

News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January 1976

Vol. IV, no. 1

Committees and Committee Projects for 1976

Besides the election of officers for 1976 which was reported in the December 1975 issue of News and Notes, the other major item of business at the November meeting was the naming of committee members. Three of the committees of the Society will present major reports to the membership at the first meeting in March 1976. These committees are

1. Bylaws. Over the years the bylaws of the Society have become somewhat outdated. A revision is being prepared.
2. Collection. From time to time artifacts have been offered or presented to the Society. The lack of a permanent headquarters to house such material has caused us to tread lightly in this area. The major question to be considered by the committee is what our future commitment to a Permanent collection should be, as well as the ways and means for caring for the same.
3. Library. As in the case of artifacts, books and other library material have been presented to the Society. In recent years, almost daily requests for information on county history are received. The committee will report recommendations as to whether we should proceed with the development of a full-fledged library on local history.

The persons named to committees for 1976 by the President are as follows.

Bylaws--Col. Samuel Crook, Chairman. Vera Rollo, David Rinn, Edith Bagot

Collection--Herbert Embrey, Chairman. John M. Walton, Jr., Otho T. Beall, Jr.

Hospitality--Lois Knox, Chairman.

Library--Betty Ticknor, Chairman. Alan Virta, Mary Ann Tolzman.

Membership--Paul T. Lanham, Chairman.

Program--J. Douglas Hallock, Chairman.

Awards--The officers, and Leslie Ticknor, John Brennan, and Frank White.

Any member of the Society who is interested in working in any of the above areas is invited to contact the committee chairmen directly or through the Society's mailing address, P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Md. 20840.

Program for 1976

Our new Program committee chairman, Douglas Hallock, prepared a report and member questionnaire which was distributed at the November meeting. A copy of this paper is enclosed with this issue of News and Notes. It would be most helpful for future program planning if each member would take a few minutes to express their views and return form by mail to Mr. Hallock.

St. George's Day

Nominations for the St. George's Day Awards should be sent to John C. Brennan, 513 Main Street, Laurel, Md. 20810, by February 15. Please mark the dinner date, April 23, on your calendar. Invitations will be mailed at a later date.

Contributors to the Society

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

Mr. Theodore Bissell	University Park
Mr. Forrest D. Bowie	Upper Marlboro
Mr. John C. Brennan	Laurel
Col. and Mrs. Samuel Crook	Laurel
Mr. John Giannetti	College Park
Mrs. Sara M. Lumpkins	Seabrook
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Marshall, Sr.	Laurel
Miss Ardella Miller,	Laurel
Mrs. Robert B. Sasscer	Upper Marlboro
Mr. and Mrs. Paul. A. Scherer	Glenn Dale
Mr. Robert A. Truax	Washington, D.C.
Mrs. William Hallam Tuck,	Upper Marlboro
Beverly C. Walker	Hyattsville
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Walton, Sr.	Clinton
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Wilfong, Jr.	Prince Frederick
Dr. Vivian Wiser	College Park

We would also like to thank Mrs. Elsie R.N. O'Neill of Indianapolis, Indiana, who has made a very generous gift to the Society for use by the Friends of Montpelier in memory of her late husband, Henry H. O'Neill.

Next Meeting of the Society

Members are reminded that there will be no meetings during the months of January and February. The 1976 program will begin with the March meeting.

Rendezvous at Bladensburg

Civil War students are well versed in the chronology of the Confederate General Jubal Early's attempt to take the Nation's Capital in mid-1864. This bold plan was designed to force Grant's army to abandon Richmond and return north to Washington's aid. As a corollary to this effort, an effort was also to be attempted to free the 15,000 Confederate prisoners confined at Point Lookout in St. Mary's County who had no hope for exchange, as a result of Union strategy to deplete the South's small military manpower pool.

Maryland's Confederate General Bradley T. Johnson was assigned the seemingly impossible tasks of isolating the Baltimore rail head north and south of that city by destroying railroad bridges and telegraph wires and then proceeding to capture Point Lookout. Three days were allowed for the entire undertaking, which involved a movement of 250 miles and numerous successful guerilla-type raids. Upon the release of the Confederates at Point Lookout, Bradley was to convey them to Bladensburg in Prince George's County where they would remain until transportation to the South could be arranged.

History records Early's advance on unprotected Washington and his fatal pause at today's Walter Reed Hospital area. He was duped by a mass of untrained civilians manning Fort Stevens at today's 13th Street and Piney Branch Road who successfully conveyed the impression of regular Union forces awaiting his attack. Regular Union troops were at that moment, however, unloading at the Maine Street wharf and double-timing through the city to the relief of the undermanned Fort Stevens. Early's easy victory was quickly precluded by his short pause to evaluate his chances, and with added troops, the fort resisted his attacks.

General Johnson was meanwhile engaged in the northern portion of his assigned tasks. Routing 1000 Federal cavalry at Beltsville in Prince George's County who retreated into Bladensburg, he cut the B & O railroad, left a holding force at today's University of Maryland, and started for Point Lookout with 80 miles to go in seventeen hours. His success seemed likely as Southern sympathizers along the route were standing by with necessary replacement horses. However, as he started for St. Mary's County he learned that Union relief troops, the 19th Corps, were leaving Baltimore for emergency reinforcement of Washington and sent that word to General Early.

Johnson's communication convinced Early that he had lost his opportunity to capture Washington and he commenced his withdrawal back across the Potomac River via Poolesville, recalling Johnson for rear guard protection.

Loaded with wagon trains of Prince George's County plunder, including large herds of horses and cattle, Johnson successfully protected Early's withdrawal against persistent Union thrusts. This ride from July 9 to July 13 was probably the longest sustained ride of the war, 120 hours without cease except for short stops every twenty-four hours to feed the horses.

The little town of Bladensburg, long eclipsed as a bustling Pre-Revolution center of commerce and trade, probably never realized the potential turmoil and excitement which it narrowly escaped by virtue of the changing fortunes of war.

---Paul T. Lanham

References. Confederate Military History, vol II.
Chapters I-X by Brig Gen. Bradley T. Johnson.
Confederate Publishing Company, 1899.

A History of the University of Maryland by George H. Callcott.
Maryland Historical Society, 1966.

Reveille in Washington by Margaret Leech. City Pub. Co., 1945.

General Bradley Johnson and the University of Maryland

In A History of the University of Maryland, George Callcott records an interesting sidelight to the campaign undertaken by Confederate General Jubal Early to capture Washington in July 1864, the subject of Paul Lanham's article above.

Confederate General Bradley Johnson, with 400 cavalymen, arrived at the Maryland Agricultural College grounds in College Park late in the afternoon of July 11. Most of the trustees of the institution, like many Marylanders, were Southern sympathizers, and the president of the college greeted Johnson and his men with open arms. There were no classes that summer, but the college was able to serve meals to all of Johnson's men without much delay, and the Rossborough Inn was turned over to Johnson for use as a headquarters. Callcott writes, "No one knows what happened later that night, except that passers-by along the road reported they saw carriages of ladies moving toward the hill and imagined they heard music." The next day Johnson and his men departed.

The events of that evening of July 11 have become enshrined in legend as "The Old South Ball," the last hurrah of the pro-Southern gentry of Prince George's County, a grand ball with Maryland's most illustrious Southern general and his men. Whatever happened, the reaction was harmful to the college. Newspapers blasted the college, and the U.S. Army wanted to know if the college President had had advance notice of the visit. They were particularly interested in finding out how the college could serve 400 soldiers when classes were out for the summer, and if there indeed been a ball for the Confederates. The State Legislature,

overwhelmingly Unionist in 1864, was especially angry. The college had severe financial problems at the time, and its future was uncertain. Many talked of closing the school. This incident provided ammunition for the college's critics. Only the passage of the Morrill Act, which provided federal aid for higher education and much needed financial help for the institution kept it afloat.

Bradley Johnson's stay at the University was not the only visit by military forces during the war. On April 24 Union General Ambrose Burnside's 9th Army Corps, which was moving from Annapolis to Virginia to Join General Grant, camped overnight on the college grounds.

-- Alan Virta

Review of A Recent Maryland Book

The Quays of the City by Shirley Baltz. (Annapolis. The Liberty Tree, Ltd. 1975) pp. vii, 63.

Shirley Baltz has compiled and written a superb account of the brisk and energetic activity which took place in the port of Annapolis during the 18th century. The first chapter outlines a brief history of the total city, beginning with the earliest land records in the mid-17th century, through various stages of development, eventually becoming a fast paced commercial center and major port of entry in the last quarter of the 18th century.

The plum of the first chapter is the collection, in chronological order, of excerpts from the journals, letters, and diaries of over 30 visitors to Annapolis from 1698 to 1811. Here we are given valuable insight into the social patterns and commercial enterprise of the area by considering the early city through this picturesque and informative medium of quotes—sometimes scholarly, yet frequently pungent and outspoken. From the quotes of such eyewitnesses as Thomas Jefferson, Rev. Jonathan Boucher, General Otho Williams, Rev. Andrew Burnaby, William Eddis, and Samuel Vaughn, we readily visualize the process of development and design of Annapolis as gleaned through their impressions.

In the succeeding chapters of the book Mrs. Baltz examines the Annapolis community by selecting various key areas, such as the dock, the junction of Main and Compromise Streets, Green, Main and Pinkney Streets, and finally, the market area.

This is a modest book, easy to read, but nontrivial in content--an unusual achievement. Mrs. Baltz has covered ground little explored by other Maryland historians, her presentation deftly blending conscientious research with an exciting format which traces Annapolis social and economic history during the formative 17th and 18th century years.

Though an excellent reference for specialists and students, this small volume will prove fascinating to nonspecialists interested in Maryland history, particularly Annapolis.

Included in the book are an excellent street map of Annapolis as it was in 1718, based on the James Stoddert survey, as well as an abundance of footnote references indicating sources.

Mrs. Baltz is a Marylander by early transplant, currently living with her family in Bowie where she serves on the Heritage Committee for the City of Bowie. Her particular interest in researching the development of early Annapolis was originally stimulated by having been a Tour Guide for Historic Annapolis.

--Elizabeth Ticknor

(Mrs. Baltz spoke to the Society at the September meeting on Queen Anne Town--An Early Patuxent River port.--Editor)

Horse Breeding in the County

An advertisement in the Washington Nation Intelligencer of April 19, 1842

The thoroughbred turf horse, PRINCE GEORGE, by Old Industry, his best son out of Thistle, the dam of Argyle, Tecumseh, etc., will stand the ensuing season, commencing the first of March, ending the last of July, at his owner's farm, near Good Luck Post Office, Prince George's county, Maryland, fifteen miles from Washington, twenty from Annapolis, and thirty from Baltimore.

Prince George is a beautiful dark bay, without white, is full 16 hands high, perfect form, and great powers, and is without blemishes in any respect.

Terms. \$25-00 the season for bred mares. A limited number of common mares at \$10.00 the season.

Pedigree in full may be seen by a reference to the Turf Register.

Good Pasturage at \$3 a month. Mares grain-fed for 37 1/2 cents per day. Every attention paid to mares, but no liability for accidents or escapes. G. W. Duvall.

In the next issue of News and Notes-- Prince George's County's "New Quality program" --of 1867!

Prince George's County Historical Society

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News and Notes from the

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 1976

Vol. IV no. 2

An Invitation for Development and Investment: Rebuilding after The Civil War

In 1867 the State Senate published a booklet entitled. "A Succinct Exposition of the Industrial Resources and Agricultural Advantages of the State of Maryland." From the title, it's evident that the booklet was designed to attract development and investment to Maryland--a state whose economy was severely battered by the Civil War and. its effects.

The publication of this tract must have been welcome to the people of Prince George's County for the county badly in need of economic help. The county's wealth was derived chiefly from its agricultural production, and the decade of the 1860's, with the Civil War and its aftermath, saw the county's agricultural economy crumble. In 1860, the year before the outbreak of the war, the county produced 13,446,550 pounds of tobacco. In 1870, only 3,665,054 pounds were produced. In 1860 county farmers produced 312,996 bushels of wheat; while in 1870 they produced just 79,706 bushels. Corn production fell too: from 699,144 bushels in 1860 to 518,131 bushels in 1870. Even the livestock population declined. The number of horses fell from 4701 to 3434; the number of working oxen was reduced from 3441 to 1247; the sheep population fell from 8,828 to 4906; and the number of milk cows fell from 3887 to 2620. While comparison of figures such as these from the United States censuses is a tricky business--because the bases of counting, the accuracy of counting, and other factors which vary from census to census and from census-taker to census-taker, may not be consistent over the years--it is evident, nevertheless, that agriculture in Prince George's County suffered a drastic decline between 1860 and 1870.

What caused such devastation? Probably the greatest contributing factor was the social revolution of 1864--the freeing of the slaves. Much of the county's agricultural production in 1860 was dependent on slave labor--in fact, there were more slaves in the county in 1860 than free men. Census statistics for 1860 record 12,479 slaves; 9650 and 1190 free blacks. There were 2056 free families in the county in 1860, and 847 slaveholders. While we cannot assume that there was just one slaveholder per slaveholding family, we can see that a sizable minority--41% being the highest possible figure--held at least one slave. And virtually all the larger farms and plantations held many slaves. Almost four hundred of the 847 slaveowners owned ten slaves or more. The liberation of this labor force, with many of the new freedmen choosing to leave the county, undoubtedly had quite an effect on agricultural production. The several published genealogies and histories of local families record numerous instances of ruined fortunes.

The freeing of the slaves was not the only blow to the economy, though. The absence of so many of the young men who were away at war for several years must have hurt. So, too must have the disruption of normal trading patterns which the war brought on. The end of the war and the new social order which came into being required the development of a new agricultural system. Such an undertaking could not be accomplished quickly. Attracting new development was just one step in the undertaking and the State Senate's booklet was one measure to attract that development.

"A Succinct Exposition of the Industrial Resources and Agricultural Advantages of the State of Maryland" was written by James Higgins, Professor of the Natural Sciences and of Agriculture in the Maryland Agricultural College (now the University of Maryland, College Park). Higgins was an 1839 graduate of the University of Maryland's medical school in Baltimore and served as State Agricultural chemist in the early 1850's. As State Agricultural Chemist, he had been charged with analyzing soils for local farmers, educating them in the use of the best fertilizers, and delivering general lectures on better farming methods. Several of his works survive in libraries around the nation, all of them agriculturally or geologically oriented.

Where, and to whom, was Higgins' booklet circulated? The National Union Catalog indicates that copies are presently held in the Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, Library Company of Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, New York Public Library, American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Mass., and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. NO midwestern or western libraries are listed as possessing the booklet. We can see, therefore, that copies drifted up and down the East Coast; whether the booklet was distributed more widely is a matter for further research.

And what were the practical effects of the tract? Clearly, Prince George's County was still in a bad state in 1870—three years after the publication of the booklet. By 1880 production figures were up, by no means to 1860 levels, but up nevertheless significantly from 1870. But what role this "succinct exposition" played in the recovery is a matter for debate and further investigation--if it can be determined at all.

--Alan Virta

Sources: The published census figures for 1860, 1870, and 1880.
A History of The University of Maryland by George Callcott, Maryland Historical Society, 1966.

The Prince George's County portion follows on the next page.

A SUCCINCT EXPOSITION
INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES
AGRICULTURAL ADVANTAGES of the
STATE OF MARYLAND.
Prince George's County

This county, with Anne Arundel, constitutes the northern part of the western section of tide water division of Maryland it is bounded on the north by Montgomery County, on the south by Charles county, on the west by the Potomac river and the District of Columbia, and on the east by the Patuxent River, which separates it from Anne Arundel county. It has an average breadth of about twenty-two miles, and its length is about thirty miles, and it contains about three hundred and fifteen thousand acres. This county has four natural divisions as to soil and topographical peculiarities.

First. That lying on the Baltimore and Washington railroad, comprising the northern, or rather northwestern part of the county. This partakes of the general character of the lands already described as existing on the B. and W. Railroad in Anne Arundel County, with more of the reddish clay loam, with some patches of loose, gravelly soil. As the county retires from the railroad south, the clay becomes heavier and more sticky, alternating with a large proportion of light gravelly soil. These lands have all the ready advantages of constant communication with Washington, the time of which occupies less than at one hour at the farthest point (the Laurel Factory), to fifteen minutes to the nearest one at Bladensburg—whilst in little more than one hour Annapolis and Baltimore may be reached. The most prominent features of this country we well-rounded hills and gentle undulations, affording handsome positions for dwellings. On the Patuxent there is a narrow belt of light sandy soil, which, farther back into the country, changes into a light gravelly loam,—more fertile and productive than the land directly on the stream. On the Patuxent river, and in the neighborhood of the county seat of Upper Marlboro, and occupying a large portion of the central and eastern sections of the county, there exists in great perfection the clayey soils which have before [been] described an "Forest of P.G. Soils, or the Green Sand Soils," and what I have said of the cheapness and fertility and excellence, need not here be repeated. They stretch back from the Patuxent river to the interior of the county, and thus lie either directly on or but a short distance from steamboat navigation on the one side, or within from eight to ten miles of Washington City, (by no means too far for a country residence) on the other. Being, as a general thing somewhat lighter in texture than the South and West river soils, they produce the finest quality of tobacco in

great abundance. The productiveness, health, convenience to market and the ease with which these soils can be cultivated, leaves nothing additional to be said in their favor. The country bordering on the Potomac lies high, dry and rolling, having beautiful locations for dwellings, with lovely water and inland views. The soils are less strong than those just mentioned, but are sold at a lower rate, and have the advantages of the cheap and speedy water carriage of the Potomac River, together with the advantages of the Potomac herring and shad fisheries. On Hanson's branch, and other streams emptying into the Potomac, the soils are also very productive, of easy cultivation, and cheaply improved. The physical character of this soil is of the best quality, and admirably adapted to the cultivation of the finest fruits and choicest vegetables production. This has been long demonstrated by the gentlemen resident here, who, notwithstanding the calls of the usual arduous duties of farming life, have found time to produce, in the greatest perfection, all the fruits flowers, and vegetables of this latitude, the average production of their gardens and orchards being fully equal to the exhibits in the Northern Pomological and Horticultural Societies, and in many kinds of fruits and vegetables far surpassing them. In this section of the county are some very good shell marls containing a sufficiency of lime (air slaked) to render their application valuable to the adjacent lands, though they are not so good as those found in other parts of the State. The refuse of the fisheries afford very cheap and powerful domestic manure, whilst the contiguity of Washington and Alexandria furnish ample resources for all the foreign concentrated manures which the wants of the soil require.

The ridge or table lands in the highest parts of the county, in which the waters that flow into the Patuxent and Potomac respectively take their rise, is of a compact texture generally, though many parts of it are of the class of sandy loams. They are principally covered with a growth of white and black oak, have not been subject to much improvement and can be purchased at a very cheap rate when their local advantages are considered. Good husbandry will in a very short time make them very fertile and productive in all of the crops known in this section; they are easily worked and can be materially improved by proper drainage and cultivation alone.

These lands extending from the long old fields to the southern border of the county, chiefly situated in its middle portions, can be bought in large contiguous tracts and thus offer advantages to land companies and corporations ions which purchaser (sic) on speculation not found in lands of superior quality. They at present, are for sale at prices varying from five to twenty-five dollars per acre, and at the highest figure are safe and valuable investments, better by far than anything than can be obtained in western or northwestern lands.

The capacity of this county for the rearing in the highest degree of perfection, all the higher grades of our domestic animals fully attests the value of its soil and climate. In it some of the best blooded horses in the country have been raised, whose performances on the turf have for years and now are challenging the admiration of the best judges. Excellence in horse raising, requiring as it does, bottom and speed, with perfect development of bone and muscle, and these dependant on nutrition and climate, is one of the best evidences of superior climate and soil, without these the attainments is impossible. In cattle, too, the herds of some of the public spirited planters and farmers of this county have borne away prizes from the best, in other sections of the country, not only in one but many instances, at places far distant from each other, and by the opinions of various judges specially noted for knowledge in all that concerns the excellencies of stock raising. There is some iron ore in the northern part of the county, and large deposits of tripoli in the neighborhood of Nottingham. This, composed mainly of microscopic shells, is the very best article known for giving superior polish to metallic surfaces. Large manufactories at the North do a thriving business in preparing polishing material for market from crude substances, which after all the labor and skill bestowed on them, are still inferior to this in its native state. The preparation and sale of this must sooner or later become a valuable business. The means for transportation which this county enjoys in addition to the Baltimore and Washington railroad, already mentioned, is by means of the Potomac tide-water navigation on its western border, and the Patuxent tide-water navigation on its eastern border from the northern part of Charles county to Hill's landing, nearly opposite the county seat, Upper Marlboro. The river this far up being navigable for steamboats and schooners, whilst flat boats, scows, &c., run up to Queen Anne, the head of tide-water, ten miles distant on the Patuxent. The Baltimore and Potomac railroad, and the Chesapeake and Potomac canal, already mentioned, will afford additional facilities to a large part of this county and greatly add to the value of its property.

Editor's note: The State Senate ordered the publication of 10,000 copies of this treatise. It was also published as Document U of the State Senate for 1867 and can be found bound with their proceedings of that year.

Does any member of the Society know whether the large deposits of "tripoli," described above as being excellent material for polishing, were ever exploited?

Bulk Mailing: Due to rising postal rates, this issue of the newsletter is being mailed at the bulk rate. Consequently, it will take a little longer to be delivered from the time it is dropped off at the post office. Will members coming to the March meeting of the Society please note when you receive your newsletter. We would like to know exactly how long it is taking for them to be delivered.

Two hundred years ago in Prince George's County

February 12-14, 1776: Fearing a raid from the British fleet operating in the Chesapeake Bay, the government removed the Maryland Provincial Records from the State House at Annapolis (the oldest still in use at today) via London Towne and Queen Anne to Upper Marlboro for safekeeping in the storehouses of Hepburn and Craufurd. Clerk Peale of Prince George's County subsequently billed the authorities for or seventeen pounds, seven shillings, and six pence for expenses of the move; which sum was reduced by Gabriel Duvall on payment to fifteen pounds.

(This same transfer again took place, and for the same reason, in the War of 1812. However the expected attack on Annapolis again did not materialize, but, to the consternation of the county officials, the British forces headed for Upper Marlborough, en route to the Nation's Capital and the Battle of Bladensburg. The records were hastily repacked and removed at the direction of William B. Beanes and John Reed Magruder, purportedly to the venerable Mt. Lubentia, which still stands on Route 202 just south of the county's community college at Largo.

Submitted by Paul Lanham

Sources: Upper Marlboro, 250th Anniversary by James Shreve, 1971.
Maryland Gazette, March 21, 1776.
Archives of Maryland. XI (Council of Safety)
The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland, Part II, by Morris L. Radoff, 1963.

Reminder: The annual St. George's Day dinner will be at the University of Maryland's Adult Education Center this year, on Friday evening, April 23. More details will follow.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

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News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 1976 Vol. IV. no. 3

March Meeting

The first meeting of the Society of 1976 will be on Saturday, March 13, in the Calvert Mansion "Riversdale," at 2:00. Two films will be on the program: the first, a tour of Government House, the Governor's mansion in Annapolis, conducted by Mrs. J. Millard Tawes, wife of the former Governor, and the second, a film on the disastrous Baltimore fire of 1904. Also on the program will be the preliminary reports of the Bylaws, Library, and Collections Committees.

Refreshments will be served at the close of the meeting. "Riversdale" is located at 4811 Riverdale *Road*, in Riverdale. Guests are welcome.

St. George's Day Dinner

The Society's third annual St. George's Day Dinner, commemorating the founding of Prince George's County in 1696, will be held this year on Friday evening, April 23, at the University of Maryland's Adult Education Center. Following the dinner, outstanding contributions to the history and historic preservation of the County will be recognized with the presentation of the Society's annual awards.

This year, in honor of the Bicentennial, anyone, man or woman desiring to wear colonial dress to the dinner, is encouraged to do so. For those who wish to participate in this way, colonial costumes are available from several costume shops, one of them being Mullane's in Baltimore. Patterns for inexpensive gowns are available at several locations.

The reception preceding the dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. Invitations will be mailed in the near future to all Society members with more details. Chairman of the event is Mrs. Jean Speicher, and Reservations Chairman is Genevieve Cook. If you don't receive an invitation, or know of someone who would like to attend who does not, call Mrs. Speicher at 776-3086.

Talks on Maryland History

Mrs. Vera Rollo, a member of the Society and speaker at the October 1975 meeting, is giving a series of three talks on Maryland history at the Prince George's Community Center, located on Adelphi Road in Hyattsville, near the county library. Her next talk will be "Some Interesting Women of Maryland," to be presented on Thursday, April 1, at 8:00 p.m. She has already discussed "History of Aviation in Maryland" and, will present "Contributions of Black Marylanders to Maryland in the near future. There is no admission fee. All are invited.

In Memoriam

We regret to inform the membership of the passing of two members of the Society since the last meeting, Mrs. T. Raymond Burch and Rear Admiral Bradford Bartlett. Mrs. Burch resided at Hitching Post Hill in Hyattsville and she and her husband were charter members of the Society. The Society once met at her home several years ago. She is survived by her husband, T. Raymond Burch.

Rear Admiral Bradford Bartlett was a resident of Fairfax, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Leah Clagett Bartlett. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to the Burch and Bartlett families.

Contributions to the Society

The Society gratefully acknowledges the contributions made by the following

Ms. Rita E. Bastek	Clinton
Miss Eunice E. Burdette	Bowie
Mrs. Doris M. Bush	Suitland
Mr. Theodore Howe	College Park

Friends of Montpelier

The Friends of Montpelier, a non-profit organization aiding the Park and Planning Commission in the preservation of Montpelier Mansion in Laurel, to stimulate an interest in the mansion's historical significance and, assisting in its furnishing, met on February 26 to adopt a constitution and elect officers.

The newly elected Board of Directors consists of the following: Chairman Mrs. Jean Speicher, Vice Chairman, Breckenridge Willcox, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Helen Hass; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Irene Sylvester; Treasurer, Harry John; and Karen Bautz, James Boss, Forrest Bowie, Philippa (Flo) Pontier, Dora Waters, and John Walton, Sr.

The next meeting of the Friends of Montpelier will be on March 25 at 7.30 p.m. at the Mansion, located on Route 197 just South of Laurel. On March 17, the group will help present to the Park and Planning Commission a program for the property's development.

For more information, call the chairman, Mrs. Speicer, at 776-3086.

The First Prince George's Artillery

Long before the National Guard was instituted and national standards were imposed upon the State militias, groups of individuals would often organize military companies independently and offer their services to the State. These independent companies were generally organized democratically, i.e. the members elected their own officers rather than having them appointed by a higher authority as is the case today. Frank F. White, Jr., of the Hall of Records has uncovered the constitution of one such company operating in Prince George's County--the First Prince Georges Artillery. Organized in 1824, this company elected its own officers and admitted new members by ballot. The constitution is published below--and a close reading will reveal a type of military organization that has long since disappeared.

The First Prince Georges Artillery was not the only active local company in 1824. In the January 1975 issue of News and Notes the roster of the 1st Bladensburgh Troop, another such company, was published.

At a meeting of the Subscribers to form a Volunteer Corpse (sic) of Artillery held at the Court House, Upper Marlboro on Saturday, 29th May 1824:

John Carter, Esqr. was called to the Chair and a Secretary for the day appointed.

The members present then proceeded to adopt a constitution. The following being submitted was unanimously adopted and ordered to be signed by the Chairman.

CONSTITUTION OF THE FIRST PRINCE GEORGES ARTILLERY

Article 1st

The Company shall be known by the name of the First Prince Georges Artillery.

Article 2nd

The number of the Corpse shall consist of thirty six or more out of which shall be chosen a Captain, First Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant, Four Sergeants and four Corporals.

Article 3rd

The Commissioned Officers shall be elected by the Company at a general meeting thereof and the person who has a Majority of the Votes shall be declared elected and all future Vacancies shall be filled in like Manner and all Non Commissioned officers shall be elected by the Company.

Article 4th

The Captain shall have the power of calling out the Company whenever he thinks proper having given due notice which shall be promptly obeyed. The stated meetings to regulate the Company shall be the Second Saturday in each and every Month except the First Meeting which shall be the third Saturday in June when the Resolutions, Regulations and Proceedings shall be recorded by a Secretary hereafter appointed.

Article 5th

Absence from duty shall be punished by fine. A Commissioned Officer not more than Ten or less than Five Dollars, a Non Commissioned Officer not more than Ten or less than Three Dollars and a private not more than Five or less than one dollar.

Article 6th

Disobedience of orders and all offences against the rules, regulations and good order of the Company shall be tried and adjudged by a Court Martial. The Court to consist of one commissioned officer, two non commissioned officers and two privates to be appointed by the Officer highest in command exclusive of the party offending.

Article 7th

The power of the court martial shall be limited to fine, removal front office and expulsion adjudged according to the nature of the offence.

Article 8th

All fines and forfeitures to be appropriated to defray the expences of the company.

Article 9th

That each and every member when elected shall be notified thereof and within ten days, thereafter sign the constitution and pay to the treasurer which shall be hereafter appointed the sum of fifty cents and shall be liable for his proportion of such other sums as the necessary contingent expenses of the company may from time to time require.

Article 10th

No person to be admitted as a member of this Company without having a majority of the votes present when ballotted for.

Article 11th

If at any time the Company shall find any law now adopted, inconvenient, it may be suspended, amended, or released on the concurrence of two thirds of the attending members, and a Quorum to transact business shall consist of ten members.

Article 12th

When any member dies he shall with permission of his friends be buried with Military Funeral Honours.

Article 13th

What if any member of the company subject himself to three fines successively and refuse to pay them he shall by consent of the officers be expelled and his name handed in to the Commanding Officer of the District to which he belongs.

Signed: John Carter, Chairman

The members then proceeded to elect their commissioned officers when it appeared that John Carter, Esqr. Was elected Captain, John Rantin, Esqr. was elected 1st Lieutenant, John T. Terry, Esqr. Was elected 2nd Lieutenant

The members then proceeded to elect their non-commissioned officers when the following persons were elected:

Thomas Tydings	1 st	Sergeant
Benjamin Terry of Wm.	2 nd	Ditto
Elie Baldwin	3 rd	Ditto
John Bonifant	4 th	Ditto
Henry Locker	1 st	Corporal
John Collins	2 nd	Ditto
Thomas Cator	3 rd	Ditto
Walter W. Berry	4 th	Ditto

Privates:

Gabriel Richards
Martin Barman
Richard Sherlock
Michael Barry
Thomas Sherlock
James T. Wall
John Simpson
Lloyd Simpson
Thomas Jones, Jr.
Bradley Jones
Joseph Sasscer
Charles R. Gardiner
Henry Barman

Dennis Collins
Frederick Mitchell
John Ball
Theodore Ryan
Francis Brashears
John I. Duckett
William Boteler
Levi Osborn
Mordicai Martin
John Kingsbury
Thos. Rantin
Erasmus G. Waring

Maryland Day Celebration

Maryland Day will be celebrated this year on Sunday, March 28, at St. Mary's. The pomp and pageantry will include a symbolic legislative session in the reconstructed State House of 1676. The Celebration runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 301-645-2693.

George Washington House

Those who travel on Baltimore Boulevard through Bladensburg have been able to witness the progress of the Prince George's Jaycees' restoration of the George Washington House. A dedication and opening day are now scheduled for Saturday, April 24, the day after the Society's annual St. George's Day Dinner.

Part of the restored structure will house a county museum of everyday life in the county in the colonial period and early years of the nation. Anyone having any appropriate museum pieces--everyday household objects, etc. from that period—and who would be willing to either loan them or give them for display, are invited to call Bill Aleshire at 474-3360.

Maryland Puzzle

A historical and literary jigsaw puzzle map of Maryland is being offered by the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore. The puzzle was adapted from a five color map that was published by the library for the Tercentenary of Maryland's founding. The puzzle contains 551 pieces, and 18" x 24" in size when completed. The price is 3.50, and can be obtained from the library at 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

A Tale of Two Cities

"There are wicked people, especially up about pretentious but sleepy Hyattsville, who insinuate, that Bladensburg was long ago finished and that "improvement" had permanently removed to other parts—on their hill, they intimate! Yes Henry Knoch has just erected here a beautiful little house of seven rooms for rental. It was built by carpenter John Rohrbach. And John is now building a neat frame house near the railroad for Charles Chase on the lot recently purchased by him from the African M.E. Church, The only "improvement" I notice in Hyattsville is, that they are re-shingling a part of the roof of the Presbyterian Church there, to keep up the appearance of doing something."

---From a column entitled "Bladensburg Local News," in the Independent Farmer of College Park, Md., June 28, 1878.

The Prince George's County Historical Society
P. O. Box 14, Riverdale, Maryland 20840

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

News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 1976

Vol. IV: no. 4

The May Meeting

The May meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society will be held on Saturday, May 8, 1976, at 2:00 p.m. at "Riversdale," the Calvert Mansion in Riverdale. On the program will be a showing of the new film on the county produced for the Chamber of Commerce. The movie treats county history, county attractions, and recent progress. The Chamber received one of this year's St. George's Day Awards for this fine accomplishment. (See elsewhere in the issue for a complete list of awards.)

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the meeting. Guests are welcome. "Riversdale" is located on Riverdale Road between Kenilworth Avenue and Route One.

Open House at Riversdale

"Riversdale" will be open to the public for tours and entertainment on Sunday, May 2, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sponsored by the Riverdale Historical Committee and Riverdale Recreation Board, the program will include tours of eight rooms of the house, including the Henry Clay Room, and performances by the Iverson Quintet, a woodwind group which will play chamber music selections. Members of the Homemakers Club and Girl Scouts will be dressed in period costumes, and the Women's Club of Riverdale will serve coffee, tea, and punch.

"Riversdale" was built 1800-1803 by Baron Henri Joseph Stier of Belgium as a wedding gift for his daughter, Rosalie Eugenie, who married George Calvert. It was the home of Charles Benedict Calvert, founder of the Maryland Agricultural College (now the University of Maryland, College Park) and Unionist Congressman from Southern Maryland during the early days of the Civil War. The house also served as a "place of refuge" for many Washington politicians, eager to escape the city and enjoy the Calverts' hospitality.

Admission is free, and all are welcome. Since most of the program will be indoors, it will be held rain or shine.

Bicentennial Seminars

The Bicentennial Seminars co-sponsored by the Prince George's Bicentennial Commission will conclude at Prince George's Community College on May 29 with "American Antiques--Buying and Selling." The subject on May 8 is "American Furniture," May 15 "American Crafts," and May 22 "Furniture Restoration and Refinishing." The fee is only \$3.00 for a five hour (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) seminar, conducted by Orva Heissenbuttel. Call 336-6000 ext. 218 for more information.

Historic Preservation Week in Prince George's County

The week of May 9-15 has been proclaimed "Historic Preservation Week in Prince George's County" by County Executive Winfield Kelly, Jr. The week will be observed with a series of programs and open houses, sponsored by the Prince George's Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Members of the Society are invited to attend Opening Ceremonies for Preservation Week in the State at 10:00 a.m. on the Capitol steps in Annapolis on May 10th. On May 11, the George Washington House in Bladensburg and Surratt's Tavern (Mary Surratt House) in Clinton will be open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. On display at the George Washington House, or the Indian Queen Tavern, will be the Liberty Bell replica from Fort Lincoln. At Surratt's Tavern banjoist Carey Howlett, a Society member, will play music appropriate to the Civil War period.

The Belair Stables will be featured on Wednesday, and the colonial churches, St. Thomas at Croom, St. John's (Broad Creek) in Oxon Hill, and St. Barnabas at Leeland will be featured on Thursday. All will be open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Historic houses open to the public on Saturday, May 15, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. will be Montpelier, Marietta, and Riversdale. At Riversdale an exhibit is planned in both the Music Room and the Clay Room. The Maryland Legacy Quilt (made by the Rock Creek Republican Women's Club) will be on display as well as the Posters-for-Preservation made by Prince George's Community College art students. A photographic exhibit of historic sites in the Laurel area will be on view at the Stanley Library in Laurel.

All of the historic sites mentioned will be open free of charge to the public, and the hours, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. are the same at all. At each location there will be hosts, hostesses or docents chosen from the Prince George's Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust, the County Historical Society, and the Surratt Society and the Friends of Montpelier.

--Orva Heissenbuttel

Death of William Hill Brooke

We regret to inform the membership of the passing of a former President of this Society, Mr. William Hill Brooke, of Upper Marlboro. Mr. Brooke was a native of the county seat, and a veteran of World War I. In 1928 he went to work for the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Upper Marlboro, and when that bank merged with the Suburban Trust Company, he became a vice president and manager of the Marlboro office. Mr. Brooke also raised cattle and tobacco, and was active in various historical societies besides our own. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to his wife, Mary Grahame Brooke, his daughter, Mary Anna Brooke Rice, and four sisters.

The Law in 1721: The Political Issues of Days Past

There may still be a few Senators on the floor of the State Senate filibustering against the Baltimore subway, but for most of us, the 1976 session of the Maryland General Assembly is now history. It is time therefore to carefully scrutinize the laws our lawmakers have enacted on our behalf, and decide whether this legislative session has measured up to sessions of the past. To begin this evaluation, it would be well to begin with an examination of the way the legislature of 1791 handled what had to be one of the most controversial issues of the day.

An Act to prevent swine from going at large in the town
of Bladensburgh, in Prince George's County.

Whereas it is represented to this general assembly, that sundry persons in the town of Bladensburgh, in Prince George's County, do raise and keep great numbers of swine, and suffer them to go and remain at large within the said town, to the great injury of the inhabitants thereof

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That after the end of this session of assembly, it shall not be lawful for any person or persons whatsoever to raise or keep any swine within the said town, except in enclosures, or to suffer any swine raised within the said town to go and remain at large therein; and if any swine shall be found going and remaining at large within the said town, it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons to impound the same, and such person or persons shall immediately give notice, by advertisements set up at the most public places in said town, describing swine so impounded, and if the owner or owners thereof shall not, within ten days' thereafter, prove his, her or their property therein, and make compensation for the injury, if any, which may have been sustained by any inhabitant of the said town, to be ascertained by any two disinterested persons, inhabitants as aforesaid, and shall not pay, for every such swine the sum of one shilling for every day it shall have been so impounded, it shall and may be lawful for the person or persons impounding as aforesaid to sell or kill the same for his, her or their use and benefit.

And be it enacted, That if any person shall be sued or impleaded for killing, destroying or selling, any such swine as aforesaid, the defendant may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence; and if the plaintiff shall be nonsuit, or discontinue his suit, he shall pay costs, and such damages to the defendant as the court shall adjudge.

Passed at the November session of the Assembly, 1791.

One may chuckle over the bill today, but enclosure was quite an issue at one time, and the passage of such laws was one part of the transition from one type of society to another. And the law has proven to be quite effective. How many swine have been seen on the streets of Bladensburg in recent years?

The St. George's Day Awards

Recognition was accorded twelve county citizens and organizations on Friday evening, April 23, when they received St. George's Day Awards from the Prince George's County Historical Society. Established by the Society to honor persons or organizations who have made significant contributions toward the preservation of the heritage of the county the citations were presented at the annual St. George's Day Dinner, held in commemoration of the county's 280th anniversary at the University of Maryland Center for Adult Education.

Mrs. Jean Speicher of Laurel was again chairman of the dinner, and once again arranged a fine program. The Potomac English Handbell Ringers, directed by Nancy Poore Tufts, Bell Master, presented a program of entertainment. Brief welcoming remarks were made by Society President Frederick S. De Marr, United States Senator J. Glenn Beall, Jr., and County Executive Winfield Kelly.

The following individuals and organizations received the 1976 awards:

John Giannetti and the Prince George's Jaycees for their acquisition and restoration of the George Washington House (Indian Queen Tavern) in Bladensburg, and for the development of a county museum which will occupy part of the structure. Mr. Giannetti directed the Jaycee program from its beginning, and successfully engaged numerous individuals and civic groups in the project. The tavern was dedicated on April 24, and will be open to the public soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Scherer, of Glenn Dale, who have presented their historic home, "Marietta," to the county for the benefit of its citizens in the cause of historic preservation. "Marietta" was once the home of Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall, and is nationally recognized as an example of outstanding architecture.

The Prince George's County Memorial Library system and its director, Elizabeth Hage, for their contributions to preserving the county's heritage, which include the publication of the new guide to the county's historic places and the establishment of special centers for local and state history at several branches.

Chamber of Commerce, for its production of a promotional color film on the county, its history, attractions, and progress. Accepting the award were Mr. Jack Rowzee of the Chamber, and Mr. Barry Clark, producer of the film.

Paul T. Lanham, a former President of the Society, for his many contributions, the most recent of which was his work in preparation and publication of the late Judge R. Lee Van Horn's pre-Civil War history of the county.

Mrs. Henry A. Bowie, of Laurel, chairman of the Laurel Bicentennial Commission, for the outstanding achievements of that program, and its stimulation of interest in Laurel's history.

Mrs. Vera Rollo, of Lanham, whose contributions include the writing of several texts on county and state history, participation in the publication of Judge Van Horn's history, and many talks on county and state history given to various groups. Mrs. Rollo will soon receive a Masters of Arts degree from the University of Maryland.

Frank F. White, Jr., of Riverdale, an archivist at the Hall of Records, for his direction of the publication of the Hopkins Atlas of the county for the Historical Society, his work on the preparation, editing, and indexing of Judge Van Horn's history, and his services rendered to historical researchers at the Hall of Records which go far beyond the call of duty.

The awarding of a certificate to Frederick S. De Marr closed this aspect of the program. Mrs. Susanna Cristofane, Mayor of Bladensburg, presented the award to Mr. De Marr for his many contributions since his return to the county a few years ago, chief of which has been his direction of the Society's overall program as its president.

Greater Washington Glass Show

America's first industry--glass--will be featured at the 4th annual Greater Washington Glass Show to be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 8710 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, on May 7-8. The Show-Sale will feature more than 20 antiques dealers offering a wide range of antique and collectible glass, and a series of free lectures on glass will be included in the price of \$2.00 admission to the show.

The lectures will include "Amelung--Maryland's 18th Century Glassware" by Helen Barger at 2 p.m. on May 8. Mrs. Barger is curator of the Dorflinger Glass Museum, White Hills, Pa. Other lectures include two by honored guest speaker Robert Bryden, manager of the Pairpoint Glass Company, Sagamore, Mass., and two by Society member Orva Heissenbuttel, originator of the unique All-Glass Show--the only one of its kind in the U.S.

The Greater Washington Glass Show has been recognized by the Prince George's Bicentennial Commission as an Official Bicentennial Event, and the Liberty Bell replica from Fort Lincoln will toll 13 times to open the show. Hours are May 7, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and May 8, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Institutional Member of the Society

We welcome the Society of Maren Duvall Descendants as an institutional member of the Prince George's County Historical Society.

Several individuals were elected to membership at the March meeting. Their names will be published in next month's issue of News and Notes.

Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage

The 39th annual Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage will begin on Saturday, May 1, and extend through Sunday, May 9. The following tour schedule has been arranged:

Saturday, May 1	St. Mary's County
Sunday, May 2	Anne Arundel County
Wednesday, May 5	Ellicott City--Howard County
Thursday, May 6	Green Spring Valley--Baltimore County
Friday, May 7	Federal Hill and Inner Harbor--Baltimore
Saturday, May 8	Talbot County
Sunday, May 9	Queen Anne's County

In addition, there will be a cruise on the Chesapeake Bay, from Baltimore to Oxford on the Eastern Shore, on Sunday, May 16.

Tickets for each of the tours is \$7.00. Admission to single houses is \$2.00. Water cruise tickets are \$20.00 each, and include a lunch and a tour in Oxford. These cruise tickets must be reserved in advance.

Transportation for the land tours is not provided, but the routes are clearly marked. Principal beneficiary of the tours is the fund for the maintenance of the Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis.

For more information, write Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, 600 West Chesapeake Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21204. Telephone 301-821-6933.

Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places

The Governor's Consulting Committee on the National Register met on February 27 and approved the nomination of St. Paul's Church, in Baden, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Reporting Preservation and Historical Activities

Any historical group in the county, or any other non-profit group sponsoring a historical or preservation activity which is open to the public, is encouraged to send a news release to the editor of News and Notes. Space permitting, we will try to publicize your event,

News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society

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News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 1976

Vol. IV, no, 5

June Meeting Cancelled

Because of scheduling difficulties, the June meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society has been cancelled. The next meeting will be in September, following a summer recess. The Society's newsletter, News and Notes, will be published during the summer months.

Contributors to the Society

The Prince George's County Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of the following:

Mrs. Edith H. Bagot	Hyattsville
Tantallon Citizens Association	Tantallon

In Memoriam--Elizabeth Parker Van Horn

Mrs. Elizabeth P. Van Horn, widow of the late Judge R. Lee Van Horn, historian of the Society, passed away in April at the age of 92. A native of Beltsville, Mrs. Van Horn resided for most of her lifetime in Glenn Dale.

Mrs. Van Horn had eagerly anticipated the June publication of the history of Prince George's County written by her husband, for which she had provided the funding. Fortunately, she had the opportunity to see the page proofs prior to her passing.

The Society extends its deepest sympathy to the family.

County Library Program

The Bowie branch of the Prince George's County Memorial Library is planning a series of programs concerning historic cities in the Washington area. Each program will be held in the library meeting room on Thursday evenings at 8:00 p. m.

The next program will be on Prince George's County, on June 10, and will be presented by Society member John Walton, Jr.

For more information on the series, contact Mrs. Katherine White, librarian at the Bowie Branch library, at 699-3500 during business hours.

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following individuals to membership in the Prince George's County Historical Society. Elected at the March meeting were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Mrs. Joan V. Heldt	Landover	Mrs. Heissenbuttel
Mrs. J.L. Chaconas	Brandywine	Mrs. Heissenbuttel
Mrs. Beatrice Crowther	Laurel	Mrs. Gough, Col. Crooke

Mrs. Mary L. Linstrom	Greenbelt	Mr. De Marr
Mrs. Birgit Brill	University Park	Mr. & Mrs. Reinhart
Mrs. Myron S. Brown	Laurel	Mrs. Wyatt, Mr. Brennan
Mr. Wayne Jackson	Tantallon	Mrs. Bagot
Ms. Robin J. Clack	Lanham	Mrs. Heissenbuttel
Col. & Mrs. Charles C. Lutman	Suitland	Mrs. Heissenbuttel
Mrs. Miriam D. Meacham	Hyattsville	Mrs. Bagot
Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Orpwood, Jr.	Hyattsville	Mr. De Marr

The following new members were elected at the May Meeting:

Mrs. Quick Carlson	Brandywine	Mrs. Heissenbuttel
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Blume	Oxon Hill	Mr. Jackson
Mrs. George E. Lee	Oxon Hill	Mrs. Margaret Cook
Mrs. Harry G. Phillips	Oxon Hill	Mr. Lanham
Br. David Richardson, D.S.C.	Onamia, Minn.	Mr. Lanham
Ms. Jane A. Burch	Hyattsville	Col. Crook
Ms. Anita C. Oberright	Upper Marlboro	Mr. De Marr
Ms. Billie H. Schnabel	College Park	Mr. Lanham
Mrs. J. Patricia Barrett	University Park	Mr. De Marr

The Maryland Crab

Marylanders have been enjoying the delights of the crab now for more than 300 years, and the delicacy from our waters has brought the state credit and acclaim worldwide. The latest tribute to the Maryland crab can be found in Gore Vidal's new novel, 1876, published by Random House.

On page 191, Vidal's character Charlie Schuyler describes a White House dinner at which he was sitting beside Lucretia Garfield, wife of James Garfield, then a Congressman from Ohio, but later President of the United States. Schuyler records the dinner gossip, which was interrupted only briefly by the serving of some of Maryland's finest softshells:

"What a comedown in the world it must be for her." Mrs. Garfield could not hide her pleasure, which was increased, as was mine, by the arrival of those Maryland crabs I have developed such a taste for. She, too, is addicted, to Maryland crab. "Even though it took me years to get up the nerve to eat one. I mean, they don't grow them back in Ohio." She ate a crab--shell, claws., and all, and kept on talking. "I used to be so jealous of Kate I couldn't bear to be in the same room with her."

Scientific Observation in Prince George's County

Prince George's County today has a well-deserved reputation as a center of scientific research. The many scientific departments of the University of Maryland in College Park extend man's knowledge in various fields. The Department of Agriculture's research center at Beltsville explores our agricultural and animal food resources. NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center at Greenbelt serves as the headquarters of the nation's space program. And the Navy's Oceanographic Office in Suitland directs the Navy's ocean research on the high seas. These and other facilities, federal, state, county, and private, make the county's contribution to, the nation's scientific progress a substantial one.

Historically, the county's scientific contributions have been by no means small. Early aviation experimentation took place in Prince George's--the Wright brothers tests at the College Park airport in the early 1900's, and Peter Carnes' first

authenticated American balloon ascension in Bladensburg in 1784. Samuel F.B. Morse strung his experimental telegraph lines through the northern part of the county. And Charles Benedict Calvert's model farm at his Riversdale plantation attracted national attention.

Most county citizens are familiar with these accomplishments, but few are aware that in colonial times, Prince George's County could boast of scientific research in another field--that of meteorological observation. According to Maryland's Weather Service, the first instrumental observations of the weather made within the state of Maryland were made in Prince George's County by Dr. Richard Brooke, prominent scientist and political leader of the family plantation Brookefield, in the southern part of the county.

Dr. Brooke was born in 1716, great grandson of Major Thomas Brooke, who came to the county from England in 1650 and established the plantation Brookefield. Major Thomas Brooke's son, Colonel Thomas Brooke, and his son (Richard's father), again a Thomas Brooke, all resided at Brookefield. Thomas Brooke's widow, Lucy Broke willed Brookefield to her son Richard on her death.

Dr. Brooke was active in politics and community affairs in colonial Prince George's County. He served as a trustee of the provincial free school, Charlotte Hall. He was an active opponent of the Stamp Act. In 1774 he was elected a delegate to the Maryland Provincial Convention, and reelected in 1775. Brooke made several trips to Europe, and he asked the state legislature to oversee the execution of his will in return for the expenses he had incurred on the state's behalf while on these trips. Exactly what services he performed is a matter for further investigation.

Dr. Brooke was married in 1767 to Rachel Gantt, daughter of Dr, Thomas Gantt wad Rachel (Smith) Gantt. They had two children: Frederick Thomas Brooke, born in 1770, married to Priscilla Duckett, and removed to West Virginia; and Sarah Brooke, born in 1772 and married in 1789 to Samuel Harper of Alexandria, Virginia.

"Eminent in his profession and prominent in the political life of his county," Dr. Richard Brooke died in 1783. He was one of the fathers of the Revolutionary generation, one of the men who helped bring America's new culture to maturity in the middle decades of the 18th century. The flowering of American science, American art, American letters, American thought--in short, American culture, brought about a national self-consciousness in those decades. The historian Max Savelle, in his Seeds of Liberty, describes the contribution of Brooke's generation: "...the older generation, who, while the Revolutionary generation was still in its teens, formulated and brought to maturity the ideal of life and liberty that those younger men were to find worth fighting for. Richard Brooke, through both his activities in the scientific and political fields, qualifies as a member of that "pre-Revolutionary" generation.

The following summary of Brooke's life and observations was written by Oliver L. Fassig, and published in the annual report of the Maryland Weather Service for 1899.

--Alan Virta

Sources: Bowie, Effie Gwynn, Across the Years in Prince George's County, Richmond, Va. - Garrett and Massie. 1947

Hienton, Louise Joyner. Prince George's Heritage, Baltimore Maryland Historical Society. 1972

Savelle, Max. Seeds of Liberty: The Genesis of the American Mind. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1948.

Early Instrumental Observations
Dr. Richard Brooke, 1753 -1757

To the best of our knowledge, the first instrumental observations of the weather, or rather of air temperature, made within the present limits of the states of Maryland and Delaware, are those of Dr. Richard Brooke. The observations for the first year, September 1, 1753, to August 31, 1754, are published in extenso in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London for 1759. The record comprises a morning and an afternoon observation of the temperature of the air, the direction of the wind, and the state of the weather.

From September 1754 to December, 1757, the published record comprises only the highest and lowest reading of the temperature in each month and the general character of the weather during the month, with occasional remarks about unusual weather conditions or prevalent diseases. Strange to say, there is nothing in the published records to reveal the place of observations, further than that they were made in Maryland. Dr. Richard Brooke was the son of Thomas Brooke and Lucy, daughter of Col. Walter Smith. He was born near Nottingham in Prince George's County on June 2nd, 1716, and died on July 12, 1783. He lived on the family estate, "Brookefield". Dr. Brooke took an active part in politics, and was a man of some note in his day. The weather observations were doubtless made at Brookfield.

Below are brought together in the form of a table, the highest and lowest temperatures recorded by Dr. Brooke during each month from September, 1753, to December, 1757.

	1753		1754		1755		1756		1757	
	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
Jan.			64	15	69	23	73	15	65	10
Feb.			61	10	64	14	70	27		67 8
Mar.			71	27	79	24				65
30										
Apr.			73	42	83	40	63	29		67
35										
May			85	46	87	47	81	48		88 48
June			87	57	90	70	86	44		90 72
July			87	61	93	60	93	69		90 64
Aug.			88	62	90	61	93	68 90		67
Sept.	87	58	80	73	93	45	92	60		88 47
Octo.	74	36	80	34	75	36	90	29		67
	43									
Nov.	63	36	67	23	65	29	73	27		65
	33									
Dec.	69	11	60	23	71	15	63	13		68
	28									

An inspection of the figures shows no remarkable records, as they are neither higher nor lower than are shown by records of to-day (1899) in the same neighborhood and for the same time of year.

The morning hour of observation was probably about 7 A.M., and the afternoon hour about 2 P.M., approximately the coldest and warmest hours of the day. The exact time is, however, not stated, nor is there any description of the thermometer used.

A few extracts from the record of Dr. Brooke may be of interest:

"On the 16th of April, 1755, it snowed as hard as ever I knew. Cleared up at 2 o'clock p.m. All dissolved before night. Not one shower of rain this month. Wind easterly 'till the 14th, afterward mostly westward.

A drought prevailed during the summer of 1755. May is described as extremely dry; seldom any clouds; no rain. Every vegetable almost burnt up; strawberry leaves, green plantain, and others, so crisp as to crumble in this month many black cattle died for want of food." June of this year was "seasonable"; July, August, and September, "very dry," October "seasonable, toward the close of the month."..."This was the driest summer and autumn ever remembered.

"On Tuesday the 18th (of November, 1755) I felt three shocks of an earthquake about 8 minutes before 4 in the morning. The first was severest; it shook the house very much, and waked me. The second was less, and the third least of all. They succeeded each other at about one minute's distance and were felt all over the continent.

The passage of a cold wave in December, 1755, is described as follows:

"On the 16th there was a brisk southerly wind; the mercury about noon at 71 degrees; at 4 at 69 degrees; at 5 o'clock the wind came about to northwest, blew excessively hard, and did great damage in the country. A prodigious quantity of rain fell; it cleared up at 6 o'clock; but the wind continued blowing hard all night. At 8 o'clock the mercury was at 43 degrees, at seven the next morning at 26 degrees, at nine at 24-1/2 degrees, and the morning following viz. the 18th, the mercury was at 15 degrees."

Another cold wave is recorded in January, 1757. "Many sudden alternations, as to heat and cold, have been in this month; but the most remarkable I have ever observed, was the last day of this month, when the mercury was up at 65 degrees, and the next day, February 1, when it was down at 28 degrees, about the same hour of the day."

Dr. Brooke seems to have forgotten his own record of the cold wave of December 17th, 1755, during which the temperature fell about 45 degrees in twenty-four hours.

On the recurrence of a severe storm on the 22d. of June, 1756, Dr. Brooke records:

"On the 22d in the morning a black cloud came from the northward, soon overspread the hemisphere, and threatened much wind and rain; but soon blew over without much wind or rain. The sun shone clear, and the weather calm, till toward noon, when clouds collected toward the north and northwest. About 3 P.M. there was the most threatening appearance I ever beheld, the clouds in some places of a deep green, in others of a sooty black. At 45 minutes past 3 it began to rain and blow, attended with remarkable severe thunder; but as the thunder stopped the clock, I cannot say how long it lasted; but suppose near half an hour; in which time the most rain fall I ever saw. The wind did incredible damage in several parts of the country. In St. Mary's County, it is said, 200 houses were blown

down, and many people killed. In every county in Maryland much damage was done by this gust, which was the most general ever remembered. It was all over New York, the Jerseys, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and did much damage everywhere. How much farther it extended either northward or southward, I have not heard."

The summer of 1756 was very dry. In September Dr. Brooke observes: "This is the hottest and driest summer ever known in Maryland. There are great crops of corn and tobacco made; but through the extreme dryness of the weather, the later crops of neither will come to perfection. Many springs are dried up that were ever current before.

"On the 10th day of this month (November, 1757) there was as severe a gust of thunder and lightning as is common in July or August. Several horses, cattle, etc., were killed in different parts. There were the most luminous coruscations I ever saw; the whole hemisphere as it were in a blaze."

From: Report of the Maryland Weather Service, v. 1, 1899. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1899. An extended article entitled "A Sketch of the Progress of Meterology in Maryland and Delaware," by Oliver Fassig, pp. 331-416.

-Contributed by Frank F. White, Jr.

News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

June-July 1976

Vol. IV, no. 6 & 7

Revolutionary Issue

This issue of News and Notes reproduces two important documents of the Revolutionary movement in Maryland, and presents Judge R. Lee Van Horn's description of an important Revolutionary meeting in Prince George's County.

The three stages of the united American Revolutionary movement, 1774-1776, are illustrated here: (1) the economic resistance, decreed by the First Continental Congress in October 1774; (2) the active military resistance, begun in April 1775 with the outbreak of war, and (3) the political act of a declaration of independence, coming in July 1776.

Maryland's contribution in each of these stages is illustrated below.

The Economic Resistance

The First Continental Congress, which met in the Fall of 1774, formulated a plan of united colonial economic resistance, which it hoped would pressure the British government to recognize American rights and repeal several oppressive statutes. The Association of American Colonies, adopted by the Congress in October, outlined the plan, a plan of nonimportation and nonexportation. In short, Americans would not buy certain British goods and refuse to send American goods to Britain. The Association encouraged each county and city to form local committees to enforce the plan--"to ride hard on possible violators of the Association... and check customhouse entries periodically to be sure the agreements were being observed." (Page Smith's, A New Age Now Begins, p. 444).

In November, citizens of Prince George's County met to put the plan of the Association into effect in the county. Judge R. Lee Van Horn summarized the significance and meaning of this local action in this way:

"In the little village of Upper Marlboro ... surrounded by 'Meadows brown and sear,' a group of serious minded men had gathered. It was in the month of November, 1774, the exact date of which I have not been able to determine, and they had gathered to carry out certain directives enacted by the Continental Congress....

"My friends, read those names with care, with understanding of what they mean to us. They represent unusual men, fearless men and determined men that had gathered in that little village in the valley of the surrounding hills to help sweep away the accumulated rubbish of the centuries that had collected around the theory of government and thus prepare a clean space where they might help lay the foundations of a new nation free of all influence on the part of monarchs, dictators, and conquerors.

"John Rogers, an able lawyer of his generation was chosen moderator and Hugh Lyon, Clerk.

"Those present were: Richard Duckett, Jr., Thomas Gantt, Sr., Col. Joshua Beall, William Deakins, Sr. Abraham Boyd, Walter Bowie, Jonathan Slater, William Berry, Basil Waring the 3rd, Thomas Williams, Walter Williams, Thomas Sprigg, Jr. George Lee, John Addison, Enoch Magruder, John Brown, Patrick Beall, John Low, Ignatius Wheeler, Luke Marbury, Nathaniel Newton, John Beall, James Hawkins, William Lyles, Jr., Ignatius Wheeler, Richard Dent, Dr. William Beanes, Thomas Dent, George Fraser Hawkins, Jonathan Burch, Jr., Thomas Truman, John Perry, William Magruder, Levin Coventon, Capt. Jeremiah, Thomas Morton, Sr., James Truman, Thomas Gantt, Jr., John Coolie, Dr. Richard Brooke, Dr. Leonard Hollyday, Truman Skinner, Allen Bowie, William Newman Dorsett, Robert Bowie, William Greenfield, Matthew Eversfield, David Craufurd,

John Rogers, Humphrey Belt, William Beanes, Sr., Addison Murdock, Samuel Hepburn, Nathaniel Magruder, Edward Sprigg, Osborn Sprigg, John Hepburn, John Contee, Robert Whitaker, William Loch Weems, Benjamin Berry, Sr. Tobias Belt, Robert Tyler, Richard Duckett, Sr., Jeremiah Magruder, Edward Hall, son of Henry, Barrick Duckett, Isaac Lansdale, James Mullikin, Thomas Boyd, Marsh, Marreen Duvall, Dr. Robert Pottinger, Captain James Crow, Samuel Snowden, Thomas Snowden, William Hall, Daniel Clark, Joshua Clarke, Benjamin Harwood, Nicholas Watkins, and Benjamin Hall, son of Benjamin.

"The meeting named as members of the Committee of Correspondence: Dr. Richard Brooke, John Rogers, Captain William Bowie, John Coolie, David Craufurd, John Contee, Addison Murdock, John Hepburn, Robert Tyler, Josias Beall, Osborn Sprigg, Richard Duckett, Jr., Matthew Eversfield, and Captain Joshua Beall.

"The following were chosen as delegates to a Provincial Convention: Dr. Richard Brooke, Josiah Beall, William Bowie, Addison Murdock, Walter Bowie, Thomas Gantt, Jr., George Lee, Osborn Sprig, Edward Sprigg, and David Craufurd.

"The names set out above were copied from J. Thomas Scharf's History of Maryland.

"Yes, friends, men and women a thousand years hence will stop to read those names with pride, fervor, and a slight quickening the heart beat. That gathering of men on that November day in 1774 will always mark a spot where the spirit of man rose to unusual heights, that it might preserve for future generations certain rights by which we may and those that follow us in the march of the centuries may build a better world."

--from Out of the Past, by R. Lee Van Horn, Riverdale, Md. The Prince George's County Historical Society, 1976. p. 148-149.

The Military Resistance

War broke out between the colonies and Great Britain in April 1775. The British, trying to destroy a colonial ammunition stockpile at Concord, Mass., were met by American militiamen, and a battle ensued. Congress called for troops from the colonies to form an army, and Maryland responded. Two rifle companies from Frederick County immediately set out to join the New Englanders around Boston, The Revolutionary war had begun. Maryland's government, the Provincial Convention, formally declared its approval of the war on July 26 with the adoption of the Association of the Freemen of Maryland. This document is reproduced below.

Association of the Freemen of Maryland

The long premeditated, and now avowed design of the British government, to raise a revenue from the property of the colonists without their consent, on the gift, grant, and disposition of the Commons of Great Britain; the arbitrary and vindictive statutes passed under color of punishing a riot, to subdue by Military force, and by famine, the Massachusetts Bay; the unlimited power assumed by parliament to alter the charter of that province, and the constitution of all the colonies, thereby destroying the essential securities of the lives, liberties and. properties of the colonists; the commencement of hostilities by the ministerial forces, and the cruel prosecution of the War against the people of the Massachusetts Bay, followed by General Gage's proclamation, declaring almost the whole of the Inhabitants of the united colonies, by name or description, rebels and traitors are sufficient causes to arm a free people in defence of their liberty, and to justify resistance, no longer dictated by prudence but by necessity, and leave no alternative but base submission or manly opposition to unconrrollable (sic) tyranny The Congress chose the latter, and for the express purpose of securing and defending the united colonies, and preserving them in safety, against all attempts to carry the above-mentioned acts into execution by force of arms,

RESOLVED, that the said colonies be immediately put into a state of defence, and now supports, at the joint expence, an army to restrain the further violence, and repel the future attacks of a disappointed and exasperated enemy.

We therefore inhabitants of the Province of Maryland, firmly persuaded that it is necessary and justifiable to repel force by force do approve of the opposition by Arms to the British troops, employed to enforce obedience to the late acts and statutes of the British parliament, for raising a revenue in America, and altering the charter and constitution of the Massachusetts Bay, and for destroying the essential securities for the lives, liberties and properties of the subjects in the united colonies. And WE do unite and associate, as one band, and firmly and solemnly engage and pledge ourselves to each other, and to America, that we will to the utmost of our power, promote and support the present opposition, carrying on, as well by Arms, as by the continental association, restraining our commerce.

And as in these times of public danger, and until a reconciliation with Great Britain, on constitutional principles is effected (an event we most ardently wish may soon take place) the energy of government may be greatly impaired, so that even zeal unrestrained, may be productive of anarchy and confusion; WE do in like manner unite, associate, and solemnly engage in maintenance of good order, and the public peace, to support the civil power in the due execution of the laws, so far as may be consistent with the present plan of opposition; and to defend with our utmost power all persons from every species of outrage to themselves or their property, and to prevent any punishment, from being, inflicted on any offenders, other than such, as shall be adjudged by the civil magistrate, continental congress, our convention, council of safety, or committees of observation.

Signed by 111 members of the Convention.

From the Archives of Maryland v. X.I. "Proceedings of Maryland Convention, 1775" p. 66-67

The Political Act

In early June 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia rose before the Continental Congress to propose that the Congress "declare that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states. . ."

Lee's motion was bitterly debated, and when introduced, its passage was by no means certain. Maryland was one of the reluctant colonies. Even though she had approved of war in the Association of the Freemen of Maryland, she had also called for reconciliation with Great Britain. Maryland's delegates in Congress waited, but day after day the news was the same: the Provincial Convention had not yet instructed them to vote for independence. Finally, on June 28, the Convention acted, and new instructions were sent to Philadelphia: Maryland should vote for independence. Other reluctant colonies decided likewise, and on July 2, Congress voted for independence. Two days later, on July 4, it, adopted the Declaration of Independence, to declare the causes for the separation.

The Maryland Convention which instructed the Maryland delegation to vote for independence also adopted a formal statement of causes. "A Declaration of the Delegates of Maryland" was entered onto the journal of the Provincial Convention on July 6.

The Declaration of the Delegates of Maryland, passed by the Provincial Convention, is reproduced on the following page,

A Declaration of the Delegates of Maryland

To be exempted from the parliamentary taxation, and to regulate their internal government and polity, the people of this colony have ever considered as their inherent and unalienable right, without the former, they can have no property; without the latter, no security for their lives or liberties.

The parliament of Great Britain has of late claimed an uncontrollable right of binding these colonies in all cases whatsoever: to enforce an unconditional submission to this claim, the legislative and executive powers of that state have invariably pursued for these ten years past a steadier system of oppression, by passing many impolitic, severe and cruel acts for raising a revenue from the colonists; by depriving them in many cases of the trial by jury; by altering the chartered constitution of one colony, and the entire stoppage of the trade of its capital; by cutting off all intercourse between the colonies; by restraining them from fishing on their own coasts; by extending the limits of, and erecting an arbitrary government in the province of Quebec, by confiscating the properties of the colonists taken on the seas, and compelling the crews of their vessels, under the pain of death, to act against their native country and dearest friends; by declaring all seizures, detention, or destruction of the persons or property of the colonists, to be legal and just.

A war unjustly commenced hath been prosecuted against the united colonies with cruelty, outrageous violence, and perfidy; slaves, savages, and foreign mercenaries have been meanly hired to rob a people of their property, liberties and lives, a people guilty of no other crime than deeming the last of no estimation without the secure enjoyment of the former; their humble and dutiful petitions for peace, liberty and safety, have been rejected with scorn; secure of and relying on foreign aid, not on his national forces, the unrelenting Monarch of Britain hath at length avowed, by his answer to the city of London, his determined and inexorable resolution of reducing these colonies to abject slavery.

Compelled by dire necessity, either to surrender our properties, liberties and lives, into the hands of a British king and parliament, or to use such means as will most probably secure to us and our posterity those invaluable blessings,

We the delegates of Maryland, in convention assembled, do declare, that the king of Great Britain has violated his compact with this people, and that they owe no allegiance [sic] to him; we have therefore thought it just and necessary to empower our deputies in congress to join with a majority of the united colonies in declaring them free and independent states, in framing such farther confederation between them, in making foreign alliances, and in adopting such other measures as shall be judged necessary for the preservation of their liberties; provided, the sole and exclusive rights of regulating the internal polity and government of this colony be reserved to the people thereof. We have also thought proper to call a new convention, for the purpose of establishing a government in this colony. No ambitious views, no desire of independence, induced the people of Maryland and to form an union with the other colonies. To procure an exemption from parliamentary taxation, and to continue to the legislatures of these colonies the sole and exclusive right of regulating their internal polity, was our original and only motive. To maintain inviolate our liberties, and to transmit them unimpaired to posterity, was our duty and first wish; our next, to continue connected with, and dependent on Great Britain. For the truth of these assertions, we appeal to that Almighty Being who is emphatically styled the searcher of hearts, and from whose omniscience nothing is concealed. Relying on his divine protection and affiance, and trusting to the justice of our cause, we exort and conjure every virtuous citizen to join cordially in defence of our common rights, and in maintenance of the freedom of this and her sister colonies.

--From the Archives of Maryland, "Proceedings of the Convention of Maryland, 1776"

--Frank F. White, Jr., provided copies of the Association of the Freemen of Maryland and Declaration of the Delegates of Maryland from which this reproduction is made.

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News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE-IS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August 1976

Vol. IV, no. 8

Bicentennial Drama

Maryland's Bicentennial production, "We the People," will be at the Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, Maryland, August 6 through September 5, 1976, Tuesday thru Saturday nights.

Andrew Duggan, star of stage, screen and television, will portray Gen. George Washington in this outdoor drama by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Paul Green. A company of over 120 young professionals will dramatically and musically re-create the events which led to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, focusing on Maryland's role in those years.

Ticket prices are \$6.00 (Orchestra-front), \$5.00, \$3.00, and \$1.50 (lawn). All seats except lawn are reserved. Senior citizens, students with I.D. and children under 12 are half price on weeknights and are \$1.00 less the regular price on weekends (Friday to Sunday). For reservations call: 953-2424 (Washington area phone).

"Gather All the Fragments"

The recommendation of the Collections Committee that the Society proceed immediately toward the accomplishment of one of their stated goals--the collecting preserving and displaying of artifacts that are relevant to the history of the County--was adopted unanimously at the Society's May meeting. The establishment of a picture archives, adopted at an earlier meeting, will also be the responsibility of this committee.

Over the years a few items have been received by the Society, however, no concerted effort has been made in this direction nor has a specific committee been appointed. Over the summer a display case has been received from Carl Flynn of Riverdale, and a few objects have been donated. Members who wish to work with this committee or who may have some object or photograph they wish to contribute are invited to contact a member of the committee, Herbert Embrey, Chairman, at 434-2958, Otho T. Beall, Jr., at 249-5019, or John M. Walton, Jr., at 868-4607.

Next Meeting of the Society

The next meeting of the Society will be on the second Saturday in September. The topic for the meeting, as well as the time and place, will be announced in the next News and Notes.

Van Horn's History and Other Publications

The long--awaited history of Prince George's County, 1695-1861, Out of the Past: Prince Georgians and their Land by R. Lee Van Horn was received from the printer on July 5, 1976. The text is 355 pages in length and the index is 65 pages. The press run was only 500 copies. Although it has not been publicized in the county papers as yet, mail orders for over 1/4 of the copies have been filled to date.

Because of the extremely high cost of postage and mailing, we are forced to charge 90¢ for handling on all mail orders received after September 1, 1976. Until then, copies may be obtained for just \$13.00 from the Prince George's County Historical Society, P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Md. 20040. A folded reproduction of the 1861 Martenet map of Maryland is included.

One of the very positive and lasting by-products of the Bicentennial is the large number of publications on different aspects of Prince George's County history which have appeared. For the convenience of our

members, those noted thus far, along with their costs and sources, are listed below. Many of these will be reviewed in future issues of News and Notes.

Montpelier and the Snowden Family by William G. Cook. 360 pages with drawings and 90 family pictures. Available from the author at 402 Greenhill Ave., Laurel, Md. 20810. \$16.85 plus 64¢ sales tax for Maryland residents only.

Mareen Duvall of Middle Plantation by Harry Wright Newman. Originally published in 1952. 586 pages with illustrations. Publication date: October 1976. Before September 30, \$18.75 incl. tax and postage. After Sept. 30 \$22.50. Order from: Mrs. J. Alston Fisher, 10216 Prince Place, Apt. 103, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20870.

Orphans and Infants of Prince George's County, Md., 1696-1750. Compiled by Dorothy M. Smith. Approximately 500 names of orphans and/or infants with index of approximately 625 parents and/or guardians extracted from Prince George's County court proceedings. \$10.00 per copy postpaid plus 40¢ tax for Md. residents. Available from the compiler at Rt. 10. Box 26 AA, Annapolis, Md. 21401.

"Prince George's County's Homesteads, Churches, Landmarks & Burial Grounds" by James C. Wilfong in the Bicentennial issue of The Prince George's Post. Pictures and stories cover 64 pages. Copies at \$1.00 each may be reserved by calling 770-2900. They will not be mailed, but must be picked up at the newspaper offices, 4623 Baltimore Avenue, Hyattsville.

The Story of St. Mary of the Mills Church, Laurel, Md. Published by the Bicentennial Committee of the church. 64 pages. \$1.25 postpaid. Order from St. Mary's Rectory, 114-8th Street, Laurel, Md. 20810.

A History of Suitland, Md. 1867-1976. By Darlie Norton. Price \$1.75, plus 60¢ postage and handling. Order from Mr. George Norton, 3513 Swann Rd., Suitland, Md. 20023.

City of Hyattsville. Maryland. The Bicentennial and 90th Anniversary. 48 pages, \$1.50. Available at the city offices, 4307 Jefferson Street, Hyattsville, Md.

A History of Berwyn Heights, Md. by Donald Skarda. Price \$1.50 by mail. Available from Mr. Skarda 8900-58th Ave., Berwyn, Md. 20740. Also available from Mr. Skarda is a commemorative medal (bronze, 39mm, 1000 issue) bearing the seal of Berwyn Heights on one side and a Bicentennial Motif on the other. Medal is \$3.25 by mail.

A History of Cottage City. Available from Raleigh Donley, 3804 Bladensburg Rd., Cottage City, Md. Price \$2.00 by mail.

A History of Beltsville, Md. On sale by the Beltsville Fire Dept. after August 2, 1976. Price will be about \$2.50.

Still available are:

Prince George's Heritage by Louise Joyner Henton. This definitive history of the County, 1695-1800 is a must for your bookshelf. It may be ordered from Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument Street, Baltimore. Price., \$12.50 plus 50¢ Md. sales tax and 60¢ for postage and handling.

Reminders of Revolutionary Days in Prince George's County. Compiled by the County DAR chapters and published by the County library system. A record, with photos, of all known graves of Revolutionary War soldiers in the County. Available at branches of the county library system. \$1.00.

Guide to the Historic Places of Prince George's County. Photos of the historical markers and many of the sites marked by them, giving locations. Published by the county library system and available at branch libraries. Price: 50¢.

Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland (1878). Maps of each election district and that portion of the District of Columbia which was once a part of Prince George's County, showing landowners. Indexed. Published by the Prince George's County Historical Society. Price, \$3.50 including sales tax and postage. Order from the Society, P.C. Box 14, Riverdale, Md. 20840.

The National Pastime

Baseball has been part of Prince George's County's leisure time activities for many years. The following sports report is taken from the Prince Georgian of August 7, 1874.

Base Ball at Hyattsville

A game of Base Ball was played at Hyattsville on Friday, the 31st ultimo between the Active Club of Washington and the Hyattsville Club. The game was called at 5 p.m. with the Active at bat, and lasted two hours, resulting in the defeat of the Active by a score of 18 to 6. Mr. McCoover acted as umpire. The game was remarkably well played by both clubs, but especially by the Hyattsville Club, whose players are amateurs, and who have no pretensions. Carroll and the Foster brothers deserve especial notice for their fine playing. Their catching was welcomed by shouts of applause from the sterner sex and waving of handkerchiefs and other demonstrations by the ladies who graced the occasion with their presence.

(The box score which followed the report was different from those of today. Instead of recording the runs, hits, and runs-batted-in of each player, it recorded the runs and outs each player made.)

The Last Partition of Prince George's County

During the Revolutionary period, the Continental Congress could only be described as a somewhat nomadic body, meeting at Baltimore, Philadelphia, Lancaster and York in the year 1777 alone. Meeting in Philadelphia, in 1783, the delegates were invaded during session by mutinous Continental soldiers demanding their long overdue pay. Hastily adjourning to Princeton, N.J., the shaken delegates, in a rare display of agreement, voiced the nation's need for a permanent national seat, preferably some piece of virgin territory where a "Federal town" could be established under Federal control.

The partisan rivalry which developed when various sites were considered quickly developed into a major source of contention between North and South and a unique "fence-straddling" compromise was consequently enacted in 1783. This "solution" called for both a Northern and a Southern "Federal Town," one on the Delaware River and one on the Potomac, but internal congressional action was initiated on the northern seat at Trenton only. However, southern sentiment then ominously began to drift toward dissolution of the confederated States and so further action on a national capital lapsed into abeyance.

The election of George Washington as President first seemed a major victory for the southern Potomac choice. However, since John Adams of Massachusetts became Vice-President and president of the Senate, Adams' deciding vote on the issue in the Senate swung the decision to a northern site, this time Germantown, Pa.

Although the weary Southerners bitterly attacked the decision, their parliamentary efforts were unsuccessful and secession from the union again became a real possibility. Southern anger also directed itself against Alexander Hamilton's "Assumption Bill," whereby the government was to assume the liabilities of the individual states, a measure deemed vital to the continuance of a union of States.

Thoroughly alarmed, Hamilton appealed to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. As a result, Congressmen White and Lee of Virginia were persuaded to reverse their votes on the debt assumption bill provided Hamilton would secure enough northern votes to approve the southern Potomac site for the Nation's Capital.

Thus was born the capital city later to be known as Washington in the District of Columbia, the Senate vote being 14 to 12 and the House vote 32 to 29!

Both Maryland and Virginia had previously agreed to cede land necessary for a capital site bisected roughly by the Potomac and to provide \$120,000 and \$73,000 respectively for constructing public buildings therein. As local residents well know, the Virginia half of the square was not utilized and ultimately returned. The Maryland portion, from Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, and once all a part of Prince George's, was ceded to the federal government in 1791. At one time, Bladensburg was to have been included in the plan for the District, but the final surveys left that town in Maryland.

--Paul T. Lanham

References: Washington, City and Capital. American Guide series. 1937.
Companion and Guide to Washington & Vicinity. W.S. Roose. 1878.

A Political Rebuttal

The town of Greenbelt, created out of Prince George's County countryside in the 1930's as an experiment in town planning and suburban development, was served in its early years by a weekly mimeographed newspaper called the Greenbelt Cooperator. The Cooperator reflected the pride the citizens felt in their community, and their pioneering spirit. Indeed, they were pioneers, for their town was one of the first ventures of the federal government into town planning and town creation.

Of course, not everything ran smoothly at first. The following editorial, taken from the Cooperator of January 26, 1938, indicates that there might have been some friction between the "early settlers" and some of the later arrivals.

This Town is Yours

More and more audible becomes the complaint that the "early settlers" of Greenbelt have taken over all authority where it is possible to do so; that they have had themselves elected to the "high places"; and that they are running the town to suit themselves.

The answers to these accusations are so apparent that the accusers couldn't help seeing them if they weren't so blinded by unreasoning anger.

The first people to come to Greenbelt were elected to the posts they are now holding for the very simple reason that there were none but the first people there at the time. And if the people who are doing so much complaining would stop to ascertain a few facts instead of making meaningless sounds they would learn that every post now occupied by a Greenbelt resident has a tenure of office that is almost ridiculously short. And the reason for that is that all the newcomers should have a chance to enjoy the "high places."

It is untrue to say that the "oldtimers" are running this town to suit themselves. It is not only untrue but unfair-unfair to those who are in office now and unfair to those who would honestly like to help but are kept back by the whispering campaign that says those offices are closed to all but the "old-timers." ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED can come to any meeting of any organization and "declare himself in on the deal" by merely being present.

Addition to the National Register of Historic Places

Pleasant Prospect, in the Woodmore area. Pleasant Prospect was built in 1798 by Isaac Duckett on a tract called Request. It is a simple Federal-style building with several surface Victorian alterations, typical in its original appearance and its later changes of other farmhouses in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties.

Politics, Politics!

Grand Whig Rally

The Old Maryland Line in Motion

The Chippewa Club No. 1, Bladensburg Maryland, will give a Barbecue in the Spa Grove on Saturday, the 23rd instant, to which the citizens of the county and State, our fellow-citizens of the District of Columbia, the State of Virginia, and all others are invited, irrespective of party.

Many able and eloquent gentlemen of whom more particular mention will be made hereafter will address the meeting.

Ample accommodation will be made to dine five thousand persons.

Special arrangements will be made for the entertainment of the ladies, who are particularly invited to grace our meeting.

A Fine band, with the Glee Clubs of the neighboring cities, will be in attendance.

Speaking to commence at 11 o'clock.

(A long list of officers followed.)

-- From the National Intelligencer, Washington, D. C., October 20, 1852.

The barbecues, picnics, bull roasts, and crab feasts the candidates put on now are nothing new!

News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 1976

Vol. IV, no. 9

September Meeting

"America's Political Conventions: Born in Baltimore" will be the topic of the September meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society, to be held on Saturday, September 11, at 2 p.m. in the Calvert mansion, "Riversdale."

The program will be presented by Mr. Alan Virta of Hyattsville, editor of the Society's newsletter, who served as a delegate to this year's Republican National Convention in Kansas City. America's national political conventions date from the 1830's, and for the first few decades, Baltimore served as the nation's favorite convention city. Mr. Virta will discuss the early conventions in Maryland and compare his experience as a delegate at the Kansas City showdown to the experiences of delegates at the first conventions. Although Mr. Virta's political activities have indicated an inclination toward one of the parties his talk will be entirely historical and non-partisan.

Guests are more than welcome at the meeting and refreshments will be served. "Riversdale" is the Park and Planning property located at 4811 Riverdale Road in Riverdale, between Kenilworth Avenue and Route 1.

Anyone having political memorabilia of days past--buttons, posters, or souvenirs from past elections--are invited to bring them to the meeting.

Future Meetings of the Society

The Fall program is not yet complete, but regular Society meetings will be held on the second Saturdays of October, November, and December.

The October meeting will be at the Rossborough inn, an 18th century tavern on the University of Maryland campus on Route 1. The inn is restored and now serves as the home of the Faculty Club. A luncheon is being planned for noon, to be followed by the meeting at 2 p.m. Information on prices for the lunch will be included in the next issue of News and Notes. Election of officers for 1976-77 will be held at the meeting.

The December meeting will be the traditional Christmas party at Montpelier.

Plans for the November meeting are still being worked out.

St. Thomas' Antique Show and Sale

The 17th Annual Tobacco Barn Antique Show and Sale, sponsored by St. Thomas' Episcopal Church of Croom, will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 10, 11, and 12, at the Edelen Brothers Tobacco Warehouse, located near the intersection of Routes 301 and 408 in Upper Marlboro. The show is the largest of its type on the East Coast, and will feature 78 dealers selected from an application list of more than a thousand.

Featured at this year's show will be a silversmithing demonstration by Kirk and Son, of Baltimore, and a demonstration on the growing and harvesting of tobacco.

The show will be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, September 10 and 11, and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Sept 12. Admission is \$2.00, or \$1.50 with an ad, clipping, or card. Door prize to be awarded is an antique grandfather clock.

For further information call 627-3877 or 372-6945.

Prince George's Bicentennial Ball

The Prince George's County Bicentennial Commission will sponsor a Bicentennial Ball with the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra Friday, September 17 at the Sheraton Lanham. The price is \$15.00 per person, and dress will be evening attire or colonial costume.

For more information call the Bicentennial Commission at 441-1776.

Bicentennial Commission Office's

The offices of the Prince George's County Bicentennial Commission are now located at the George Washington House on Baltimore Boulevard in Bladensburg. With their presence in the house, the county museum there will be able to be open to the public on weekdays.

Montgomery County's Bicentennial

Montgomery County, as well as the United States, is celebrating a bicentennial anniversary this year. In 1776 Frederick County, which stretched from the Prince George's County line all the way to Pennsylvania, was subdivided into three sections: the central section, with some later boundary adjustments is the Frederick County of today the northern section became Washington County, named for the country's new Army commander and the southern section became Montgomery County. Montgomery County was named for Richard Montgomery, American military hero who fell in the assault on Quebec.

Special exhibits commemorating the anniversary are on display Labor Day weekend at Montgomery Mall. A special session of the Montgomery County Council will be held at Rockville on Tuesday, September 7.

As far as other anniversaries are concerned--Maryland, which was chartered in 1632 and founded in 1634, will be celebrating its 350th in a few short years. It certainly is not too early to begin thinking about projects which will make this anniversary a meaningful one for the county and the state.

New Historical Marker

The newest historical marker in Prince George's County, recording the historic significance of the College Park Airport, was dedicated on August 14. Funded by the National Aerospace Education Memorial Center, Inc., the marker is located at the corner of Route 1 and Calvert Road in College Park.

The College Park Airport is the oldest continuously operated airport in the world, and the first military airfield in the United States. The marker lists ten of the many historic firsts occurring at the airport beginning in 1907. The airport is now owned by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The dedication was part of a two-day program at the airport sponsored by the College Park Bicentennial Commission. Present at the ceremony were the Honorable St. Clair Reeves, Mayor of College Park, Mrs. Adma Shakhshiri, chairman of the College Park Bicentennial Commission, and Mr. Kenneth Lewis of the National Aerospace Education Memorial Center, Inc. Representing the Society was David Rinn, Vice-president.

County House Tour

October 30-31 will be the date of a Prince George's County house tour sponsored by the Prince George's County Bicentennial Commission. Houses in both the Northern and Southern sections of the county will be on the tour. Details will follow in a future newsletter.

Stage Transportation in Prince George's

The following is taken from the Maryland Gazette of January 8, 1824.

GEORGETOWN, CITY OF WASHINGTON AND ANNAPOLIS MAIL COACH, through Upper Marlboro and Queen Anne.

The proprietor in order to ensure to travellers at this time greater comfort and security, have procured a new and handsome post coach, good horses, and sober, skillful and accomodating drivers. They hope by these arrangements to render this line as agreeable to travellers, in every respect, as the nature of the route will allow, and more so, than it has ever heretofore been. The patronage of the public is therefore solicited.

Arrangements

To leave the Union Tavern in George Town on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at 5 o'clock a.m. calling at Brown's Hotel in Washington for passengers; thence to Upper Marlboro to breakfast. Thence through Queen Anne to Annapolis by 4 o'clock p.m. The return route will leave Williamson's Hotel in Annapolis on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 5 o'clock a.m., breakfast at Queen Anne, thence through Marlboro to the City of Washington and Georgetown by 4 o'clock, p.m.

Fare through is Four Dollars; all baggage and parcels at the owner or owners thereof--14 lbs. baggage allowed to each passenger.

Jas. Williamson & Co.

Women's Rights and Tobacco in the County

Taken from the Baltimore Sun Magazine in April 1976:

50 Years Ago: Week ended April 24, 1926.

April 24: Aspirations of a group of young women students at the University of Maryland to obtain for girls at the institution the same smoking privileges as men were jolted when Miss Adele Stamp, dean of women stopped circulation of a petition by the students.

So the Virginia Slims commercials are true!

The Prince George's County Historical Society
P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Maryland 20840

President: Frederick S. DeMarr	277-0711
4010 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville 20781	
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Frank Bagot	927-3632
3510 Longfellow St., Hyattsville 20782	
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News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 1976

Vol. IV, no. 10

The October Meeting

The next meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society will be held on Saturday, October 9, 1976, at Rossborough Inn at the University of Maryland. Election for officers of 1977 will be held at the meeting, before the monthly program.

Members and their guests will gather at the Inn at noon for cocktails. Lunch will be served at 12:30. For those unable to attend the luncheon, the meeting will begin at the regular time, 2:00 p.m.

Reservations will be necessary for the luncheon so we may have a count of those planning to attend. It is important that you send your reservations by return mail as soon as possible. We need your response by Monday, October 4. A reply form is enclosed.

The Rossborough Inn is located on Route One, across from the Ritchie Coliseum. The inn was built in the last years of the 18th century, and served as a popular stop on the Washington to Baltimore stage line. Many famous persons are recorded as having stopped at the Inn, including Lafayette and John Quincy Adams,

Nominating Committee

The annual election of officers will be held at the October meeting. Members are urged to contact members of the Nominating Committee with their suggestions.

Committee members are Alan Virta (772-5448), Mrs. Helen Brown (927-7476), and Paul Lanham (301-535-2862).

In Memoriam

We regret to inform the membership of the passing of three members of the Society since the September meeting.

Following an extended illness, Mrs. Elizabeth F. Eppley passed away on September 16, 1976. A long-time resident of College Park, Mrs. Eppley was active in the General Rezin Beall Chapter, DAR, and many other club activities.

Mrs. Louise J. Hinton, author of Prince George's Heritage passed away on September 19. During her 30 year's residence in Prince George's County, Mrs. Hinton did extensive work in the indexing and inventorying of local and state historical records. In 1974 she was the first to receive one of the Prince George's County Historical Society's St. George's Day Awards for outstanding contributions to the preservation of the heritage of our county.

Mrs. Grace F. Kea, widow of Paul H. Kea, passed away on September 22. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kea were long time members and supporters of the Society's programs.

The Society extends its deepest sympathy to the members of these families.

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following individuals to membership in the Prince George's County Historical Society. Elected at the September meeting were:

Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Walkendifer
Priscilla Ryan

Hyattsville
Cheverly

Sponsor
Mrs. Skarda
Mr. Bowie

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Rudesel
Richard J. Herman
Mrs. Robert Darby
Richard J. Dent
Mr. & Mrs. George N. Fralley
Harry L. Smith
Mrs. Darlie Norton
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Chaney
Robert W. Baker
Raymond. J. Bellamy, Jr.

Capitol Heights
Oxon Hill
College Park
Landover Hills
Laurel
Upper Marlboro
Suitland
College Heights
Greenbelt
Cheverly

Mr. Lanham
Mr. DeMarr
Mrs. Bagot
Mr. DeMarr
Miss Dunn
Mr. DeMarr
Mr. DeMarr
Mrs. Schmidt
Mr. DeMarr
Mrs. Bagot

Jaycees Honored

In recognition of the George Washington House restoration, the national president of the U.S. Jaycees presented the national award for the outstanding civic project for 1976 to the Prince George's Jaycees at a ceremony on Monday, September 13, 1976.

Each year over 8000 Jaycee chapters across the nation compete for recognition of their civic endeavors. It is a fitting recognition of the several years of tireless work on the part of our local group that this award should be brought to Prince George's County.

Present at the ceremony were State Comptroller Louis Goldstein, County Executive Winfield Kelly, Jr., Congresswoman Gladys Spellman, Mayor Susana Cristofane of Bladensburg, members of the General Assembly and several county mayors, along with representatives of the Society.

At the end of the program a new roadside historical marker was unveiled for the George Washington House. Funding for this marker was provided through the efforts of Boy Scout Troop 731.

Bill Aleshire, vice-chairman of the Restoration Committee, was recognized by Chairman John Giannetti for his work in the coordination of the museum and the placing of the marker.

The Historical Society congratulates the Prince George's Jaycees on their earning of the well-deserved national award.

Revised History of Calvert County

A revised edition of Charles Stein's History of Calvert County is being published by the Calvert County Historical Society. Containing 324 pages of text and 40 color pages (coats of arms), the pre-publication price is \$17.50. After October 10, 1976, the price will be \$20.00. Copies may be ordered through Paul T. Lanham, Rte 1, Box 35, Huntington, Maryland 20639. Make checks payable to Calvert County Historical Society

More Publications on Prince George's County

Other books to be added to the current Prince George's County publications listed in the August issue of News and Notes are:

Otto Mears Goes East: The Chesapeake Beach Railway, by Ames W. Williams 237 pp. \$10.00. Available at the offices of The Enquirer-Gazette Upper Marlboro, or write the Meridian Sun Press, 6034 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Va. 22307.

The Public Schools of Prince George's County From the Seventeenth Century to Nineteen Hundred Fifty. Compiled by the Prince George's County Maryland Retired Teachers' Association. Edited by Nelda Davis and Mildred Hoyle. 103pp. \$.00 [sic] per copy. Available post paid from Arthur B. Hamilton, 6515-40th Ave, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Make check payable to PGCRTA.

The Cradle of American Aviation: The National Aviation Field College Park, Maryland. By Ken Beatty 72 pp. \$5.00. Available postage paid from Manager, College Park Airport, College Park, Md. 20740. Make check payable to College Park Airport.

County House Tour

The Prince George's County Bicentennial Commission House Tour is scheduled for October 30 and 31. For more information call the Commission at 441-1776.

The Friends of Montpelier

An auction and flea market to benefit the restoration of Montpelier Mansion will be sponsored by the Friends of Montpelier on Saturday, October 30, at the mansion on Route 197, just south of Laurel. For sale will be antiques and items found in Montpelier's carriage house, as well as items that have been donated. Donations of items other than clothing are still being accepted for the sale. The following day October 31, the Friends of Montpelier sponsor an art show at the mansion These activities are being held in conjunction with the Bicentennial Commissions house tour the same weekend. Montpelier is on the tour.

The mansion is to furnished [sic] in an 18th century style. Those possessing appropriate items who are willing to donate them for the refurbishing are encouraged to contact the Friends of Montpelier.

On December 12, from 5:30 until 8:00 p m., the group will sponsor a candlelight buffet at the mansion, featuring Music, entertainment, and food in the colonial style. Tickets will be limited, and are priced at \$12.50 per person.

For more information on any of the activities of the Friends of Montpelier, or to donate items for the. benefit sale or for the furnishing of the mansion, call Mrs. Jean Speicher at 776-3086.

Post Offices in the County, 1859

The list below of post offices and postmasters in the county was taken from Wingates Maryland manual for 1860:

Aquasco	Joseph C. Thomas
Beltsville	John Simms
Bladensburg	Fielder Suit, Jr.
Brandywine	Wm. H. Early
Buena Vista	S. C.Duvall
Collington	R. Hardisty
Croom	John W. Coffren
Horsehead	Francis A. Ward; R.K. Burkill
Hyattsville	C. C.Hyatt
Laurel Factory	Jesse Duvall
Long Old Fields	James J. Jarboe
Nottingham	John T. Stamp
Piscataway	James H. Griffin
Queen Anne	Wm. A Caton
Surrattsville	John H. Surratt
Upper Marlboro	Edward J.K. Scott

Most of these place names are familiar to county residents today, but others have disappeared from the map. Some information on the unfamiliar names will appear in the next issue of News and Notes.

In Future Issues. . .

A rebel woman from Prince George's County gains an interview with President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton. . .French Neutrals Settle in colonial Prince George's County.. The Federal Tax of 1798, and what it reveals about the county... and many other articles.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

President: Frederick S. De Marr, 277-0711.

Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Frank Bagot 927-3632.

Editor: Alan Virta, 772-5448.

News and Notes from

The PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 1976

Vol. IV, no. 11

The November meeting

The November meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society will be held on Saturday, November 13, at 2 p.m. at "Riversdale," the Calvert mansion in Riverdale. A film prepared by the Maryland Bicentennial Commission, entitled "At the Risk Our Lives and Fortunes" will be shown. It covers Maryland's history from the founding in 1634 through the decision to become independent.

Friends and guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served. "Riversdale" is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, between Kenilworth Avenue and Route One.

Christmas at Montpelier

The Society's traditional Christmas party will be held at Montpelier in Laurel on Saturday, December 11, at 2 p.m. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

Dedication of the Archbishop John Carroll Monument

A monument to Archbishop John Carroll of Upper Marlboro, the first Roman Catholic bishop in America, was dedicated on the Courthouse lawn on Saturday, October 30. The erection of the Carroll monument has been a Bicentennial project of the Society of the Pilgrims of St. Mary's, and has been recognized as an official Maryland Bicentennial project by the State Bicentennial Commission.

Archbishop John Carroll was born in Upper Marlboro in 1735 and died in 1815. His birthsite is now part of the Courthouse grounds. Speaking at the dedication ceremonies was William Cardinal Baum, Archbishop of Washington. The bronze bas relief on the monument's granite base was designed by Felix de Weldon.

Beall's Pleasure

Society member William Aleshire is compiling information needed to nominate Beall's Pleasure, in Landover, to the National Register of Historic Places. Anyone with information--architectural or historical--is invited to contact Bill at 12302 Chalford Lane, Bowie, 20715. Phone: 262-3360. Beall's Pleasure was the home of Benjamin Stoddert, first Secretary of the Navy.

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following individuals to membership in the Prince George's County Historical Society. Elected at the October meeting were

Sandra A. Cross
Melvin J. Warther.

Upper Marlboro
Cheverly

Mr. De Marr
Mr. Virta

Election of Officers for 1977

At the October meeting the following members were elected to serve as officers of the Prince George's County Historical Society for the year 1977:

President

Frederick S. De Marr

Vice president.	John Giannetti
Treasurer	Dr. Truman Hinton
Corresponding Secretary:.....	Mrs. Frank Bagot
Historian	James C. Wilfong Jr.
Directors	Mrs. Felix Cristofane
.....	Dr. Otho T. Beall, Jr.
	David Rinn

Awards Committee members... Mrs John Walton, Sr.
 Les Ticknor
 Frank F. White, Jr.

The position of Recording Secretary is vacant. Anyone interested should contact President Fred De Marr at 277-0711 or Alan Virta at 772-5448. Taking the minutes of the brief business sessions of Society meeting is the major responsibility. The current treasurer of the Society, Col. Samuel Crook, and the Chairman of the Awards Committee John Brennan, did not seek reelection. The Society extends its warmest thanks to them for their years of service in those posts.

History of the Public School's

The price of the history of the county's public schools was incorrectly listed in last month's News and Notes. The correct price is \$5.00.

The Public Schools of Prince George's County from the Seventeenth Century to Nineteen Hundred Fifty.
 Compiled by the Prince George's County, Maryland Retired Teachers' Association.
 Edited by Nelda Davis and Mildred Hoyle. 103 pp. \$5.00 per copy. Available post paid from Arthur B. Hamilton, 6515 40th Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Make checks payable to PGCRTA.

Copies of this work are still available.

Development Near Upper Marlboro

The following is reprinted from the September 1976 issue of SWAP: Some 'Words About Preservation, the newsletter of the Maryland Historical Trust.

"On September 6, Brice M. Clagett, chairman, board of trustees, testified on behalf of the Trust before a Prince George's County zoning hearing examiner in opposition to the proposed "Queensland" development, which would involve building about 1500 residences, mostly town houses, in a purely agricultural area, particularly rich in historic interest, just south of Upper Marlboro. Mr. Clagett presented a Trust staff study identifying 26 historic sites within two miles of the proposed development. They include some of the most important sites in the state, such as Mount Calvert, Billingsley, Weston and Compton Bassett. While recognizing that the existing master plan envisions suburban development of the area, Mr. Clagett argued that this is a mistake and urged rejection of the application to give the county a chance to correct its error. He suggested that an ideal candidate for an agricultural, conservation or historic district.

"The 'Queensland' proposal is only one of many pending applications for developments which would destroy many of Prince George's agricultural and historic areas. These proposals are largely because the county's sewer moratorium is now being lifted. All friends of historic preservation in Prince George's are urged to become active in opposing these proposals and in urging revision of the master plan to reduce planned population densities drastically and to encourage reservation of rural areas by channeling necessary development into already built-up areas wherever possible. The Trust is also on record, as opposing a proposed industrial park surrounding Bowieville, near Leeland. Yet another monstrosity recently in the news is a planned high-rise development in the Melwood area of the county."

College Park Airport

On October 22 the Governors Consulting Committee approved the nomination of College Park Airport to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination is now forwarded to the Department of Interior in Washington for final approval. The nominating report was completed by Robert Sellers and William Aleshire. An historical marker about the airport was recently erected at Route One and Calvert Road in College Park.

The street leading from Calvert Road along the railroad tracks back to the airport has never been formally named. On October 22 it was officially named for Corporal Frank S. Scott, who was the first enlisted man to die in a military air mishap in America. Corporal Scott flew out of the College Park Airport on September 28, 1912, and died in an accident. Scott Air Force Base, Ill., is also named in his honor.

The Friends of Montpelier

The Friends of Montpelier will sponsor a Christmas Candlelight Buffet at Montpelier on the evening of Sunday, December 12, 1976, to benefit the restoration fund. Doors will open at 5 p.m.; the sit-down dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. Cash bar will be provided. There will be colonial music and carolling throughout the evening, and everyone is encouraged to wear colonial costumes if they have them.

Invitations will not be mailed out, and the number of tickets is limited. Those interested should contact Mrs. Jean Speicher by December 6 to make reservations. Her address is 12209 Shadetree Lane, Laurel, 20810. Phone 776-3086. Tickets are \$12.50 per person, \$5.00 of which is tax deductible. Checks should be made out to Friends of Montpelier/MNCPPC.

Dinner is being prepared by Mrs. Anne Spaeth, formerly of the Congressional Country Club.

Recent Maryland Publications

Medicine in Maryland by Ruth. Fox Hume 59 pp. A Bicentennial project of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland and its auxiliary. Send \$3.00 (tax deductible) to Mrs. Richard Lukes, 9866 Old Spring Road, Kensington, Md. 20795, as a contribution.

A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County Maryland by Richard K. Mac Master and Ray Eldon Hiebert. Published by the Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society. A Grateful Remembrance chronicles the more than 200 years of Montgomery County's history, from its founding in 1776 through the suburban growth in the post World War II years. On sale at all Montgomery County public library branches and at the Montgomery County Historical Society. Price: \$6.95 hardback, \$3.95 paperback. Available by mail from Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries, 99 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, 20850. Add \$1.00 for mailing costs on mail orders. Checks payable to Montgomery County, Maryland.

A Visit to Colonial Piscataway

One of the early settlers of Maryland was Andrew Cooke, of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Middlesex, England, who established himself in Dorchester County, on the Choptank River, in 1662. Cooke was a merchant and broker and did not remain in Maryland long, but he left his son, Andrew Cooke II, to manage his estates.

The younger Cooke was married to Anne Bowyer, and two children were born to them in Maryland, Anna and Ebenezer. Soon after their births, however, the younger Cooke also returned to England, and the children were thus raised there.

Many years later, probably in the early 1690s, Ebenezer Cooke returned to Maryland to manage the family properties. Ebenezer Cooke did more, however, for in 1708 there was published in London a poem by him

entitled "The Sot-Weed Factor: Or, A Voyage to Maryland." "The Sot-Weed Factor" is described on its title page as a "Satyr, in which is described the laws, government, courts and constitutions of the Country; and also the buildings, feasts, frolicks, entertainments and drunken humours of the inhabitants of that part of America, in burlesque verse." The poem ran 21 pages and sold for 6 pence.

"The Sot-Weed Factor" pokes fun at the Maryland colony and has been described as one of the finest examples of early American comic writing. It tells of the experiences of a "sot-weed factor," i.e. an English merchant's agent who brought over a cargo of goods to be traded for the sot-weed, tobacco. The factor in Cooke's poem was swindled of his goods and, in his opinion, abused by the colonists in the end, he flees Maryland, a poorer but wiser man. One critic described Cooke's factor as "a rather gullible business man, a novice and a 'Stranger' (whose) picaresque misadventures provide a bitterly satiric commentary upon life in the province."

Not much detail is known of Ebenezer Cooke's life. He appears to have travelled back and forth between England and Maryland, but probably finally established himself in Maryland. His name appears in official records until 1732, and at one time seems to have either owned property or lived in Prince George's County. He published few other works, but did issue a sequel to the "Sot Weed Factor" entitled "Sot-Weed Redivivus" in 1730. The tone of the second poem is far less critical than the first, and offers possible solutions to several of Maryland's problems. A ribald novel based on Cooke's "Sot-Weed Factor" was published in the 1960s. Its author is John Barth, a native Marylander, and its title is also "The Sot-Weed Factor."

The opening lines of "The Sot-Weed Factor" are printed below. Cooke's factor lands first in Maryland at Piscataway, in southern Prince George's County, off the Potomac, and describes the port and the colonists there, and speculates as to their origin. The footnotes are Cooke's own, published in the 1708 edition. The text of the poem is that printed in 1065 as book number 2 of John Gilmary Shea's Early Southern Tracts.

--Alan Virta

* Edward H. Cohen, Ebenezer Cooke: The Sot-Weed Canon (Athens, Ga. University of Georgia Press 1975), p. 11

THE SOT-WEED FACTOR

Condemn'd by Fate to way-ward Curse
Of Friends unkind, and empty Purse;
Plagues worse than fill'd Pandora's Box,
I took my leave of Albion's Rocks:
With heavy Heart, concerned that I
Was forc'd my Native Soil to fly,
And the Old World must bid good-buy.
But Heaven ordain'd it should be so,
And to repine is vain we know;
Freighted with Fools, from Plymouth sound
To Maryland our Ship was bound,
Where we arrived in dreadful Pain,
Shock'd by the Terrours of the Main;
For full three Months our wavering Boat,
Did thro' the surley Ocean float,
And furious Storms and threat'ning Blasts,
Both tore our sails and sprung our Masts;
Wearied, yet pleas'd we did escape
Such Ills, we anchor'd at the Cape;ⁱ
But weighing soon, we ploughed the Bay,
To Coveⁱⁱ it in Piscato-wayⁱⁱⁱ
Intending there to open Store,

I put myself and Goods a-shoar;
Where soon repair'd a numerous Crew,
In Shirts and Drawers of Scotch-cloth Blue^{iv}
With neither Stockings, Hat nor shooe.
These Sot-Weed Planters Crowd the shoar,
In Hue as tawny as a Moor:
Figures so strange, no God design'd
To be a -oart of Humane kind:
But wanton -Tature, void of Rest,
Moulded the brittle Clay in Jest.
At last a Fancy very odd
Took me, this was the land of Nod;
Planted at first, when Vagrant Cain,
His Brother had unjustly slain;
Then Conscious of the Crime he'd done
From Vengeance dire, he hither run,
And in a hut supinely dwelt,
The first in Furs and Sot-Weed dealt,
And ever since his Time, the Place,
Has harbour'd a detested Race;
Who when they could not live at Home,
For refuge to these Worlds did roam;
In hopes by Flight they might prevent,
The Devil and his fell intent;
Obtain from Tripple-Tree reprieve,
And Heaven and Hell alike deceive;
But e're their Manners I display,
I think it fit it I open lay
My Entertainment by the way:
That strangers well may be aware on,
What homely Diet they must fare on.
To touch that Shoar where no good Sense is found,
But Conversation's lost, and Manners drown'd,
I cros't unto the other side,
A River whose impetuous Tide,
The Savage Borders does divide;
In shuch a shining odd invention,
I scarce can give its due Dimension.
The Indiains call this wat'ry Waggon
Canoo^v a Vessel none can brag on;
Cut from a Popular-Tree or Pine,
And fashion'e like a trough for or Swine;
In this most noble Fishing-Boat,
I boldly put myself afloat;
Standing erect with Legs stretch'd wide,
We paddled to the other side:
Where being landed safe by hap,
As Sol fell into Thetis' Lap,
A ravenous gang bent on the stroul,
Of Wolves^{vi} for Prey, began to howl;
This put me in a pannick Fright,
Least I should be devoured quite,
But as I there a-musing stood,
And quite benighted in a Wood,

A Female Voice pierc'd thro' my Ears,
Crying, "You Rogue drive home the Steirs."
I listen'd to th'attractive sound,
And straight a Herd of Cattel found
Drove by a Youth, and homeward bound;
Cheer'd with the sight, I straight thought fit,
To ask where I a Bed might get.
The surly Peasant bid me stay,
And ask'd from whom^{vii} I'd run away.
Surpized at such a saucy Word,
I instantly lugg'd out my Sword;
Swearing I was no Fugitive,
But from Great-Britain did arrive,
In hopes I better there might Thrive.
To which he mildly made reply,
I beg your Pardon, Sir, that I
Should talk to you Unmannerly;
But if you please to go with me
To yonder House, you'll welcome be.
Encountr'ring soon the smoaky Seat;
The Planter old did thus me greet;
"Whether you come from Gaol or Colledge,
"You're welcome to my certain Knowledge;
"And if you please all Night to stay,
"My Son shall put you in the way."
Which offer I most kindly took,
And for a Seat did round me look;
When presently amongst the rest,
He plac'd his unknown English Guest,
Who found them drinking for a whet,
A cask of Syder^{viii} on the Fret,
Till Supper came upon the Table,
On which I fed whilst I was able.
So after hearty Entertainment,
Of Drink and Victuals without Payment;
For Planters Tables you must know
Are free for all that come and go.
While Pon^{ix} and Milk, with Mush^x well stoar'd,
In Wooden Dishes grac'd the Board;
With Homine^{xi} and syder-pap,
(Which scarce a hungry dog wou'd lap)
Well stuff'd with Fat from Bacon fry'd
Or with Mollossus dulcify'd.
Then out our Landlord pulls a Pouch,
As greasy as the Leather Couch
On which he sat, and straight begun
To load with Weed his Indian Gun;
In length scarce longer than one's Finger
His Pipe smoak'd out with awful Grace,
With aspect grave and solemn pace;
The reverend Sire walks to a Chest,
Of all his Furniture the best,
Closely confined within a Room,
Which seldom felt the weight of Broom;

From thence he lugs a Cag of Rum
And nodding to me, thus begun;
I find, says he, you don't much care
For this our Indian Country Fare;
But let me tell you, Friend of mine
You may be glad of it in time ...

So the factor has arrived if uninvited to Prince George's County. He receives a free trip across Piscataway Creek and wanders about lost in the southern part of the county. He is taken in for free by a county planter and offered food, drink, and board. But all he can do is criticize!

ⁱ By the Cape is meant the Capes of Virginia, the first Land on the Coast of Virginia and Maryland.

ⁱⁱ To Cove is to lie at Anchor safe in the Harbour.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Bay of Piscato-way, the usual place where our Ships come to an Anchor in Mary-Land.

^{iv} The Planters generally wear Blue Linnen

^v A canoo is an Indian Boat, cut out of the body of a Popular-Tree.

^{vi} Wolves are very numerous in Mary-Land.

^{vii} 'Tis supposed by the Planters that all unknown Persons tun away from some Master.

^{viii} Syder-pap is a sort of Food made of Syder and small Homine, like our Oatmeal.

^{ix} Pon is Bread made of Indian-Corn.

^x Mush is a sort of hasty-pudding made with water and Indian Flower.

^{xi} Homine is a dish that is made of boiled Indian wheat eaten with the Molossus, or Bacon-Fat.

Towns of the County, 1859

A description of those towns whose names are no longer found on the county map will appear in the next issue of News and Notes, not this one, as we promised last month.

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 14, Riverdale Maryland 20840

News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 1976

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The Christmas Party at Montpelier

The traditional Christmas Party of the Prince George's County Historical Society will be held at Montpelier mansion in Laurel on Saturday, December 11, at 2 p.m. Members of the Society who have Christmas food specialities are invited to bring samples to share at the party. If you plan to bring something, please call Mrs. Lloyd Knox at 428-3195.

Friends and guests are more, than welcome. There will be no business meeting. Montpelier mansion is located on Route 197 just south of Laurel. The entrance to the Montpelier parking lot has been moved, however. See below for directions.

A Christmas Message

The officers of the Prince George's County Historical Society wish a joyous Christmas season to all. The wonderful message of Christmas has brought joy to Marylanders since the earliest years, and it has always been the most joyous holiday. While never forgetting the true meaning of the holiday, let us take heed of the advice offered by the Virginia Almanack for 1766:

Now Christmas comes, 'tis fit that we Should feast and sing, and merry be:
Keep open house, let fiddlers play, A fig for cold, sing care away;
And may they who thereat repine, On brown bread and on small beer dine.,

Merry Christmas!

New Directions to Montpelier

The Parking lot at Montpelier mansion may no longer be reached via Montpelier Drive. Do not drive up Route 197 as far as Montpelier Drive. Instead, after exiting the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and proceeding north on Route 197, turn left at the traffic light into the apartments opposite the Montpelier shopping center. Proceed a short distance into the apartment complex, then turn right onto the driveway leading to the parking lot.

Recording Secretary

Sister Catherine Wright was elected to serve as the Society's Recording Secretary at the November meeting. The slate of officers for 1977 is now complete.

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following individuals to membership in the Prince George's County Historical Society Elected at the November meeting were:

Mr. & Mrs. Calhoun Anton
Mrs. Charles W. Isbell
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Offutt
Mr. Francis N. Allen

University Park
McLean, Va.
Damascus, Md.
Hyattsville

Mr. DeMarr
Mr. Canter
Mr. DeMarr
Mr. DeMarr

Christmas Candlelight Buffet at Montpelier

Members of the Prince George's County Historical Society are reminded that the Friends of Montpelier will sponsor a buffet dinner at Montpelier on Sunday, December 12, 1976. Doors will open at 5 p.m., and there will be colonial music and carolling throughout the evening. Dinner is being prepared by Mrs. Anne Spaeth, formerly of the Congressional Country Club.

Tickets are \$12.50 per person, \$5.00 of which is tax deductible. Those interested in attended [*sic*], should make reservations with Mrs. Jean Speicher at 776-3086 by December 6. Tickets are limited, so make your reservation quickly. Those with colonial costumes are encouraged to wear them.

The Meeting Schedule

The December Christmas Party is the last Society meeting of the Fall season. There will be no regular meetings in January or February. The regular meeting schedule will resume in March, on the second Saturday.

Local Football Teams in the Bowl Games

The end of the year is the season of collegiate post-season football games, and it has been since 1902 when the first Rose Bowl was played, with Michigan defeating Stanford by the score of 49-0. The second Rose Bowl was not played until 1916, but it has been continuous ever since, and it is the oldest of the major bowl games. In 1933 Miami of Florida defeated Manhattan 7-0 in the first Orange Bowl; Tulane beat Temple 20-14 in the first Sugar Bowl in 1935; the first Cotton Bowl saw Texas Christian defeat Marquette 16-6 in 1937; Hardin-Simmons tied New Mexico State 14-14 in the first Sun Bowl in 1936; and Wake Forest defeated South Carolina 26-14 in the first Gator Bowl in 1946. Since then the number of bowl games has multiplied now we have the Fiesta, Liberty, Peach, Astro-Bluebonnet, and a host of lesser games.

The football teams of local colleges have played in a good number of these post-season "classics," and in this issue of News and Notes we publish the post-season records of our area teams. Two years ago in this newsletter we published the University of Maryland's bowl record. For the benefit of the newer members of the Society, and for the purpose of update, we will repeat it below as well.

The dates below are the season year, not the date of the game itself. The Cotton Bowl of New Year's Day 1977 is listed below as 1976.

--Alan Virta

The Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California

1923 Navy 14, University of Washington 14

The Sugar Bowl, New-Orleans, Louisiana

1951 Maryland 28, Tennessee 13
1954 Navy 21, Mississippi 0

The Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida

1935 Catholic University 20, Mississippi 19
1940 Mississippi State 14, Georgetown 7
1953 Oklahoma 7, Maryland 0
1955 Oklahoma 20, Maryland 6
1960 Missouri 21, Navy 14,

The Cotton Bowl, Dallas, Texas

1957 Navy 20, Ric 7 [*sic*]
1963 Texas 28, Navy 6 (Roger Staubach won the Heisman Trophy that season)
1976 Maryland ?, University of Houston ?

The Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas

1939 Catholic University 0, Arizona State 0
1956 George Washington 13, Texas Western 0

The Gator Bowl, Jacksonville, Florida

1947 Maryland 20, Georgia 20
1949 Maryland 20, Missouri 7
1975 Maryland 13, Florida 0

Source: The World Almanac and Book of Facts, 1977, courtesy of Mr. Craig J. Poff

The University of Maryland's bowl record is as follows:

1947	Gator Bowl, Jacksonville	Maryland 20, Georgia 20
1949	Gator Bowl, Jacksonville	Maryland 20, Missouri 7
1951	Sugar Bowl, New Orleans	Maryland 28, Tennessee 13
1953	Orange Bowl, Miami	Oklahoma 7, Maryland 0
1955	Orange Bowl, Miami	Oklahoma 20, Maryland 6
1973	Peach Bowl, Atlanta	Georgia 17, Maryland 16
1974	Liberty Bowl, Memphis	Tennessee 7, Maryland 3
1975	Gator Bowl, Jacksonville	Maryland 13, Florida 0
1976	Cotton Bowl, Dallas	Opponent is Houston

And Even More Football

We should not ignore the championship records of the two local professional football teams, the Washington Redskins and the Baltimore Colts, since both have chances to reach the Super Bowl this season. Should it work out that these teams must meet in the Super Bowl, Prince George's County will be divided into two camps, a division so intense that only the divisiveness of the Civil War will match it!

Again, the year indicated is the season year, not the date of the game.

National-Football League Championships and Super Bowls

1936	Green Bay Packers, 21, Boston Redskins 6
1937	Washington Redskins 28, Chicago Bears 21
1940	Chicago Bears 73, Washington Redskins 0
1942	Washington Redskins 14, Chicago Bears 6
1943	Chicago Bears 41, Washington Redskins 21
1945	Cleveland Rams 15, Washington Redskins 14
1958	Baltimore Colts 23, York Giants 17
1959	Baltimore Colts 31, New York Giants 16
1964	Cleveland Browns 27, Baltimore Colts 0
1966	New York Jets (AFL) 16, Baltimore Colts 7
1970	Baltimore Colts 16, Dallas Cowboys 13
1972	Miami Dolphins 14, Washington Redskins 7

No more sports news for some time--Editor.

Some "Lost" Towns of Prince George's County

In the October issue of News and Notes was published a list of the post offices of Prince George's County in 1859. Those post offices were: Aquasco, Beltsville, Bladensburg, Brandywine, Buena Vista, Collington, Croom, Horsehead, Hyattsville, Laurel Factory, Long Old Fields, Nottingham, Piscataway, Queen Anne, Surrattsville, and Upper Marlboro.

Most of the names are familiar as names of towns or localities today: Aquasco, Beltsville, Bladensburg, Brandywine, Croome, Hyattsville, Laurel, Piscataway, and Upper Marlboro. Long Old Fields is now known as Forestville, and Surrattsville is generally known as Clinton. What of the other names, however? Buena Vista, Collington, Horsehead, Nottingham and Queen Anne's. There are no longer post offices there. But are there still communities there?

Collin-ton appears in Martenet's Map of Prince George's County of 1861, Hopkins' Atlas of 1878, and the Maryland Directory and State Gazetteer of 1887, each time with a post office. Neither map indicates much of a town as we think of a town--a main street with cross streets and parallels. Rather, Collington seems to have been a "locality"--with a church, school, post office, store and a few dwellings, separated by short distances in a generally rural area. Collington was located around the intersection of Route 450 (Defense Highway) and Route 197 (Collington Road), and near the Pope's Creek branch of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad. A railroad station was established there. The 1887 directory lists a population of 50. In 1864, the Confederate guerilla John Boyle was captured by Union Captain Thomas Watkins at Collington. An account of the capture is found in an article by Paul Lanham in the August 1975 issue of News and Notes. Today, Bowie-Belair just to the east has totally eclipsed whatever the identity of Collington. How long the area retained its post office, railroad station, and local identity is a matter for further research. But today, most county residents could not tell you where "Collington" is.

Buena Vista seems to have been much like Collington--not a town as we think of a town but a locality with a post office, store, and a few dwellings not too far apart. Buena Vista was located along the road to Annapolis today known as Route 450 (Defense Highway). Martenet's 1861 map indicates that the post office was located near what is now the intersection of Glenn Dale Road (Route 193) and Route 450. The Buena Vista vicinity can be described in modern terms as the area along and below Route 450 between the humpback bridge at Lottsford Vista Road on 450 and the Glenn Dale Hospital. George Palmer Highway (Route 704) meets 450 in the area.

The opening of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Line through Prince George's County determined Buena Vista's fate: it was not to become a major town, and it lost its post office by 1878, according to the Hopkins atlas. The rail line, now part of the Penn Central system, passed a little more than a mile north of Buena Vista. A new place, Glenn Dale, which did not appear at all on the 1861 Martenet map of the county, appears as a rail station and a post office on the 1878 Hopkins map. Glenn Dale soon became a bustling place. By 1887, it boasted several businesses and a population of 95. Evidently the center of activity in the area had become Glenn Dale. Buena Vista suffered the fate that many small towns throughout the U.S. did in the 1960s when new super highways passed them by rather than passing through. The name Buena Vista has not been totally lost, however. It exists in Buena Vista Avenue, Buena Vista Drive, the Vista raceway, and Lottsford-Vista Road.

Horsehead cannot truly be considered a "lost town," for the LaRue street map of Prince George's County (3rd ed., 1973) locates it in the southern part of the county on Route 381 (Brandywine-Aquasco Road) below Baden. St. Michael's Catholic Church and Immanuel Methodist Church are there, as well as a few dwellings. It's a small, rural locality, unknown to most county residents today because it's so far out into the country. But a check in the phone book indicates that neither of the above listed churches uses "Horsehead" as its address. Of course, there is no longer a post office there.

Nottingham and Queen Anne's are probably the best known of the "lost towns," because they really were bustling towns in colonial times. Both were located on the Patuxent River, Queen Anne's farther up than Nottingham, but ocean-going vessels could reach them both. Mrs. Shirley Baltz spoke on the history of Queen Anne's at the September 1975 meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society, and both towns are treated in Louise Joyner Hinton's book, Prince George's Heritage. In 1755 a bridge was built across the river at Queen Anne's, and George Washington noted in his diary that he breakfasted, at Queen Anne's on September 1, 1774, on his way to Philadelphia. Both towns declined, however, as the Patuxent

silted in and fewer vessels could reach them. Queen Anne held on somewhat longer than Nottingham, though, because of the bridge across the Patuxent, and in later years the place was known as Hardesty. The bridge is no longer open, however, and travellers cross the Patuxent about one mile to the north on Central Avenue (Route 214). The names Queen Anne's and Nottingham live on as names of roads and as election districts 7 and 4. As Mrs. Hinton noted, however, neither are towns today.

There are many other place names of Prince George's County which have come and gone, and many others that are unknown to most county residents because they are far from the suburbia most of us live in. Perhaps if Bowie-Belair had not been developed, we'd still know Collington. We will have to search out evidence of the small rural locality place names of the past now swallowed up by suburbia, and we all should get to know the rural part of of *[sic]* county better before it, to, loses its rural character.

--Alan Virta

Frank F. White, Jr., provided photocopies of the county portion of the Maryland Directory and State Gazetteer of 1887, as well as the list of 1859 post offices.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

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