



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland

Headquarters of the **Prince George's County Historical Society**

Vol. XVIII, No. 1

January 1990

Usually the Prince George's Historical Society does not meet during January and February. This year, however, we are making an exception in January, with the postponed Christmas Party, renamed "12th Day of Christmas" party. As the postcard reminded you last week, (to be sure you received the new date in time) it is January 6th, at Marietta, 2:00 PM.

Snow caused us to postpone the Christmas Party not once but twice in December.

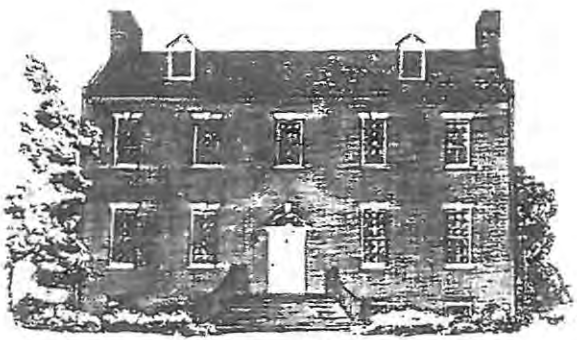
Also on January 6th, Candlelight Tours of the Marietta mansion, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, and an opportunity to shop at the Marietta Gift Shop, available concurrently with the tours for the Gift Shop sale.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, in spite of the snow, met on December 9th to discuss plans for the coming year and for events associated with the Tricentennial of the County in 1995.

As noted in recent News and Notes, the directors are interested in helping our Society creating a museum, which can also serve as a most useful center for historical and geneological research. An excellent beginning has been made by the establishment and growth of the Frederick DeMarr Library.

The consensus of thinking on this subject by the Board members is: "The best way to celebrate the tricentennial of the County and to leave a permanent mark on the County, is to preserve the history and geneology, and to provide a repository for future history. We believe in the history of the County enough to commit ourselves to carry this project to completion."

Members of the Board have visited historical society museums in York, Pennsylvania and other locations on fact-finding missions.



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland
Headquarters of the **Prince George's County Historical Society**

Vol. XVIII, No. 6 & 7

June/July 1990

The June meeting will be held, 2:00 P.M., June 9th, at Marietta. Marietta is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, near the intersection of Routes 450 and 193 (the new Greenbelt Road), Glenn Dale, Maryland

The June meeting will be the occasion for the first presentations of the Don Skarda Scholarship Awards. Contestants have researched the topic for the year, "Historic Houses of Prince George's County." The submissions are very interesting and will be shown at the meeting.

Strawberries and champagne will be waiting for you after the meeting. As you know famous County strawberry farms are nearby.

The May Meeting at Riverview, Fort Washington, was a great success. The rain, save for a few sprinkles, held off. The members of the Society visiting the home of Frank and Shirley Nicolai enjoyed a rare treat. They heard our vice-president Joyce McDonald give a description of the historic structure and then Shirley told us about their adventures in renovation. Frank added interesting comments on structural ploys used to make the huge old dance pavilion into a sound, modern home for themselves and for their children.

A tour of the beautiful house from cellar to attic followed. Then Society members were free to roam the grounds, enjoy delicious refreshments and visit with the Nicolais and one another.

From the front porch of the house there is a view up the Potomac that stretches to the spires of the Washington Cathedral.

Prince Philip at the Cathedral.

Speaking of the Cathedral. on Saturday, May 19th, your editor was pleased to find that she was sharing the Washington Cathedral with Prince Philip and his considerable entourage.

After viewing the Cathedral on a stunningly beautiful day she, and a corps of television reporters, watched as Prince Philip and other dignitaries planted an English Oak. This was in commemoration of the completion of the Cathedral, in the interest of the earth's ecology and for British-American amity.

Prince Philip is tall, unflappable, cordial, craggy of face and was endlessly patient with the morning's activities. "Is that Prince Philip?" one onlooker hissed. "Yes, yes, the guy with the eyebrows," her informant hissed back.

A Message from Jack Bourne, Your Treasurer

The Prince George's County Historical Society, Inc. is a Charitable and Educational, tax-exempt organization in the determination of Federal and Maryland tax authorities.

Contributions, gifts and bequests received by the Society are deductible under applicable income tax statutes. Volunteers do the work of the Society. Your continued financial support and participation are important. You can become a Life Member if you make a one-time contribution of \$200.

If you have not made your 1990 membership dues contribution, please do it today!

927-1065

Jack Bourne, Treasurer
7011 Chansory Lane,
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Liberty Ship to Sail Again

After two years of work, the John W. Brown is almost ready to sail on her Matron Voyage, just forty-eight years after her Maiden Voyage in 1942.

Since August 1988 when the World War II Liberty ship was towed from Norfolk to a berth in Baltimore, volunteers of Project Liberty Ship have been hard at work returning the ship to steaming condition.

At 10:00 a.m. on September 8th, 1990, the ship is scheduled to leave the Passenger Terminal at the Dundalk Marine Terminal in

Baltimore. It is to steam down the Chesapeake Bay, pass under the Bay Bridge, and move to a point near Poplar Island which is a short distance south of Kent Island. Following a brief wreath-laying ceremony in memory of those associated with Liberty ships during World War II, the Brown will steam back to Baltimore, arriving about 4:00 p.m.

Before the voyage, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., a Continental breakfast will be served at the Passenger Terminal. Lunch and beverages will be provided during the voyage. To participate in this unusual and historic adventure, see details below.

- - - - -
Donation for one guest, \$150; for two guests, \$250; for three guests, \$330; for four guests, \$400; additional guests \$100 each.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ ZIP _____

_____ Check enclosed in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ reservations. (Make checks payable to Project Liberty Ship.)

_____ Charge _____ VISA _____ MASTERCARD for _____ reservations.

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____.

Signature _____

If the voyage is fully booked when my reservation is received, place me on the standby list _____; (or) sign me up for the second voyage _____.

MAIL TO: Project Liberty Ship, P.O. Box 8, Long Green, MD 21092.
(Contact Society member Sherod Cooper, Jr. at 422-1785 for more information.)



Tea Cup Drive

Maxie Phillips reports that "another tea cup and saucer has poured in." This kind donation is from our vice-president, Joyce McDonald. Donations are marked, recorded and appreciated.

Prince George's Landmarks - Art Exhibit

From June 27 through July 31st at Darnall's Chance in Upper Marlboro, there will be a collection of watercolor paintings by Julie Ronning Talbot. Funded by a grant from the Prince George's Arts Council, the exhibit is titled, "Prince George's Landmarks in Bloom." Fifteen famous historical landmarks in the County are shown as a backdrop to indigenous flowers, plants and trees.

A reception (no charge) will be held Saturday, June 30, 2 to 5 p.m. at Darnall's Chance, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro. You may see the exhibit Sundays noon to 5 p.m. for \$1, or by calling Mary Haley-Amen, 952-8010.

The artist is a resident of Upper Marlboro. She has lived in the community of Marlton since 1967. A native of North Dakota, Talbot studied art in California and has won several awards. She has exhibited nationwide.

The Prince George's Arts Council is an organization devoted to the promotion of the arts in the County. It is supported in part by donations from Super Circle Donors, Carrollton Enterprises,



Citizen's Bank and Trust Company of Maryland, Crescent Cities Jaycees, Digital Equipment, JTL Port America, Litton systems / AMECON Division, Marlo Furniture, Metrovision of Prince George's County, Kenneth Michael Companies and Pepco. The exhibit is an example of cooperation between the business and arts communities of Prince George's County.

"Lose One - Hold On to One"

By Paul Lanham

Known locally in the Lanham area as "Widow's Neglect," research of the late historian, Margaret Cook, revealed that the mid-18th century home which had stood just north of today's Sheraton in New Carrollton, was actually named "Waddam's Neglect" after its owner and probable builder. Demolished as one of the first actions toward the building of the town of New Carrollton, few residents realized that, "there must have been a time when this ancient home was the only dwelling of significance between the colonial port of Bladensburg and the magnificent Governor's house in today's Bowie-Belair." (The only known photograph of the house is on page 48, reference [a] below.)

That graphic description of "Waddam's Neglect" was written (reference [b]) by the late James O. Wilfong, Jr., a past president of our Society. Shortly before his demise, Mr. Wilfong passed on to this writer the fact that he had authoritative information that the mantle from the living room of Waddam's Neglect had been installed over the fireplace of the Duke Room of the Calvert County Public Library. It is there on loan from its owner who owns and resides at the circa 1745 "Maidstone" mansion in Calvert County.

Touring "Maidstone" on the occasion of the April 21 House and Garden Pilgrimage and finding the owner on the premises, I prevailed upon her for details as to the preservation of the "Waddam's Neglect" mantle which I found quite informative.

The last private owner of the mansion, Maurice Downes, (p. 35, ref. [a]), had been intent on saving the mantle as a memento of his family's long association with Waddam's Neglect. Mr. and Mrs. Downes had immediately purchased a home in Landover Hills from the couple who subsequently purchased and moved to Maidstone. The mantle was to be installed in the new Downes home in Landover Hills, but inspection quickly revealed that its large size precluded such action; accordingly the mantle travelled to

Calvert County and subsequently to its present locale in the County Library.

The gracious owner of Maidstone seems quite pleased that the mantle given her by Maurice Downes has an honored place in posterity; although, until this writing, few persons know of the mantle's origin. It was amusing to learn that her earlier home in Landover Hills had cost her and her late husband the staggering sum of \$3,760, since it was apparently the more deluxe type of Landover Hills home.

Let us shed no tears over our County's loss of a tangible "mantle" memento of its past. About the same time the Dr. Ross house in Bladensburg was being carefully dismantled for reconstruction in another county. Somehow the door of the Ross House ended up as the door of the magnificent Greek Revival home of the late Otho Beall, a Director of this Society. That home is now a part of the Hyattsville Presbyterian Church complex off Route 202 in Largo.

References: [a] Souvenir Book, Lanham Centennial, 1872-1972.
[b] Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. 47, 1952, p. 267.

Funds Awarded by the General Assembly

The General Assembly capital budget conference committee, in April, provided funds for \$2 million for improvements to the Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro to include an indoor riding ring and restaurant.

Harmony Hall regional center in Fort Washington will receive \$300,000 for renovations. \$150,000 is budgeted for renovations to the historic Greenbelt Center School in Greenbelt. Also, \$500,000 is to be used for historic renovations to the Riversdale Mansion in Riverdale.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Deadline for the August News and Notes is August 12th (or as near that date as possible)!

News items must be given to News and Notes editor, Vera Rollo, 577-2436, almost three weeks before the appearance of the newsletter. We like to have the newsletter in your hands at least a week before the meetings. This means then, that deadlines are about a month before each meeting.

CALENDAR

(Most events and meetings are held on second Saturdays.)

June	Special Event/Entertainment. A focus: Winners of the Skarda Essay Contest, at 2:00 PM, June 9th.
July	No membership meeting. No newsletter.
August	No membership meeting.
September	Special event (fund raiser at historic site).
October	Membership meeting, second Saturday. MNCP&P program on Black History, featuring Mrs. Marsha Brown, Mrs. Iris McConnell and Mrs. Mildred Gray.
November	Membership meeting, election, second Saturday. John Giannetti to speak, slides, on historic houses in the South.
December	Christmas Party.

Other events are the Halloween party in October; the Doll Show in November; and Candlelight Tours of Marietta in December.

(A WEATHER ADVISORY will be available on the Marietta telephone recorder--464-0590--if weather is questionable for an event.)

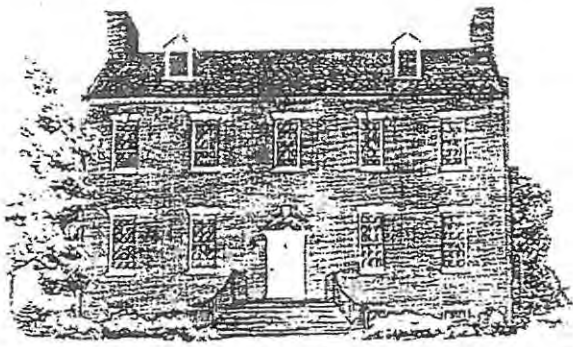
MARIETTA OPEN

Marietta Mansion Tours and Gift Shop Open 12-4 on Sundays.

Prince George's Historical Society Library at Marietta
Open 12-4 on Saturdays. Contact: Fred DeMarr.

News and Notes From the PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box #14, Riverdale, MD 20737	
President: Bud Dutton	Editor: Vera F. Rollo



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland

Headquarters of the Prince George's County Historical Society

Vol. XVIII, No. 8 & 9

August/September 1990

Each September, in lieu of a membership meeting, the Prince George's County Historical Society holds a fund-raising event. This year we will be receiving invitations in our mail inviting us to visit yet another historic home which is usually not open to the public, in our county. The home is that of Mary Sue and Eugene Couser, "Woodstock," located at 8706 Crain Highway South, three miles south of Upper Marlboro.

The date is Saturday, September 15th. The time: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. These visits to County homes are among the high points of our Society year.

Woodstock is a mid-19th-century farm house with a wonderful atmosphere. Champion trees, holly, linden and maple, shade the grounds. Sheep graze beside a split-rail fence. The kitchen wing is quite old and predates the rural, Greek Revival style home, which was built around 1850. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. [We thank Susan Pearl for this description.]

Donald D. Skarda Memorial History Award. On June 9, 1990 the Prince George's County Historical Society honored the first recipients of the Donald D. Skarda Memorial History Award at a reception at Marietta in Glenn Dale. Students in grades 4 - 8 in the County's public schools were eligible to enter by selecting and researching a historic County building. Students were encouraged to visit the sites and submit essays or projects to what they learned.

First place winners were Jennifer Bernhard of Bond Mill Elementary and Mike Corsaro of Walker Mill Middle School. The first place winners received \$50.00 each. Lisa Pearl of Tulip Grove Elementary and Mary Cuk of Buck Lodge Middle School were second place winners and received \$25.00 each. Parents,

educators, and other students who had submitted projects were also invited to the reception following presentation of the awards. The projects were on display and refreshments were served. Marietta's magnificent trees shaded the area and the refreshment canopy. Among the guests were Mike Miller, President of the Maryland Senate and Louise F. Waynant, Prince George's County Schools', Assistant Superintendent for Instruction.

The Memorial Award is named for Donald D. Skarda, a long-time member of the Society and resident of Berwyn Heights. Mr. Skarda proposed that the Society sponsor an essay contest for students, but died in May 1989 before the Society could begin giving the award. As a fitting memorial to Mr. Skarda, the author of a book on the history of Berwyn Heights, the Society will present this award annually to encourage students to learn more about the history of their County.

Our PGCH Society Earns Award. The American Association for State and Local History announced in a letter dated July 19th, from Patricia Gordon Michael, Executive Director, that the Prince George's County Historical Society has won a Certificate of Commendation for its documentation of county history. The AASLH Awards program is the nation's most prestigious competition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local and regional history.

The 1990 awards will be presented on Saturday, September 8, at a special luncheon honoring this year's recipients (\$28) to be held at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C. The Awards Luncheon is part of the AASLH Fiftieth Anniversary Annual Meeting. The meeting offers a wide selection of programs for those interested in regional, state and local history with 1,000 persons expected.

Contact person is Linda DiCiaula, Awards Liaison, AASLH, 172 Second Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee 37201 (615) 255-2971. (Reservations deadline is August 23 but possibly later ones may be accepted.)

Nominations Ahead. At the June 2nd meeting of the PGCHS Board, it was announced that Board members Cheryl B. Adams, John W. Mitchell and a vacant position are up for election this fall. Members Edith M. Bagot, Ann M. Ferguson, and Eugene Roberts' terms of office will continue until 1991 elections.

President Bud Dutton has announced that he is not in nomination for re-election. Virginia Reinhart, Corresponding Secretary, has also announced that she will not be available in the coming year. Fred DeMarr (277-0711) will chair the nominating committee with Sarah Bourne (277-5468) and Ann Ferguson. The November newsletter will list the nominees.

Date for Fall Bus Tour Set. Warren Rhoads (464-0819) has announced That Saturday, October 20th, is the date for the PGCH Society's Fall Bus Tour. Mark this day on your calendar if interested. The tours are always enjoyable jaunts, with members viewing several historic sites and stopping for lunch at noon. See the next News and Notes for details and a reservation form.

New Memberships. Welcome to new members Marsha L. Brown, William E. Gilbert, Terri Steele, Robert D. Reed, David L. Jenkins and Jean Tierney.

Also appreciation is due Elizabeth and Howard L. Bradley, Pauline Machen, and Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr. for becoming Life Members of the Prince George's County Historical Society.

Matron Voyage of the John W. Brown Postponed. Sherod Cooper, the historian of Project Liberty Ship, reminds us that in the last issue of News and Notes "I was overly optimistic in giving information about the Matron Voyage of the John W. Brown. The ship will not be able to sail on September 8 as hoped.

"People who have reserved places on the Matron Voyage will be notified at least forty-five days before the new sailing date. In addition, the Matron Voyage is now fully subscribed. If enough people sign up, however, it may be possible to schedule a second trip on the day after the Matron Voyage."

Donation for one guest, \$150; for two guests, \$250; for three guests, \$330; for four guests, \$400; additional guests \$100 each. MAIL TO: Project Liberty Ship, P.O. Box 8, Long Green, MD 21092. (You may wish to contact Society member Sherod Cooper, Jr. at 422-1785 for more information.)

Convenient Sources of Maryland Materials.

By Elmer Kelsey, a friend of the PGCH Society.

A convenient source of Maryland historical documents, the writer has discovered, are to be found in Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of the U.S. Supreme Court Records for 1911. These documents were assembled in connection with the case Maryland v. West Virginia, 217 U.S. 1 and 517 (1910), in which the western boundary of Maryland was determined as the 1788 line surveyed by Francis Deakins. Although this early survey erroneously deviates from true North-South to the East by 3/4 mile at its northern, Pennsylvania, terminus, it was upheld because many landowners had relied on it for over 100 years.

The historical research of the Maryland boundaries for this case was extensive both in America and England. The collected documents cover 1990 pages. They include correspondence between the King, Privy Council, Board of Trade, the several Calverts, Lords Proprietor, Minutes of the Star Chamber, Privy Council and letters from the various Governors of Maryland. Especially interesting are the contemporaneous detailed accounts of the face-to-face meetings between Charles Calvert, Lord Proprietor of Maryland and William Penn, Proprietor of Pennsylvania, on December 13, 1683 at "Col. Thomas Taillers's house on the ridge in Ann [sic] Arundel County" and later, May 29, 1683, "...at New Castle."

Calvert contended for a Northern boundary of 40 degrees North Latitutde, as given him by the Charter of Maryland, while Penn argued for 37 degrees based on his occupancy. We know that the dispute was later compromised to the prejudice of Maryland. The 1629 correspondence between George Calvert and the King concerning the former's dissatisfaction with the harsh climate of Newfoundland and his desire for a more temperate climate is amusing. Amusing, too, is a letter from the Virginia colony expressing embarrassment at George Calvert and his retinue's unexpected appearance at Jamestown, after leaving Newfoundland, and the Virginians' suspicions that Calvert wished to take over their colony. The Record contains many (patents) of lands along the present Maryland - West Virginia border which are valuable because the normal depository of many of these grants, the Preston county, West Virginia, courthouse was burned in 1868.

There is a large collection of maps, from John Smith's in 1607 to modern times, including the maps accompanying Jefferson's "Notes on Virginia" and the Treaty of Paris in 1763 between England and France. Also there are several land survey sketches of western Maryland. Of especial interest is Deakins' survey of 4,165 fifty-acre "bounty" lots awarded Maryland veterans of the American Revolution, all located west of Cumberland.

The Record is preceded by an item-by-item descriptive Index which is most helpful to researchers. The printed Record is available at the Library of the U. S. Supreme Court, and on microfiche in the larger law libraries.

This writer also found that Louise Hienton's map of Land Patents in Prince George's County prior to 1696 has been superimposed on a modern street map of the County at the Library of Congress, Map Room in the Madison Building. This presentation is an easy and accurate tool for locating old grants.

Decorators' Show House for 1990. Belleview Manor in McLean, Virginia, 8531 Old Dominion, is the 1990 Decorators' Show House, the Women's Committee of the National Symphony Orchestra recently announced.

Two years under construction with 19,000 square feet of interior space, the brand new Belleview Manor presents an opportunity for top designers to display their most innovative ideas, a press release notes. Built in the style of a French country manor house, the 30-room, four-story, brick mansion is located on two acres of ground. The building features a living room with a two-story octagonal ceiling and twin, suspended, curving staircases. Visitors may also visit several boutiques and a tea room.

All funds raised from this volunteer project will go to help support the National Symphony Orchestra. Advanced tickets are available through October 7th at \$10.00 each. Shuttle busses will run from The Galleria, Tysons II and the Woodley Mill development. For information call Madlyn G. Fall of Cheverly, Maryland, at 773-0442.

The Liberty Ship John W. Brown

By Sherod Cooper,
Historian, Project Liberty Ship

At Pier 1 on South Clinton Street in Baltimore's Canton area Project Liberty Ship volunteers are currently hard at work restoring the World War II S/S John W. Brown. When once again in steaming condition, the Brown will serve as a museum and a memorial to the men and women who, between 1941 and 1945, built over 2700 Liberty ships, to the Merchant Marine crews who sailed them and to the Navy Armed Guard gunners who defended them.

On Labor Day, September 7, 1942, after being named for a leader in the United Mine Workers and the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, the John W. Brown slid down the ways at Bethlehem Fairfield Shipyard in Baltimore into the Patapsco River. Her Maiden Voyage, which began in New York, October 1942, took her to the Persian Gulf with a cargo which included tanks, trucks, Jeeps, ammunition and steel for Russian Lend-Lease.

On her return to the United States, May 1943, the Brown was modified to accommodate about 350 troops in addition to about 8,000 tons of cargo. Then, with her second trip she began a series of five voyages over a twenty month period between the United States and the Mediterranean Theater of War, taking troops and supplies to North Africa and Italy and twice bringing POWs back to the United States.

During her fourth voyage the Brown was one of the over 150 American merchant ships involved in the huge and highly successful invasion of Southern France in August 1944. After V-E Day in May 1945, on four voyages, she carried soldiers back home.

The Brown's thirteenth and last voyage ended in November 1946 when she arrived in New York from London. In December 1946 she was turned over to the City of New York for use as an annex of the Maritime Department of the Metropolitan Vocational High School. After 36 years as a school, the Brown was towed to the National Defense Reserve Fleet in the James River. Although named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, the Brown remained in the Reserve Fleet until August 1988 when Project Liberty Ship had her towed to Baltimore.

On Labor Day, September 5, 1988, she was rededicated at ceremonies featuring Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley as the main speaker. Since then restoration work has continued. Volunteers have contributed thousands of hours of hard work and often, a lifetime's worth of experience.

Expecting to have the ship ready to steam by Summer 1990, a Matron Voyage was planned for September. Delays, however, have made it necessary to postpone this voyage for a while. But, when the exciting day comes that the John W. Brown steams out of Baltimore Harbor into the Chesapeake Bay, it will mark the beginning of her new career as a museum and as a memorial to the men and women who built, sailed and defended, the great fleet of merchant ships that performed so heroically in World War II.

For further information about the John W. Brown and Project Liberty Ship, please contact Sherod Cooper, 422-1785.

Board News Items. Board members are to help at Heritage booth at County Fair, Upper Marlboro, first week of September.

Cheryl Adams will prepare theme and materials for distribution for the 1991 Skarda Award competition.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Deadline for the October issue of News and Notes is September 12th (or as near that date as possible)!

News items may be given to News and Notes editor, Vera Rollo, 577-2436. Deadlines are about a month before each meeting. Articles on historic sites and documents of interest are most welcome.

Courses on County History. Continuing Education at the Prince George's Community College is offering three exceptionally interesting courses in history. (Registration: 322-0998, cost \$5.00 per hour.)

History of College Park Airport, Kathy Allen, at the airport 7-9, beginning Oct. 10th.

Overview of Historic Sites in Pr. George's County, John Walton, at Darnall's Chance, 7-9 p.m., beginning Nov. 7th.

From Plantations to Suburbs: History of Pr. George's County, Fred DeMarr, at Marietta, 6:30-9:30 p.m., beginning Nov. 20th.

CALENDAR

September 15th. Saturday. 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Special event, our annual fund-raiser. This year at Woodstock, Upper Marlboro.

September 30, reception at Marietta to introduce the new dean of the School of Architecture, Steven Hurtt to heritage and preservation groups of the County.

October membership meeting, Saturday, Oct. 13, 2:00 p.m. A MNCP program on Black History will be given, featuring Mrs. Marsha Brown, Mrs. Iris McConnell and Mrs. Mildred Gray.

October Fall Bus Tour, Saturday October 20th.

November Membership meeting, election, Saturday, Nov. 10, 2:00 p.m. John Giannetti to speak and show slides, on historic houses in the South.

December Christmas Party.

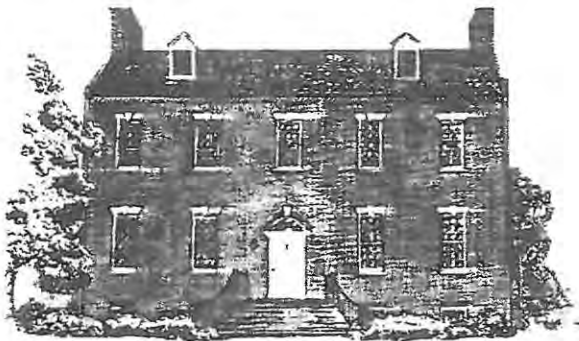
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Open 12-4 on Saturdays. Contact: Fred DeMarr.

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P.O. Box #14, Riverdale, MD 20737
President: Bud Dutton Editor: Vera F. Rollo



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Headquarters of the **Prince George's County Historical Society**

Vol. XVIII, No. 10

October 1990

October Meeting. We are fortunate in our October meeting, Saturday, October 13, 2:00 p.m. at Marietta, to be able to offer those attending a program on the background of black history in the County. Fascinating and little-known facts will be presented about local sites.

A Maryland National Capital Park and Planning program on black history is to be given by historian Marsha Brown and fellow researchers Mrs. Iris McConnell and Mrs. Mildred Gray.

Historic Hyattsville Changes. Construction in downtown Hyattsville is nearly completed. The \$7 million remodeling of the County Service Building and the \$22 million County Justice Center next to it have considerably changed the face of the city. The Route #1 bridge is now open. These constructions are a part of the effort to totally renew the downtown corridor.

Our Society Accepts Award. The American Association for State and Local History has honored our Society with a certificate of commendation for "documentation of county history." The award was presented at the AASLH's 50th Anniversary Convention, Saturday, September 8th. Society President Bud Dutton, Dick and Sarah Bourne and Ann Ferguson were on hand to represent the Society in accepting the award.

"Many thanks," Dutton notes, "to all the volunteers who have worked on the programs that earned this prestigious certificate."

Newsletter is Our Passport. A most interesting newsletter titled, Passport to the Past, is currently being published by the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission's History Division. In the July/August issue the restoration of Riversdale was described by Joyce McDonald and in the Sept./Oct. issue the history of College Park Airport was given by Cathy Wallace Allen.

Nominations Ahead. At the June 2nd meeting of the PGCHS Board, it was announced that the Board member seats currently filled by Cheryl B. Adams and John W. Mitchell plus a vacant position are up for election this fall. Board members Edith M. Bagot, Ann M. Ferguson, and Eugene Roberts' terms of office will continue until 1991 elections.

Also, President Bud Dutton has announced that he is not in nomination for re-election. Virginia Reinhart, Corresponding Secretary, tells us that she will not be available in the coming year. Fred DeMarr (277-0711) will chair the nominating committee with Sarah Bourne (277-5468) and Ann Ferguson. The November newsletter will list the nominees.

MD 450 To Get New Look. The State Highway Administration plans to spend \$7.5 million dollars in Lanham, Maryland, to improve the intersection of roads. Eastbound MD 564 will go under MD 450 from Princess Gardens Parkway to Cipriano Road. MD 450 will be widened. A new MD 450 bridge over Amtrak lines will replace the one built in 1930. Construction will be completed in 1992. Yes, and Whitfield Chapel Road will also be altered.

Decorators' Show House for 1990. Belleview Manor in McLean, Virginia, 8531 Old Dominion, is the 1990 Decorators' Show House, Oct. 8th through November 4th, under the auspices of the Women's Committee of the National Symphony Orchestra. Money raised from this volunteer project will go to help support the National Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are \$12.00 each. Shuttle busses will run from The Galleria, Tysons II and the Woodley Mill development. For information call Madlyn G. Fall of Cheverly, Maryland at 773-0442.

Woodlawn Plantation is holding a Third Annual National Quilt Exhibition, September 29th through October 14th, 9:30 to 4:30.

Harmony Hall First Anniversary. The John Addison Concert Hall located off Indian Head Highway at 10701 Livingston Road, will be the site of a performance season from now through January 1991. There will be several concerts, dance and theatre offerings plus other events. For information call 292-8331 (MNCP&PC).

Prize Awarded Kenneth F. Hodges. The Maryland Historical Society's Genealogy Committee announced the award of first prize in the Sumner A. and Dudrea Parker contest for the best work on Maryland families, to Kenneth F. Hodges for his book The Hodges Family "Omaha Hill" Prince George's County, Maryland. [Information relayed to us by Mrs. Sarah Bourne.]

Oral History Program

By Joyce McDonald

Since World War II, but most of all in the past twenty years, Prince George's County has changed dramatically. The rural landscape of nearly three hundred years has been transformed. Memories of life in the primarily agrarian county, "before the Beltway," are now being preserved through an Oral History Program sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical Society.

Audio and video taped interviews with long-time County residents are being conducted by Society volunteers who have been trained in the techniques of oral history interviewing. These tapes and written transcripts will be available to the public in the Society Library. So far, eight videotaped interviews have been carried out and additional oral tapes made.

The theme followed to date has been "Growing up in Prince George's County." Excerpts from these video interviews have been combined into an hour-long documentary co-produced by the Society and the Prince George's Community Television, Inc., and funded through the County Executive's Office. Fred DeMarr, Society Historian, introduces and closes the video. It will be shown early in October. The documentary will also be available at the Society Library and for released for public use.

As funding permits additional documentaries on other themes will be made. An interesting product of the program is the fact that it preserves not only factual content but reflects the accents of the various areas of the county and those of various occupations. Young people also will benefit from these documentaries and can learn from them to do oral history work.

A television set and a VCR have been purchased for the Oral History Program and are available in the Society Library as is an excellent tape recorder with microphone.

The Oral History Program is open to volunteers in several capacities. Training is available via tapes in the Society Library. Suggestions for future persons that we might interview are welcome. Those interested in helping this program should contact the Society at 464-0590.

Fall Fund-Raiser a Success. No rain fell on Society members attending the September 15th event. Insects were absent and excellent, catered, refreshments were present. Sheep? Yes, they were there but at a respectful distance. It was a blue, cool day and costumed musicians played.

"Woodstock" the home of Mary Sue and Eugene Couser was open for inspection. Eugene Couser told of the renovation work carried out after the purchase of the property in 1973. The main part of this house was probably built in the early 1850s by Washington Custis Calvert of Mount Airy. The Cousers escorted us through the three-storey building. Many thanks to them for the information they gave us and for their warm hospitality.

Courses on County History. Continuing Education at the Prince George's Community College is offering three exceptionally interesting courses in history. (Registration: 322-0998, cost \$5.00 per hour.)

"History of College Park Airport," Kathy Allen, at the airport 7-9, beginning Oct. 10th.

"Overview of Historic Sites in Prince George's County," John Walton, at Darnall's Chance, 7-9 p.m., beginning Nov. 7th.

"From Plantations to Suburbs: History of Pr. George's County," Fred DeMarr, at Marietta, 6:30-9:30 p.m., beginning Nov. 20th.

Museum Assistance Program. Our President, Bud Dutton, wrote in August to Governor William Donald Schaefer to commend him for "the successful passage and funding of your initiative in proposing the Museum Assistance Bill (HB 436) during the 1990 Legislative Season.... Our Society was organized in 1952 and many years ago began collecting historic materials and objects which now are available for public research in the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History.

"We also are seriously engaged in developing a proposal to establish a County Heritage Museum to be opened in time for the Prince George's County Tri-Centennial Program in 1996.

"The new grant program will provide a welcome source of potential assistance to our program. As you know, the needs of such programs around the State are considerable, as indicated by the recent state survey, and appear to support the suggestion of an annual grant fund in the magnitude of \$750,000.

"We would appreciate being advised of your Administration's proposal for FY '92 in order that we can communicate our support for this outstanding program to our legislative representatives."

Costumes at Marietta. Sami Sharkey announces that there will be a continuing display of historic costumes at Marietta through October.



The Prince George's County Historical Society

FALL TOUR

Come spend a pleasant day with your fellow Society members and enjoy the autumn scenery in Calvert County on Saturday October 20th 1990

Leave Maryland Park & Planning Building
6600 Kenilworth Ave. Riverdale at 9:00 A.M.
(Please use rear parking lot)

For the convenience of residents from south county, the bus will make a pick-up in front of the Super Fresh Food Store, Marlboro Square Shopping Center (Rt. 301 & Rt. 4 Upper Marlboro) at approximately 9:30 A.M. If you wish to board the bus at this location check here---

Tour Will Include Visits To:

MAIDSTONE-Private home, circa 1745, opened by special arrangement for the Society
SMITHVILLE CHURCH-One of the earliest Methodist churches in the county, present structure dates to 1843, features Victorian frosted & colored glass
LUNCHEON-Penwick House Country Inn
MARINE MUSEUM-History of life on and around the Patuxent River & the Chesapeake Bay
DRUM POINT LIGHTHOUSE-Built in 1883 this picturesque building was home to the lighthouse keeper & family

The cost of \$30.00 includes all entrance fees transportation and luncheon

DEADLINE-OCTOBER 15th

Please make checks payable to: PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mail to Warren Rhoads 12501 Kemmerton Lane
Bowie, Maryland 20715

Check one:

Please pick me up at _____ Riverdale P&P (OR) _____ Marlboro Square.

-53-

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Moxley Family Book Available. Nehemiah Moxley was born in Maryland about 1737. His descendants have connections with many prominent families in the State. A new book of family letters, pictures, wills and deeds, as well as the geneology of the Moxley family, is now available. To order Nehemiah Moxley, His Clagettsville Sons and Their Descendants, 462 pages, contact Mrs. Allie May Moxley Buxton, (301) 253-3779, or write to 28001 Ridge Rd., Damascus, MD 20872.

Tour of Historic Sites. The Friends of the Greenbelt Museum are sponsoring a tour on October 14th, 12:30 to 5:00 p.m., "From Horse Country to Suburbia," Mary L. Linstrom their President notes. Tourers will visit the Belair Mansion and Stables in Bowie, the Marietta Mansion and the Greenbelt Museum. This will be visiting three centuries of history in one afternoon, Linstrom observes. Tickets are \$3.00 and include transportation and admissions. Call Kathy Stump at 779-2011 for reservations.

Welcome to New Members (8/14 to 9/17/90).

[Information made available to us by Treasurer John Bourne.]

Col. & Mrs. Ronald Austin
Ms. E. Virginia Berry
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Bowler
Robert B. & Rachel J. Brown
Mrs. Robert E. Cahill
Ms. Elizabeth Channing
Mr. Daniel W. Deming
Mr. & Mrs. George B. DeGennaro
Dr. Blanche T. Ebeling-Konig
Mr. David P. Fogle
Mrs. Louis J. Grayson
Ms. Cynthia Heerwagen
Dr. & Mrs. Lloyd W. Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. John Brooke Kelly
Bernard Lee & Joan M. King
Karel C. Petraitis, Esq.
Ms. Helen Olszewski Reed
Mr. Steven B. Rogers
Ms. Margaret G. Rowe
Timothy W. & Linda Saffell
Mr. Gregory Sayles
Ms. Patricia Carter Sluby
Jess Joseph and Maenette B. Smith, Jr.
Mr. Douglas E. Stover
Ms. Sharon V. D. Voros
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Yewell

[Note: Please do
advise us if we have
incorrectly listed
a name or title.]

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Deadline for the November issue of News and Notes is November 12th (or as near that date as possible)!

News items are welcomed by News and Notes editor, Vera Rollo, 577-2436. Deadlines are about a month before each meeting. Articles are needed on historic sites, persons and documents of interest.

CALENDAR

October membership meeting, Saturday, Oct. 13, 2:00 p.m. at Marietta. MNCP program on Black History to be given, featuring Mrs. Marsha Brown, Mrs. Iris McConnell and Mrs. Mildred Gray.

October Fall Bus Tour, Saturday October 20th.
See invitation - this newsletter.

November Membership meeting, election, Saturday, Nov. 10,
2:00 p.m. John Giannetti to speak and show slides, on historic
houses in the South.

December 8th Christmas Party.

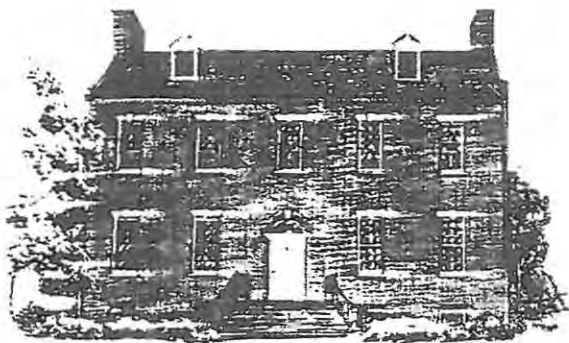
Other events are the Halloween party in October; the Doll Show in November; and Candlelight Tours of Marietta in December.

(A WEATHER ADVISORY will be available on the Marietta telephone recorder--464-0590--if weather is questionable for an event.)

Marietta Mansion Tours and Gift Shop Open 12-4 on Sundays.
Prince George's Historical Society Library at Marietta
Open 12-4 on Saturdays. Contact: Fred DeMarr.

News and Notes From the
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box #14, Riverdale, MD 20737
President: Bud Dutton Editor: Vera F. Rollo



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland

Headquarters of the **Prince George's County Historical Society**

Vol. XVIII, No. 11

November 1990

November Meeting. This is a very important meeting for us, on November 10th, 2 p.m. at Marietta. We will be holding our annual elections and we have John Giannetti, former Society President, to speak about historic houses in the South. He will have slides of many beautiful and interesting houses to show us. John visited these sites recently and so has not only historical research but first hand information to share.

Officers Nominated. Not up for election until 1991 are Board Members: Ann Ferguson, Eugene Roberts and Edith Bagot. Also on the Board, ex officio, we are pleased to have past Society Presidents: John Giannetti, Paul Lanham and Warren Rhoads.

For election by the membership (following excellent work by the Nominating Committee members, chair of the committee Fred DeMarr, Sarah Bourne and Ann Ferguson) are:

President	W. C. "Bud" Dutton, Jr.
Vice-President	Joyce W. McDonald
Recording Secretary	Sarah Bourne
Corresponding Secretary	To be announced.
Treasurer	John B. Bourne
Historian	Fred DeMarr
Board of Directors	John Mitchell
	Cheryl Adams
	Sami Sharkey

Note: Bill Haskell has resigned.

To all our officers, past and present, a sincere vote of thanks for their dedication of their time, energy and talents to our Society.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Maxie Phillips informs us that the cups, saucers and even serving plates donated for the annual March, Mad Hatter's Tea Party, now total 17 items. These are numbered and registered so that those donating can be identified.

October Presentation. At the October meeting of the Prince George's Historical Society, the Fred DeMarr Library at Marietta was filled with nearly fifty members. We came to hear Mrs. Marsha Brown, Mrs. Iris McConnell and Mrs. Mildred Gray speak about the County's black heritage.

(We are endeavoring to place both articles and video records of the presentation in the Library for members not able to attend the October meeting.)

The three speakers gave us highlights of their years of research, their personal involvement in preservation projects and brought slides to illustrate the program. Mrs. Brown told Society members about historic Abraham's Hall in Beltsville. She works for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Black History Division and has been a member of the Maryland Historic Trust. Since the 1960s and 1970s, our County leaders have been dedicated to new efforts to preserve and document African-American's rich historical heritage in the County. Mrs. Brown gave members present an overview of the activities now in progress.

Abraham's Hall is an historic site and is being restored so that today's citizens can understand more about the County's history. It was built to serve the membership of a closed benevolent society, the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham. The order was founded in 1877. The five-acre site (now 3.85 acres) was purchased by the organization in 1886 and by 1889 the building was complete. The men who built the Hall worked at the nearby Muirkirk iron furnaces.

There the members could hold social events, religious camp meetings, enjoy prayer bands, dances and see movies. It was in use until 1970. It will soon be opened as a museum.

Then, Mrs. Mildred Ridgely Gray told the gathering about the Ridgely Episcopal Methodist Church for which the deed was recorded in January 9, 1881. A group of church members initiated the concept, raised funds and donated hundreds of hours of skilled work to obtaining the land and building the church. Land, located along Central Avenue in rural Maryland, was purchased from Thomas and Elizabeth Berry. So dedicated were the church members that when fire destroyed the first building, a second one was raised in 1921.

Mrs. Gray told us that it was "a perfect church, a reverent and lovely place of worship." By 1981 it was listed as a historic site. Work is proceeding today to complete restoration and make Ridgely Church into a museum. The Maryland State Senate, Prince

George's County and friends have contributed funds for this purpose. She praised the leaders of our County for their support, thanked historian Pearl Grey for her work on the project and showed slides of the February 23, 1990 dedication of the restored church in its new location (several yards from the original location due to highway expansion).

A third speaker, Mrs. Iris McConnell told us that some of her family had lived on Northhampton Farm. Interested in her family history, Mrs. McConnell has traced her lineage via searches of documentary repositories, by means of oral history interviews and by gathering family photographs and letters. Not only was the story of Northhampton interesting but her talk also offered valuable insights into ways of delving into one's family genealogy.

Northhampton Farm, once owned by L. J. Contee Fairfax, originated as a grant to a Mr. Spriggs in 1673. It is now the Lake Arbor subdivision. Mrs. McConnell is helping with current efforts to make an archeological park at the site of the old house and its outbuildings in order to present a holistic picture of early County rural life.

Letter to Santa.

Dear Santa,

It would be really fine (at our Christmas Party) for you, and your Helpers (i.e. Society members), to present the Society with any or all of the following items on our "wish list."

A Podium,
A Portable Public Address System,
Large Portable Visual Screen,
A Projector,
A Tape Recorder,
A Video Camera Recorder,
And, please Santa, some comfortable padded seats for meetings.

Signed,

Bud Dutton, Society President

Christmas Party. December 8th will be the date, 2 p.m. the time, for our annual festivities at Marietta with music, refreshments and bowls of aromatic and delicious punch(s).

Come to the decorated mansion, see the Society's acquisitions and preservation work at Marietta, enjoy seeing old friends. This is an excellent occasion for you to bring guests. We'll also welcome any favorite recipes that you might care to bring. Most of all, we'll look forward to seeing you there.

Quilt Drawing. At the Christmas Party there will be a drawing to determine who wins the beautiful quilt being raffled off to support the Donald D. Skarda Memorial History Award program.

Thank You! Irene Robb is the Society's effective and innovative refreshments chair these days. After meetings you can rely on her and her assistants to provide a variety of edibles and a selection of juices and coffee. This involves planning ahead to obtain and prepare viands, transporting them to the site of the meeting and presenting them attractively. She adds a bouquet and seasonable trimmings, too. Many thanks Irene!

Mystery. Sorry, but your editor received the exact date and other details of the Halloween Party just hours too late to relate them in the last newsletter. At least we can say that the annual party was held at Marietta on October 26th, 8 - 12 p.m. with costumes galore and again the old mansion was warm with laughter and friendship.

October Bus Tour. In crystal clear weather, forty members of the Society set off for Southern Maryland on October 20th. Tour chair, Warren "Dusty" Rhoads aided by his wife Julie, planned and executed a memorable day.

First stop was "Maidstone," circa 1750, a classic old Maryland farm estate. There Mrs. Jean Hicks, the owner, gave a brief talk on the history of the house and the land. She then showed Society members through the unique and beautiful old home. We marveled at the huge fireplaces in the drawing room, the kitchen and the dining room. Outside the gardens were full of boxwood, aromatic in the sunshine, and late fall flowers in bloom.

Next stop was the Penwick House Inn for luncheon. There, by arrangement with the owner Audrey Davenport, the members enjoyed rest and refreshment. Mrs. Davenport's daughter Vicki spoke to the group on the history of the old building circa 1870, that now houses the restaurant. The name came from a combination of the ladies' three names, "I'm the 'ick'," Vicki smiled. Leaving the comfortable inn and its gift shop, the bus drove southward.

The next stop was at the All Saints Episcopal Church-Sunderland, circa 1790, with long-time church member Gordon

Grahame our speaker. He gave us both church history and several anecdotes about the congregation. It is a classically simple and beautiful church building, right beside the highway.

Miles of highway passed as the comfortable bus continued southward, deep into Calvert County. The trees were just changing into subtle colorings there. Final stop was at the Calvert Marine Museum where knowledgeable guides took Society members through the museum and through the Drum Point Lighthouse.

The lighthouse was built in 1883. Both a workplace and family residence for the lighthouse keeper, it was moved to the museum complex in 1973, from its original location two miles away. Via considerable clambering up ladders and narrow stairways, groups of members made their ascent up through the old structure to the very top. The museum complex has much to offer and is definitely recommended as a place to visit.

Then the group drove northward again, through beautiful Maryland farmlands and small towns to Riverdale. Debarking at the MNCP&PC building the Society members thanked Dusty Rhoads for another grand tour, a memorable day.

Archives II - Good Neighbor. With work on the \$205-million College Park annex to the National Archives eight months along, officials held a briefing in August. This was to assure local residents that the 33-acre site will be at least 50% trees and grass. The huge complex should attract scholars and researchers to the County--possibly 200 a day. It is to be completed in 1993.

Archives II will house over half the national archival collection and will employ about 600 people.

M-NCP&PC to Survey Communities and Roads. This fall M-NCP&PC Planning Department's Historic Preservation staff tackled surveys of a number of towns in the County. Also, two major rural studies have been set in motion. Historic roads are among sites to be identified and preserved. More sites associated with the County's institutional, industrial and commercial past are being inventoried.

Gladys Harris. Gladys Zalia Brennan Harris, 76, antiques refinishing and appraisal expert, passed away on October 11 at her home in Laurel.

Mrs. Harris received a degree in aeronautical engineering at the College of Notre Dame in her native England. She worked for the British Air Ministry before coming to the Washington area during World War II. She is survived by her husband, five daughters and six grandchildren.

Historic Preservation Commission. Robert A. Crawley, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission of Prince George's County announces workshops to explain work in progress, to be held in November. Call his office at 301 952-3520 for times and places.

The Commission, in conjunction with the Historic Sites and Districts Plan Amendment project, has published a beautiful book on the County's 226 Historic Sites. It is titled Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites, Prince George's County, Maryland. These are available, Mr. Crawley reports, through the M-NCPPC Information and Permits Counter, 4th Floor, County Administration Building for \$5.00. (Or send \$6.85 if ordering by mail.)

This is an amazing buy! The catalog has historical backgrounds for not only the historic sites included, but for the County itself. Don't miss this one! Funds will help support the work of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Popular Maps Again Available. The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin has five colorful strip maps, updated and reprinted, 4th edition for sale for \$6.00 postpaid. Order from ICPRB, Suite 300, 6110 Executive Blvd., Rockville, MD 20852.

The five maps come folded in a cover and cover the river and canal from Georgetown to Opequon Creek, south of Williamsport, Maryland. Many points of interest along this 92-mile stretch of river and canal are provided. Christmas gifts?

Surely You Knew? From 1894 to 1899 Ottmar Mergenthaler, the German immigrant who invented the linotype machine lived at 159 Lanavale Street in Baltimore, the Bolton Hill area.

His machine, patented in 1884, revolutionized the printing industry. Type no longer had to be set letter by letter, by hand! Possibly 80% of the world's printed material was set on a linotype machine at one time. Today computers have taken over.

The home, a Federal style townhouse, was built in 1874 and is still standing in good repair.

Please see Calendar, page 62.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Deadline for the December issue of News and Notes is December 12th (or as near that date as possible).

News items and articles are invited. Please call Vera Rollo at 577-2436.

CALENDAR

October

27 Historic Preservation Commission, "Restoring a Muddled 1850's House - Black Walnut Thicket, Baden. \$5 Fee.

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Doughnuts

10:00 a.m. Morning Workshop Bring brown bag lunch.

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Workshop

Speaker: Andrew Wallace, cultural historian.

Send check for \$5 made to P.G.Heritage. Map will be sent to you. Historic Preservation Commission, County Admin. Bldg., 4th Floor, 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. Attn: Sandra Cross.

November

10 Membership Meeting, Marietta, 2 p.m.

December

3 Christmas Party, Marietta, 2 p.m.

Candlelight Tours of Marietta.

(A WEATHER ADVISORY in case of questionable weather, will be recorded on the Marietta telephone recorder. Call 464-0590.)

Marietta Mansion, Headquarters of the Prince George's Historical Society, is located at 5626 Belle Station Road, Glenn Dale, Md. (It is within sight of the new Glenn Dale Road near its intersection with route 450.) Telephone: 464-0590, DeMarr Library.

Marietta Mansion Tours and Gift Shop: Open 12 - 4 on Sundays.

Library Open 12 - 4 on Saturdays. Contact: Fred DeMarr.

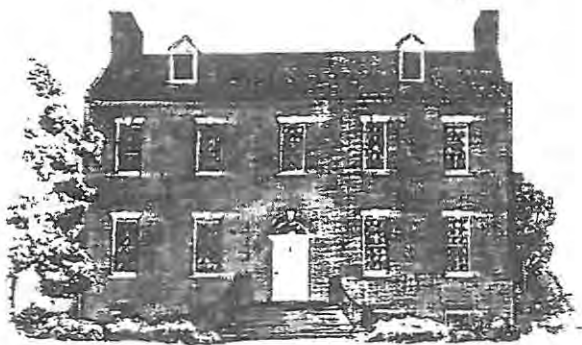
News and Notes from the

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box #14, Riverdale, MD 20737

President: W. C. "Bud" Dutton

Editor: Vera F. Rollo



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland

Headquarters of the **Prince George's County Historical Society**

Vol. XVIII, No. 12

December 1990

December Christmas Party. Marietta will be decorated for the holiday season and ready to welcome you for the annual Christmas party on December 8th at 2:00 p.m.

As always, members will be bringing along samples of their favorite holiday refreshments to share. Generous bowls of holiday punches will be ready. This is a grand time to meet with your friends before the holiday pause (no meetings in January and February) and to introduce a guest to the Society members.

At the Christmas Party participants of the Oral History program will be honored. Also, there will be the drawing for that beautiful quilt being raffled off for the benefit of the Don Skarda Memorial History Award program.

Please join us, December 8th!

Oral History Program. Joyce McDonald has reported that the Society's initial project of the Oral History program has been completed. The theme this past season has been "Growing Up in Prince George's County." A one-hour edited tape has been shown on County TV and copies of the tape are ready for presentation to the participants.

Participants have been invited to view the program in the Library before the Christmas Party and will be recognized at the party. Cheryl Adams has arranged for a master tape to be placed at the Bonnie Johns media center, available for reproduction. She has written a letter to the schools to advise them of this resource.

Schools to Participate in Skarda Competition. Cheryl Adams has distributed materials for the Skarda competition to County schools. This year the contest theme is, "Historic Towns."

Chippendale Chest Presented to Society. At the November meeting of the Board, the House Committee reported that Margaret Marshall has donated a beautiful mahogany chest for Marietta.

We have received a short history of the gracious gift which can now be seen in the dining room at Marietta (see below).

History of the Chest

by Margaret Marshall

This custom made Chippendale Mahogany chest dates back to the mid-1700s. It was given to my grandmother, Margaret Dorsey Hammond Mullikin, by her Uncle Henry Dorsey of Howard County, Maryland. The mother of my grandmother Mullikin was Harriett Dorsey Hammond---so Hammonds married Hammonds.

My grandmother Mullikin married first her cousin Mathias Hammond, son of Dr. Mathias Hammond of Millersville, Maryland. By him she had two children, Henry and Elizabeth. A few years after her husband's death, she married secondly my grandfather, Dr. James McElderry Mullikin and they had four children, Robert Edward Lee Mullikin, Margaret, James McElderry and Ida.

Robert E. Lee Mullikin married Ida Roberts of Calvert County and they had four children, Henrietta Morsell, Lee McElderry, Kent Roberts and Margaret Beckett Mullikin, who married Robert Morris Marshall of Front Royal, Virginia.

At the age of 89-plus, I have given this chest to the Prince George's County Historical Society. I am happy to place it where it will be appreciated and will receive proper care.

Officers and Board of Directors Elected. Fred DeMarr announced at the membership meeting in November that the following dedicated Society members have agreed to serve as officers and directors of the organization. Members voted unanimous approval of the slate.

President, W. C. "Bud" Dutton
Vice-President, Joyce McDonald
Treasurer, John Bourne
Corresponding Secretary, Virginia Reinhart
Recording Secretary, Sarah Bourne
Historian, Fred DeMarr

Board of Directors:

Cheryl Adams	1992
John Mitchell	1992
Sami Sharkey	1992

(more)

Election, continued:

The following Directors were elcted in 1989 and serve on the Board of Directors until 1991.

Ann Ferguson
Eugene Roberts
Edith Bagot

The following past presidents serve as members of the Board in perpetuity.

Fred DeMarr
Warren Rhoads
John Giannetti
Paul Lanham

Susanna Cristofane serves as a director emeritus.

Board News. It was, as always, a busy session for Board Members on November 10th at Marietta. Many thanks to Sarah Bourne for an account of the Board meeting.

Correspondence received included a letter from the County Executive with a check for \$7,500; and a letter from the Governor of Maryland about the museum assistance program and our request for a contribution to the Hall of Fame.

Warren Rhoads reported that the October Society bus tour to Calvert County was filled up and was a great success.

The September 30th Historic Preservation Reception was an unqualified success. All of the significant preservation organizations were represented and appeared to have a sociable time. A motion was made to establish a liason committee from the Society to work for the University Preservation Program, which was approved. Virginia Reinhart will lead this committee.

The Virta history of the County will be available early in 1991 . Gift certificates are available for Christmas giving (see enclosed order form). Sarah Bourne will handle distribution of the gift certificates and Joyce McDonald has set a record of the orders into a computer for us. The book is available to Society members for the reduced price of \$25 plus tax until January 31st.

The Library/Museum Steering Committee has made application to the MARPAT Foundation for \$25,000 for museum planning. Also a request has been made to the State of Maryland for \$9,200 to be used for library computerization hardware, software and data entry services. Cheryl Adams told of contacting Lida Churchville at the National Archives who is willing to work with us on the project.

Inflation Causes Dues Increase. At the November meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society, a finance committee report was presented by Warren Rhoads. After discussion of several on-going items, a motion was approved to raise the dues beginning in 1991 to \$20 for an annual membership; \$15 for students; \$50 sustaining; \$200 life membership. Annual dues will be the same for single or a couple residing at the same address. Treasurer John Bourne is to make a separate dues-notice mailing.

The next Board meeting will be held on Saturday, December 1, 10 a.m. at Marietta.

Angels at Marietta. Sami Sharkey tells us that angels have descended on Marietta and that you may view them---a wonderful collection of angels gathered together over the years by Margaret Todd. They will be exhibited on Marietta tours, Candlelight tours and during hours that the mansion is open.

Gift Giving Season Began Early. In addition to the gift from Mrs. Marshall, described above, another donation has been made to the Society. Mrs. Ethel Hoke of Hyattsville has donated a gilded porcelain compote (circa 1830) and an etched glass "decanter."

The management of the Mt. Airy Plantation has given the Society a certificate redeemable for a luncheon for two, Sami Sharkey reports. Immediately seeing this gift as a way of helping to raise money to repair the pianoforte, this certificate is now being raffled off for \$2 per ticket. Chances are available at the gift shop, at the Christmas Party and during Marietta tour times. Mt. Airy is delightful and you'll enjoy this \$60 value should you be the winner of the drawing at the Christmas party.

Speaking of gifts, the gift shop, Sami Sharkey notes, is well stocked with Christmas fare. You'll find plentiful gifts there for many on your list---and don't forget a gift for yourself!

Candlelight Tours. Marietta will wear its greenery and Holiday best for candlelight tours on December 1, 7 and 8th, 7 - 9 p.m. The admission is only \$2. We will have Musica Conviva to sing for us on the 7th and MacTalla, a Scots-Gaelic folk group, to perform on the 8th.

Giannetti "Tour" a Success. At the November meeting John Giannetti, former Society president, gave us an illustrated, arm-chair tour of many very beautiful old mansions along the Mississippi River and in New Orleans. He was able to tell us about the history of each place shown and added anecdotes of the trip taken by his group of four historians. The meeting room was full, and the lecture was greatly appreciated and enjoyed.

Thanks Due Seabrook Bakery. Mr. John Chromy and his staff of the Seabrook Bakery and Deli donated delicious refreshments to the Society on the occasion of our November meeting. Many thanks!

Please! Please! Please! "Give us a hand at Marietta!" urges Sami Sharkey. "We need tour guides, volunteers to help in the gift shop, to staff the door and take tickets during events."

"If you cannot help regularly but can assist occasionally, we can use you!" Couples are welcome. Docents and volunteers who work regularly get a 10% discount in the gift shop. Your gift of time to the Society would be greatly appreciated. Please call Sami Sharkey, 927-5397, or Edith Bagot, 927-3632.

Trick but No Treat on Halloween. Spooky. The Halloween Party was much touted in this newsletter all year but we missed getting the exact date by hours before the October News and Notes went to the printer. In previous years the party had been most enjoyable, so your editor, anticipating, blithely reported that this year's party was really nice. Unfortunately, the party was cancelled due to lack of response. So, it was a non-party. Spooky? You can't believe everything you read, even here at intervals. Editor's regrets.

From the Treasurer. John "Jack" Bourne reports that the prices of the Society's essential services and supplies, such as: telephone, printing News and Notes, postage, insurance, plus library publications and supplies, have increased in price materially since 1985, but membership dues did not change. The 1991 dues rates are expected to cover the Society's essential services for the foreseeable future. Increases in both the number of members and in additional contributions are expected to fund expansion and improvements of the Society's educational program.

A new dues invoice will be mailed to members early in January.

Welcome to New Members. Members not reported previously are given below thanks to a list provided by Treasurer John Bourne:

Mr. and Mrs. David J. Banelski,
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Hass,
Col. Charles E. Hoffert,
David L. Jenkins,
Ernest Ray Juel,
William W. Phelps,
Kathryn M. Rager,
Robert D. Reed,
Mr. and Mrs. W. Murray Sanders
Seymour M. Selig

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

There will be a combined January/February News and Notes. Contributions can be accepted up through January 15th, 1991.

News items, articles are invited. Contact Vera Rollo, 577-5308.

CALENDAR

December

- 1 Society Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Marietta.
- Todd Angel Collection on Display at Marietta.
- 1, 7, 8th Candlelight Tours - Marietta.
- 8 Christmas Party, Marietta, 2 p.m.

January

Virta history available, about January 30th.

No meeting in January.

No meeting in February.

March

- 9 Society Membership Meeting 2 p.m. (Marietta?)

(A WEATHER ADVISORY in case of questionable weather will be recorded on the Marietta telephone recorder. Call 464-0590.)

Marietta Mansion, Headquarters of the Prince George's Historical Society, is located at 5626 Belle Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD. Telephone: 464-0590, DeMarr Library.

Marietta Mansion tours and gift shop: Open 12 - 4 Sundays.

Library: Open 12 - 4 Saturdays. Contact Fred DeMarr.

News and Notes from the

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box #14, Riverdale, MD 20737

President: W. C. "Bud" Dutton

Editor: Vera F. Rollo

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. New members are:

Mrs. Marion E. Burris
Michael and Stacy Murphy

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1990 is at hand. Attached to this month's newsletter is a membership form for members to use to continue their membership in the Prince George's Historical Society into 1990. Some members have renewed and new members who joined after September 1, 1989, will have their membership extended into 1990 without further payment. If you will not be using the renewal form, please give it to a friend who may like to join the Society and enjoy its many activities.

Our membership has started to grow again, largely as a result of the September fund-raisers and the new Society brochure that has been distributed to libraries and historical sites in the County.

If all 485 of our current members renew, we should be well over the 500-member mark by the end of 1991!

WORKSHOP PLANNED. A workshop on museums of history is set for January 13th, at Marietta, 10:00 to 12:00-noon, to offer interested members and friends an opportunity to learn more about local museums of history and their operation.

For more information call President Bud Dutton, 627-2241.

MEETINGS PROPOSED FOR 1990: Most events and meetings will be on the second Saturday of the month. (See below.)

January	Usually no membership meeting. This year on the 6th, our 12th-Day-of-Christmas Party, 2:00 PM, Marietta.
February	No membership meeting.
March	Membership meeting, second Saturday.
April	St. George's Day Luncheon/Dinner (Sunday 4/22.)
May	Membership meeting, second Saturday.
June	Special Event/Entertainment.
July	No membership meeting.
August	No membership meeting.
September	Special event (fund raiser at historic site).
October	Membership meeting, second Saturday.
November	Membership meeting, election, second Saturday.
December	Christmas Party.

Other events are, the Mad Hatter's Tea in March; the Children's Games Day in April or early May; the Halloween party in October; the Doll Show in November; and the Candlelight Tours of Marietta in December.

With all these interesting events ahead, 1990 promises to be a very rewarding year for Society members and their County.

CHARLES LYLE has been named the new Director of the Maryland Historical Society succeeding J. Jefferson Miller, who retired last January and Barbara Wells Sarudy who served as Acting Director in the interim.

Lyle has 18 years of experience in the field of historic agency administration, most recently as Director of the Delaware Historical Society.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY. On January 14th, a Sunday, at the Queen Anne Auditorium on the campus of the Prince George's County Community College at Largo, Maryland, a visual and performing arts presentation will be made in celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Hours are 2:30 to 5:00 PM. The theme is "Living the Legacy."

This is the first county-wide celebration of the holiday. There is no admission but those attending are requested to donate new clothing items and canned foods for the needy.

Contact person is Ms. Rebecca Gerald, 952-4278.

CALENDAR

January 6 Twelfth-Day-Of-Christmas Party.

SNOW PLAN

Please call the library number at Marietta in the event the weather is a possible problem, for recorded announcement.

January 14 Presentation in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday at Prince George's Community College, 2:30 - 5 PM.

DAYS AND HOURS OPEN

Marietta Mansion Tours and Gift Shop Open 12-4 on Sundays.

Prince George's Historical Society Library at Marietta
Open 12-4 on Saturdays. Librarian Fred DeMarr.

News and Notes From the PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box #14, Riverdale, MD 20737
President: Bud Dutton Editor: Vera F. Rollo



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland

Headquarters of the **Prince George's County Historical Society**

Vol. XVIII, No. 2

February 1990

The Prince George's Historical Society holds no meeting in February. Meetings will resume in March.

Please see the Calendar, at the end of this issue of News and Notes, for a preview listing of interesting meetings and events planned for 1990.

Snow caused us to postpone the Christmas Party not once but twice in December. Renamed the "12th Day of Christmas Party," it was successfully held on the afternoon January 6th at Marietta.

IMPORTANT ! SPRING BUS TOUR DATE SET.

The Spring Bus Tour will be on April 7th. Our Tour Director, Warren W. "Dusty" Rhoads, asks that, if interested, that you reserve this date.

Full details of this Saturday, April 7th, Tour will be in the March issue of News and Notes with a reservation form and full details.

PRINCE GEORGIAN OF THE YEAR 1990 nominations are being sought. Forms are available (they must be in by February 23, 1990) from:

Prince Georgian of the Year 1990 Committee
County Administration Bldg---Room 5016
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PLANS. Society President, Bud Dutton, called a Director's meeting at Marietta on Saturday January 27th. Various matters of routine business included the Treasurer's Report.

The Directors then turned their attention to the many and encouraging expressions of interest in the Society's proposed Museum. Among these requests for space for a glass collection; a request from the Hall of Fame; and a letter from Mrs. Sue Mills, County Council member, on a possible location for the museum.

Work is proceeding at Marietta with the kitchen virtually complete. John Walton, director of the History Division of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, noted that the MNCP&PC budget would include money for structural restoration at Marietta. This is a part of a six-year program.

Members of the Society are invited to submit ideas for awards to organizations and persons, to the Awards Selection Committee, before March 10th.

Categories for awards include: Preservationists (persons and organizations); Publication and research done; "Workers in the Vineyard"; Friends of Preservation; and Celebrations and Commemorations.

Museum Seminar held in January reported most interesting and successful. Speakers were Romaine Summerville, former Director, Maryland Historical Society; Valerie Smith, Sandy Spring Museum; and Patricia Williams, Director of Accreditation, National Association of Museums.

Museum ideas and considerations were discussed. This is a most fascinating project. Members are urged to take an interest in this challenging endeavor. It is hoped that by the date of the County celebration of its Tricentennial year, just a few years hence, that the Historical Museum will be a reality.

Imagine, portraits and antique furniture displayed; beautiful quilts shown; collections of glass and other artifacts; a library; a center for many County associations to gather. All these are possible. Right now Society members are thinking over these and other possible programs for the Museum.

The Board is favorably considering plans for republication of Alan Virta's excellent history of Prince George's County.

WALESA IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LAFAYETTE

Susan G. Pearl
Research Historian
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

PART ONE

In mid November 1989, Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa visited the United States, and was greeted with a welcome of unusual warmth. Because of his outstanding role in the liberalizing of Poland's government in recent years, Walesa is held in particularly high esteem in the United States and he was welcomed with great enthusiasm. He was invited to address a joint session of Congress on Wednesday, 15 November, and historians noted that he was only the second non-head-of-state ever to be so honored in the two hundred year history of our republic.

The first was the Marquis de Lafayette, who 165 years ago came to Washington amid unprecedented celebration, toured the United States, and addressed a joint session of Congress. Because of the parallels between these two historic visits, and the prominent role of several Prince Georgians in Lafayette's tour, it seems appropriate at this time to recount the story of Lafayette's travels through our County and Washington D.C. in the fall of 1824.

Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette (1737-1834), was born in France to a family of wealth and influence. He made the army his career, and, upon the outbreak of the American Revolution, took the opportunity to further his military career overseas. He came to America in 1777, in quest of military glory, was commissioned a major-general in the Continental Army, and took part in the Battle of Brandywine (Pennsylvania) in September 1777; later entrusted by George Washington with the defense of Virginia, he was present at the British surrender at Yorktown. He returned to France in 1782, and later served as an aide to Benjamin Franklin in France during peace negotiations.

Lafayette had gained a reputation as a liberal among his noble class; he was active as a representative in the Estates General and the National Assembly, 1789-1791, supporting religious toleration, freedom of the press, emancipation of slaves, penal reform and suppression of class privileges. He supported the monarchy, however, and was proscribed by the Legislative Assembly; from 1792 to 1797, he was a prisoner of war in Austria. Released by Napoleon, he returned to France in 1799, and lived in retirement at his family home, La Grange. After his return visit to the United States in 1824/25, he served in the Chamber of Deputies until his death in 1834, having been a major force in the strengthening of Franco-American relations.

In 1824, Lafayette was 66 years old, and out of favor with the French government; he had lost most of his inherited fortune, partly spent in the cause of American freedom and partly confiscated during the French Revolution. He was considered a hero by the American public. An invitation to visit the United States was voted by the Congress and sent to Lafayette by President James Monroe; Lafayette accepted the invitation, and booked passage from Le

Havre, 11 July 1824. It was understood by all, indeed emphasized in American newspapers, that throughout his travels, Lafayette was to be the guest of the entire nation, and to have no expenses of his own. He travelled with his son, George Washington Lafayette, and his secretary Auguste Levasseur. His tour of the United States between August 1824 and September 1825 was, to state it mildly, a triumphant one; he was met everywhere he went with near-fanatic joy and adulation.

General Lafayette arrived with his entourage in New York 16 August 1824; he went from there north to New England, and then, after returning to New York, began his trip south to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington on 23 September. Local papers from this time on carried regular columns entitled "Lafayette's Movements" or "The Nation's Guest". The National Intelligencer, printed in Washington D. C., carried an article, 2 October, describing the pomp and splendor of his reception in Philadelphia, and in the following days, printed letters expressing the esteem in which Lafayette was held by Americans, and advocating the appropriation by Congress of a substantial monetary gift. "It is evident that no man since Washington has been the object of such profound veneration and gratitude to the people of the United States as Lafayette."

Lafayette arrived in Baltimore 7 October, was greeted by Maryland's Governor Samuel Stevens, and had an emotional meeting with George Washington's adopted son, George Washington Parke Custis of Arlington. He left Baltimore to head for Washington on Monday, 11 October, and travelled south on the Washington-Baltimore Turnpike into Prince George's County to spend the night at the Roszburg Tavern. (This Federal-style brick inn was built at the beginning of the nineteenth century, was later the site of the fledgling Maryland Agricultural College, and is now known as the Rossborough Inn, the faculty/alumni club on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park.) It is at this point that Lafayette's travels became intertwined with the lives of several prominent Prince Georgians.

Roszburg Tavern was owned in 1824 by George Calvert (1768-1838) of Riversdale, that fine brick plantation house which is the centerpiece of the town of Riverdale, and is currently undergoing restoration by M-NCPPC. Calvert, a wealthy and prominent planter, but locally unpopular because of his family's pro-British/Tory sentiments, also owned the Waterloo Tavern on the Turnpike in Anne Arundel (now Howard) County about one third of the way from Baltimore to Washington. Lafayette's party stopped at the Waterloo on the way out of Baltimore, 11 October 1824, but it was quickly decided (because of uncomfortable associations of the name "Waterloo" in France's recent history) to continue on toward Washington. This they did, arriving at Roszburg Tavern for the night. Lafayette's secretary, Auguste Levasseur, recorded the journey from Baltimore: "Night closed in upon us while on our journey, and . . . the committee of arrangement determined to propose that he should sleep on the way. . . we arrived in front of an hotel, at which we were to halt, but as we were about to alight, we heard a great tumult of confused voices pronouncing angrily the name of Waterloo: at the same moment an officer of the escort . . informed the general that the name of the house was Waterloo, inquiring if it was agreeable to him to lodge there. The general replied that he would

willingly go on, but that he feared to fatigue his escort. They however declared they had rather founder their horses than that he should remain in a house whose name might awaken unpleasant reflections; we therefore continued our journey. Our escort, enraged at the innkeeper, wished before we left the place to pull down the sign, and would have done it, if their officers had not prevented it by reminding them of the sacred right of property. We stopped for the night at an excellent inn . . . where we learned that an old tory of this county, still besotted by his love for the English, had rented the other house to a poor innkeeper on condition that he named it "Waterloo". (Levasseur, Lafayette in America, 1829, translation by John D. Godman, Vol. I, pp. 172-73.)

The National Intelligencer also published an account of the journey to Rossburg. "Fourteen or fifteen miles from Baltimore, at 8 o'clock in the evening, they were met by the first Bladensburg troop of cavalry commanded by Capt. Sprigg (late Governor of the State of Maryland) and . . . escorted by this fine company to Rossburg, which place they reached about 10 o'clock at night, having been joined at Vansville by Capt. Snowden's company of riflemen mounted. The general lodged at Rossburg Hotel, where preparation had been made for his comfortable accomodation." George Calvert had apparently hoped to entertain Lafayette in his own home, and had issued an invitation for him to spend that night at Riversdale. It should be recalled that Calvert's Flemish wife, Rosalie Stier, had died three years earlier, and George Calvert was at home with his three youngest children, Eugenia (age 18), Charles Benedict (age 16), and Julia (age 10). Because of illnesses in the Calvert family, misunderstandings and missed communications, Lafayette stayed instead at Rossburg Tavern, and George Calvert was apparently much criticized for his breach of hospitality to the returning hero. Social pressure was sufficient to make him publish, shortly thereafter, a very interesting apologia, only recently discovered among the papers of a related historic property.

"When Mr. Custis of Arlington [George Calvert's nephew] called on me, on his way to Baltimore, I desired him to invite Gen. La Fayette to lodge with me on the night preceding his entrance into the city . . . This arrangement was accordingly made, by Mr. Custis at Baltimore . . . At the time of sending the invitation, one of my daughters was sick, but I hoped not seriously so. On the return of Mr. Custis late on Sunday, my family was in a state of much alarm, my other daughter having been attacked by the bilious fever, . . . it was determined, in consequence of the illness of my daughter, and the prospect of her being worse, that Mr. Custis should write to Gen. La Fayette, apprise him of the situation of my family, & request him in case a favourable change should not take place, to lodge at the Inn at Rossburg, two miles from my house, to which I would send furniture, servants, &c. for his accommodation. This information was immediately sent on, with the intention that if a favourable change should occur the next day an express should meet him on the way, and his company be expected at Riversdale. Such a change, happily occuring the next day, I dispatched an express to Waterloo, eighteen miles distant, which reached the Gen. there. Under these circumstances, expecting the Gen. at my house, I considered it unnecessary to proceed in making preparations at Rossburg. I repaired thither to receive him and conduct him to Riversdale.

"After the delivery of Mr. Custis' letters in Baltimore on Sunday night, it seems one of the Committee of Arrangement . . . wrote to Lanham the Inn-keeper at Roszburg, ordering accommodations. This letter was received by Lanham but its contents never communicated to me, although I was seven hours in the house on Monday, waiting the arrival of the General.

"On the arrival of the General at Roszburg about ten o'clock at night, I greeted him with the affection and respect which, in common with the nation I sincerely felt towards him, and invited him cordially to my house; he replied very politely that other arrangements had been made. I then took aside one of the Committee of arrangements of Baltimore, and repeated the invitation, to which he replied with politeness, that he thought the General could be well accommodated where he was. . . As to the name of Waterloo given to the Inn, to which exception seems to be taken, it was so designated by the late Mrs. Calvert, a Flemish lady, who possessed an estate in Flanders near that celebrated spot, and had friends engaged in that memorable conflict; as soon, however, as it was hinted to me, that it would be complimentary to Gen. La Fayette to alter the name, or the sign, during his passage, I immediately gave orders to my Tenant to have it done, in obedience to which the name was covered with the words Brandywine and York Town, in distinct characters." (Federal Republican and Baltimore Telegram, undated 1824)

One can imagine the embarrassment of George Calvert at this time of national euphoria and adulation during Lafayette's visit.

The next morning, Tuesday, 12 October, Lafayette and his entourage set out for Washington "after breakfasting at Roszburg, where every attention was paid to the comfort of the General and his suite . . . he reached the dividing line between this state and the District of Columbia at a quarter before eleven o'clock." (Baltimore American, 13 October 1824) Again, Lafayette was escorted on this leg of the journey by Sprigg's cavalry.

To be continued.

Part Two will appear in the March edition of News and Notes.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1990 is at hand. Attached to this month's newsletter is a membership form for members to use to continue their membership in the Prince George's Historical Society into 1990. Some members have renewed and new members who joined after September 1, 1989, will have their membership extended into 1990 without further payment. If you will, having made your renewal, please give it to a friend who may like to join the Society and enjoy its many activities.

PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR NEWSLETTER LABEL. It is difficult to remember which of our many organizations we have renewed. To help us, the March News and Notes label will show that information.

WINTER PROGRAMS. A number of programs run throughout the winter at Great Falls Park in nearby Virginia, if you find yourself suffering from "cabin fever." For information on walks and tours you are invited to call: (703) 285-2966.

FEBRUARY - BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS. The County began its celebration of Martin Luther King Day and Black History Month with a program on January 14th at Prince George's Community College. Many interesting programs are offered in February for young and adult Countians.

To learn of these celebrations of Black History Month we can call 699-2588. Also available a TDD line, 277-8456.

BOOK REVIEW by Paul T. Lanham. Come Retribution, by William A. Tidwell with James O. Hall and David Winfred Gaddy. Published by the University Press of Mississippi of Jackson, Mississippi and London, 1988.

The title of Come Retribution is after the code key phrase for the Confederate cipher in use in the closing days of the Civil War. This masterful 510-page research study of the Confederate Secret Service presents considerable circumstantial evidence that indicts the Confederacy in Lincoln's assassination, if only to the extent that an elaborate foundation to facilitate a kidnapping route to Richmond was subverted and used to pass Booth and Herold into Virginia as assassination fugitives.

The reader can only be astounded and amazed at the depth of scholarly effort this book reveals. The contemplated high level attempt to kidnap Lincoln was hidden in numerous documents and actions which the authors have womehow managed to put into a logical and revealing sequence to show the detailed plan. In the center of this plan was the Confederate intelligence network stretching across southern Prince George's County and Charles County, Maryland. It is in this connection that the amazing actions of Prince Georgians Wat Bowie and E. Pliny Bryan, as

Confederate Secret Service agents, are detailed . The authors' comment that an astounding number of physicians elected to gather intelligence for the South as did most southern Maryland postmasters, is explained by their numerous contacts with many individuals in their daily routines which defied Union detective suspicions. (Dr. Mudd and Harrison Surratt?)

Since the Confederate Secret Service was also the focal point for development of non-conventional warfare options, Mrs. Tidwell Hall and David Gaddy also cover this fascinating Confederate field at the same time as the circumstantial assassination area. Mine warfare, improved signal and telegraph capabilities, horological (i.e. "time") bombs, sub-terra (underground) mines and the infamous "biological" warfare proposal (to import infected yellow-fever cloths from Barbadoes and arrange distribution to New York city residents) are all exposed to the extent documented by Confederate records.

Since any consideration of Prince George's County Civil War history sooner or later considers the case against Mary Surratt, one very interesting new fact in that record is mentioned in Come Retribution. On page 423 (of the paperback printing) is reported the 1977 discovery by a Surratt Society member of Atzerodt's confession, a document which had received little attention and had been lost for over a hundred years.

In that confession, a frightened Atzerodt confessed to his brother-in-law that Booth was counting on Mrs. Surratt to have two carbines retrieved from hiding at the Surratt Tavern in (now) Clinton to be quickly picked up by Booth and Herold as they fled the assassination scene on Good Friday 1865. In today's calmer consideration of Mary Surratt's involvement, this is a most damning revelation!-----Paul Lanham.

CALENDAR

METTINGS PLANNED FOR 1990. You may wish to place this list near your social calendar. We published it in the January News and Notes but repeat, with more information, the list of proposed meetings for 1990 this month, as well. (Most events and meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month.)

February	No membership meeting. Board Meeting, Marietta, 10AM, 2/10.(Sat.)
March	Membership meeting, second Saturday (3/10). Sandra Cross, Speaker. Mad Hatter's Tea Party, March 3rd.

April	St. George's Day Luncheon/Dinner (Sunday 4/22.) Afternoon. Queen Anne School/St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. Also: Spring Bus Tour - Anne Arundel County on April 7th. Children's Games Day - Marietta
May	Membership meeting, second Saturday. At Riverview Park, on the Potomac, with speaker.
June	Special Event/Entertainment. A focus: Winners of the Skarda Essay Contest.
July	No membership meeting.
August	No membership meeting.
September	Special event (fund raiser at historic site). County Fair
October	Membership meeting, second Saturday.
November	Membership meeting, election, second Saturday.
December	Christmas Party.

Other events are the Halloween party in October; the Doll Show in November; and the Candlelight Tours of Marietta in December.

With all these interesting programs ahead, our growing and active organization, in 1990, offers a rewarding year for Society members and for the County.

(A WEATHER ADVISORY will be available on Marietta telephone recorder if weather is questionable for an event.)

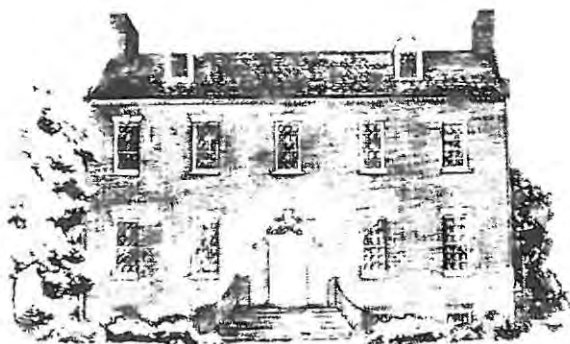
DAYS AND HOURS OPEN

Marietta Mansion Tours and Gift Shop Open 12-4 on Sundays.

Prince George's Historical Society Library at Marietta
Open 12-4 on Saturdays. Librarian Fred DeMarr.

News and Notes From the PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box #14, Riverdale, MD 20737
President: Bud Dutton Editor: Vera F. Rollo



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland

Headquarters of the **Prince George's County Historical Society**

Vol. XVIII, No. 3

March 1990

Join us on March 10th, 2:00 PM at Marietta, when our guest speaker will be Sandra Cross, south-county historian and literary curator of the Margaret Cook collection. Sandra will share with us highlights of her years of discovery and learning from Mrs. Cook as they traveled, and worked on projects, throughout southern Prince George's County.

She will tell us about Mrs. Cook's dedication and her impact on the preservation and historical record of the County, through "show and tell" displays of Mrs. Cook's projects and a description of her voluminous historic collection.

Spring Tour. Details of the Prince George's County Historical Society Spring Tour, April 7th, are provided on the last page of this issue of News and Notes.

Tour to Historic Yorkshire. The third annual Lord Baltimore Tour will visit Ireland and England, June 20 - July 5, 1990. The tour is organized to support and publicize Kiplin Hall, a fine Jacobean county house built by George Calvert, first Lord Baltimore, in 1623. For information please contact tour leaders Professor David Fogle at 301/454-4174 or Mary Munroe at 202/293-0033.

Members' Support is Requested. We urge members of the Society to contact their representatives at the State House to support the initiative, House of Delegates Bill #436, Museum Assistance Act.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1990 is at hand. Some members have renewed and new members who joined after September 1, 1989, will have their membership extended into 1990 without further payment. Please look at your newsletter label. It is difficult to remember which of our many organizations we have renewed. To help us, the March News and Notes label will show that information.

Board Meeting in March. The republication of Alan Virta's county history was discussed with a representative of the Donning Publishing Company. Additional sections updating the history will be added by the author. Also there will be a section of corporate and community sponsors. After addressing concerns of the Board, a motion was approved to accept the proposal as modified.

Joyce McDonald with John Walton and members of the house committee [for Marietta], visited the home of a long-time county resident to look at furniture and other items that the Society might be interested in acquiring before they are offered at auction.

The Treasurer submitted a proposed budget to the Board for 1990 which was approved with several items to be reviewed and revised as appropriate.

The museum planning project was discussed. John Walton, head of the History Division of MNCPPC distributed interesting handouts to those discussing the museum proposals. A steering committee has been approved. The chairmen of the committees are to encourage sub-committees and the involvement of members of the Society so that anyone interested may attend.

Museum of County History Project
Steering Committee

Joyce McDonald---779-5825---contact, liason, coordination of other local groups, including public, private, state and national ones.

Sarah Bourne---277-5468---definition, purpose, goals and objectives, ideas.

Eugene Roberts---262-8177---private finance activities, budget projections for development and operation.

Bill Haskell---627-6626---legal requirements, expansion of society documents, spin-off independent organization, operations documents.

Bud Dutton---627-2241---coordination of governmental agencies, other county-wide organizations, chair committee.

Fred DeMarr---277-0711---member-at-large.

Ann Ferguson---927-8230---member-at-large.

John Walton has been asked to serve as technical advisor.

Chairmen are encouraged to involve Society members in the work of the sub-committees.

This Steering Committee will operate through Consultant Phase I and II. The committee is authorized to interview and engage consultants within the expenditures authorized by the Board of Directors of the Society.

The Committee will make regular reports to the Board.

St. George's Day Dinner. The St. George's Day Dinner will be held Sunday, April 22, at the Leland Hall, St. Barnabas Church, Upper Marlboro.

There will be a Social Hour and tours of the historic church at 1:00. The Dinner program begins at 2:00, the Dinner at 3:00 and the Hall of Fame presentation at 4:00.

Your invitation will be in the mail in mid-March. Space is limited so you may wish to send in your reservations promptly.

U. S. Capitol Historical Society Conference. On March 14th and 15th the U. S. Capitol Historical Society Conference will be held in cooperation with the U. S. Congress. The conference will convene in the Senate Caucus Room, SR-325, of the Russell Senate Office Building. All sessions will be held in this room.

All sessions of the conference and the closing reception are open to the public free of charge. You may register in Room SR-325 at 8:30-9:00 A.M., Wednesday, March 14th.

From the Pen of Judge R. Lee Van Horn. By Paul Lanham.

Judge Van Horn in his book, Out of the Past, notes that while the man of the colonial Prince George's County family was planning to care for his thirst problems, he usually remembered his lady at home with a well thought out peace offering as evidenced by same date store purchases, as follows:

- 1 quart of rum & 1 yard of ribbon
- 1 gallon of rum & 1 pair of garters
- 1 gallon of rum & 2 ivory combs
- 1 quart of rum & 1 pound of cheese

(Source page 133, Out of the Past.)

WALESA IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LAFAYETTE

Susan G. Pearl
Research Historian
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

PART TWO

In its February issue, News and Notes printed the first part of an article entitled "Walesa in the Footsteps of Lafayette". The article began with America's enthusiastic welcoming of Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa in November 1989. When Walesa was invited to address a joint session of the U. S. Congress on Wednesday, 15 November, historians noted that he was only the second non-head-of-state ever to be so honored in the two hundred year history of our republic. The first was the Marquis de Lafayette, who 165 years ago came to Washington amid unprecedented celebration, toured the United States, and addressed a joint session of Congress. Because of the parallels between these two historic visits, and the prominent role of several Prince Georgians in Lafayette's tour, it seems appropriate at this time to recount the story of Lafayette's travels through our County and Washington D. C. in the fall of 1824.

The first part of this article recounted General Lafayette's participation in the American Revolution, his donating of much of his personal fortune to the cause of American freedom, and his heroic stature in the eyes of the American public at the time of his return visit to the United States in 1824/25. The article traced his journey south from Baltimore, 11 October 1824, the awkward incident at the Waterloo Tavern, his invitation to lodge at Riversdale, and his stay that night at Roszburg Tavern (now Rossborough Inn on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park).

.....

The next morning, Tuesday, 12 October, Lafayette and his entourage set out for Washington "after breakfasting at Roszburg, where every attention was paid to the comfort of the General and his suite . . . he reached the dividing line between this state and the District of Columbia at a quarter before eleven o'clock." (Baltimore American, 13 October 1824) Again, Lafayette was escorted on this leg of the journey by Sprigg's cavalry.

Samuel Sprigg (ca. 1783-1855), who led the cavalry which escorted Lafayette's party from the northern limits of Prince George's County to its boundary with the District of Columbia, was at that time one of the County's best known citizens; he had just completed a term as Governor of the State of Maryland, and had retired to the Sprigg family plantation, Northampton (in the present-day Largo area), which he had inherited from his uncle, Osborne Sprigg. (Northampton no longer survives, but the ruins of its domestic outbuildings have recently been the subject of archaeological investigation, and will be stabilized to serve as interpretive exhibits in a future park setting.) Samuel Sprigg's three-year term as Governor was characterized by support for internal improvements; the chartering of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal was a result of his strong advocacy. He was much admired by his contemporaries, and it is interesting to read the tribute to the ex-governor printed

by the National Intelligencer in its account of Lafayette's journey from Rossburg to Washington: "The cavalry troop was commanded by Samuel Sprigg, Esq., who, two years ago, ended a full term of service in the capacity of Governor of the State of Maryland, . . . Returned to private life, a wealthy planter, in the midst of all that can render life easy and pleasant, he is proud of resuming his character of a citizen and becoming a member of a troop of horse, in which he enrolls himself with his neighbors, who choose him their commander. In that capacity, he has had the pleasure of receiving General Lafayette at the boundary of his county, and escorting him through it." (National Intelligencer, 15 October 1824)

Sprigg's participation in Lafayette's journey was described also by Levasseur: "On the morning of the 12th of October, captain Sprigg was at the head of his beautiful volunteer cavalry, ready to escort general Lafayette to Washington. Captain Sprigg was not long since governor of Maryland, which office he discharged for several years in a manner that conciliated universal esteem and regard. In relinquishing his public office to return to private life, he did not think he had discharged all his duties towards his country. He organized, almost entirely at his own expense, a company of volunteer cavalry, . . . and forgetting his previous elevation, did not think it beneath his dignity as ex-governor, to assume the modest uniform of a captain. One cannot avoid feeling a sentiment of profound respect on beholding this patriotic soldier surrounded by his cavalry, nearly all of whom are farmers residing in the county he lives in, continually employing himself with their military improvement and the perfection of their organization, and especially with the development of their patriotic sentiments, which his conversation and example daily augments. Captain Sprigg is also a tender parent, and an active and enlightened agriculturist." (Levasseur, I:173)

On Tuesday, 12 October, Lafayette proceeded from Rossburg Tavern to the District of Columbia; he was carried into the city in an elegant landau drawn by four fine grays, and together with his son, Secretary Levasseur, and George Custis of Arlington, took part in a military review. "The shouts of thousands of spectators mingled with the roar of artillery and rent the air with acclamations of joy and welcome." (National Intelligencer, 14 October 1824)

The "roar of artillery" had a less welcome effect on another prominent Prince Georgian; Gabriel Duval (1752-1844) had been appointed in 1811 by President James Madison to the United States Supreme Court, and served there until his retirement in 1835. (Duval had built his beautiful brick country house, Marietta, shortly after his appointment to the Court; today publicly owned, Marietta stands in present-day Glenn Dale, and is the headquarters of the Prince George's County Historical Society.) "The horses attached to Judge Duval's carriage took fright at the salute which was firing while the General was leaving the Capitol, ran off and dashed the carriage to pieces against one of the trees on the avenue. Two ladies who were in the carriage were much injured, and the judge picked up entirely senseless." (Baltimore American, 14 October 1824) Judge Duval recovered, but the accident left him with one broken arm. Two days after his tumultuous reception in Washington, Lafayette called on the recuperating Judge in his Washington house; the National Intelligencer reported that "Judge Duval has suffered as little as could possibly have been expected from the accident . . . and is doing extremely well." (National Intelligencer, 16 October 1824)

Lafayette left Washington, 16 October, and made a sentimental visit to Mount Vernon. After a month of travels in Virginia, including an extended visit with Jefferson at Monticello, Lafayette returned to Washington at the end of November, and was invited to meet the members of Congress. On the afternoon of 9 December, he was escorted into the Senate chamber and introduced; the session was immediately adjourned so that each Senator could individually pay his respects. The National Intelligencer described the scene on the following day: "We were witness yesterday to the reception of General Lafayette by the Senate. It was a scene of simple but imposing dignity. Lafayette is the only man who ever was, in his personal capacity, publicly received by the Senate of the United States. The respect which has been shown to him here is great, but it was all due. No parallel case can ever occur."

On the morning of 10 December, Lafayette was again escorted to the Capitol, this time to the House of Representatives. The Senate was invited to attend the session, and the Representatives made space for the Senators to enter into the historic joint session. Henry Clay, Speaker of the House, then introduced Lafayette. "Although but few of the members who compose this body shared with you in the war of our revolution, all have . . . a knowledge of the perils, the sufferings, and the sacrifices which you voluntarily encountered, and the signal services, in America and in Europe, which you performed for an infant, a distant, and an alien people; and all feel and own the very great extent of the obligations under which you have placed our country." (Levasseur, II:14-15) Lafayette responded, emotionally and extemporaneously: "My obligations to the United States, sir, far exceed any merit I might claim; they date from the time when I have had the happiness to be adopted as a young soldier, a favoured son of America; they have been continued to me during almost a half a century of constant affection and confidence . . . The approbation of the American people, and their representatives, for my conduct, during the vicissitudes of the European revolution, is the highest reward I could receive." (Levasseur, II:16) On the following day, an editorial in the National Intelligencer stated: "The spectacle which was yesterday exhibited, on the reception of General Lafayette in the House of Representatives of the United States, like that in the Senate on the preceding day, was one to which no resemblance can be traced in history, and which will hereafter occupy one of its most delightful pages."

Following Lafayette's address to Congress, a committee was appointed to determine a way of presenting to him some suitable gift or recompense. Letters to newspapers made it clear that the general population felt that the man who had spent much of his personal fortune in helping the United States to establish its independence should be repaid in a way more substantial than balls, banquets and processions. Samuel Sprigg himself, in a toast made on the occasion of Lafayette's visit to the Maryland State House, had said, "May the national gratitude be now more manifest by public munificence." (Maryland Republican, 24 December 1824) On 20 December, a bill was reported out of committee, granting to Lafayette the sum of \$200,000 as well as one full township (in Florida) of 24,000 acres; it was passed by both houses of Congress with little opposition. The presentation of the gift took place 3 January 1825, and Lafayette, at first "greatly embarrassed on hearing this munificence of congress towards him", accepted the "immense and unexpected gift" with the gratitude of "an old American soldier, an adopted son of the United States, two titles dearer to my heart than all the treasure in the world."

For the next eight months, Lafayette travelled around the United States, south through the Carolinas to Alabama, up the Mississippi to St. Louis, to Niagara Falls and New England, then back through New York and Philadelphia to Washington. After a farewell address by new President John Quincy Adams on 7 September, Lafayette sailed down the Potomac while guns were fired from Fort Washington and citizens lined the banks of the river. He arrived in France 24 days later, having spent more than a year touring the United States, celebrated by countless citizens in villages and cities alike. "Never was there, on any occasion, a more impartially spontaneous popular movement, than that which the visit of General Lafayette has produced. There is nothing in history which can compare with it. All hearts are moved by the same impulse; there is but one mind among a People of Ten Millions." (National Intelligencer, Editorial, 12 October 1824.)

[Postscript: One-hundred-sixty-five years later, Lech Walesa, founder of Poland's Solidarity movement, came to Washington to a very enthusiastic welcome. After being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his "historic struggle" in the reform of the Polish government, Walesa addressed a joint session of Congress. He was greeted with a five-minute standing ovation, and his address was interrupted 25 times by applause, laughter and cheers, as the packed chamber celebrated the first United States visit by "the shipyard electrician who had become a symbol of the toppling of totalitarian rule by non-violent resistance." (Washington Post, 16 November 1989) After his reception, the House and Senate authorized more than nine hundred million dollars in economic aid to Poland and Hungary.]

CALENDAR

(Most events and meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month.)

March	Membership meeting, second Saturday, 10th, Sandra Cross, Speaker. 2 PM. Marietta. Mad Hatter's Tea Party, March 3rd.
April	St. George's Day Luncheon/Dinner (Sunday 4/22.) Afternoon. Queen Anne School/St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. (See mention above.) Spring Bus Tour - Anne Arundel County on April 7th. (See last page, please.) Children's Games Day - Marietta
May	Membership meeting, second Saturday. At Riverview Park, on the Potomac, speaker.
June	Special Event/Entertainment. A focus: Winners of the Skarda Essay Contest.
July	No membership meeting.
August	No membership meeting.
September	Special event (fund raiser at historic site). County Fair
October	Membership meeting, second Saturday.
November	Membership meeting, election, second Saturday.
December	Christmas Party.

Other events are the Halloween party in October; the Doll Show in November; and the Candlelight Tours of Marietta in December.

(A WEATHER ADVISORY will be available on Marietta telephone recorder if weather is questionable for an event.)

- - - - -
SPRING TOUR

Join us on Saturday April 7th, 1990, for a visit to our neighboring county, Anne Arundel.

Leave Maryland Park and Planning Building, 6600 Kenilworth Ave., Riverdale at 9:00 A.M. (Please use rear parking lot.)

Our tour will include:

BENSON-HAMMOND HOUSE (1820) Headquarters and Museum of Anne Arundel County Historical Society, located near BWI Airport.

LUNCHEON---Ox Bow Restaurant.

BRICE HOUSE (1774) Annapolis. A beautifully restored mansion open by appointment only.

CARROLL HOUSE (1735) Annapolis. The historic home of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. It is under renovation and offers architectural buffs a glimpse into the "underwork" of the mansion.

The cost of \$30.00 includes all entrance fees, transportation and the luncheon.

DEADLINE -- MARCH 30th

Please make checks payable to:
Prince George's County Historical Society

Mail to: Warren Rhoads, 12501 Kemmerton Lane, Bowie, MD 20715.

- - - - -
MARIETTA

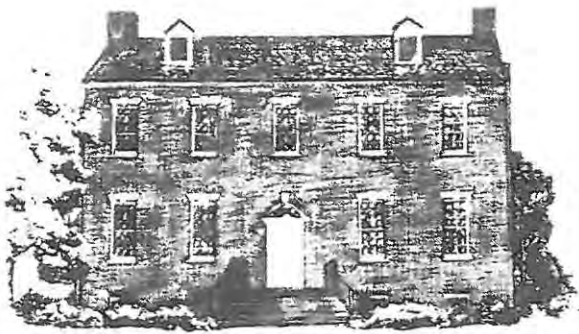
DAYS AND HOURS OPEN

Marietta Mansion Tours and Gift Shop Open 12-4 on Sundays.

Prince George's Historical Society Library at Marietta
Open 12-4 on Saturdays. Librarian Fred DeMarr.

News and Notes From the
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box #14, Riverdale, MD 20737
President: Bud Dutton Editor: Vera F. Rollo



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland

Headquarters of the **Prince George's County Historical Society**

April 1990

As you know, the St. George's Day Dinner is our Society event for April. (There will be no membership meeting.) The St. George's Day Dinner will be held Sunday, April 22, at the Leland Hall, St. Barnabas Church, Upper Marlboro.

There will be a social hour and tours of the historic church at 1:00. The Dinner program begins at 2:00, the dinner at 3:00 and the Hall of Fame presentation at 4:00.

Your invitation should be in your hands by now, if not please call Warren "Dusty" Rhoads, 464-0819. Space is limited!

Our President, Bud Dutton, with the Board of Directors announces that the recipients of the Hall of Fame Awards this year will be:

Jim Maher for his architectural expertise over a long period of service to the Historic Preservation Commission and the Historic and Cultural Trust.

Kenneth Hodges for a three-volume work on genealogy that doubles as a social commentary of life in the County.

Elizabeth Clagett Clark for her The Clagetts of Keokuk, both an outstanding genealogy and a record of social history.

Anne and Lansdale Sasscer for the restoration and addition made to the Digges-Sasscer House in Marlboro.

Ellen and Rogers Naylor/Debra and Peter Boundy, for the restoration of the Coffren House in Croom.

The Marietta House Committee for the many hours of effort spent on the decoration, maintenance and docent duties of the house.

Also the Board decided to make a special presentation of

thanks to Hugh Roby in recognition of his continual support for preservation projects in the County.

Oden Bowie will be made an honorary life member of the Society in recognition of his participation in the founding of the Society.

May Meeting. A membership meeting will be held on the second Saturday, May 12th, 2:00 PM, at the Riverview mansion on the Potomac. The F. Nicolai's' house, at Fort Washington, Maryland. Susan Pearl and Mrs. Nicolai will give Society members information on the historic background of the house and the area.

In March. Sandra Cross, historian and geneologist of Prince George's "South County," and Secretary of the Preservation Society, at the March meeting gave insights into her work and into that done with noted County historian, the late Margaret Cook. Mrs. Cross, when just 22 years old, met Margaret Cook, appropriately in the County Land Records Office. In the years that followed the two historians "did all the typical historian things, cemetery hunting, visiting lots of people that I knew well to talk with them, taped conversations, made photographs and travelled." Mrs. Cook left her collections to Mrs. Cross.

Copies of this fascinating talk are on deposit in the Fred DeMarr Library at Marietta.

Prince George's Foremost County. Orlando Ridout, IV, former Director of the Maryland Historic Trust, 1962-1975, and currently President of the Maureen Duvall Descendents, was asked to add comments by Sandra Cross, at the conclusion of her address.

Mr. Ridout told us that the work done by Mrs. Cross and Mrs. Cook had been of tremendous value to the record of county history and that their work is routinely referred to by researchers. Regarding Mrs. Cook, he said that, "she set the standards."

Members present were gratified to hear Mr. Ridout say, also, that Prince George's County is the foremost county in its perservation of historic properties in the State of Maryland.

Engraving Donated to Marietta. David D. Duvall, past president of the Maureen Duvall Descendants Society, has donated a fine engraving of Justice Gabriel Duvall to the Prince George's County Historical Society. It is now on display at Marietta.

Historic Pianoforte Donated. Thanks to his interest and funds donated by Orlando Ridout, IV, the Prince George's County Historical Society has been able to acquire a beautiful musical

instrument, a pianoforte similar to one known to have been in the mansion in 1834. It is to be placed in Marietta in a continuing effort to furnish the old home for visitors to see and enjoy.

Kiplin Hall. Paul Lanham notes that readers of the second issue of the University of Maryland's new magazine College Park have an informative article awaiting their review. It is, "Restoring Maryland's Ancestral Home," by Brian Busek, a fascinating account of the volunteer efforts to restore the 350-year-old home of George Calvert, first Lord Baltimore.

Busek credits for this commendable effort include our society members, Sarah and Dick Bourne, as "most senior" volunteers in the effort. Their two-summer labor of love at the site in Yorkshire, England, is attributed to their first learning of the project at a Society meeting in Upper Marlboro.

Tour to Historic Yorkshire. The third annual Lord Baltimore Tour will visit Ireland and England, June 20 - July 5, 1990. The tour is organized to support and publicize Kiplin Hall, a fine Jacobean county house built by George Calvert, first Lord Baltimore, in 1623. For information please contact tour leaders Professor David Fogle at 301/454-4174 or Mary Munroe at 202/293-0033.

Members' Support is Requested. We urge members of the Society to contact their representatives at the State House to support the initiative, House of Delegates Bill #436, Museum Assistance Act.

March Tea Party. The annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party for children and their adult friends was held this year with great success, Maxie Phillips reports. Past Society President Warren Rhoads delighted the children in his Mad Hatter's jacket and galligaskin.* Julie Rhoads, Maxie, Joyce McDonald, Sammi Sharkey, Edith Bagot, Sara Mosley and others in costume, added to the (both antic and stately) tone of the event.

Donations of decorative tea cups and saucers, serving plates, sugar and cream servers, have begun with those of Maxie Phillips and Vera Rollo. Members are requested to look for pretty china of this nature to donate for use at the annual tea and other events. Donations will be numbered and the names of those donating them will be recorded.

*pantaloons.

Membership Renewal For 1990 is at hand. Some members have renewed and new members who joined after September 1, 1989, will

have their membership extended into 1990 without further payment. Please look at your newsletter label. It is difficult to remember which of our many organizations we have renewed. To help us, the News and Notes label will show that information.

Library Acquisitions. Copies of the Preservation Newsletter have been presented to the DeMarr Library.

Family Pastimes Day. This year at Marietta, the Society will hold an expanded version of its annual games day for children. Adults are invited, too, to this year's events.

There will be, Sammi Sharkey says, calling dances, games and refreshments. For old fashioned enjoyment, come out to Marietta May 5th, 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. on the lawn. Tickets are \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 per family. (Contact: Sammi Sharkey, 927-5397.)

Board Topics. The Society Board of Directors met on March 10th at Marietta for the purpose of selecting recipients (see above) of the St. George's Day Awards for 1990.

After these deliberations the Board also made a motion to develop an outline for a Sara Walton Memorial Fund. A committee will explore the exact nature and purpose of the fund to honor long-time Society member, Mrs. Sara Walton.

The Steering Committee for the Society's museum project is meeting regularly to develop criteria for interviewing consultants.

Hyattsville House Tour. The Eleventh Annual Historic Hyattsville House Tour will be held, Sunday, May 20th, 1 to 5.

The starting point will be the Hyattsville Armory (The Castle Performing Arts Center) at the corner of Jefferson Street and U.S. Route 1. Parking is available off Jefferson Street in the rear of the Center. Tickets are \$5.00 and may be purchased until 4:00 PM on the day of the tour at the starting point.

The walking tour will encompass, as described in an early 20th century news account, "a beautiful village of tasteful homes...ornamented with gardens and lawns." At least ten homes are scheduled to be shown. Residents efforts will be demonstrated, to preserve these Victorian and Post-Victorian houses in the National Register Historic District.

Comfortable shoes are strongly suggested. The tour takes around two and one-half hours to complete. Refreshments will be available. Proceeds will assist the Hyattsville Preservation Association, Inc. (P.O. Box 375, Hyattsville, MD 20781.)

Greenbelt Museum. The Greenbelt Museum is located at 10-B Crescent Road, near the Greenbelt Library, in Greenbelt. It is furnished with a 1930s ambiance. For further information please call Mary Linstrom, 474-7951 or 474-1936.

Award Sought. A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society was called for March 27th to complete an application for the 1990, Albert B. Corey Award. This is given by the American Association of State and Local History to "small local societies with a remarkable variety of programs."

Our activities include:

1. Expansion of the Library of County History.
2. Special events at Marietta.
3. Gift shop expansion.
4. Historical Highway Marker project for Marietta.
5. County grant obtained for the P.G.H. Society
6. Publishing of membership brochure.
7. Oral History project'
8. Reprinting of Hopkins Atlas.
9. Sponsorship of new edition of Virta book.
10. Don Skarda Award for school children's projects.
11. Fall fund-raising House Tours.
12. County Museum initiative.
13. Collections program: Acquisition of Robertson collection.
14. Participation in Riversdale Restoration Conference.
15. Participation at Spring Planning Conference.
16. Continuing programs:

- a. St. George's Day events.
- b. Bus Tours
- c. Membership programs with lectures, visits to historic sites.

County Grant Requested. Last year Prince George's County government donated \$5,000 to the Society for its work in publications and other projects. This year, appropriately on St. George's Day, April 23, our Society President, Bud Dutton, will appear before the County Council to ask for a \$10,000 appropriation.

Historic Marker Acquired. On Greenbelt Road, heading toward Route 450, you may now see the new marker on your right. The marker notifies the public that the historic mansion Marietta, home of the Prince George's County Historical Society is near.

Docents Needed. Docents to give tours at Marietta and to help with Society special events and other activities are needed. Please call Warren Rhoads, 464-0819.

Wanted Researcher. To research Jane (Jenny) Gibbons Duvall, born 1757 in Philadelphia and married Gabriel Duvall May 5, 1795. Contact Joyce McDonald, 779-5825.

Clearwater Nature Center. The Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary, established May 2, 1970, with special events.

Tuesday, April 24th, 7:30 PM, "Fossils of Southern Maryland," with Mike Jarboe, naturalist.

Thursday, April 26th, 7:30 PM, Puppet Show and Campfire, with Brenda McKelvin, naturalist.

Saturday, April 28, 10:00 AM (and you won't want to miss this one) "Snakes Alive" by John Zyla, naturalist.

Saturday will be an all-day celebration with more talks at 11:00 AM by Zyla (yes snakes); and by William Diggs, noted Curator of the Black History Museum on "The Business of Tobacco Farming in Southern Maryland."

Noon entertainment includes music and refreshments. The afternoon features three other events including (at 1:00 PM) a "History of Clearwater Nature Center," by Sandy Lyon, Center Director, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Please call 297-4575 for information. TDD-277-8456.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Deadline for the May News and Notes is April 12th!

News items must be given to News and Notes editor, Vera Rollo, 577-2436, almost three weeks before the appearance of the newsletter. We like to have the newsletter in your hands at least a week before the meetings. Deadlines are, then, about a month before each meeting. The earlier, the better!

The reason for this is that it takes almost two weeks for the Post Office to deliver the newsletter, and a few days prior to that, for Mrs. Vera Rollo to write it, reproduce it, and (with heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Cyndia Busler for producing the address labels, and to Mrs. Virginia Reinhart and her helpers for preparing it for bulk mailing) for the newsletter to be mailed.

CALENDAR

(Most events and meetings are held on second Saturdays.)

April	St. George's Day Luncheon/Dinner (Sunday 4/22.) Afternoon. Queen Anne School/St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. (See mention above.) Spring Bus Tour - Anne Arundel County on April 7th.
May	Children's Games Day - Marietta First Saturday, May 5th. Membership meeting, second Saturday. At Riverview Park, on the Potomac, May 12. Board Meeting, May 12th.
June	Special Event/Entertainment. A focus: Winners of the Skarda Essay Contest.
July	No membership meeting.
August	No membership meeting.
September	Special event (fund raiser at historic site). The September County Fair
October	Membership meeting, second Saturday.
November	Membership meeting, election, second Saturday.
December	Christmas Party.

Other events are the Halloween party in October; the Doll Show in November; and Candlelight Tours of Marietta in December.

(A WEATHER ADVISORY will be available on the Marietta telephone recorder--464-0590--if weather is questionable for an event.)

MARIETTA

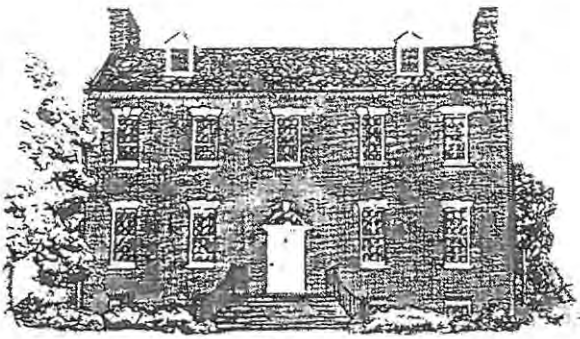
DAYS AND HOURS OPEN

Marietta Mansion Tours and Gift Shop Open 12-4 on Sundays.

Prince George's Historical Society Library at Marietta
Open 12-4 on Saturdays. Librarian Fred DeMarr.

News and Notes From the PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box #14, Riverdale, MD 20737	
President: Bud Dutton	Editor: Vera F. Rollo



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland

Headquarters of the **Prince George's County Historical Society**

Vol. XVIII, No. 5

May 1990

The May meeting will be held, 2:00 P.M., May 12th, at the historic home of Frank and Shirley Nicolai. They live on the Potomac at 12325 Hatton Point Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.

Many years ago, tours came by riverboat to the Riverview Amusement Park. One of the features of the park was its large dance pavilion with a central fireplace for cool evenings. The Nicolai's have converted this building into a residence.

The program will feature a tour of the house and a talk on its history and that of the former amusement park. Refreshments will be served.

Directions: Go south on Indian Head Highway, then right onto Fort Washington Road at Silesia. Go to Swan Creek Road and turn right again. Continue to the last road on your left. This is Hatton Point Road.

If you possibly can, join forces with friends and car pool.

The Annual Awards Dinner

The St. George's Day Dinner was our Society event for April. It was held Sunday, April 22, at the Leeland Hall, St. Barnabas Church, Upper Marlboro.

After a social hour and tours of the historic church members adjourned to the dining hall for a memorable luncheon. The program for the event featured the St. George's Day Awards to those persons and organizations carrying on projects of historic preservation and other activities in the County.

After the Awards, the Hall of Fame nomination was announced to install and honor Thomas George Pratt.

Thomas George Pratt was born February 18, 1804 in Georgetown. He studied law at Georgetown and Princeton Universities and in 1823 set up practice in Upper Marlborough where he resided for 25 years. During this time, he served in the Maryland House of Delegates (1832-35), as President of the Executive Council of Maryland (1836), and as a state Senator (1838-45).

During the 1840s, Pratt owned and lived in the venerable Marlborough House, a landmark on Main Street in Upper Marlboro. Pratt was elected Governor of Maryland and served in that capacity from 1845 to 1848. After his term as governor, he served seven years as a United States Senator. He died in Baltimore, November 9, 1869.

Awardees honored:

Jim Maher for his architectural expertise over a long period of service to the Historic Preservation Commission and the Historic and Cultural Trust.

Frank Calhoun and Carlton Huhn for their restoration work at Harmony Hall.

Kenneth Hodges for a three-volume work on genealogy that doubles as a social commentary of life in the County.

Elizabeth Clagett Clark for her The Clagetts of Keokuk, both an outstanding genealogy and a record of social history.

Anne and Lansdale Sasscer for the restoration and addition made to the Digges-Sasscer House in Marlboro.

Ellen and Rogers Naylor/Debra and Peter Boundy, for the restoration of the Coffren House in Croom.

The Marietta House Committee for the many hours of effort spent on the decoration, maintenance and docent duties of the house.

Also the Board made a special presentation of appreciation to Hugh Roby in recognition of his continual support for preservation projects in the County. Mr. Roby is retiring from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission after forty years of service.

Oden Bowie was made an honorary life member of the Society in recognition of his participation in the founding of the Society.

A Message from Jack Bourne, Your Treasurer

The Prince George's County Historical Society, Inc. is a Charitable and Educational, tax-exempt organization in the determination of Federal and Maryland tax authorities.

Contributions, gifts and bequests received by the Society are deductible under applicable income tax statutes. Volunteers do the work of the Society. Your continued financial support and participation are important. You can become a Life Member if you make a one-time contribution of \$200.

If you have not made your 1990 membership dues contribution, please do it today!

Jack Bourne, Treasurer

Please Check Your Label

To be sure that you continue to receive News and Notes without interruption, please look at your newsletter label. This will tell you if you need to pay your dues.

Our June Meeting

Our June meeting will feature the first presentations of the Don Skarda Scholarship Awards. This year's topic is "Historic Houses of Prince George's County." There will be an award for the Best Intermediate-School Essay and for the Best Primary School Project. Students taking part in the contest all win, of course, in gaining knowledge and an interest in our County's history.

The June meeting will be at Marietta at 2:00 P.M. with refreshments featuring champagne and strawberries.

Other Coming Events

Mrs. Joyce McDonald, Society Vice President, notes that we have interesting meetings ahead. Among these the September fundraiser, which is always a grand get-together at a historic Prince George's County site.

In October we will hear about MNCP&P's Black History program. Mrs. Marsha Brown, program manager, will speak on historic Abraham Hall, located at Muirkirk near Laurel. Mrs. Mildred Gray will talk about Ridgely Memorial. Iris McConnell, a descendant of a family that lived at the historic Northhampton site, will give us insights into antebellum days there.

Our past-President John Giannetti, recently took an interesting tour through the Southland. He visited homes along the Mississippi River and others, taking photographs as he went. He is making some of these pictures into slides. He will bring these and talk about his experiences at our November meeting.

These and other events, will continue to bring us together, further historic projects and be most enjoyable during the remainder of 1990.

Riversdale Report

A contractor, the Grunley Company, is on site at the Riversdale Mansion in Riverdale. The company's last project was Blair House in the District of Columbia.

Work is beginning on the restoration of the exterior of the building, Joyce McDonald notes. \$500,000 from the State of Maryland has been raised, via a bond issue, for the restoration of Riversdale.

New Members

We want to welcome the following new members who have joined the Society in 1990. (Thanks to Jack Bourne, our Treasurer, who has provided this information for News and Notes.)

Cynthia Ann Dean
Gina Denny
Susan K. Helmann
Rebecca Jenkins
Lt. Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. William K. Konze
Claire E. Lenihan
Elizabeth A. Moreland
Timothy J. and Elizabeth T. Morrison
Gilbert Nielson
Bonnie L. O'Malley
Anne C. Palumbo
Kathy and Phil Stump
Melissa Thompson
Jean C. and Clarence Troutman
Joseph V. Vlcek
Morris J. Warren
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen W. Wharton
Patricia E. Williams
James M. and Susan M. Wolfe

Members becoming Life Members are Robert J. and Mary Charlotte Chaney; and Mr. and Mrs. Timucen K. Yatman .

Items of Interest

New at the Gift Shop. Many new things are available now at the Marietta Gift Shop. There are antique china, glass, and many small items that are nice to have, or to give as gifts.

Docents Needed. Docents to give tours at Marietta and to help with Society special events and other activities are needed. Please call Warren Rhoads, 464-0819.

Wanted Researcher. To research Jane (Jenny) Gibbons Duvall, born 1757 in Philadelphia and married Gabriel Duvall May 5, 1795. Contact Joyce McDonald, 779-5825.

Corrections. In the April newsletter your editor listed recipients as Hall of Fame Awardees but these should be named St. George's Day awardees. Also, we omitted two important names, Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Huhn, which we have added in this issue.

Anniversary. Bowie State University is celebrating 125 years of excellence, 1865 - 1990 with the slogan, "Humble Birth-Proud Present - Dynamic Future." BSU's 122d Commencement exercise is to be held at the University on the Green, Saturday morning, May 12th.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Deadline for the May News and Notes is May 12th (or as near that date as possible)!

News items must be given to News and Notes editor, Vera Rollo, 577-2436, almost three weeks before the appearance of the newsletter. We like to have the newsletter in your hands at least a week before the meetings. Deadlines are, then, about a month before each meeting. The earlier, the better!

The reason for this is that it takes almost two weeks for the Post Office to deliver the newsletter, and a few days prior to that, for Mrs. Rollo to write it, reproduce it, and (with thanks to Mrs. Cyndia Busler for producing the address labels, and to Mrs. Virginia Reinhart and her helpers for preparing it for bulk mailing) for the newsletter to be mailed.

CALENDAR

(Most events and meetings are held on second Saturdays.)

May Family Pastimes Day - Marietta
 First Saturday, May 5th.
 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. on the lawn.
 Sammi Sharkey, 927-5397.

Board Meeting, May 5th. Marietta. 7:00 P.M.

Membership meeting, second Saturday.
At Riverview Park, on the Potomac, May 12.
(Details are on page one of News and Notes.)

June Special Event/Entertainment. A focus: Winners of the Skarda Essay Contest, at 2:00 PM, June 9th.

July	No membership meeting. No newsletter.
August	No membership meeting.
September	Special event (fund raiser at historic site).

October Membership meeting, second Saturday.
 MNCP&P program on Black History, featuring
 Mrs. Marsha Brown, Mrs. Iris McConnell and Mrs.
 Mildred Gray.

November Membership meeting, election, second Saturday.
 John Giannetti to speak, slides, on historic
 houses in the South.

December Christmas Party.

Other events are the Halloween party in October; the Doll Show in November; and Candlelight Tours of Marietta in December.

(A WEATHER ADVISORY will be available on the Marietta telephone recorder--464-0590--if weather is questionable for an event.)

MARIETTA
DAYS AND HOURS OPEN

Marietta Mansion Tours and Gift Shop Open 12-4 on Sundays.

Prince George's Historical Society Library at Marietta
Open 12-4 on Saturdays. Contact: Fred DeMarr.

News and Notes From the
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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