classes began to flow into Washington. Each blamed the great economic crisis of the country upon the removal of the government funds from the Bank of the United States and likewise noted that the actions of President Jackson would bring the Nation to an end. When these petitions were received by the Senate or House, each would be subject of several speeches after having been read and placed in the journal.

The Biddle forces further improved upon this technique of the hostile petition by urging delegations to travel to Washington and present them in person to their representatives in Congress or the President. The local boarding houses and hotels, as well as the galleries in the Capitol, were filled with angry men and angry talk.

Prince George's County, Maryland, had not been immune to the problems of the times. On April 7, 1834, there was "read, and laid upon the table" in the House of Representatives a "Proceedings and Memorial of Eight Hundred Voters of Prince, George's County, in favor of restoring public deposits to the Bank of the United States."

A meeting of delegates from the several election districts of the County and a large number of other citizens as well had met at Upper Marlboro on March 17, 1834, pursuant to a notice signed by "many of the most respectable citizens of the County." Robert W. Bowie, Esq. was called to the chair and Thomas J. Marshall, Thomas B. Hall and Henry J. Brent, Esqs, were appointed Secretaries.

The meeting zeroed in on Jackson. It was resolved,

"That we disapprove of the course pursued by the President of the United States in removing the Government deposits from the Bank of the United States, to which cause, and to hostility which he has manifested towards that institution, we attribute all the distress which, is now prevailing throughout the country."

The resolutions adopted provided for a committee of five persons from each election district which was instructed to proceed to Washington to call upon the "honorable John T. Stoddert, our Representative in Congress." Stoddert was "instructed to aid, by his influence and vote, in procuring the restoration of the Government deposits to the Bank of the United States."

The memorial presented these basic observations:

1. The deranged and disordered state of the currency of the country was caused by the President's "unfortunate and ill-advised" removal of the government fund from the Bank of the United States, where they had been placed by law.
2. The memorialists are primarily planters of tobacco, and farmers, and the economic crisis has brought depression in the price of 'the staple crops, tobacco and wheat. If allowed to continue they feared that the price of land itself would drop.
3. Finally the signers of the memorial indicated that they had no personal interest in the Bank of the United States, however economic stability would only return with the restoration of the government funds in the Bank.

Those citizens who were designated as members of the official delegation were as follows: Robert W. Bowie, W.B.C. Worthington. Thomas Holland, Henry McPherson, Wm. R. Barker, M.S.S. Waring, Thomas Mundell, Wm. Marshall R.C. Edelin, Wm. L. Marbury, Henry P. Daingerfield. Benj. Ogle, Samuel Sprigg, Benj. F. Gantt, Edward W. Belt, Robert D. Sewall, Notley Maddox, Thomas Berry, Alfred Tolson, Richard T. Lowndes, Zach. Berry, jr., Thomas Ferral, Robert Wright, Levi Wright, Levi Sheriff, Geo. W. Duvall, Robert Bowie, Charles Duvall, Benjamin Welsh, Fielder Cross. Robert Bowie, Chairman.

This petition, however, was not the last to appear before Congress from Prince George's County. On April 14, 1834, just one week later, the "Proceedings of a Meeting of Citizens of Upper Marlborough against the Bank of the United States" was presented to the House of Representatives.

In the chair at this citizens' meeting was Col. David Crawford and J.B. Brooke, H.C. Scott and Judson W. McKnew were appointed secretaries. The Principal speaker on the occasion was the Hon. J.C. Herbert, who had served in Congress from the district during the period as a Federalist.

The petition adopted by the meeting and sent to Congress contained a scorching condemnation of the tactics of the Bank of the United States and its officers. The current economic crisis was laid at their feet.

On the other hand, the petitioners commended President Jackson for his "integrity, intelligence and patriotism." Likewise they commended Roger Brooke Taney of Maryland, who removed the funds from the Bank of the United States after his two predecessors as Secretary of the Treasury in Jackson's cabinet refused to act.

In retrospect, the names contained on the two petitions from Prince George's County mirror the upheaval and realignment in American political parties which was in progress at the time. It is difficult to understand why John C. Herbert, an old Federalist who would have supported the bank in earlier times, was attacking it. Likewise former Governor Samuel Sprigg, one of our early "liberals," was supporting the Bank. The answer to these strange alignments can only come through an in-depth study of county politics during the 1830s.

Reminder

The Society's annual Christmas Party will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 5, at Montpelier in Laurel.

News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 1975

Vol. III, no. 11

December Meeting

The Society's 1975 Fall program will close with the traditional Christmas Party on Saturday, December 5 at 2 00 p.m. at Montpelier Mansion in Laurel. Please bring your friends to join us in celebrating Christmas at Montpelier the way the Snowdens did during the 18th century. If you have a particular Christmas food specialty, bring a sample along to share.

Please note that the party is on the first Saturday of the month, not the second. There will be no formal business meeting. Montpelier Mansion is located on Route 197 just south of Laurel.

The Society's regular meeting program will resume in March 1976.

A Holiday Message

The Christmas season was always the happiest in colonial Maryland, for all found time to put aside their normal routines to visit with friends and celebrate the most joyous of holidays. The joy the colonist felt at the coming of the Christmas season is reflected in the following poem which was published in the Virginia Almanack in the eighteenth century.

Christmas is come, hang on the pot,
Let spits turn round, and ovens be hot
Beef, pork, and poultry, now provide
To feast thy neighbours at this tide
Then wash all down with good wine and beer
And so with mirth conclude the YEAR.

Friends of Montpelier

The Friends of Montpelier, a new group forming to promote the maintenance and preservation of Montpelier Mansion in Laurel, will hold an organizational meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 1975, at 7 30 p.m. at the mansion.

The group plans to contribute its time and talents to various projects which will improve the physical state of the mansion, raise money for its preservation, and promote the use of the Montpelier properties. Among the projects the group will work on is the conversion of the mansions barn into a theater of the round and arts center, which is being planned by Park and Planning.

For more information, call Mrs. Jean Speicher at 776-3089.

Election of officers for 1976

At the November meetings the following were elected to serve as officers of the Prince George's County Historical Society for the term of one year.

President.....	Frederick S. De Marr
Vice President	David F. Rinn
Treasurer...	Col. Samuel Crook
Corresponding Secretary.	Mrs. Frank Bagot

Recording Secretary.
Historian.
Directors.

Mrs. John Walton, Jr.
James C. Wilfong, Jr.
Mrs. Felix Cristofane
Dr. Otho T. Beall, Jr.
Mrs. John Walton, Sr.
John C. Brennan
Les Ticknor
Frank F. White, Jr.

Awards Committee members.

Members of various committees were also appointed by Mr. De Marr at the November meeting. The committees and members will be listed in the next issue of News and Notes.

Mr. Forrest Bowie, of Mount Lubentia, Upper Marlboro, who served as a Director of the Society, chose not to seek reelection. We thank him warmly for the many contributions to the Society he made during his service as an officer.

State House by Candlelight

"The State 'House by Candlelight, "a Christmas program" featuring musical entertainment sponsored by the State House Trust, will be held Tuesday through Thursday, December 16, 17, and 18, from 7 30 P.m. to 8 30 p.m. at the State House in Annapolis. There is no charge for admission, but tickets must be obtained in advance. Tickets may be obtained by writing "State House by Candlelight," 1748 Forest Drive, Annapolis, Md. State your first and second choice of dates.

Violent Storms in Southern Maryland

The following account appeared in the Baltimore Sun of Thursday, May 20, 1858.

Destructive Storm in Patuxent

We learn from passengers who arrived last evening on the steamer Planter from Patuxent River, that portions of Prince George's, Calvert, and Charles Counties were visited by a tremendous thunder storm accompanied with rain and hail. The wind blew a hurricane. There is great destruction of property reported.

Among the sufferers are Mr. James F. Waters whose barn was blown and one of his negros reported killed, John B. Adams barn blown down, G. W. Horton, barn blown down; Z.G. Harrison's servant struck by lightning, a carriage and horse belonging to Mr. J.D. Bowling was blown over but no lives lost, and two yoke of oxen were blown into the river.

During the storm the Planter was lying at Truman's point in Calvert County. She parted her moorings and with the greatest difficulty her bow was kept to the wind and with a heavy steam prevented from being forced on the bank of the river. The furniture on the Hurricane deck was blown into the river and one of her hands was blown overboard and drowned. The upper portion of the boat was considerably worsted but no serious damage was done to her.

The storm appears to have passed over Woodville, Prince George's County, and through Calvert County towards the bay. At Bryantown, Charles County, hail is reported to have fallen to the depth of several inches, but not so heavily at Truman's Point. The above losses are only a portion of the damage reported to have been sustained by the planters in the track of the storm.

--Contributed by Frank F. White, Jr.

The First Aerial Machine Gun

The following item relating to an important development in the history of military aviation which occurred in College Park is quoted from volume 1 of The Machine Gun by Lt. Col. George M. Chinn, U.S.M.C., published by the U.S. Government Printing Office in 1951.

"A week after the world was saddened by news of Wilbur Wright's death from typhoid fever on Memorial Day, 1912, an event concerning aviation took place on 7 June 1912, that would in time directly affect mankind far more than did the pioneer flight at Kitty Hawk. For on this day, Capt. Charles De Forest Chandler successfully fired a full automatic weapon from an aircraft in flight for the first time in aviation history.

"The experiment was carried out unofficially. Lt. Col. Isaac N. Lewis, Coast Artillery, United States Army, had devised a weapon for the Automatic Arms Co. of Buffalo, N.Y. Feeling it was a most progressive step in machine gun construction, he visualized its use in the most promising development of the day, the flying machine. With this in mind and knowing that success of his experiment would guarantee endless favorable publicity, he arrived at College Park with no introduction other than his rank. The suggestion that the weapon be air fired as an incentive both to aviation and machine gun development was placed before Captain Chandler, the commanding officer at College Park. The latter not only granted the request but offered to fire it personally.

"For once the newspapers were caught by surprise and although the firing was done almost within sight of the nation's capital, the news did not reach the public until the following day. Had it not been for an enthusiastic amateur photographer named Mac Cartee, I who journeyed to College Park and asked Captain Chandler to pose with the gun in the plane, no picture of the event would be in existence today.

"Newspapers and magazines everywhere carried the picture and much was written about the future of aircraft in warfare. The experiment proved that sustained fire would not upset a plane's balance, as the experts had accepted as a certainty."

--Contributed by Paul Lanham

The Prince George's County Historical Society

President	Frederick S. De Marr	277-0711
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Edith Bagot	927-3632
Newsletter Editor	Alan Virta	772-5448