

January/February 2000

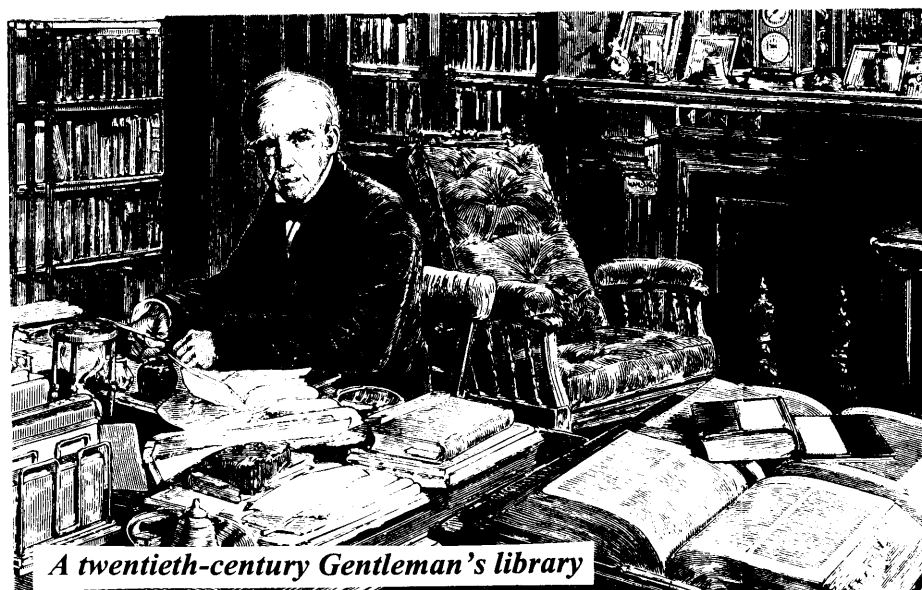
Our 48<sup>th</sup> Year

XXVIII Number 1

## FAMILY OF FREDERICK S. DEMARR DEEDS LIBRARY TO SOCIETY

Following probate, **Louise Tatspaugh**, longtime Historical Society member and Fred's sister, officially deeded the Frederick S. DeMarr Library to the Historical Society. Dated November 1999, and coinciding with the approval by the Board of the library's collection management policy, this generous gift was gratefully accepted by the Board.

The Library Committee, composed of Historian **Susan Pearl**, Board Secretary and life-long County resident **Sarah Bourne** and Librarian **Sharon Howe Sweeting**, has worked steadily since Fred's untimely death. **Diane Stultz**, a genealogical research specialist, has been added to the Committee. **Dusty Rhoads** and **Alan Virta** have provided advice on specific collecting interests of Fred's. The Committee has, however, deviated from Fred's plans by beginning to catalogue the collection into an online database called *InMagic*. Eventually, the vertical and biographical files, photographs, special and ephemeral materials will be incorporated into this database which will be searchable on all fields. The library also has an email address, a fax machine, a new answering machine and photocopier. Space continues to be a premium but the Committee is slowly sifting through the collections to refine and focus them. Collection guidelines are outlined later in this issue. We welcome your visit to assess our progress.



*A twentieth-century Gentleman's library*

## Call for Nominations

### St. George's Day Awards 2000

Prince George's County Historical Society established the St. George's Day Awards in 1974 to honor those persons or organizations that have made a difference in Prince George's County. Contributions range from celebrations of our rich history, salvation and restoration of historic sites and buildings, production of written works that report our history and educate ourselves and our children, and volunteer efforts that enhance communities and the sense of history the Society supports and encourages.

We invite our members to suggest nominations which reflect a broad spectrum of individual and organizational activity.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Society at **301-464-0590** by **February 18th**.

The following criteria should apply:

1. The recipient need not be a county resident, nor a county-based organization.
2. The activity honored must pertain to Prince George's County.
3. A previously honored individual or organization may be considered for another activity, at the discretion of the selection committee.
4. The activity honored should reflect involvement over a period of time.
5. Specific projects should be substantially

completed before consideration for an award.

6. The recipient should be living at the time of the nomination.
7. Projects that are solely the product of a person's employment or profession may be considered under certain circumstances if the project reflects additional personal involvement.
8. The number of awards each year should be limited to enhance the prestige. An average of seven/eight have been presented over the years.
9. The awards will be determined by a selection committee composed of the Board of Directors plus three other Society members selected by the president.
10. The awards will be presented at the annual St. George's Day dinner in April.

To remind, last years winners were:  
*Catherine W. Allen; Tom Amlie and Penny Hayas; Eugene Meyer; Sam and Pat Parker; Anthony Pitch; Ruth Prendable; James M. Wolfe; Gethsemane United Methodist Church and The Quander Family Society, Inc.*

Since April 23, 2000, is Easter Sunday, the Historical Society Board has tentatively scheduled our celebration for April 30.

# FAREWELL TO HISTORIAN SHIRLEY BALTZ

by Historian Susan Pearl

One of the Historical Society's most faithful and longstanding members has left Prince George's County. **Shirley Baltz**, who lived in Bowie from 1963 till the end of 1999, moved just before Christmas to New Jersey, where she will be closer to her three daughters and their families. Although Shirley lived in Bowie for thirty-six years, she had been a resident of Prince George's County since before the birth of the County Historical Society in 1952.

"When I first moved to Prince George's County in the early 1970s with my husband and small children, not quite ready to go back to full-time work, I was searching for a way to use my education and experience in history and archaeology on a volunteer, part-time basis. Shirley was one of the first people that I met, and she soon put me to work. I very quickly found out that she was *an historian's historian*, i.e., she rigorously checked every available source before she put anything into writing - lucky for me! because she introduced me to a wealth of documentary sources. She showed me the way around the Maryland Hall of Records, then located on the campus of St. John's College in Annapolis, and the archival treasures then stored at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. I remember many a trip together to Annapolis and Baltimore, as well as to the Library of Congress, and more than one near-hilarious ride home after the exciting discovery of some obscure historical fact!"

"Shirley was just then completing her history of Annapolis (*Quays of the City*, Annapolis, 1975) and was beginning to put together the history of Belair (her family

home in Bowie looked out on the terraced grounds of the Belair Mansion). I was lucky enough to follow along behind her as she delved into the complex documentary history of the Ogle and Tasker families, and the establishment of the Belair plantation. During the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence, we worked together on a series of archaeological investigations at Belair, and in 1978 (partly as a result of that project) we were both hired by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to research and report on the various historic properties owned by the M-NCPPC."

"I have stayed with the M-NCPPC, but Shirley left to complete her *Chronicle of Belair*, an exhaustive history of the Belair plantation, published in 1984. At about the same time, Shirley was appointed by a grateful city as the official Bowie City Historian. She continued working tirelessly with a newly established *Friends of the Belair Estate*, helping to raise money for what amounted to a nearly ten-year-long major (and highly successful) restoration of the Belair Mansion. In her spare time she poured through every nineteenth-century Prince George's County (and other) newspaper that she could find, collecting marriage and death notices of Prince Georgians. Her *Prince George's County, Maryland, Marriages and Deaths in Nineteenth Century Newspapers* was published in 1995; it is an essential resource for any County research. During all of these years, Shirley has generously shared her knowledge, presenting lectures and slide-lectures on a wide range of historical subjects to any organization that asked,

helping students, and advising other historical or preservation-oriented groups. She served for years as Chair of the Bowie Heritage Committee which advises the City Council on matters concerning historic properties, and also as chair of Prince George's Heritage, the non-profit historic preservation organization that grew out of the County Committee for the Maryland Historical Trust. Shirley's work over the years has been recognized and appreciated by our Society, and she has been the recipient of two St. George's Day awards."

"So now Shirley has left Prince George's County, after carefully sorting and donating her voluminous files to the appropriate repository (including our Society library) for each of the subjects that she so carefully researched. Much of her legacy, therefore, is easily accessible to us at the Hall of Records or at Belair or Marietta, but her patient willingness and ready smile will be greatly missed. I've already called her with a few questions . . . quickly answered! . . . and when I talked to her last week, she was hard at work on the upcoming expanded-and improved second edition of the *Chronicle of Belair*."

"Thanks so much, Shirley, for your many contributions! We look forward to your visits!"

**Signed: Susan Pearl**

**Editor's Note:** "Lester and I also owe Shirley Baltz a debt of gratitude. She was the chair of Prince George's Heritage when we first joined and she taught us to love and respect the history of Prince George's County by her scholarship and professionalism. Our current activities reflect her tutelage."

## WINTER READING

Continuing with our themes of libraries, books and research, we recommend the following book:

***THE BOOK ON THE BOOKSHELF*** by Henry Petroski, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999.

My favorite course in graduate school, taught by Francis Witty at the Catholic University of America, was *History of the Book*. Needless to say I agree with the New York Times Book Review (September 26, 1999) which states: "Henry Petroski, who has an eye for the common things that surround us and that we hardly notice (he is the author of an exhaustive history of the pencil), has decided to track the birth, evolution, triumphs and failures not of the book but of the space that keeps it — of its habitat, so to speak. For anyone interested in the craft of reading, Petroski's most recent exploration is a compulsive necessity."

If you are not already hooked, the book jacket continues: "Petroski takes us into the pre-Gutenberg world, where books were so scarce they were chained to lecterns for security. He explains how the printing press not only changed the way books were made and shelved, but also increased their availability and transformed book readers into book owners and collectors. He shows us that for a time books were shelved with their spines *in*, and it was not until after the arrival of the modern bookcase that the spines faced *out*."

Recommended by: ***Librarian Sweeting***.

**Prince George's County Historical Society  
Post Office Box 14  
Riverdale, Maryland 20738**

**HERITAGE CALENDAR**

**February**

- 3- Celebration of African-American History Month  
Maryland Historical Society 5-8 PM 410-685-3750
  
- 4- Hollywood Flyers *"The Big Lift"* Berlin airlift drama  
College Park Aviation Museum 11AM 301-864-6029 \$\$
  
- 5- Lecture/Discussion *"A Good Living"* by subjects of *Portraits of Lost Livelihoods*  
exhibit Darnall's Chance 10 AM 301-952-8010 \$\$
  
- 9- Lecture *"Eighteenth Century Icehouses"* by Michael Olmert  
Belair Mansion 7 PM 301-809-3089 \$\$,
  
- 11- Hollywood Flyers *"Tuskegee Airmen"*  
College Park Aviation Museum 11AM 301-864-6029 \$\$
  
- 11- Symposium *"Icons of the 20th Century Style"*  
Maryland Historical Society 9-4 410-685-3750 \$\$
  
- 12- Valentine's Day Tea  
Riversdale Mansion 2 PM 301-864-0420 \$\$
  
- 12- Valentine's Tea  
Marietta House Museum 4 PM 301-464-5291 \$\$
  
- 12- Prince George's Philharmonic- *Love's Joy - Love's Sorrow*  
PGCC Hallam Theatre 8PM 301-454-1462 \$\$
  
- 13- Valentine Tea  
Belair Mansion 4PM 301-809-3089 \$\$
  
- 13- Lecture *"Speaking of Flight Lecture Series -Mary Feik,Aviation Mechanic"*  
College Park Aviation Museum 2 PM 301-864-6029 \$\$
  
- 17- Exhibit Opening *"Yesterday's Child"* 19th Century Childhood  
Surratt House Museum 301-868-1121 \$\$
  
- 18- Hollywood Flyers *"Winning Your Wings / Wings Up and Memphis Belle"*  
College Park Aviation Museum 11AM 301-864-6029 \$\$
  
- 20- *"George Washington Musicale"* music by Dean Shostak  
Montpelier Mansion 3 PM 301-498-8486 free (reservations required)
  
- 24- "Y2K Legislative Breakfast"  
Maryland Heritage Alliance 8-10 AM Annapolis 410-514-7625 \$\$

- 25- Hollywood Flyers *"Those Amazing Men in Their Flying Machines"*  
College Park Aviation Museum 11 AM 301-864-6029 \$\$

### **March**

- 15- Concert *"A Celtic Music Sampler"* Harp Concert by Mary Fitzgerald  
Belair Mansion 7 PM 301-809-3089 \$\$
- 18- Mad Hatter's Tea Party  
Marietta House Museum 1 & 3 PM 301-464-5291 \$\$
- 18- Lecture *"Rosemary, Herb of the Year"*  
His Lordship's Kindness 11 AM 301-856-0358 \$\$
- 18- Prince George's Philharmonic *"A Prince George's Original"*  
PGCC Hallam Theatre 8PM 301-454-1462 \$\$
- 19- Lecture *"Growing Up with the Ercoupe"* Betsey Weik & Robert Swanson  
College Park Aviation Museum 2 PM 301-864-6029 \$\$
- 19- 18th Century Progressive Tea- refreshments at 3 historic homes  
Billingsley 301-627-0730 \$\$
- 25- Star Spangled Saturday at the Maryland Historical Society: Maryland Day 2000  
Maryland Historical Society 1-4 PM 410-685-3750



### NEW TO THE BOOKSHELVES OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

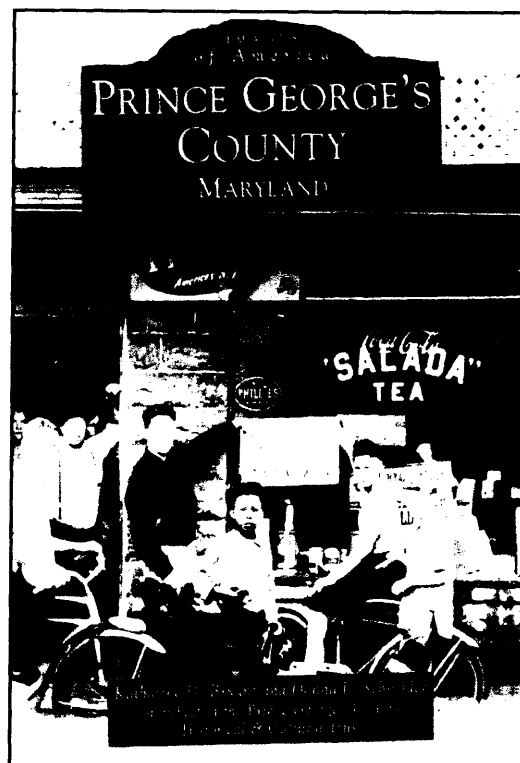
One of our most faithful researchers *Mark Opsasnick* of Greenbelt has donated the following volumes which are either set in Prince George's County, about Prince George's County or written by a Prince Georgian.

*The Stonemans* by **Ivan Tribe**  
*Life for Death* by **Michael Mewshaw**  
*Painted Smiles* by **Dracia Ward-Rainey**  
*Pursuits* by **Carla Stephenson-Henry**  
*Double Vision* by **Kathleen Dougherty**  
*King of a Small World* by **Rick Bennet**

Mark makes extensive use of our telephone book collections while he looks for the address of a 1988 Fort Washington pizza parlor. Thank you, Mark, for your fascinating questions and continued support.

### *New County Publication*

A new book of historic Prince George's County photographs is now available, produced by Arcadia Publishing Company as part of its "Images of America" series. Kathy Bryant and Donna Schneider have published *A Pictorial History of Prince George's County* for the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust. This handsome volume includes over 200 vintage photographs (at least 50 years old) of many different aspects of County life; it is for sale for \$18.99 at various Historic Site gift shops, as well as at the Riverdale Book Shop in Riverdale Park, the Maryland Book Exchange in College Park, B. Dalton in Laurel, Walden's in Waldorf and Annapolis, and Barnes & Noble in Bethesda, Annapolis, Rockville and Gaithersburg. (From: *Friends of Preservation*, Volume XVII, no. 4, Winter 1999-2000). Contact Kathy Bryant at 301-927-2931 for additional information.



## Collecting Guidelines

While we were writing the Library's Collection Management Policy, we reviewed several documents which Fred had developed to determine the scope of the historical society library collections. The following is an abbreviated version of one of the documents which we hope will outline our holdings for our members. **FACT AND FANCY:** legends and traditions; special items which make Prince George's County interesting and different; and, past and present ways of life. **SETTLEMENT OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY:** *Pre-1696 history:* Geography and topography and how these factors influenced colonization; the "lay of the land" pre-1696; Indians and settlements: where and why and how they lived; relationships with earliest settlers along rivers; Antiquities, artifacts, archeological data; Settlement of Maryland by the English to include The Charter, The Calverts and other settlers e.g. Puritans and Quakers; St. Mary's City: Leonard Calvert's visit to Piscataways: manor system and land grants; Original settlers in Prince George's County before 1696; early days. *Erection of Prince George's County in 1696:* Status of county at this time: why it was created, boundaries, markers, and documents. **PRE-REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD (1696-1776).** Development of the County in following areas: *Economic:* Transportation and maritime activities: river traffic including ferries and silting effects from 1700; stage coaches and routes; roads: rolling, notched, post and toll. *Trade and commerce:* exports, imports including shipping with England and other ports; ship building, commercial fishing, hunting; currency, and monetary systems. *Agriculture:* Tobacco industry: its development, progress, and problems; other crops, early methods of farming, early tools, etc. *Manufacturing:* Mills (grist, powder); Iron (raw), brick. Lumber, pewter. Apprentices and journeymen. *Immigration and Emigration:* Removal of Indians by 1700s, Wesorts; Arrival of Scotch, Irish, English in certain periods. *Slavery and Indentured servants.* **COLONIAL LIFE** (social development): *Early life in the County;* social life and Household customs, crafts and cooking. *The early people:* first settlers and why they came; Prominent settlers, such as Ninian Beall; *Old homes* and their special features of the periods; *Inns and Taverns;* *Development of towns:* Plantation system vs. Town system; Early towns, where located and why: establishment of Upper Marlboro (1706), Bladensburg (1742). "Lost" towns e.g. Charles Town, Nottingham and Muirkirk. *Education:* early schools, academies, tutors. *Medicine, diseases, doctors.* *Clubs and amusements:* Horse racing, early tracks; Fox hunting, breeds of dogs; Cock fighting; bowling, billiards, cards, dice; Tournaments; Theatres and opera houses. *Religious development:* Parishes and boundaries: laws regulating religion; Early churches and prominent clergyman (Johnathan Boucher, John Carroll, Thomas John Clagget); Influences of clergy and relationships with people, e.g. Jesuits and Quakers. Later denominations and churches. *Political: Judicial* development: Colonial laws and regulations: Navigation Acts, Trade Acts, Manufacturing regulations, Stamp Acts. Judicial structure and influences: jails, punishments, crime and courts. *Legislative and executive development:* Taxation, tithes, patents, grants; Governing bodies: arrangements and influences; County representatives in politics: John Hanson, Samuel Ogle, Thomas Sim Lee; and Early courthouses: Charles Town and Marlboro. *Boundaries:* hundreds and their changes; separation of Frederick County (1748). *Military:* Influences of French & Indian War (quartering of troops in towns); Militia structure; Forts on Potomac from 1698; Rangers and Development of County flag. *Communications:* Newspapers (after 1727) and Post riders.

**TO BE CONTINUED**



Prince George's County  
Historical Society

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**Annual Membership Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone - Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

**Check below the category you select:**

Dues categories:

Member / Family.....\$25.00

Sustaining Member.....\$50.00

Institutional Member .....\$50.00

Life Membership .....\$300.00

Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_ For membership in the **Maryland Historical Society**, include an additional \$30.00 for individual, or \$40.00 for family.

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

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

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

12/99

**Board of Directors**

**President** - Lester Sweeting

**Vice President** - Eugene B. Roberts, Jr.

**Secretary** - Sarah Bourne

**Treasurer** - Joyce Uber

**Membership** - Phyllis Herndon

**Historian** - Susan Pearl

**Editor** - Sharon Howe Sweeting

**Directors**

John Petros      John Mitchell

William Uber    Wallis Cain

Kathryn Clagett   Mildred Ridgeley Gray

Iris McConnell   James Wolfe

Robert Crawley

**Past Presidents**

John Giannetti      W.C. (Bud) Dutton

Paul T. Lanham      Warren Rhoads

Joyce McDonald      Jane Eagen



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

Non-Profit Org  
U S Postage  
Paid  
Riverdale, MD  
Permit No. 1948

### HOURS OF OPERATION

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

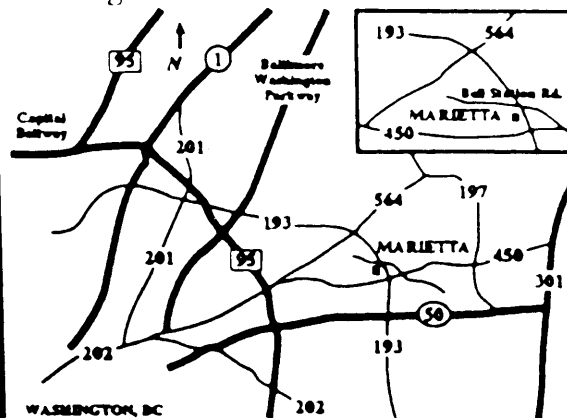
Marietta Tours -Friday, 11 - 3, Sunday,  
12 - 4 - and by appointment -  
Information 301-464-0590

### THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

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

### LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5626  
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off  
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a  
facility of the Maryland National Park and  
Planning Commission

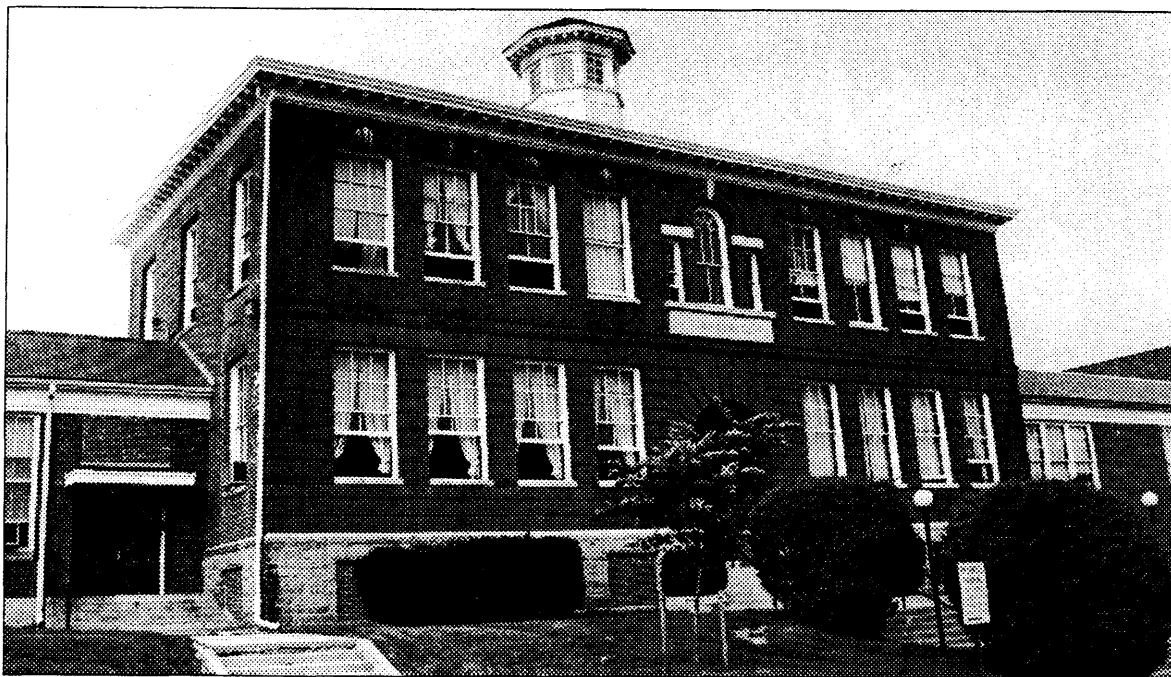


March 2000

Our 48<sup>th</sup> Year

XXVIII Number 2

### *The Prince George's County Historical Society*



### *Celebrates "St. George's Day"*

Built in 1899 with additions in 1935 and 1950, Laurel High School was the first Public High School in the County. It is a 2½-story T-shaped building with a handsome octagonal cupola. Decorative details include a central Palladian style window, molded string course and modillion cornice. Edward Phelps, seven-term mayor of Laurel, was responsible for its construction

**Presentation of  
The Prince George's County Historical Society's  
St. George's Day Awards**

Established in 1974, these awards are given annually  
to honor living individuals and organizations  
that have made a significant contribution to  
the preservation of the County's heritage.

**The Hall of Fame  
Prince George's County, Inc., Induction**

Established in 1975,  
The Hall of Fame recognizes superior achievement,  
extraordinary creativity and natural talent  
of distinguished Prince Georgians of the past.

The Inductees for this year will be  
Prince Georgians who have been awarded  
The Congressional Medal of Honor for Military Valor.

**The Prince George's County  
Historical Society  
invites you to celebrate  
the 304th anniversary  
of the founding of our county**

**Sunday, April 30, 2000  
1:30 pm**

**at the Old Laurel High School  
701 Montgomery Street  
Laurel**

There will be a tour of the  
1899 building at 1:30

Sunday dinner buffet  
at 2:00

**\$30.00  
RSVP by  
April 20, 2000**

From the President's Keyboard - February 2000

**Laurel High School** will be the venue for the *St. George's Day Dinner on April 30, 2000*. We are happy that we could hold our annual awards dinner in that location because it is truly an important part of the history of this 304-year-old county. To set the stage for the event, I have taken the liberty of reprinting a paper found in the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History by a young lady by the name of Jennifer Bernhard. Unfortunately, this piece is undated, although I believe that it was submitted as a project for the Skarda awards some years ago.

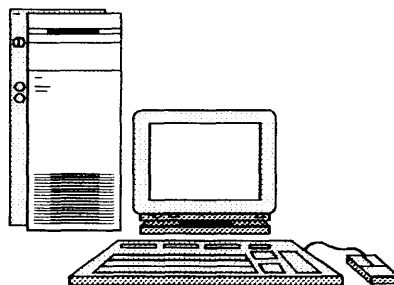
The Editor has advised me that her policy is to develop issues of this publication around themes. With that in mind, I have also included an article on **Highland Park High School**, which is another of the County's educational establishments that is historic and is deserving of note. Specifically, I discuss the Julius Rosenwald Fund and its critical importance to the development of the schools for black children earlier in the 20th century. Our final article is a presentation given by Historian Susan Pearl at a State and Local History Conference in October 1999.

Other than that, your President has little to offer this month - except to say that those of you who are wired to the Internet should now establish as one of your bookmarks or favorite sites, the following address:

**[www.princegeorgeshistory.org](http://www.princegeorgeshistory.org)**

With the editorial assistance of the Library Committee, I am pleased to say that the Society has a website and we promise that it will continue to grow and that it will be updated as often and completely as possible. It is hoped that someday this can become an interactive research tool for visitors to the site - where they can actually do on-line research. We are slowly developing the on-line catalogue of items in the collection, and are pleased to note that Barbara Radcliff has started to input significant amounts of materials on Saturdays as she joins our happy band of volunteers. Diane Stultz has completed the listing of maps and that will be edited as soon as one of us gets the time. So we plod steadily forward and I thank the Library Committee profusely for their very dedicated work - hats off to **Sharon, Susan and Sarah!** **I would also ask that any of you who (1) wish to help with the website or (2) have suggestions for additions, deletions, or corrections to the site please let me know by e-mail to [lessweeting@cs.com](mailto:lessweeting@cs.com).** In the alternative, you may just click on the web address shown on the site and send me an email message. Also note that you can join the Society through the website or order publications as well.

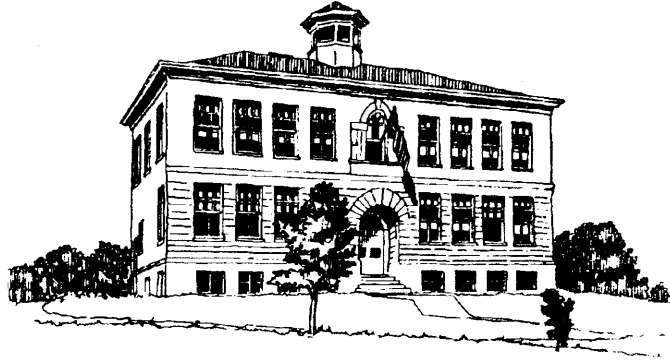
Les Sweeting



## THE OLD LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL by Jennifer Bernhard

The Old Laurel Highschool (*sic*) in Laurel, Maryland is the first and oldest public high school in Prince George's County. It was built in 1899.

This high school is now known as the Edward Phelps Community Center, and the Laurel Boys and Girls Club Headquarters. It also has been known as the Laurel Education Center and the Northern Regional Center of Prince George's Community College.



OLD LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL / CLARA J. HARRIS

On the twelfth day of February in the year of 1899, the plaster on the walls had not yet dried and even with the heat of the coke-burning Salamander Stoves a blizzard froze the plaster on the walls into crumbles. Despite these setbacks, trees had been planted, the ground had been graded, and the driveway completed by May 1. The school opened September 1, 1899, for classes.

On June 18, 1900 the first commencement was held at ("old") Laurel High School. Amazingly, all the graduates were women including Laura Bentley, Annie Carroll, Emma Flester, Anna Hill and Eve Phelps.

Aside from being the first high school, in 1908 it had the first water system in county schools installed. In 1916, it had the first inside toilets installed in a county high school. It also was one of two schools to receive sewing machines for their home economics class.

The old school standing on the northeast corner of Montgomery and Eighth Streets has had two additions added on to the original middle structure. One of those two additions is the west wing which contains the auditorium. It was built in 1935. Also the east wing is an addition to the building. The east wing was added in 1950. This includes the gym and cafeteria. The cupola located on top of the original center structure was used as a watch tower for enemy planes during World War II.

The high school students accommodated at Old Laurel High School were transferred to the "new" Laurel Highschool on Cherry Lane in the school year of 1965-1966. The old high school was used to "house" the "extra" middle (junior high) and elementary school students that the other schools couldn't accommodate. Prince George's Community College used the old high school space for classes during a period of one year.

The Laurel Boys and Girls Club signed the lease to rent the building for one dollar a year in 1976 and still rents it from the county for their various activities.

Although it may not be as brightly colored as it was when it opened on September 1 in the year of 1899, the Old Laurel Highschool still stands proudly on the northeast corner of Montgomery and Eighth Streets representing a Laurel historical site and the first high school of Prince George's County. The Old Laurel Highschool has surely earned its name, over 90 years have passed and it's still being used for its original educational purpose! Except its name has changed to Edward Phelps Community Center in honor of Mayor Edward Phelps who was greatly responsible for the building of the high school. Mayor Phelps even provided a considerable amount of his own money for the completion of the project.



The 1914-1915 Graduating Class Of Laurel High School

### **HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOL**

Highland Park School in Landover is another very important educational establishment in Prince George's County. It represents the oldest surviving building dedicated to the education of African-American children of high school age in Prince George's County.

Twenty two years after the erection of the Laurel High School, the county Board of Education established the first high school for black children in Upper Marlboro, rebuilding the frame building which had been the secondary school for white students. Prior to that time, black children desiring a high school education had been required to go to the District of Columbia. Even after the founding of the Upper Marlboro school, children in the western and northern parts of the county continued to take the streetcars to the city to school.

In 1927, supported by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, the Board of Education mapped out plans for two new high schools for black students - one in Lakeland to serve the northwestern part of the County and one in Highland Park, a streetcar suburb near Landover, to serve the northcentral part



72-21 Highland Park School  
6501 Lowland Drive  
Landover

Built in 1928 -- Highland Park School is a Colonial Revival-style brick building with an arched entrance surmounted by a keystone and a shaped parapet. It was designed by the architectural firm of Linthicum and Linthicum, and opened in 1928, as did Lakeland School, a building of the same design. These two schools were the second and third high schools for black students in Prince George's County. Highland Park School became a prominent local landmark and a focal point in the streetcar suburb of Highland Park. It is a good example of an early twentieth-century architect-designed institutional building, and a symbol of the County's movement toward increased educational opportunities for emerging black communities.

of the County. The Rosenwald Fund was created by Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Co. From 1917 to 1932, the Fund was used to establish nearly 5,000 new schools for the education of black children in the South.

Twenty-three Rosenwald schools, including both the Community High School at Lakeland and Highland Park School, were supported in part by the Fund in the two decades of its operation. All 23 schools were built in the 1920s, and nine of them remain standing, although only Highland Park High School and Ridgely School are still owned by the Board of Education.

Ridgely School, named in honor of the grandfather of Society Board member Mildred Ridgely Gray, was a two-room school which provided classes through the seventh grade, after

which the students matriculated to Highland Park High. Mildred Ridgely Gray attended first through seventh grades at the Ridgely School, and graduated from Highland Park High as valedictorian of a class of 12. After becoming an educator, like her grandfather and many other members of her family (her sister taught at Ridgely while Mildred was a student there), Mildred went on to become Principal of both of her alma maters. Ridgely School is still used - but as a school bus depot nowadays. Highland Park School, however, is still providing educational services, a Head Start Center occupies the original 1928 building, and the wings have recently reopened as an elementary school.



The Highland Park High School is the only one of the Rosenwald Fund schools in the County that is included on the Prince George's County Historic Sites and Districts Plan. The original 1928 building is now a designated

Historic Site, and that is due in no small measure to the efforts of the local citizens. This is especially true of Clement and Barbara Fletcher Martin, who live a block away from the school. Mrs. Martin grew up in Fletchertown, a small Black community near Bowie, which had one of the earliest Rosenwald schools - a 1922 single-room school house. After her seventh grade year, Barbara attended Highland Park High School, and she later taught both there and at Fletchertown as part of her 31-year career with the Prince George's County Schools. Her husband Clem was valedictorian of his Highland Park class, and also went into education. He was a teacher at Community High School in Lakeland and, after leaving teaching, he worked as a purchasing agent for the Board of Education based at Highland Park. The couple's children were also educated at Highland Park, although it was used as an elementary and middle school after Fairmont Heights High School was opened in 1950.



Over the past 25 years, most of the County's Rosenwald schools have been sold off by the Board of Education. Only seven of those sold by the Board are still standing, and they have non-school uses such as churches, shops or private residences.

Before these buildings totally disappear, it would be helpful if those of you reading this could begin to collect information and reminiscences of former students. These were unique institutions that produced generations of Prince Georgians. We, as citizens and as members of an Historical Society, need to preserve those memories for our children and grandchildren. If you would like to help in this effort, please call the Society at 301-464-0590.

*The author acknowledges the help of a number of persons for this article - most especially Eugene Meyer of the Washington Post, Historian Susan Pearl, and Mildred Gray.*

### **PRESENTATION TO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 1999**

From 1865 to 1872, the Freedmen's Bureau established schools for African-American children previously denied the rights of education. The effort was supported by contributions in labor and supplies from the communities around the schools, as well as by assistance from private charities. These Freedmen's Bureau school buildings often served also as a place of worship for the local black community - in Prince George's County, Maryland, most frequently Methodist. The school/church building would become a focal point, and the community would tend to grow around it - leading often to the building of a separate but nearby church building as soon as the community could afford it, and then, sometimes, to the building of a benevolent society lodge, and other essentials of a functioning community. By 1872, after the Freedmen's Bureau ceased activity, operation of schools for black children was taken over by other agencies, in Prince George's County, Maryland, by the County's Board of School Commissioners (now the Board of Education).

Early in the 20th century, the Rosenwald Fund was established; it had a profound effect on black education in the County, as it did throughout the southern states. A self-made millionaire, Julius Rosenwald had become president of Sears, Roebuck and Company in 1909, and brought the company to unprecedented financial success. As a philanthropist, Rosenwald took an interest in a wide range of causes, including colleges, museums and Jewish charities, but one of his favorite causes was the education of the Negro. Inspired by earlier philanthropic efforts in this cause, as well as by direct contact with Booker T. Washington, Rosenwald began by providing matching funds for several elementary schools for black students in 1912. In 1917 he established the Rosenwald Fund, specifically aimed at the visible, physical production of school buildings - a project which was doable on a large scale, and which he believed would make a major contribution toward the improvement of education for African-American youth.

The contribution of the Rosenwald Fund was only a fraction of the total cost of the schools, and the money was accompanied by certain specific conditions: Each school was to be a common effort between state and county authorities, which were thereafter to continue its maintenance. Contributions were required from the local white community, and from the black communities, as we'll see.

By 1920, the program had grown to the extent that Rosenwald could no longer run it from his Sears, Roebuck offices in Chicago, and set up a field office in Nashville, TN . An architectural department was set up, patterned on the Sears department which produced the wildly popular mail-order houses. This department produced and distributed pamphlets of school plans, from which the plans were "available on request to black and white schools alike." These plans standardized window size and placement to maximize available light, set a standard for the positions of blackboards; and often allowed for a meeting space or auditorium, in order that the building could operate throughout the year as a community center. Most plans provided for two classrooms, and use was made of movable partitions for dividing into small class spaces.

As was the experience with the Freedmen's Bureau schools (which the Rosenwald schools often replaced), the advent of a new school building tended to stabilize the community, and more and more dwellings as well as other typical community features would be built around it.

From its inception in 1917 until Rosenwald's death in 1932, the Rosenwald Fund contributed to the building of 4977 new schools for black children in 15 southern states. But we should be clear about its goals - not altruistic in ways we would think today. The program followed Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee model of self-help; it supported improved black vocational education for the purpose of training more productive workers in agriculture and industry in an essentially segregated society. The fund itself provided only seed money for school construction; the majority of the money came from public taxation, and each local black community was required to match the contribution of the fund in either cash or in-kind contributions such as lumber or labor. But in spite of these limitations, the Rosenwald program did much to improve black schools, providing incentives to local African-American communities which invariably led to further improvements. In Prince George's County, 23 schools were built under the Rosenwald program, and nine survive today.

I would like to give you a few details about some of the most interesting of the nine survivors in Prince George's County, but first let me give you an illustration of a community which developed around its Freedmen's Bureau and later Rosenwald school buildings. Chapel Hill is perhaps my "favorite" post-Civil-War African-American community, because of its strong oral history and the local continuity of its original families, but, unfortunately, its historic schoolhouses no longer stand. Indeed it is one of the communities that, because

of these losses, has provided an incentive for our County's new determination to recognize and preserve some of the surviving schoolhouses.

The community of Chapel Hill began to form in a rural area where black families were farming land that they had previously worked as slaves. A Freedmen's Bureau School was established there in 1868; following a familiar pattern, it served also as a place of worship before the construction of a Methodist meetinghouse. The first meetinghouse was constructed on adjoining land circa 1880; by this time, the two buildings, church and school, had become the focal point of what was to become the Chapel Hill community.

The Freedmen's Bureau school consisted of only one room, but it housed up to 57 pupils during its first few years of operation. After 1872 when the Freedmen's Bureau ceased operations, this schoolhouse was operated by the Board of School Commissioners as part of the public school system. The Chapel Hill community continued to grow. A benevolent society lodge was built in 1922, offering emergency support for members as well as a gathering place for community events. Most of the families continued to farm the land and transport their produce to the markets in Washington, D. C. Many worked in District and federal government offices.

By 1922, the Freedmen's Bureau school was showing signs of age, and in that year a new school building was constructed immediately west of and adjacent to the fifty-year-old schoolhouse; supported by Rosenwald funds, the new schoolhouse was constructed on the same plan as two other County schoolhouses built in the same year. Classes for grades 1 through 3 continued to be held in the older building, while grades 4 through 7 used the new building. The 1924 survey of "Colored Public Schools" reported on the fine new Rosenwald building, but stated that "the other [ . . . in which 35 primary children are penned . . . ] is an ancient left-over that ought to have been torn down."

The next year (1925) a new classroom building was indeed provided, also supported by the Rosenwald fund; the old Freedmen's Bureau structure was moved on logs to the adjoining church property, where primary classes continued to be held while the new structure was built in its place. When the new building was complete, it became the classroom for grades 1 through 3; it was connected to the 1922 Rosenwald school building by a small hyphen which housed the school's water tank.

The two 1920s schoolhouses were closed in the early 1950s, actually before Brown versus Board of Education. They continued in use as a community center for Chapel Hill citizens, and were destroyed in the 1970s. Their location is now a grassy area dominated by two large old trees, the site of the historic nucleus of the community. Chapel Hill is a typical story of the development of the community around the Freedmen's Bureau and Rosenwald schoolhouses.

We know the location and the early facts about many of the 12 Freedmen's Bureau schools in Prince George's County, but none of them has survived. We are more fortunate in the case of Rosenwald schools. Let us look at a few examples of those 9 that survive - they have survived in a variety of forms: a dwelling, a used car sales office, a small apartment house, a kitchen-crafts shop, two American Legion Posts, a church, a public school bus dispatch depot; two of the more substantial examples are still in use as schools.

Ridgely School was built in 1927. Before this school was built, classes for elementary students had been held in the Lodge which stood on the lot immediately adjoining; across the street was the Methodist church. The first church on this site had been erected in the 1870s, and known as Ridgely Church after the family of its principal trustee. By the 1890s a small community had developed in this area; its focal points were Ridgely Church and the Lodge.

In the survey of Colored Public Schools of 1924 it was recorded that a new Rosenwald school was programmed for construction at Ridgely. The architectural firm of Linthicum and Linthicum of Raleigh, North Carolina, was contracted to design a two-room schoolhouse, similar to two other schools built in that year. The Ridgely School opened in 1927, a prototype of the black elementary schools constructed in the late 1920s: two large classrooms, each lighted by banks of windows, each serving at least three grade levels, a central passage, and an entranceway flanked by two cloakrooms.

Ridgely School since the late 1960s has served as the bus management office for the Prince George's County Public Schools. Although the building has been altered to meet the needs of its current use, it still exhibits many of the prototypical features of the Rosenwald schoolhouses, and is probably in the closest to original condition of the primary schools built in Prince George's County during the Rosenwald program.

The Lakeland and Highland Park Schools were built only a few years after the Chapel Hill and Ridgely Schools, but they differ greatly from the earlier primary schools in size, material, purpose and locale. The Lakeland and Highland Park Schools are large and substantial brick structures; each was built in a developing suburb where there had been no Freedmen's Bureau school, and each was intended to provide education through the High School grades.

The first High School for black students in Prince George's County had been established in the County Seat (Upper Marlboro) in 1921; before that, African-American students who aspired to higher education had to travel into the District of Columbia. The Upper Marlboro High School served the students of the southern part of the County. Within its first year or so, pressures were brought to bear on the Board of Education to provide secondary education to more of the county's African-American population. By 1927, the

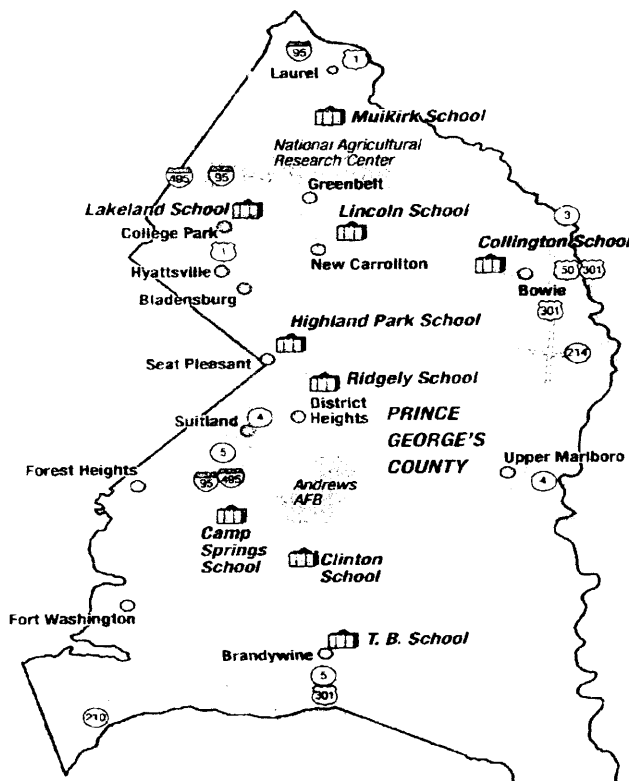
Linthicum and Linthicum firm was contracted to design two more high schools for black students: in Lakeland, to serve students from the northwestern part of the County, and Highland Park to serve those from the central area.

These were substantial brick buildings, built on the same plan and nearly identical to one another. Each school had six large class rooms (each with a cloak room), a library, an office, girls' and boys' bathrooms, and a utility room. Each was a large hip-roof building with arched entrance enframed by a projecting frontispiece surmounted by a shaped parapet. The two schools opened in the fall of 1928, serving all grades from first through twelfth.

Over the 70 years of their existence, these two schools have undergone changes, serving as junior high schools after larger high schools were built, and after school

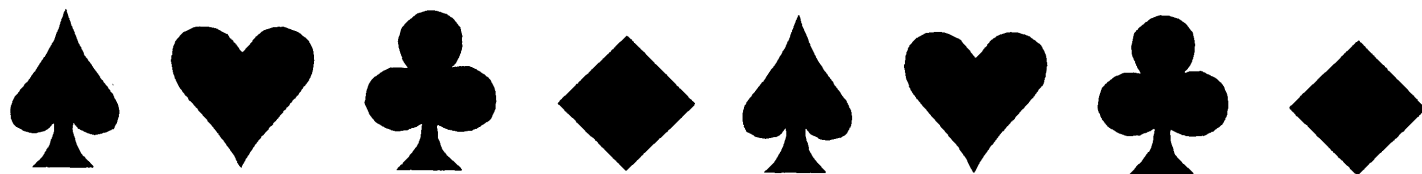
desegregation - later as elementary schools. Lakeland School is now a Korean Catholic Mission Church and School. The Highland Park School has had a series of major additions, so that the original building now constitutes the northernmost wing of a larger building complex. As the original old building began to age and deteriorate, there was thought of demolishing it, but the County's Preservation Ordinance, aided immeasurably by an aroused local constituency, managed to stress the historic and architectural significance of the building, and today it has been thoroughly rehabilitated, and has opened once again, this time as a neighborhood elementary school. And a devoted neighbor, who attended Highland Park School as a student, then taught there, and then sent his children and grandchildren there, will proudly show you all around.

### Rosenwald School Buildings Still Standing



Susan G. Pearl,  
Research/Architectural Historian

October 1999



# *The Rules of Play:*

## *A Colonial Gaming Night*

- ♥ Play original and modern forms of 18<sup>th</sup> century games of chance ♣
- ♠ Enjoy an authentic 18<sup>th</sup> century supper ♦
- ♥ Win fabulous raffle prizes ♣

*March 25, 2000*  
*Oxon Hill Manor*  
*7:30 -10:30 p.m.*

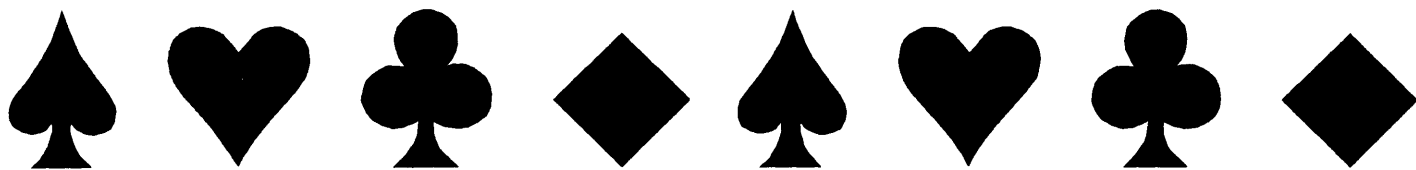
*M-NCPPC Museum Fundraising Event for:*

<i>Darnall's Chance Museum</i>	<i>Montpelier Mansion</i>
<i>Marietta House Museum</i>	<i>Surratt House Museum</i>

*\$45.00 Per Person Admission Fee*  
*Advance reservations required*  
*For more information, please call (301) 218-9651.*

*Accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available. Please contact us two weeks in advance of the program.*

*PPC- PR-NHRD-1-00*



**Prince George's County Historical Society**  
**Post Office Box 14**  
**Riverdale, Maryland 20738**

**HERITAGE CALENDAR**

**March**

- 4-5 Depression Glass Show & Sale  
DuVal High School 10 AM 202-342-9021 \$\$
  
- 11- Model Airplane Workshop  
College Park Aviation Museum 10-4 301-864-6029 \$\$
  
- 11- Storyteller- Awele Makeba  
Harmony Hall 8 PM 301-203-6070 \$\$
  
- 15- Concert "*A Celtic Music Sampler*" Harp Concert by Mary Fitzgerald  
Belair Mansion 7 PM 301-809-3089 \$\$
  
- 15- Lecture *The Burning of Washington* Anthony Pitch  
Montpelier Mansion 7:30 PM 301-953-1376 free
  
- 18- Mad Hatter's Tea Party  
Marietta House Museum 1 & 3 PM 301-464-5291 \$\$
  
- 18- Lecture "*Rosemary, Herb of the Year*"  
His Lordship's Kindness 11 AM 301-856-0358 \$\$
  
- 18- Tavern Night with the Living History Foundation  
Montpelier Mansion 7PM 301-953-1376 \$\$
  
- 18- Prince George's Philharmonic "*A Prince George's Original*"  
PGCC Hallam Theatre 8PM 301-454-1462 \$\$
  
- 18- Celtic Fire- Jigs, reels, songs & Irish Dance  
Harmony Hall 8 PM 301-203-6070 \$\$
  
- 19- Lecture "*Growing Up with the Ercoupe*" Betsey Weik & Robert Swanson  
College Park Aviation Museum 2 PM 301-864-6029 \$\$
  
- 19- 18th Century Progressive Tea- refreshments at 3 historic homes  
Billingsley 301-627-0730 \$\$
  
- 24 & 25- Knights of Harmony Barber Shop Annual Show  
Bowie State Univ. 8 PM 301-249-6491 \$\$
  
- 25 & 26 Open House Free Tours  
Surratt House 12-4 PM 301-868-1121 free
  
- 25- Star Spangled Saturday at the Maryland Historical Society: Maryland Day 2000  
Maryland Historical Society 1-4 PM 410-685-3750
  
- 25- Colonial Gaming Night  
Oxon Hill Manor 7:30 - 10:30 301-218-9651 \$

## April

- 2- Trio Latre- piano, Oboe & Bassoon  
Montpelier Cultural Arts Center 3Pm 301-953-1993 \$\$
- 6- *A Technicolor Tour of Baltimore, c.1940*  
Md Historical Society 5:30 PM 410-685-3750 free
- 8- *Things Herbal-Modern & Colonial Sue Latini*  
Belair Mansion 11 AM 301-809-3088 \$\$
- 7-9 Lecture *The Controversial Mr. Lincoln*  
Surratt House 301-868-1121 \$\$
- 15 & 16 Living History Encampment *Marching Through Time*  
Marietta Mansion 11 - 5 301-464-5291 \$\$
- 16- Gallery Talk *Filming Maryland*  
Md Historical Society 2 PM 301-410-685-3750 free
- 16- Speaking of Flight Lecture Tom Allison *Flying the SR-71 Blackbird*  
College Park Aviation Museum 2 PM 301-864-6029 \$\$
- 16- 18th Century Architectural Tour- 3 sites by van  
Billingsley 301-627-0730 \$\$
- 29- Herb, Bread and Tea Festival  
Montpelier Mansion 10 - 4 301-953-1376 free
- 29- *"You Ought to be in Pictures! A Celebration of Maryland and the Movies"*  
Maryland Historical Society 1-4 PM 410-685-3750 \$\$
- 30- St. George's Day Dinner & Hall of Fame Presentation  
PGCHS 1:30 301-277-5468 \$\$

## May

- 5-7 26th Annual Antiques Show  
Marlboro Tobacco Market 10 AM 301-888-9123 \$\$
- 6- Prince George's Philharmonic *"Ganz and Chopln"*  
PGCC Hallam Theatre 8PM 301-454-1462 \$\$
- 6- Walking Tour Baltimore Harborside Hard Hat Tour  
Md. Historical Society 10 AM 410-327-0155 \$\$
- 13- Walking Tour Baltimore's Mt. Vernon Historic District  
Md. Historical Society 10 AM 410-327-0155 \$\$
- 20- Prince George's Philharmonic *A Rachmaninoff Evening*  
PGCC Hallam Theatre 8 PM 301-454-1462 \$\$
- 21- 20th Antique Car Show  
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum 10-3 410-257-3892



**Prince George's County  
Historical Society**

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**Annual Membership Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone - Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

**Check below the category you select:**

Dues categories:

Member / Family.....\$25.00

Sustaining Member.....\$50.00

Institutional Member.....\$50.00

Life Membership.....\$300.00

Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_ For membership in the **Maryland Historical Society**, include an additional \$30.00 for individual, or \$40.00 for family.

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

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

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

12/99

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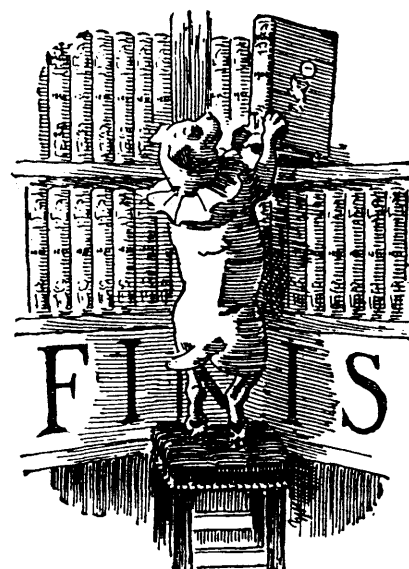
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#### HOURS OF OPERATION

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

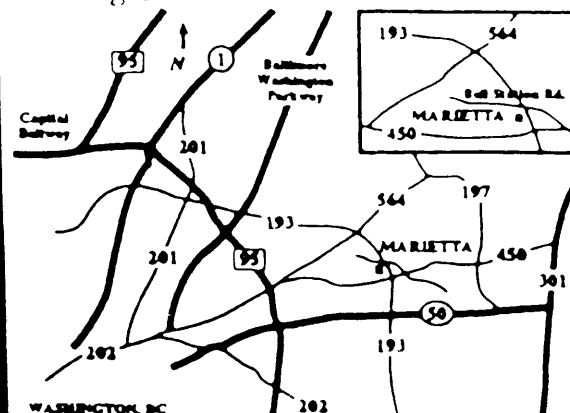
Marietta Tours -Friday, 11 - 3, Sunday,  
12 - 4 - and by appointment -  
Information 301-464-0590

#### THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

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

#### LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5626  
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off  
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a  
facility of the Maryland National Park and  
Planning Commission



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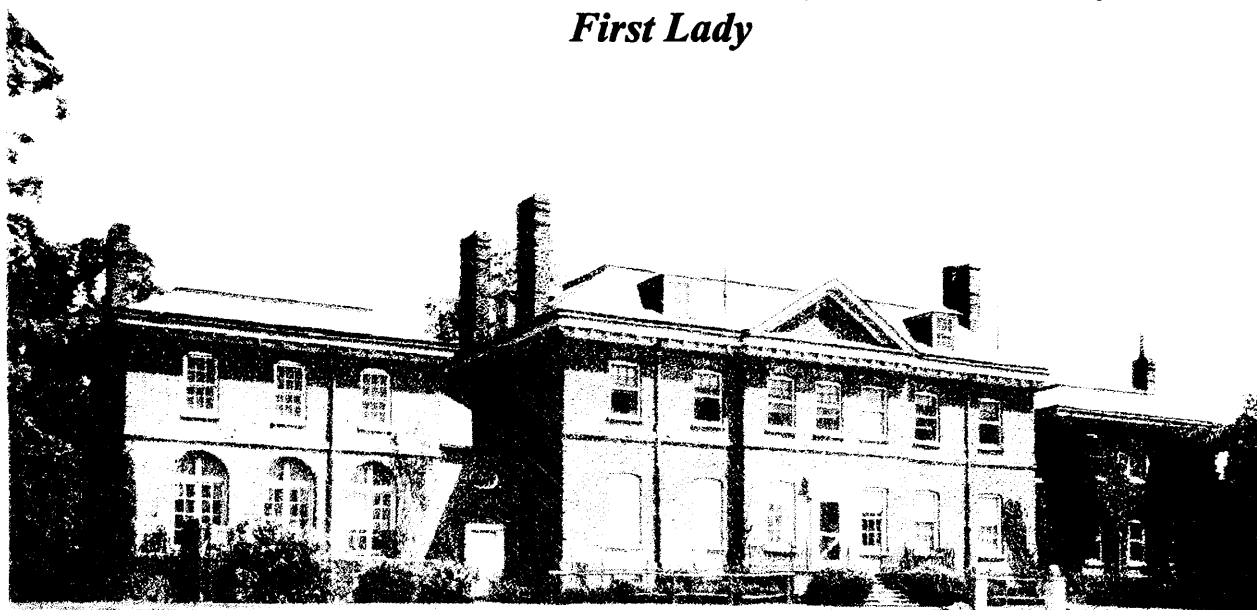
April/May/June 2000

Our 48<sup>th</sup> Year

XXIX Number 3

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### *Prince George's County Historical Society Welcomes Maryland's First Lady*



#### **First Lady Frances Hughes Glendening to speak at Belair Mansion, Bowie**

The Historical Society, in collaboration with the City of Bowie Museums, will hold a very special event on Wednesday, June 28, 2000, in connection with the recent exhibit *"Lady of the House"* at Government House in Annapolis. First Lady Frances Hughes Glendening will be the guest speaker at a program honoring the families, particularly the wives, of the Prince Georgians who have served as governors of Maryland. She will speak about her activities as first lady and the legacy of those who preceded her. She will also talk about her exhibit on the first ladies and official hostesses of Maryland from 1777 to 2000.

This event will be held, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at Belair Mansion, the country estate of Governor and Mrs. Benjamin Ogle at the end of the eighteenth century. Belair is located at 12207 Tulip Grove Drive in Bowie. The Historical Society will present a program and exhibit on the seven historic governors' families from Prince George's County, including reproductions of portraits (where available) and photographs of their homes. They will include:

**Thomas Sim Lee (Governor 1779-82 and 1792-94) and Mary Digges Lee, married in 1771.** Mary grew up at **Melwood Park** near Upper Marlboro, and her activities in support of the Revolutionary were gratefully acknowledged by General Washington. We hope to have a reproduction of the Wollaston portrait of Mary that was part of the "Lady of the House" exhibit, but there is no known likeness of Governor Lee.

**Benjamin Ogle (Governor 1798-1801) and Henrietta Margaret Hill Ogle, married in 1775.** "Henry" came from Anne Arundel County, but her husband spent much of his time at the Ogle country estate, **Belair** (where, appropriately, this program will be held). At Belair we will see fine photoreproductions of the Charles Willson Peale portrait of Henrietta and of the Falconer portrait of Benjamin Ogle.

**Robert Bowie (Governor 1803-06 and 1811-12) and Priscilla Mackall Bowie, married in 1770.** Priscilla came from Charles County, while Robert Bowie's home was **Mattaponi** near Croom, and the **Cedars** at Nottingham. There is a very romantic tradition about the elopement of this young couple (she was about 15). It is interesting that their granddaughter (also Priscilla) married the grandson of Benjamin and Henrietta Ogle (above) and is buried in the Ogle family graveyard at **Belair**.

**Samuel Sprigg (Governor 1819-22) and Violetta Lansdale Sprigg, married in 1811.** Violetta grew up at the house now known as **Hazelwood** on the Patuxent at Queen Anne Town. After their marriage, the Spriggs lived at **Northampton**, in the Largo area. We will have photocopies of the Raphaele Peale portraits of Violetta and Samuel and their son, Osborne Sprigg.

**Joseph Kent (Governor 1826-29), his first wife, Eleanor Wallace Kent, and second wife, Alice Lee Contee.** The Kents' home in the Largo area was **RoseMount**, which Joseph Kent had purchased in 1806. Eleanor Kent died at RoseMount in the first year of Kent's gubernatorial term, leaving ten children. Governor Kent married Alice Lee Contee of Charles County in July 1828. We will have a copy of the Charles Bird King portrait of Governor Kent, but have been unable to find likenesses of his two wives.

**Thomas G. Pratt (Governor 1845-48) and Adeline Kent Pratt, married in 1835.** The Pratts' home was the venerable **Marlborough House**, long a landmark in the County Seat, but destroyed in 1957. We hope to have a reproduction of the portrait of Adeline Pratt, now belonging to the Maryland Historical Society, as well as a portrait of Governor Pratt.

**Oden Bowie (Governor 1869-72) and Alice Carter Bowie, married in 1851.** Alice Carter, granddaughter of George and Rosalie Stier Calvert of Riversdale, grew up at **Goodwood**, near Queen Anne Town. The Bowies lived near Collington at **Fairview**, still the home of their descendants. We will have a copy portrait of Governor Bowie, and hope to have as well the photograph of Mrs. Bowie that was part of the "Lady of the House" exhibit. Oden and Alice Bowie were the first family to reside at the present Government House in Annapolis.

Attendance at this very special event will be strictly limited, so it is essential for those who wish to attend to send in their reservations immediately. A charge of \$15 per person must be received in advance - checks should be made out to PGCHS, and mailed to Lester Sweeting, 4112 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, 20781 **before** June 16, 2000 on the flier within this newsletter. Be sure to include your check and fold into an envelope as indicated. For more information, call the Historical Society Library at 301-464-0590 or Lester at 301-927-4514.

## **Congratulations to Winners of St. George's Day Awards 2000**

This years festivities were held at the Old Laurel High School on Sunday, April 30, 2000. And the winner's were: ***Clement and Barbara Martin & Prince George's County Public Schools; Cheltenham United Methodist Church; Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.; Louise Tatspaugh; County Administration Building Employees/ Tricentennial Display Committee; Prince George's County Public Schools, Donna Schneider and Katharine Bryant; City of Bowie and Jane Eagen.*** Between this issue and the next, we will describe the contributions made to the County by this very diverse group of givers.

**Clem and Barbara Martin** were honored for their efforts in preserving the historic Highland Park High School, the oldest surviving building dedicated to the education of African-American children of high school age in Prince George's County. "Clem attended Highland Park, stayed in the neighborhood, married Barbara and raised a family, who also attended Highland

Park. The school was de-activated as a neighborhood school for a number of years and was devoted to staff development and pre-school use, but thanks to Clem's determination, it never came close to the wrecking ball."

"When it became apparent that a new elementary school was needed in this area, Clem and Barbara were the principals in the struggle to preserve, improve and enlarge the existing structure rather than to destroy and rebuild. The result is that a completely renovated and greatly enlarged structure is now open in the community."

A representative of *Kathryn Hames Letto* accepted an award on behalf of the **Cheltenham United Methodist Church's** 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and their preparation and publication of ***Serving God Since 1873: An illustrated History of Cheltenham United Methodist Church.*** "This wonderful little book includes the background and history of the church, from

the formation of the congregation in 1873, its meetings at Westwood, the home of founders Julius and Harriet Pyles, their deeding of land and the building of the church in 1879, the addition of the bell tower in 1913, the church's preservation after near destruction by the great tornado of 1924, and the construction of the adjoining educational wing in 1945 - and, of course, the erection of the historical marker in 1978 and the designation of the church as a County Historic Site in 1986 - right up to the present day. The book is filled with information about the families who have been the consistent backbone of the congregation, and the 51 pastors who had served over 125 years. Not only is the book generously filled with photographs, carefully indexed and internally cross-referenced, but it closes with a Time Line which places the chronological history of the church clearly in the context of contemporary world events. This book represents a tremendous effort by the Anniversary Committee, and was clearly a labor of love."

Historian Susan Pearl presented the next award with the following remarks: "I am delighted to present a St. George's Day award to **Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.** It would be hard to describe and categorize all of Frank's efforts in the history of Prince George's County. I first met him in 1995 at the time of the printing of his book marking the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of St. Thomas' Church in Croom. Since then I've had the pleasure of working with Frank in the designation of the Chapel of the Incarnation, Brandywine, as an Historic Site. And we are now working together again on completing the National Register listing for both St. Thomas' and the Chapel of the Incarnation. In the meantime, Frank has published the Register of St Thomas' Church, 1849-1906, and has been awarded a

Prince George's Heritage grant toward the publication of what will be his major effort:

a history of the St. Thomas' congregation from its beginnings in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century."

"All this time, however, and before, Frank has been very busy working on his family papers, something I learned about only gradually. Although he now lives and farms in Charles County, Frank grew up on his grandparents' farm in southern Prince George's County (near TB), and Prince George's County has truly been the beneficiary of his great interest in his family's history here. Frank has carefully collected and organized the family farm papers, artifacts and memorabilia into a collection that covers approximately 130 years of agricultural and social history in Prince George's County. Thanks to Frank's work and his donation of this collection to the Smithsonian, the resulting Robinson-Via family collection is now available at the Smithsonian Museum of American History as a primary research source on the American family farm. The Historical Society is delighted to recognize this very important effort ..."

**LOUISE DeMARR TATSPAUGH** was also honored. "Some of our awards fit neatly into categories: worker in the vineyard, restorer of an important house, author or publisher of an historical document. We honor Louise today as an enabler. She has influenced our Society in several important ways: She has attended, on a regular basis, monthly meetings and special events over a period of many years. She has typed hundreds and hundreds of obituary cards with cross-references for the Library files. She provided housing for our beloved Fred and space for the overflow library collections. And lastly, she



**First Lady  
Frances Hughes Glendening to  
speak at Belair Mansion, Bowie  
12207 Tulip Grove Drive**

## **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES MARYLAND'S FIRST LADY**

The Historical Society, in collaboration with the City of Bowie Museums, will hold a very special event on Wednesday, June 28, 2000, in connection with the recent exhibit "*Lady of the House*" at Government House in Annapolis. First Lady Frances Hughes Glendening will be the guest speaker at a program honoring the families, particularly the wives, of the Prince Georgians who have served as governors of Maryland. She will speak about her activities as first lady and the legacy of those who preceded her. She will also talk about her exhibit on the first ladies and official hostesses of Maryland from 1777 to 2000.

This event will be held, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at Belair Mansion, the country estate of Governor and Mrs. Benjamin Ogle at the end of the eighteenth century. Belair is located at 12207 Tulip Grove Drive in Bowie. The Historical Society will present a program and exhibit on the seven historic governors' families from Prince George's County, including reproductions of portraits (where available) and photographs of their homes.

Attendance at this very special event will be strictly limited, so it is essential for those who wish to attend to send in their reservations immediately. A charge of \$15 per person must be received in advance - checks should be made out to PGCHS, and mailed to Lester Sweeting, 4112 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, 20781 **before** June 16, 2000 using this flier. Be sure to include your check and fold into an envelope as indicated. For more information, call the Historical Society Library at 301-464-0590 or Lester at 301-927-4514.

*TAPE (5)*

*FOLD DOWN (4)*

*stamp*

**Lester H. Sweeting  
4112 Gallatin Street  
Hyattsville, MD 20781**

*FOLD IN (3)*

*FOLD UP (1)*

*FOLD IN (2)*



facilitated the orderly transfer of the *Frederick S. DeMarr Library* to the Historical Society. Louise, we honor and thank you."

**Joyce T. Sweeney**, *Co-Chair, Prince George's County Tricentennial Committee*, and **Anne F. Carter**, *Chair, County Administration Building Tricentennial Display Committee*, received an award for their contributions to the Tricentennial quilt.

"To help celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday of Prince George's County, the Tricentennial Committee endorsed a program to allow County employees to become involved in projects to be displayed in various County buildings. A schedule was set up for creation of Tricentennial Building Display Committees. A start-up group of approximately a dozen employees met in February 1996 to decide on an idea for a display in the County Administration Building (CAB) in Upper Marlboro. The CAB display committee decided to design and sew a quilt depicting historic sites, typical County scenes and symbols of the County, both past and present. It seemed that such a project would not only provide an opportunity for County employees to work together and learn about their County, but express their individual creativity."

"As word was passed and employees were invited to join the quilt project, the CAB display committee grew to 32 members. Some fabrics were purchased with the committee's allocated supply fund and other fabrics and supplies were contributed by the employees themselves. Weekly meetings of the committee were held at lunchtime and several teaching demonstrations were held after work hours so that novices could learn the art of fabric applique. 'Practice' quilt squares started at these demonstrations were

later finished and joined to make a small quilt which was raffled off. Employees were encouraged to share ideas for quilt square subjects and color schemes to be used. Each committee member then chose a quilt square subject from a list created from these ideas. An effort was made to ensure that all areas of the County would be represented in the quilt. Some quilt squares were sewn by more than one employee and a few employees sewed more than one quilt square..."

"The panels for the quilt were all completed by the end of June 1996. Committee members met to decide on the final arrangements of the panels in the quilt and a member sewed them together by machine. The quilt was then layered and securely pinned and tied; a fabric binding and hanger pocket were added. Since the quilt was intended to have some historical significance, an appropriate 'signature' on the back of the quilt seemed appropriate. A group photograph was taken of the committee members, the photo then copied onto fabric, the fabric photo applied to the back of the quilt, and a joint message and date embroidered next to the photo."

"The quilt was unveiled in the first floor lobby of the County Administration Building on July 25, 1996 by the County Executive and County Council Chair. The quilt has remained on display in the CAB lobby."

"An attempt is currently being made to obtain funding for restoration of the quilt and an acid-free environment in which to display the quilt." Congratulations to everyone involved.

***Next issue: More award winners!!***

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** - Lester Sweeting **Vice President** - Eugene B. Roberts, Jr. **Secretary** - Sarah Bourne

**Treasurer** - Joyce Uber **Membership** - Phyllis Herndon

**Historian** - Susan Pearl **Editor** - Sharon Howe Sweeting

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### Past Presidents

John Giannetti W.C. (Bud) Dutton Paul T. Lanham

Warren Rhoads Joyce McDonald Jane Eagen

## HERITAGE CALENDAR

### June

- 1- Curator Talks *Maryland's Role in the Revolutionary War*  
MHS 5:30 PM 410-685-3750 free
  
- 3- Maryland Goes to the Movies *Navy Blue and Gold*"  
Old Greenbelt Theatre 2 PM 410-685-3750 \$\$
  
- 3- Walking Tour Roland Park with Donald Kann  
MHS 10 AM 410-685-3750 \$\$
  
- 10- Restoration Facility Tour  
College Park Aviation Museum 100AM 301-864-6029 \$\$
  
- 10- Historic Old Fashioned Barn Raising  
Historic St. Mary's City 301-862-0990
  
- 11- Gallery Talk *Reel Maryland History*  
Maryland Historical Society 2 PM free
  
- 11- Walking Tour The West Side with Bill Pencek  
MHS 10 AM 410-685-3750 \$\$
  
- 24- Horse and Carriage Show  
His Lordship's Kindness 10-3 301-856-0358 \$\$
  
- 27-30- Colonial Kids Mini-Camp  
Historic St. Mary's City 301-0980 \$\$
  
- 28- *Lady of the House- Maryland First Ladies from Prince George's County*  
PGCHS at Belair Mansion 7PM 301-277-5468  
PGCHS 7PM 301-277-5468
  
- 30-7/3 Ercoupe National Convention  
College Park Aviation Museum 301-864-6029 \$\$

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Dale Anderson  
Audrey Forrester  
Ken Hyatt  
Prince George's County Bar Association  
Barbara Radcliff  
Betsy Riddle Ruderfer  
Bob Schnabel

### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Katharine Bryant  
Paul & Mary Frazer

St. George's Day Award Memberships

Clem and Barbara Martin  
Kathryn Hames Letto,  
*Cheltenham United Methodist Church*  
Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and  
Louise Tatspaugh as an Honorary Member.

**WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND  
INVITE EACH CURRENT MEMBER  
TO INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN  
USING THE APPLICATION FORM IN  
THE ADJOINING COLUMN.**

## Mea Culpa

For members who care about such things  
and to all librarians who receive this  
publication on a regular basis, I apologize  
for "unique" volume numbering system. I  
believe that it has now been amended and  
regret the inconvenience. --Editor

### Annual Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone - Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please indicate: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

### Check below the category you select:

Dues categories:

Member / Family.....\$25.00  
Sustaining Member.....\$50.00  
Institutional Member .....\$50.00  
Life Membership .....\$300.00  
Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_ For membership in the **Maryland Historical  
Society**, include an additional \$30.00 for  
individual, or \$40.00 for family.

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

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

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

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

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Permit No. 1948

#### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

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

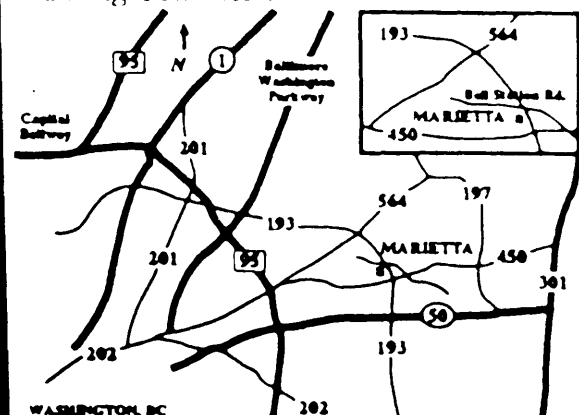
Marietta Tours -Friday, 11 - 3, Sunday,  
12 - 4 - and by appointment -  
Information 301-464-0590

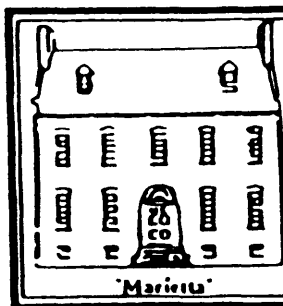
#### **THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP**

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

#### **LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY**

The Society is located at Marietta, 5626  
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off  
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a  
facility of the Maryland National Park and  
Planning Commission





# News and Notes

## Prince George's County Historical Society



July/August 2000

Our 48<sup>th</sup> Year

XXIX Number 4

### *PRINCE OF A COUNTY RECEPTION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2000 MOUNT LUBENTIA*



### **Mount Lubentia - A Short History** *by Andy Wallace*

Mount Lubentia, erstwhile "Castle Magruder", is one of the grand old houses of Prince George's County. For well over two hundred years this ancestral home of the Magruder, Beall and Bowie families has been a landmark, sitting on a terraced hill above the old road from Upper Marlboro to Bladensburg (Rte 202). Until the woods took over the fields in front of the property, it must have been visible from a great distance, as you approached from either direction.

## **The Family**

Ninian Beall, one of colonial Maryland's more remarkable immigrants, obtained the original patent on the property, 1031 acres, called Largo, in 1686. In 1717 Enoch Coombs bought a part of this parcel. His daughter, Barbara, married James Magruder, and they had a son, Enoch, born in 1723. By 1739, Enoch was listed in the rent rolls as holding 125 acres of a piece called Norway, a part of Largo, and seems to have steadily acquired more land in the area, as well as Harmony Hall and Wantwater at Broad Creek on the Potomac, and additional land in Ann Arundel County. In short, he was a prosperous merchant and landowner, with extensive holdings.

Enoch was a member of the vestry of St. Anne's church during the 1750s, and took out a mortgage on a "new dwelling in the Collington Hundred" in 1761 which, by family tradition, referred to Mount Lubentia. In 1765 Enoch was deeded the property by his parents. In 1771, Enoch, who must have been living elsewhere, probably at Harmony Hall, rented the property to the Reverend Jonathan Boucher, newly installed rector at St. Anne's, by appointment of the royal Governor Eden. This probably came about through the offices of Thomas Addison of Oxon Hill, Magruder's close neighbor, whose daughter, Eleanor, Boucher was courting at the time.

Boucher moved in, along with his pupils Jackie Custis of Mount Vernon, Charles Calvert of Mount Airy and Overton Carr of Caroline County, Virginia, in December of 1771. They were immediately snowed in with a tremendous blizzard, and could not get off the property for three weeks. It was Boucher's students who dubbed the dwelling "Castle Magruder," described by Boucher only as a "Very tolerable house." In June Jonathan married Eleanor Addison and brought her to Castle Magruder. At this time Boucher was one of the foremost spokesmen for the Loyalist faction in America. In September of 1772 George Washington and his wife Martha came to visit her son, Jackie, and sat down to dinner with Boucher, Governor Eden and Benedict Calvert, son of Lord Baltimore. Given most the company's Royal connections, its must have been a lively discussion. Boucher left the property in 1774, since the patriots made his life miserable, and moved over to the Broad Creek area, where the political climate was evidently more comfortable for him. Not for long however, and the good Reverend returned, for good, to England in 1775, though he maintained a correspondence with Washington for another two decades.

In 1779, Enoch Magruder, and his wife, Meek, deeded the property to their eldest son, Dennis (born 1759) along with 929 acres, part of Norway, upon his marriage to Anne Contee. For the next half-century, Dennis Magruder lived, for the most part, at Mount Lubentia, making substantial improvements and alterations to the property, marrying three more wives, Eliza Gossaway (1805), Frances Fitzgerald (1817), and Mary Ann Beard (1820) and siring 24 children. When war with Britain broke out in 1812, state records were moved from Annapolis to Upper Marlboro for safekeeping. A couple of years later, in June of 1814, these papers, as well as the county records, were moved to Mount Lubentia when the British threatened Upper Marlboro on their way to Washington, via Bladensburg. While repairing a second floor ceiling, I recently found fragments of what may well have been these papers that must have fallen through the cracks in the attic floor!

Dennis Magruder married his last wife, Mary Ann Beard, at the age of 65, and three years later they had a daughter, also named Mary Ann. A decade later, Dennis left the property to his son, Dennis, Jr., while investing his wife and daughter with life tenancy. Dennis Jr., married and moved to Missouri in 1834, and in 1836, upon Dennis Sr.'s demise, the elder Mary Ann sold her life's interest in Mount Lubentia to Otho Berry Beall and moved to First Street in Coxe's Row in Georgetown, D.C., to give her only child "the advantages of the Female Institution of Mrs. Lydia C. English." Three years later, in 1840, Mary Ann, then 17, married Otho Beall's son, Washington J. Beall, with grand nuptials lasting a week. These festivities were recounted by Mary Ann's daughter, Rosalie Bowie in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, based on her parents' recollections. Thus the property remained in the family.

The newly wed couple settled into Woodlawn, an adjacent plantation given them by Otho Beall, and in 1853, commenced building a new house there, in the Greek revival style. Otho left Mount Lubentia to his son Washington who, in 1883, sold the property to William J. Bowie, who had married his daughter Rosalie. William died shortly thereafter, in 1888, and his widow remained at the farm, which passed to her son, Washington Beall Bowie and his wife Frances Dodge upon her death in 1921. The W.B. Bowie family lived at Mount Lubentia for 55 years, raising five children in the house. Washington Bowie, who died in 1960, left the house to his wife and son, Forrest, an architect, who took a great interest in the family and architectural history of Mount Lubentia, and hoped to eventually restore the house to its 18<sup>th</sup> century form. Frances Dodge Bowie lived until 1975, and four years later, with the house vacant since his mother's death, Forrest passed away, leaving the property to his widow Frances Stevenson Bowie. Mrs. Bowie carefully maintained the property until 1997, when she sold the house and 5.5 acres to Andy and Sondra Wallace who are currently restoring the house and grounds.

### **The House**

The earliest reference to the present house is contained in the 1798 Tax assessment. It describes a two story brick dwelling, 48' x 37', with a brick passage and 32' square kitchen adjoining the house, along with numerous brick and frame outbuildings. It notes that the house was being worked on inside. The valuation was \$1500. one of only four houses, in the Collington and Western Hundreds valued at over \$1000. (The others were Concord, Partnership and Pleasant Prospect.)

Was this the house that Enoch Magruder built ca. 1761, undergoing alterations by his son Dennis, or a later structure that Dennis built? As with most early dwellings, absent a written record, the answer is uncertain. The brick structure, laid in Flemish bond, with rubbed brick jack arches over the windows, and a molded high water table, could have been built anytime during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The floor plan is classic Georgian, with a center hall, flanked by rooms on either side, with the unusual feature of a curved staircase, occupying the entire right side of the entranceway, where a small room would ordinarily be located. This staircase is light and graceful and has Federal features which would date it to the 1790s. All of the first floor rooms have wainscoting and Federal style mantels, with no two rooms detailed the same. The walls are plastered and there are no cornice moldings. Taken as a whole, the house appears to be Federal in style. The kitchen described disappeared during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the passage

seems to have been expanded into a more formal room early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly the plantation office. This became evident during restoration when the remains of the old passage wall were found under the floor. It also became evident that the common wall between the main house and the passage was originally an exterior wall and that the passage was added to join the kitchen to the main house, after the two buildings had stood separately. This would seem to indicate, as was often the case, that the house developed in stages, over time, rather than being built as a unit. Further evidence surfaced of early alterations when I was restoring the dining room, located off the right rear of the stair hall, leading to the passage. This room underwent a major rebuilding in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when there was a major structural failure of the brickwork over one of the windows.

The second story contains three bedrooms, all with Federal mantels, chair rails and simple trim. There is a small room at the back of the hall, which may have been added early on. This was converted to a bathroom in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A door in the right rear bedroom leads to the back service stairs, descending to the old passage. The third floor was converted to living space in the 1920s, and a decade earlier, the passage addition was raised to a full two stories from its earlier loft configuration.

Mount Lubentia retains a remarkable amount of its 18<sup>th</sup> century materials and detailing. It has, of course, undergone many changes over two centuries of day-to-day living. Besides early alterations, the house underwent at least two major periods of work. When the Bowies reoccupied the property, after a shadowy period of almost 50 years, from 1840 to 1883, the house was reputedly in ruinous condition. The earliest photos of the place show that the entire northeast corner had collapsed and been rebuilt. Large Victorian style porches were added to the front and back at this time, and new floors were laid in large parts of the house. As mentioned, major work was also done in the teens and twenties of this century. With all of this work, however, great respect was shown for the original building, and it remains an extraordinary example of a Georgian-Federal plantation house.

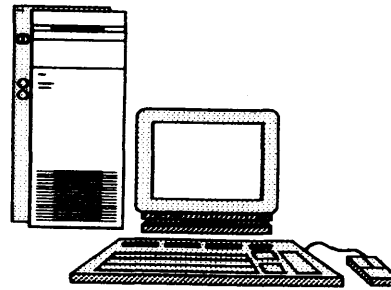
While little remains of the 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaping at Mount Lubentia, the grounds contain a wonderful variety of old plantings, some dating back over 100 years. Foundations of long vanished outbuildings are scattered throughout the property, and an early 19<sup>th</sup> century corn dryer survives. In 1971, Forrest Bowie moved a unique 18<sup>th</sup> century octagonal dairy house from Graden, a Berry family plantation demolished when USAir Arena was built, and it remains on the grounds, awaiting restoration. In 1931, Forrest Bowie, then 16, executed a detailed drawing of the grounds of Mount Lubentia, noting all of the plantings in what was then a showcase Colonial Revival garden. Shortly before he passed away, Fred DeMarr told me that this drawing still existed in the Historical Society archives, and, several months later, Sharon Sweeting located it for us, adding to Fred's legacy of preserving county history. The plan has proved invaluable in restoring elements of the garden.

While the restoration of Mount Lubentia is well along, much remains to be done in documenting the history of the property. The owners would love to hear from anyone who has any information about the house or family, or knows where such information might be lurking.



**CONTACT:**

Andrew & Sondra Wallace  
603 Large Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774  
Phone: 301-324-7311; fax 301-324-7612  
email: aandswallace@erols.com



***FROM THE PRESIDENT'S KEYBOARD***

Hello and aren't we having wonderful weather. I have had an opportunity to enjoy the sun and the rain, while being out of the country for the worst of each. Watch out for early August because I am off to Jakarta on July 25 and will be gone four weeks- expect a scorcher - but then it will be August after all.

The Society is having a good year - lots happening and things coming together nicely. On June 28, we had a wonderful event attended by about 60 people where Frances Hughes Glendening out own First Lady, spoke at the opening of an exhibit mounted by the Society at Belair Mansion. The exhibit includes portraits of most of the eight first ladies of Maryland who are associated with Prince George's County. It is small, but packed with information and we recommend that you travel to Belair to see it sometime in July or August. Belair is owned by the City of Bowie Museums, and is open for visitors most days. Mrs. Glendening gave a wonderful speech about her predecessors and about her own efforts to both expand the collection of First Lady memorabilia at Government House, in addition to the preservation of her own record as first lady beginning with the Inaugural in 1995.

The audience included the grandchildren,

great grand children and great-great grandchildren of our most recent past Governor from Prince George's County - Oden Bowie of Fairview. It was an honor for me to introduce the speaker and to welcome the attendees.

Our next event promises to be as memorable. Our friends Andy and Sondra Wallace will graciously open Mount Lubentia for the Prince of a County Reception and Fund Raiser on Sunday, September 17. This annual event was started about 20 years ago and invariably features a venue of great historical interest that is not as readily accessible to the general public. Those of you who know Andy will remember his excellent restoration of Black Walnut Thicket in Baden over several years. Once that project had been completed, Andy was ready to tackle another deserving historic property and was able to secure Mt. Lubentia as the Wallace home. This promises to be a great event and we hope to see all of you there.

Bill Uber and Dusty Rhoads are developing the October event — a bus tour to York, PA. Featuring lunch at the Yorktowne Hotel and a visit to several properties of the York County Heritage Foundation, this all-day trip will again put the Society in the tour business - if it is supported by you, the members. Please let us know that you would like to go by sending in the reservation form as soon as possible. As

long time members know, we used to sponsor two successful bus tours each year, but stopped several years ago due to lack of interest — so let's get interested. For those members who need to have transportation to and from Marietta - where the bus will begin and terminate the tour, please call the Society at 301-464-0590, or Les and Sharon Sweeting at 301-927-4514 and we will ensure that you have transport to and from the bus.

November is annual meeting time. We have been having these affairs at restaurants over the past few years and found those to be welcome venues. This year we will be at RIPS in Bowie, and, in order to accommodate them, we will have the meeting on Monday evening, November 6. Again, we understand that some members may need transportation and are more than willing to ensure that this is provided if you will check the box marked "Transport Needed" on the reservation form. I realize that it is a bit early to reserve for dinner, so this is a preliminary form in this newsletter, and the menu selection reservation will be added to a later edition. But we need to begin planning so we want to have an indication of your interest in the event as soon as possible. You can call and leave a message at 301-464-0590 or 301-927-4514, to signify your interest and your transportation needs as well.

Our final event is the traditional Holiday Party at Marietta on Saturday, December 13. More on that later; watch for the unusual theme.

I am pleased with all that we have accomplished so far and with our planned events for the rest of this year. Some things are a bit stalled - like the web site- but they will move forward over time. The Library

Committee - the 3 Ss (Sharon Sweeting, Sarah Bourne and Susan Pearl) - are continuing to do a wonderful job clearing up old files and arranging things in a useable fashion. We have received additional filing cabinets and are shifting some things into storage so we can better organize the core collections. We are also pleased to have the continuing assistance of Diane Stultz who is bringing order to our map collection. A new volunteer has joined us and we will provide additional information about her in the next issue.

We appreciate the feedback we receive from Society members and visitors alike. If you have any suggestions, recommendations, complaints, information, etc. that you would like to share please write to me c/o PGCHS, Post Office Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014.

Les Sweeting

*The following excerpts are from the American Clan Gregor Society Yearbook of 1937 and I think, nicely complement Andy's history.*

**MOUNT LUBENTIA**  
**by Forrest D. Bowie, Maryland**

"I regret to say that Mr. C.C. Magruder, who was to have read his address given here in 1932 upon the dedication of the Bicentennial Marker, is unable to attend today, and it has fallen my lot to give you a little history of "Mount Lubentia."

[The history of the family and the house follows and has already been recounted above. I will however, include quotes concerning the 1840 nuptials between Mary Ann Magruder and Washington J. Beall which lasted a week.]

" Washington Jeremiah Beall married Mary Ann Magruder in 1840, and the occasion called for a large wedding. This is best described by a description written by my grandmother, Rosalie Magruder Beall Bowie in the year 1913:

This day, July 7, 1913, sets me to reflection in calling to my mind it is the Anniversary of the Wedding of my dear departed parents, Washington Jeremiah Beall and Mary Ann Magruder at 'Largo', Prince George's County, Md., July 7, 1840, by the Rev. George L. Mackenheimer, the rector of this Queen Anne Parish at this time. My father was the second son of Otho Berry Beall and Mary Berry, they being third cousins, were descended from among the earliest settlers of this state, who emigrated from Scotland and England. My mother was the youngest, as well as the twenty-fourth child of Dennis and Mary Ann Beard Magruder, his fourth wife. She was very young, being just seventeen the nineteenth of the preceeding May, and my father being twenty-one the nineteenth of April. They were both much beloved not only by a large family of relatives, but by the neighbors around. They were greatly admired and esteemed, so a large social wedding seemed only natural and was truly enjoyed and often referred to in conversation with each other and in the presence of their three devoted children. Mary Elizabeth Ellen, Rosalie Magruder, and Otho Richard, who loved dearly to hear of the then style of entertaining and rejoicing, which I shall endeavor to repeat as was often told to us, not only by our dear grandmother, but by the old and faithful family servants, who had grown grey in their duty to the family and its antecedents."

"There were eight bridesmaids and the corresponding number of groomsmen in

attendance, being schoolmates of both during their terms at Georgetown College, D.C., Ben Hallewell's of Alexandria, Va., also the famous Mrs. Lydia English of Georgetown, besides relatives. The first was a niece of my Grandmother Magruder, Nancy Chapman Beard, an only daughter of Capt. W. Chapman Beard of the Rifle Regiment during the War of 1812, and Matilda Johns, his wife. She served with Washington Berry, a nephew of my Grandmother Beall. The next were: Anne Forrest, Mary Virginia Washington, of the few relatives of our country's Father, of 'Mt. Vernon', Va., Mary Ellen Kent, a sister of Mrs. Gov. Thomas G. Pratt, Mary Katherine Macubbin, Rosalie Ogle, a daughter of Gov. Samuel Ogle (sic), Zelima Forrest, and Miss Susan Rapine. Their attendants being Capt. Daniel Genriffer, Armstead Rust of Va., Robert Carter Brent of La., James Dickens of Washington, D.C., Truxton D. Beale of D.C., John Smith, and Llewellen Boyle of Annapolis."

"They were married at six o'clock in the evening. The bride's dress was of white satin, with an overdress of white embroidered lace, also a veil of the same material being in one piece, with a wreath of orange blossoms fastened with an exquisite brooch of pearls and diamonds, being part of a set that was possessed by the bride's mother; also worn at that time, a lovely handkerchief of the finest linen cambric and thread lace, which was hand made and presented by Mrs. Capt. Wm. C. Beard, the bride's aunt, and was truly a marvel of needlework, a part being in my possession at this time, it seems like a mere cobweb; there were slippers of thinnest soles of white satin and stockings of exquisite raw silk, marked with the bride's name in full in one thread in needlework by her mother."

"The evening following the whole party were beautifully entertained at "Mount Lubentia", the home of the Groom's family, having the grand music of the U.S. Marine Band from the Navy Yard at Washington that had been engaged for the week by the family in the programme of entertaining the couple, which was beautifully and elegantly done by the members of the families in the neighborhood, the last being a dinner by a neighbor nearby, who was full able for a lavish spread, concluded with Whittleberrys and milk, this causing a great jest among the maids and their attendants, notwithstanding their enjoyment."

"The party at the end of the week dispersed leaving happy wishes and tears behind, the bride and groom with his family gone to Bedford Springs, Penn., for the next fortnight, to recuperate from the effects of dissipation and begin life together by returning to a fine farm ('Woodlawn') and comfortable home presented by the groom's father, partly stocked with eleven competent servants from her devoted mother, besides a carriage and horses; the horses having been the leads of the four that had drawn the coach to the Va. Springs in the infancy of the bride during her father's life".



*Octagonal Dairy House* moved from Graden located on the property



*Mt. Lubentia* Drawn by Wallis Cain (July 2000)



## ***Friends and Members of PGCHS Bus Trip***

**When:** Saturday, October 21, 8:30 am to 6:00 pm

**Where:** Historic York, Pennsylvania

**What:** A Chance to visit several of the many historic sites, as well as the  
York County Historical Society Museum and Library  
Lunch at the Yorktowne Hotel (National Historic Landmark)

**Cost:** All inclusive fee of \$36.00 per person

**Questions?** Call Bill Uber at (301)345-9797

***Early Registration is requested so arrangements can be confirmed.***  
(Our last bus trip two years ago was canceled due to lack of timely reservations).

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of reservations:** @ \$36.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **Total enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **P.G.C.H.S.** and mail to:

Bill Uber  
2A Southway  
Greenbelt, MD 20770-1732



# Prince George's County Historical Society Heritage Calendar

## August

- 5- Maryland Goes to the Movies  
Maryland Historical Society 2PM 410-685-3750 free
- 5&6- Civil War Garrison  
Fort Washington Park 301-763-4600 \$\$
- 6- Make & Play- 19th Century Games  
Marietta Mansion 2 PM 301-464-5291 \$\$
- 13- Make Paper  
Marietta Mansion 2 PM 301-464-5291 \$\$
- 19- Battle of Bladensburg Encampment  
Riversdale 12-4 301-864-0420 free
- 20- Make Sand Cast Candles  
Marietta Mansion 2 PM 301-464-5291 \$\$

## September

### Annual Meeting

### *Rips*

*Routes 301 and 197. Bowie*

Monday, November 6, 2000

WILL ATTEND:

WILL NOT ATTEND:

NEED TRANSPORTATION:

Call 301-464-0590 and leave a message

- 16- Candlelight Walking Tour of Chestertown  
Kent County Historical Society 5-9 PM 410-778-3499 \$\$
- 16-17- Roman Legion XX Encampment  
Marietta Mansion 10-4 301-464-5291 \$\$
- 17- Prince of a County Reception PGCHS  
Mt. Lubentia 2-5 301-927-4514 \$\$
- 23- Autumn Tea  
His Lordship's Kindness 1PM 301-856-0358 \$\$
- 23- Air Fair  
College Park Aviation Museum 10-5 301-864-6029 \$\$
- 24- Autumn Festival  
Mount Airy House and Grounds \$\$
- 30- Open House at all Consortium sites  
Queen Anne's County Historical Society 410-604-2100 \$\$

**Prince George's County  
Historical Society**

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**Annual Membership Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone - Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

**Check below the category you select:**

Dues categories:

Member / Family .....\$25.00

Sustaining Member .....\$50.00

Institutional Member .....\$50.00

Life Membership .....\$300.00

Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Please make checks payable to **PGCHS**

Mail checks and form to:

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

12/99

**Board of Directors**

**President** - Lester Sweeting

**Vice President** - Eugene B. Roberts, Jr.

**Secretary** - Sarah Bourne

**Treasurer** - Joyce Uber

**Membership** - Phyllis Herndon

**Historian** - Susan Pearl

**Editor** - Sharon Howe Sweeting

**Directors**

John Petro      John Mitchell

William Uber      Wallis Cain

Kathryn Clagett      Mildred Ridgeley Gray

Iris McConnell      James Wolfe

Robert Crawley

**Past Presidents**

John Giannetti      W.C. (Bud) Dutton

Paul T. Lanham      Warren Rhoads

Joyce McDonald      Jane Eagen



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

Non-Profit Org  
U S Postage  
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Riverdale, MD  
Permit No. 1948

### HOURS OF OPERATION

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

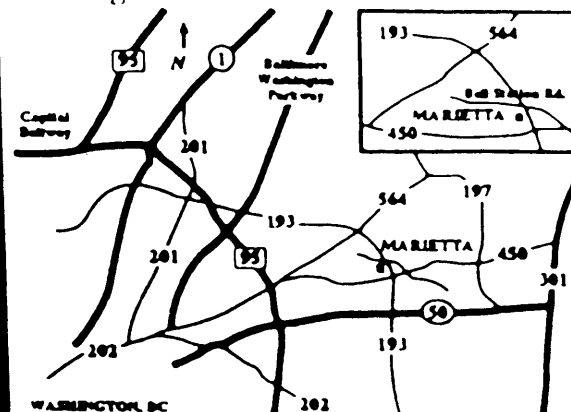
Marietta Tours - Friday, 11 - 3, Sunday,  
12 - 4 - and by appointment -  
Information 301-464-0590

### THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

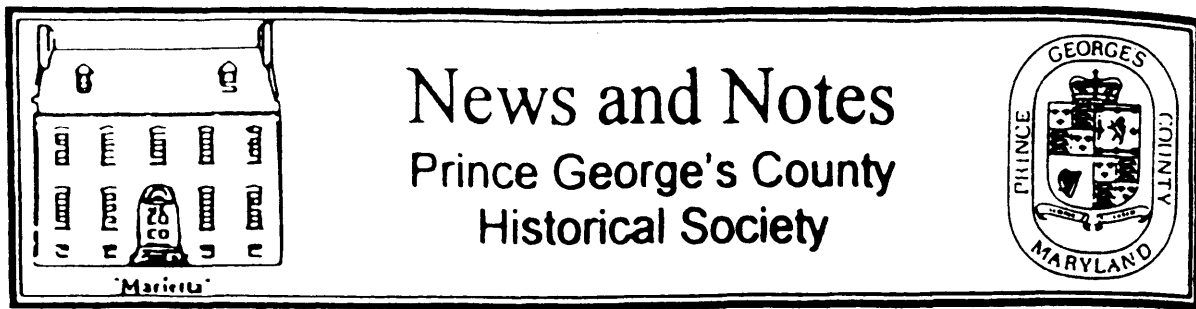
Features a wide selection of books, gifts,  
toys and small antiques. Open Friday,  
Saturday and Sunday, 12 - 4 PM and  
during special events. Call 301-464-  
0590.

### LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5626  
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off  
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a  
facility of the Maryland National Park and  
Planning Commission.







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September/October 2000

Our 48<sup>th</sup> Year

XXIX Number 5

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## What/Who's in a Name ?

*"Armstead 'Rip' Wayson* picked up his nickname about 40 years ago when he separated the seat of his pants sliding into second base." So reported Tim Kelly in the old *Washington Star* on July 5, 1976. Mr. Kelly's article begins: "Some people collect stamps, some bird watch, and others assemble model airplanes. Then there is Dave Wayson, the 35-year-old [according to Fred DeMarr's notes in the margin of this article, he was only 27 at the time] proprietor of **Rip's Restaurant**, motel, liquor store and sporting goods store on Crain Highway in Bowie. He built softball fields." Dave and his brother Kenneth inherited the complex named for their father upon his death from lung cancer in 1974. "Eventually, the Wayson brothers lost **Rip's** through bad business deals."

On April 22, 1982, The *Bowie Blade-News* reported that **Rip's** [was] **on the block**. "The entire Rip's operation at Routes 301-197 has been advertised for auction on Thursday, April 29, at the site because of a foreclosure action against the Bowie business."

The same newspaper on April 27, 2000, sets the scene for the Annual Business Meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society (Monday, November 6, 2000; see the enclosed flier for additional details) by describing this landmark: *"Nearly a half century ago, Rip's was nestled in the countryside and was one of the very few restaurants and motels around. People traveling along Route 3/301 would plan to eat home cooked food and stay at Rip's because it was a convenient stopping point for those traveling from New York to Florida."*

**Bowie Blade-News** Staff Writer and frequent Library patron **Linda Blachly** provides a fascinating history of the property originally owned by "a member of the Wayson family that has owned businesses and lived in Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties for more than 300 years."

According to Rip's daughter, Ann Wayson Kwiatkowski, manager of Wayson Mobile Court, "her father was recruited by the Washington Senators baseball team in the early 1930s" but instead married her mother Margaret and together they managed the restaurant and motel.

Their idea was to provide home cooked food, especially homemade pies and rolls. The property was initially designed to look like a Howard Johnson's. The Nick Bassfords purchased the property at the 1983 auction. Their daughters currently own **Rip's**. According to Blachly, "The family also owns Annapolis Seafood Market, Annapolis Produce and another **Rip's Country Inn** in Waldorf, which was purchased in the early 1990s."

## More "*What/Who's in a Name?*"

**Prince George's County, Maryland:** on St. George's Day, April 23, 1696, a new county was established, named for *Prince George* of Denmark, husband of Princess Anne, heir to the throne of England. First county seat: **Charles Town**.

**Charles Town:** Quoting from George D. Denny, Jr.'s book called *Proud Past; Promising Future*, "...**Charles Town**, established over a three year period beginning in 1683, near Croome, on the confluence of the Western Branch and the Patuxent River. The land at that time was in Calvert County. Reportedly named after the third Lord Baltimore, Charles Town was governed by commissioners and a Lord Mayor, said to have been Ninian Beall, an immigrant who earned his passage to the Colonies as an indentured servant, gained his freedom in 1677, and was given a parcel of land in what was called Terrapin Thicket (*New Carrollton*) at that time."

**Bladensburg:** The town was called Bladensburg, after Thomas *Bladen*, who served as provincial governor in 1742 when the town was erected; previously called Garrison-Landing.

"In 1882, the town commissioners had the articles of incorporation amended to change the name of the town's governing body from the Commissioners of Huntington to the Commissioners of **Bowie**, in honor of *Gov. Oden Bowie*, who had been a prime mover in the efforts to establish the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad through the area." (County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro is located on the *Gov. Oden Bowie Drive*.)

"Meanwhile, a railroad station at Landover and the nearness of Bladensburg and Landover Roads made access easy to the city of Washington, and residential subdivisions began to spring up all along transportation routes north and east of the city. One of these subdivisions was **Cheverly** Gardens, developed by Franklin P Mendenhall adjacent to the Landover station in 1904. The derivation of the name '*Cheverly*' is not clear, although there is some evidence that it may stem from the English town of 'Cheveley' (minus the 'r')."

The area around **Rip's** is referred to as "*Collington*" - and Maryland Route 197, which dead-ends at the entrance to **Rip's**, is **Collington Road**. The name "**Collington**", like so many other place names, came with the settlers from England, recalling favorite British places; it was given to one or the original six "hundreds" designated when Prince George's County was established in

1696. (The "hundreds" were the political divisions of the county, and served the purposes of taxation as well as judicial, legal and military administration.). The **Collington** Hundred comprised the area between two tributaries of the Patuxent River: the Western Branch and the **Collington** Branch. **Collington** Station, one of the stops on the Pope's Creek Line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad of the 1870s, took its name from the **Collington** Hundred. Both Holy Trinity Church, **Collington**, and its mother church, St. Barnabas' at Leeland, were located in the **Collington** Hundred, and by extension, the Episcopal Life Care Community established on Lottsford Road in the late 1980s is named "**Collington**" (although its location is outside the boundaries of the ancient **Collington** Hundred).

Prince George's County's six original hundreds, incidentally, were divided over the years as population increased to create geographically smaller administrative units. A century after its establishment, Prince George's County was made up of 21 hundreds, and they were superseded in the nineteenth century by Election Districts. (*Contributed by Historian Susan Pearl*)

"In the mid-1930's, ... the government purchased about 12,000 acres of rural land in the area east of Berwyn Heights, and a Federal housing project called '**Greenbelt**' was created under the supervision of the Federal Resettlement Administration headed by Rexford Guy Tugwell." (The original Green Belt encircled Greater London.)

"**Christopher Clarke Hyatt**, the founder of **Hyattsville**, was born in 1799, the great grandson of an immigrant from England, and a descendant of Seth Hyatt, who reportedly founded **Hyattstown**, which is located between Washington, D.C., and Frederick, Maryland."

"By 1891 the 100 acres of Clemson Place had been subdivided by George A. and J. Estcourt Sawyer, reported to be Army officers from Seattle, Washington, and the subdivision had been named **Mt. Rainier**, after the famous mountain peak in their home state."

"The city's name, [New] '**Carrollton**,' was that of Charles Carroll [of Carrollton], grandson of the first attorney general of Maryland (Charles Carroll), and cousin of the first Catholic archbishop in the U.S. (John Carroll)."

"In the 1850's, Joseph Gregory began to buy land in the area, including 'Scott's Blunder,' containing 76.5 acres; 'part of William and Mary Increased' and '**Seat Pleasant**,' which were located next to property owned by Benjamin Berry; and 91.5 acres of land which ran from Addison Chapel (Addison) Road to Cabin Branch, and from 'Baltimore Manor' back to the chapel."

"At the suggestion of a friend, Ida Cummy, Gilbert selected the name '**Takoma**' (high up, near heaven) for his new acquisition, substitution the letter 'k' for the 'c' in the Indian word to distinguish it from Tacoma, Washington. The word '**Park**' was added years later to emphasize the woods-like atmosphere of the town."

"Marlborough Town, as it was called then, was named for John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough, an English military hero of the Battle of Blenheim and a friend of Queen Anne. ... [I]n 1731 [residents] petitioned the General Assembly to have the town replatted. It wasn't until 1744, however, that a new survey was approved, and the town was then called Upper Marlborough in Prince George's County. The word '*Upper*' had been added to distinguish the Prince George's town from an older Calvert County community of *Marlboro*, which later had 'Lower' added to its name."

**Editor's note:** We are exceedingly grateful that **Mr. George D. Denny, Jr.** permitted us to quote so liberally from his book. This volume is available at the Marietta Gift Shop and we recommend its inclusion in libraries of local history.

## DORSEY CHAPEL TURNS 100

*Dorsey Chapel* celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 16, 2000 and honored the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Friends group at the same time.

**Historian Susan Pearl** delivered the following remarks to celebrate the occasion.



DORSEY CHAPEL (Historian on staff of the Historic Preservation Commission, that implements the Historic Preservation Ordinance for Prince George's County).

Dorsey Chapel was first documented during the first survey of the County's historic properties in 1973, and was included in the inventory of over 500 properties recognized and protected by the Preservation Ordinance that was enacted in 1981; of the 9 early 20<sup>th</sup>-century African-American Methodist churches included in this inventory, Dorsey Chapel had the highest degree of ornamentation.

More research was undertaken in 1982, and Dorsey Chapel was one of the first 60 African-American historic properties included in the new Black History Program. By that time the chapel was in seriously deteriorating condition, and negotiations regarding its future were dragging slowly on. But its importance in our County's African-American history was never doubted, and when I presented it to the Historic Preservation Commission in November 1989, the Commission's decision to designate it as an Historic Site was unanimous. This designation would technically protect it from demolition, but I have to admit that at that time I had little hope that it would ever be completely restored. I have never been happier to have been wrong!

Some people, like the Friends of Dorsey Chapel (who acquired the Chapel in that same year) never gave up, and after the Friends conveyed the chapel to the M-NCPPC in 1992, things began to move at last. The Preservation Commission was delighted to review and approve the plans for restoration, watched the painstaking work over the next few years, and rejoiced with you in September of 1996 when the chapel was opened to the public. Dorsey Chapel has become the poster child for preservation in our County, a textbook case of extreme deterioration to ideal restoration to which we in the preservation office proudly point. A year ago, the annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation met in Washington; as part of that conference I guided a busload of people, from all over the United States and beyond, who wanted to see preservation projects regarding African-American historic buildings; you can guess where I brought them, and you can guess which site thrilled them the most!

To the Friends of Dorsey Chapel and the Parks Department staff, congratulations! You have worked hard - You have been very fortunate - You have a real treasure here! I wish you another wonderful century!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S KEYBOARD

As Fall begins, and during my very short time at home, I think it is time to review the last year of my Millennium, and to look forward to 2001.

As many of you are aware, I do a great deal of traveling around the world. In 2000, I have spent time in Egypt (twice), Indonesia, and Macedonia. These are all countries with significant histories and each has its own special cachet. While it is interesting to see these places, it is even more interesting to enjoy the history here at home.

The year 2000 has been one of milestones for the Society. We successfully concluded the negotiations for the Deed of Gift of the Frederick DeMarr Memorial Library of County History to the Society at the beginning of the year, and, as we conclude the year, we have successfully negotiated a multi-year Joint Use Agreement for Marietta with M-NCPPC.

We also conducted some very interesting programs - including the St. George's Day Awards dinner at Laurel High School, the joint program with the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants, and First Ladies exhibit with Mrs. Glendenning, and the recent Prince of a County Fundraiser. Still to come are the Bus Trip to Historic York, Pennsylvania in October; the Annual Meeting and Dinner at RIPS in Bowie on Monday, November 6, as well as the end-of-year Holiday Party at Marietta on December 13. I wish that I could be there, but duty calls and I am off again - this time to Riga, Latvia and then to Skopje, Macedonia.

I hope you all enjoy health and prosperity for the rest of 2000. Thank you, and especially thanks to the Board of Directors *and most especially to Sharon, without whom I could*

*not exist* for your support this year.

## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

This is the official notice of the Annual Meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society. The meeting will be held on November 6, 2000, at Rip's Country Inn, a long-time favorite local landmark (see cover story). Festivities begin at 6:30 PM with a cash bar, 7:00 PM for dinner (see flyer enclosed for menu choices and pricing) and the meeting to take place during dinner. Because of the unavoidable absence of President Sweeting, Vice President Roberts will chair the meeting.

There are two specific items on the agenda:

### 1. Proposed amendment to the By-Laws

The By-Laws of the Society currently provide that there will be 9 Directors on the Board of Directors. For a number of reasons, and as a result of a spirited discussion at the last Board meeting, it is the consensus of the Board that the By-Laws should be amended to allow for the election of additional Directors. Therefore, it is proposed that Article IV, section 3, of the By-Laws be amended to read as follows:

*Section 3. There shall be a minimum of nine (9) and a maximum of fifteen (15) members. One-third of the Directors shall be elected at each annual meeting.*

### 2. Election of Officers and filling vacancies on the Board of Directors.

All officer positions are elected each year. In addition, a certain number of positions are open due to (1) expiration of the three year term, or (2) because of resignation or selection for another position on the Board. At the November 6 meeting, therefore, we will have an election handled in two stages:

a. The Nominating Committee reported the following candidates for officer positions:

<b>President</b>	Lester Sweeting
<b>Vice President</b>	John Petro
<b>Secretary</b>	James Wolfe
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joyce Uber
<b>Historian</b>	Susan Pearl
<b>Editor</b>	Sharon Sweeting
<b>Membership</b>	Phyllis Herndon
<b>Gift Shop</b>	Stella Uber

If these candidates are elected (remember that nominations from the floor are allowed), two current Directorships would become vacant (Mr. Petro and Mr. Wolfe). Three Directorship terms expire in 2000 as well. This would mean that a minimum of 5 director positions would have to be filled. The Nominating Committee has recommended the following candidates:

Term expiring in 2003:

Mildred Ridgeley Gray  
Iris T. McConnell  
Andy Wallace

Term Expiring in 2002

Anna Holmes

Term Expiring in 2001

Lynn Roberts

Again, if the By-Laws amendment passes, there would be additional slots that could be filled by nominations from the floor - or by appointment by the Board after it takes office in January. We encourage any and all members to consider joining the Board - if you have time and are willing to work - there is work to do!

In addition to the formal meeting, we have a guest speaker, Eugene Meyer, author of *Maryland Lost and Found, Again* recently

published by Westholme Publishers. Mr. Meyer, recipient of a 1999 Saint George's Day Award from the Society for his numerous writings about Prince George's County, will be available to sign copies of his new book as well.

I hope each and every member will plan to attend this critical meeting. Reservations may be made by completing the flyer and sending it to the address specified together with the fee for the dinner.

Les Sweeting

### THE MILLENNIUM PARTY

This year's Holiday party will be a little different from those of the past.

It will be a Millennium Party, and whether your personal millennium began in January 2000 or will begin in January 2001, you will enjoy the unique experience of sampling foods from the last 2000 years. The Society's historian has been working her way through archival records of foods and choosing one from each of the last 20 centuries. Just to pique your interest, think about the following:

*In which century was fruit cake first recorded?*

*and what about cashews, or ice cream?*

*and what yummy soft French cheese made its appearance in the eighth century A.D.?*

**Mark your calendars for December 9, 2000, when you can taste and learn about all of these special treats at the Holiday party at Marietta.**

(More hints in the next News and Notes. ...)

**Prince George's County Historical Society  
Heritage Calendar**

**October**

- 3-5 "Small Quilt" Show  
His Lordship's Kindness 10-4 301-856-0358 \$\$
- 7&8- An Ikebana Exhibition  
His Lordship's Kindness 12-4 301-856-0358 \$\$
- 10- Lecture A Marker of Honor for a Revolutionary Soldier  
Belair Mansion 7:30 301-809-3088 \$\$
- 15- Candlelight Concert - Modern Brass Quartet  
St. Barnabas Church 4PM 301-249-2000
- 14-15- Hastings Medieval Faire  
Marietta Mansion 11-5 301-464-5291 \$\$
- 14- Progressive Tea & Tour - Three 18th C. Mansions  
Billingsley 301-627-0730 \$\$
- 18- Lecture-Bound for Lord Baltimore's Colony  
Montpeleir Mansion 301-953-1376 \$\$
- 21- Bus Trip to York, PA.  
PGCHS 301-345-9797 \$\$
- 21- Treasured Heirloom Event-Antique Appraisals  
Frederick County HS 301-663-0526 \$\$
- 22- Speaking of Flight Lecture WASPs  
College Park Aviation Museum 2PM 301-864-6029 \$\$
- 22- Riverdale Park House Tour  
Riverdale Town Center 2-6 PM 301-277-6615 \$\$
- 27- In Search of Ghosts  
Montgomery County HS 301-762-1492 \$\$
- 28-29- LaBelle Compagnie/100 Years War Encampment  
Marietta Mansion 11-4 301-464-5291
- 28- Flight Night- Halloween Party  
College Park Aviation Museum 7-9 PM 301-864-6029 \$\$
- 29- Campfire and Storytelling  
Marietta Mansion 7-8:30 PM 301-464-5291 \$\$



## November

- 3- Hollywood Flyers "WINGS"  
College Park Aviation Museum 11AM 301-864-6029 \$\$
- 3-5- "Small Quilt Show"  
His Lordship's Kindness 10-4 PM 301-856-0358 \$\$
- 3-5- 27th Annual Conference on Washington, DC Historical Studies  
Historical Society of Washington DC 202-785-2068 free
- 6- Annual Dinner Meeting Rip's Restaurant Bowie  
PGCHS 6PM 301-277-5468 \$\$
- 8- Lecture & Luncheon The Tasker Sisters & their Husbands  
Belair Mansion 301-809-3089 \$\$
- 8- Forum on the Underground Railway  
Montgomery County HS 7PM 301-762-1492 free
- 11- Hollywood Flyers FLY GIRLS  
College Park Aviation Museum 11 AM 301-864-6029 \$\$
- 12- Lecture Colonial Shipbuilding in America  
Belair Mansion 7:30 301-809-3088 \$\$
- 19- Speaking of Flight Lecture Scott Crossfield & MACH 2 & 3  
College Park Aviation Museum 2 PM 301-864-6029 \$\$

# INVITATION

To: *Discovering Prince George's History: an Authors Forum*

12:30 to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, 11 November 2000

Rennie Forum in the Largo Student Center, P.G. Community College  
Call 301-332-0432 for further information

Jointly sponsored by *Prince George's Community College* and  
*Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust*

**Free; Public is welcome**



## ***Friends and Members of PGCHS Bus Trip***

**When:** Saturday, October 21, 8:30 am to 6:00 pm

**Where:** Historic York, Pennsylvania

**What:** A Chance to visit several of the many historic sites, as well as the  
York County Historical Society Museum and Library  
Lunch at the Yorktowne Hotel (National Historic Landmark)

**Cost:** All inclusive fee of \$36.00 per person

**Questions?** Call Bill Uber at (301)345-9797

***Early Registration is requested so arrangements can be confirmed.***  
(Our last bus trip two years ago was canceled due to lack of timely reservations).

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of reservations:** @ \$36.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **Total enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **P.G.C.H.S.** and mail to:

Bill Uber  
2A Southway  
Greenbelt, MD 20770-1732



# Prince George's County Historical Society Annual Meeting

Monday, November 6, 2000

RIP'S Country Inn

Crain Highway Bowie

cash bar 6:30 dinner 7:00

Program details in this News and Notes

menu choice \_\_\_\_ Fillet Mignon

\_\_\_\_ Shrimp

\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian entree

all meals \$25.00

please choose an entree,

make check to PGCHS

and mail to

Phyllis Herndon

6807 Pineway

Hyattsville 20782

Reservation Deadline--October 30

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\_\_\_\_\_

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

Non-Profit Org  
U S Postage  
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Riverdale, MD  
Permit No. 1948

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bourne  
6808 Dartmouth Ave  
College Park, MD  
20740

### HOURS OF OPERATION

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

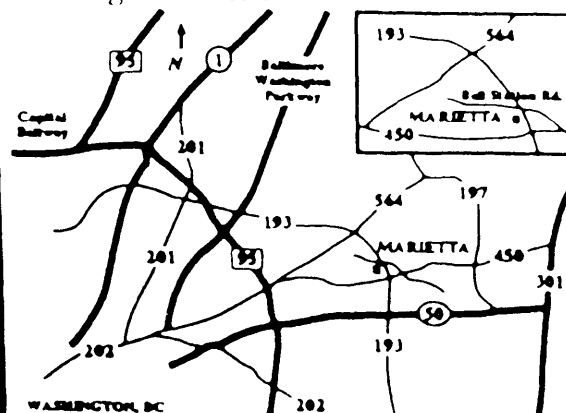
Marietta Tours -Friday, 11 - 3, Sunday,  
12 - 4 - and by appointment -  
Information 301-464-0590

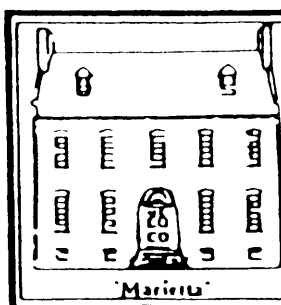
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Features a wide selection of books, gifts,  
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Saturday and Sunday, 12 -4 PM and  
during special events. Call 301-464-  
0590.

### LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5626  
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Route 193, near Route 450. This is a  
facility of the Maryland National Park and  
Planning Commission.





# News and Notes

## Prince George's County Historical Society



November /December 2000

Our 48<sup>th</sup> Year

XXIX Number 6



### *MILLENNIUM HOLIDAY PARTY*

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saturday, December 9, 2:00 pm until ...

## ***HOLIDAY PARTY 2000***

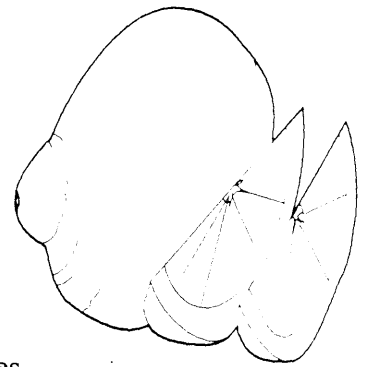
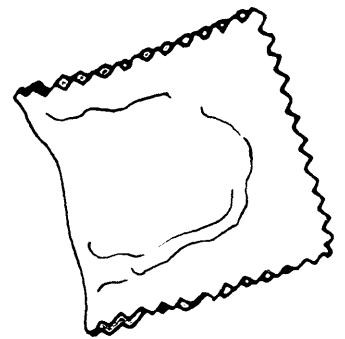
### **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Things are shaping up for this year's **Millennium Holiday Party!** We have come up with a list of interesting foods - at least one for each of the twenty centuries of the just-passed millennium. Come to Marietta for the celebration, 2:00 p.m., **Saturday, December 9**, and enjoy a sampling lots of treats, and also learn in which century their names and descriptions first appeared in writing.

Here are some samples:



1st century A.D.	Rhubarb
2nd century A.D.	lemons
3rd century A.D.	asparagus
4th century A.D.	spinach
5th century A.D.	aubergine
6th century A.D.	τυρόπιτες (Greek cheese pastry)
7th century A.D.	chocolate
8th century A.D.	brie
9th century A.D.	mushrooms
10th century A.D.	coffee
11th century A.D.	pizza or focaccia
12th century A.D.	sherbet
13th century A.D.	fruit cake
14th century A.D.	bulghur, ravioli
15th century A.D.	peanuts
16th century A.D.	tomatoes, cashews, scones
17th century A.D.	croissants, corned beef, meringues
18th century A.D.	broccoli, hollandaise sauce, cookies
19th century A.D.	brownies, cottage cheese
20th century A.D.	Spam

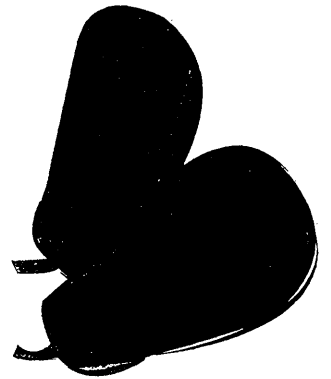


With each food we will have a brief explanation of the first appearance in writing of its name or description, and (where possible) a quotation from the source. We will all learn a few things, and most of all, it will be fun!

Many Historical Society members have already signed up to bring certain foods on the list above, but we still need a few items:

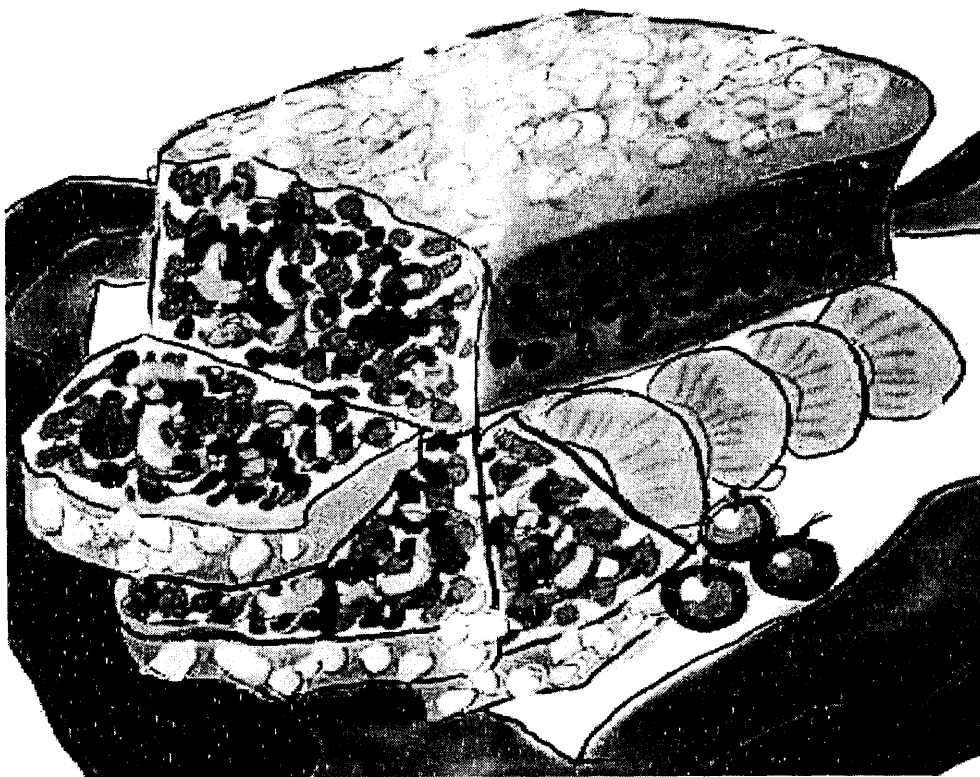


**rhubarb** (in any form, perhaps in a fruit bar, crisp or tart);  
**chocolate** (in any form - one cannot have too much chocolate!);  
**brie** (maybe several people could bring a wedge or two);  
**mushrooms** (either fresh to use in dips, or pickled);  
**pizza or focaccia** (even those cute little miniature party pizzas);  
**bulghur** (someone could make tabouli);  
**peanuts** (a bowl of cocktail peanuts would be great!).



**PLEASE CALL SUSAN PEARL AT 301-262-3367 (home) or 301-952-3521 (office) to let us know what you can bring.**

**And of course COOKIES! We always need cookies** (the word "cookie" first appeared in 1703 . . .) **and we count on many of you to bring a variety of these seasonal favorites!** and please feel free to bring any of your traditional favorites that have been such a special part of the annual Historical Society holiday parties!





**1696 • 1996**  
*At Home in  
History*  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

And while on the subject of food, we recommend the "*Tricentennial Cook Book*" as a stocking stuffer. This "*Book of Favorite Recipes*" was compiled and edited by Dorothy T. Rainwater.

The introductory essay entitled *Prince George's County Food Through the Years* was written by **Jane Eagen**. We feel this article provides the proper historical context for our **Millennium Holiday Party**. It follows: "If you could look at the different foods eaten in Prince George's County over the last 300 years it would probably be as diverse a collection as there is on the planet. The information available to us throughout these 300 years is not complete, however there are some interesting bits to be shared. There are few records of daily life of the seventeenth century Marylanders, only court records and inventories. Archaeology combined with technology have enabled us to interpret the remains of the trash piles of that time."

"If you think about the food the Native Americans, the earliest inhabitants of Prince George's County, might have eaten you probably think of the wild animals and maize. Of course you would include crabs, clams, and many kinds of fish. You would be right, but they did not limit their diet to these obvious items. Deer were a major item in their lives, not only for food, but for clothing and tools fashioned from bone. They grew maize, beans, and squash together. The maize was planted first. When it grew a foot or so tall, beans were planted in the same hill of soil. The maize stalk served as the support for the bean vine. Squash was planted to shade the roots of the maize and beans. Maize was ground with very simple stone tools, mixed with water and cooked over or near the fire. Huge piles of oyster shells have been found that were amassed long before the colonists arrived. Early drawings of Native Americans who lived similarly to the people of the Chesapeake area show them seining, trapping, and spearing fish."

"The information of the early settlers is taken from research done in many sites, not only those in Prince George's County. In 1696 when the county was established it was the frontier of the colony, yet it also included land that had been inhabited and included in Charles and Calvert counties. It contained established plantations with great acreage, the small farms of freeholders, and much wilderness. The diets of each of these would be different, depending on their economic status, the length of time the freeholds had been established, and if they were trappers and hunters who traveled through the wilderness and only returned to towns to trade."



“The early English settlers learned to raise maize, beans, pumpkins, and squash from the Native Americans. Corn was the term used for all grain in England. We have now adopted this word for maize. It was a mainstay of their diet. They also ate cabbage, onions, carrots, turnips, and other vegetables they had grown in England. Apple cider is the fruit product found in the inventories. Some accounts written by visitors mention the poorly tended gardens. This might be partially explained by understanding the time it took to grind the corn for a household. The kernels would be pounded using a mortar and pestle after being soaked for several hours. A conservative estimate is 10 minutes of pounding per cup. Each man would consume about 4 ½ cups of cornmeal per day. A planter’s wife would likely spend several hours each day pounding corn. The very earliest Marylanders traded with the Virginians for swine, cattle and sheep. Later some were imported from England and the supply of stock multiplied.”

“Historians have used inventories of households to determine the cattle, swine, and sheep owned by the families. Archaeologists have used trash piles more accurately to determine the diet of these early colonists. They ate a variety of animals: cattle, swine, chickens, white-tailed deer, raccoons, squirrels, opossums, quails, turkeys, Canada geese, canvasback, mallard, redhead ducks, teals, loons, coots and double-crested cormorants. The bountiful waters provided many types of seafood, some of which we don’t find there today. Black drum, red drum, sheepshead, striped bass (rockfish), white perch. Catfish, sturgeon and longnose gar, oysters, blue crabs, and aquatic turtles. The proximity to the Chesapeake Bay and the salinity of the water determined which fish were most

readily available. By counting the bones, estimating the amount of meat consumed, and the number of people known to be in the household, the basic assumptions of the early diet were revised. Beef was eaten more than pork. Sheep bones were not found very often at the sites. This is a change from the diet in England where sheep were used for food more frequently.”

“By 1700 there were fewer bones of wild animals found in the trash pits meaning that they depended less upon the wild resources. While seafood was used mostly in the summer months, the difference in the seasons became less. Meat was salted and preserved. The milk pans and equipment used in dairying were found in more inventories indicating that some milk processing took place. The risk of spoilage and the time consumed to process milk probably accounts for the scarcity of dairy products.”

“The eighteenth century provides us with many more records of dinners, feasts, and special occasions, and there is less told to us about what the common man ate for his everyday meals. Some of the plantations were quite grand and the owning family lived very well. The outbuildings of these estates included smoke houses, spring houses, and even storage pits for ice. The use of cream and butter in some of the old recipes is rather hard for us to comprehend today. Ingredients were weighed rather than measured by volume. Molasses was used more frequently than it is today for it supplied sweetening without the additional refining process.”

“The slaves of the plantation system had a much simpler diet. Corn rations were given; some of the masters included pork, fish, and beef in this ration. Cornbread was the

mainstay, though they were usually allowed to supplement their ration with food from their own gardens. Some had chickens also. Although the diet was substandard it was adequate to allow the women to have children."

"Until the use of freezers most of the butchering of hogs was done in the fall. It was a major event and involved everyone on the family farm. Often neighbors took turns and helped each other. The temperature was important so it had to be on a cold day. The actual slaughter took place early in the day. The next step was the scraping off of the hair after the hog was sloshed in a barrel of very hot water. Real skills were required to clean out and actually butcher the meat. Scraps were used for sausage. Everyone had her own special recipe with the right amount of sage to be used. The grinding, seasoning, and often stuffing of the sausage kept the women very busy. Some formed it into cakes, cooked it and put it in a crock covered with the grease or lard. Then it would be stored in a cold place for the winter. A specialty of some farm women was the making of souse, hogshead cheese. It actually was more like a jelled meat, similar to some found in delicatessens today, but it was a very labor intensive process. The hams, shoulders, chops, roasts, etc. were used fresh or put into barrels with different mixtures of salt, corn, and sugar. Old catalogs advertise various meat curing products. Bacon and fatback or 'streak of Fat and streak of lean' were cured the same way. They were important for seasoning vegetables and breakfast meat."

"As the Germans came into the communities scrapple appeared. It is the meat scraps mixed with cornmeal and spices. It was often preserved as the sausage was and then sliced and fried on a cold winter's morning.

The rendering of lard was important to the housewife, because it was used in the baking and frying of many of the dishes she prepared. The fat from the hog was heated in a large kettle until it became liquid. This was often done outside. Later it would be poured into large shallow pans, allowed to harden, and cut into blocks. There are many cooks today who use lard for their biscuits and frying traditional foods. Certain fish were plentiful at different times of the year. Some of them would be caught in large amounts and put in brine for use at a later time. Salted herring was a special winter dish and sometimes a specialty for Sunday breakfast. It would have to be soaked overnight to remove some of the salt before using."

"Winter vegetables were an important part of the diet. They could be harvested after frost and cooked with a bit of salted ham or fatback for a tasty meal. Today we often call them 'greens' and some consider them 'soul food', but they were an important part of the diet of many people of limited means. Many times cabbage was made into sauerkraut in a large crock. It was a very simple process in which the cabbage was shredded and put into the crock with salt and other seasonings if desired. A plate is put on top and weighted down to keep the cabbage covered with juice and the process begins."

"The use of food was very dependent upon the season until the preservation by canning came into practice. About the middle of the nineteenth century it became possible and reasonable to can food. The wide variety of fruits and vegetables grown here was a definite asset. At the same time many fruits and vegetables were grown here and marketed here and in Washington, D.C. The large markets in the nation's capital were supplied largely by Prince George's farms

and were very important to the commuters. As the suburbs grew with the streetcars and trains, the local store and markets gained in importance. Several of them still remain and have become centers of the community on Saturdays and Sundays. The hucksters who sold food from their wagons went to the markets very early and then came to their weekly or daily routes to sell to the housewives. Refrigeration was not well developed until the 1930's and then it required electricity or gas. The huckster sold fresh produce and sometimes sold ice. The ice houses found in several communities were thriving businesses."

"The canning of food in glass jars was a summer activity in most Prince George's kitchens. Tomatoes were the most successful because of their high acid content. Beans, peas, peaches, pears, and many other items were preserved this way. The county fair urged the ladies to pack the jars in an attractive way. Jams, jellies, relishes, and pickles were the pride of the housewife."

"Commercial preservation of food became a major industry in Maryland. Baltimore was the center, but there were also huge canning plants on the Eastern Shore. The Baltimore harbor would be crowded with boats bringing loads of produce from all around the Chesapeake Bay. The tin cans and label printing industries grew from this activity. Oysters were canned and shipped to the Midwest. Baltimore had the rail and road system to ship goods quickly to the Chicago and Midwest area. Sturgeon was plentiful and caviar was a commercial item also."

"As the county became more populated and technology became more commonplace the availability and preparation of food changed drastically. Frozen foods have replaced

most canning, even though some is still done in many kitchens. We eat in restaurants more than ever before. There are remnants of our past in what we eat today. Maryland is well known for its fried chicken and seafood. You can buy greens at roadside stands until late in the year. You can buy empanadas, chutney, 'chittlins', duck, fish, mangoes, fatback, and rockfish in our stores today. Tobacco is declining as the major crop and nursery stock and fruit stands can be found all over the county. We have a very rich heritage, not only in architecture, and history, but in the foods we grow and eat."

The *Tricentennial Cook Book* is divided into sections related to types of food, beginning with *Appetizers, Pickles and Relish*, and headed with illustrations of County properties. Helpful hints include a buying guide for fresh vegetables and fruits and "*6 Easy Steps to the Perfect Pie*." Included are numerous charts for times required for cooking meat by various methods, suggestions for freezing prepared foods, an herb guide, quantities needed to serve 100 people, first aid tips and "*How to Convert to Metric System*." Even if you already have this cookbook, buy another to give to a friend but mostly make a recipe that reflects our local heritage!

**Additional holiday shopping suggestions are found later in this publication.**

***Minutes of Annual Meeting***  
**Prince George's County Historical Society**  
**November 6, 2000**

The Annual Membership meeting was held on November 6, 2000 at RIP's Country Inn in Bowie. Forty three members and guests were in attendance.

The following by-law amendment was approved:

Section 3. There shall be a minimum of nine (9) and a maximum of fifteen (15) Directors.  
One third of the Directors shall be elected at each annual meeting.

The following officers were elected:

President	Lester Sweeting
Vice President	John Petro
Secretary	James Wolfe
Treasurer	Joyce Uber
Historian	Susan Pearl
Editor	Sharon Sweeting
Membership	Phyllis Herndon

The following directors were elected:

Term expiring 2003  
Mildred Ridgley Gray  
Iris McConnell  
Andy Wallace  
Term expiring 2002  
Anna Holmes  
Eugene Roberts  
Term expiring 2001  
Lynn Roberts  
Sarah Bourne

Eugene Meyer, author of *Maryland Lost and Found--Again*, and writer for the Washington Post was the speaker for the evening. He reminded us all of the significance of tobacco in the early development of our county and urged the Society to take a leadership role in preserving the history and artifacts from this important agricultural industry.

Respectfully submitted

Sarah Bourne  
secretary

## *Holiday Shopping*

The following PGCHS publications may be purchased at the Marietta Gift Shop or by mail:

<i>A Pictorial History of Prince George's County</i>	\$42.95	4.00 s&h
<i>Images of America: Prince George's County</i>	19.00	2.50
<i>Calvert of Maryland</i>	6.95	2.00
<i>1861 Martenet Atlas of Prince George's County</i>	10.00	2.50
<i>1878 Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County</i>	7.00	2.50
<i>Index of Church Registers- volumes I &amp; II</i>	18.00ea	2.50
<i>Out of the Past-Prince Georgians &amp; their Past</i>	20.00	2.50

Please make check (including shipping and handling) payable to **PGCHS**

and mail to PGCHS

PO Box 14

Riverdale Park, Maryland

20738-0014

### **Maryland Historical Society Assumes Leadership of the Baltimore Civil War Museum**

The Maryland Historical Society has assumed the Civil War Museum's lease from the City of Baltimore. Located in the historic President Street Station in the Inner Harbor East, the museum will continue its regular operation under the administration of the MHS.

The 1849 train station houses a permanent exhibition addressing Baltimore during the Civil War, including the role of the railroad in the transportation of the slaves escaping to the North. The BCWM tells stories that are critically important to an understanding of Maryland's past and offers a fascinating perspective on the state's unique geographical and philosophical position, balanced between the North and the South. The MHS has had an important relationship with the BCWM since its opening, with many of the items displayed on loan from MHS. The relationship will be beneficial to both institutions

The BCWM is open Tuesday to Sunday 10AM to 5PM. Admission is \$2.00 per person; tours may be arranged.

MHS website-[www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org)

**Prince George's County Historical Society  
Holiday Heritage Calendar**

**December**

- 1-31 14th Annual Festival of Lights  
Watkins Regional Park 5-9:30 PM 301-699-2456 Free
- 1-2-3 Candlelight Tours  
Marietta Mansion 6-8:30 PM 301-464-5291 \$\$
- 2-3 Candlelight Tours  
Belaire Mansion 301-809-3088 \$\$
- 1-10 Gingerbread House Show  
Darnall's Chance House Museum 12-4 PM 301-952-8010 \$\$
- 3- Candlelight Concert Seasonal Favorites  
St. Barnabas Church 4 PM 301-249-5000
- 3 Holiday Hospitality Day  
Bowie Train Station & Huntington Museum 12-4PM 301-809-3088 Free
- 6-9 Candlelight Tours  
Montpelier Mansion 6-9 PM 301-953-1376 \$\$
- 7&28 Holiday Tea  
Belair Mansion 4PM 301-809-3088 \$\$
- 8- *The Tailor of Gloucester*  
Publick Playhouse 10 & 12N 301-277-1710 \$\$
- 9- Santa Claus Fly-In  
College Park Aviation Museum 12-4 301-864-6029 \$
- 10 Tammerlin Concert  
Harmony Hall Regional Center 2PM 301-203-6070 \$\$
- 10&17 Candlelight Tours  
Billingsley House Museum 3-7 301-627-0730 \$\$
- 13 Baroque Artists - Harpsicord and Flute  
Harmony Hall Regional Center 2PM 301-203-6070 \$\$
- 14-17 *A Christmas Carol*  
Publick Playhouse 8 PM 301-277-1710 \$\$
- 16-18 Candlelight Tours  
Surratt House Museum 509 PM 301-868-1121 \$\$
- 27-29 Holidays at Riversdale  
Riversdale House Museum 12-4 301-864-0420 \$\$

# Post Reporter Explores the Many Facets of Maryland

## Updated, Illustrated Edition Furthers Wanderlust for 'America in Miniature'

"Not for nothing has Maryland been called 'America in Miniature,'" writes Eugene L. Meyer in the introduction to *Maryland Lost and Found...Again*. "For to write about Maryland is to write about America."

*Washington Post* reporter Meyer directs a tour across "The Free State" that's part love letter, part oral history, part obituary as he explores what makes Maryland special, the people who make it unique, and the places and livelihoods that have vanished over the years.

The whole of the American experience is found within the state's borders and between the covers of this updated book: megalopolis, Appalachia, the Chesapeake Bay, the Deep South, the industrial North, rich farmland, a major port, the nation's capital, and the primary car and rail routes carrying East Coast interstate traffic.

"If you want to discover a little bit of America," wrote a *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reviewer upon the original publication of *Maryland Lost and Found* (Johns Hopkins, 1986), "...Meyer can help...he writes with an experienced insight into both the history and the layered surroundings of Maryland."

"Maryland captures my heart the way America does: Its rich diversity of people, lifestyles, and landscapes are such that it is impossible ever to be blasé or bored by it," the author said. "It is an endlessly fascinating, and endearing, place."

Meyer noted that while there existed books about certain sections of the state, the lack of a state-wide perspective created a void in the literature that his experience and writing could help fill.

"I wanted to give readers a strong sense of place about Maryland, whether they live here or are merely visiting," he said.

Meyer's work has twice been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. The Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild awarded him its top prize for local reporting in 1999 and 1995, and for commentary and criticism in 1996. He was a *Washington Post* Duke Fellow in 1985 and the 1991 James Thurber Journalist-in-Residence at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Meyer lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his wife and son.

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## *Maryland Lost and Found...Again*

Eugene L. Meyer

ISBN 1-891521-08-X / \$15.95 / 288 pp. / Illustrated / Paper

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All books available through Koen Book Distributors, 1-800-257-8481,  
Washington Book Distributors, 1-800-699-9113,  
or Woodholme House, 1-800-488-0051



"The state emerges entire:  
colorful and passionate  
and full of character,  
a collection of gritty,  
indomitable individuals."

Anne Tyler

"The book's strength lies  
in its interesting  
characters."

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12 - 4 - and by appointment -

Information 301-464-5291

#### THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

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

#### LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5626  
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off  
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a  
facility of the Maryland National Park and  
Planning Commission.

