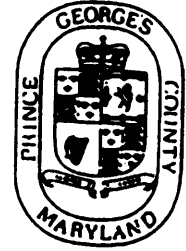


News and Notes

Prince George's County Historical Society



January-February 2002

Our 50th Year

XXXI Number 1



LOSS OF A LANDMARK

In November 2001, Prince George's County lost a very noticeable landmark in College Park - Brown's Tavern, also known as White House Tavern, which stood on the west side of U.S. 1, just outside the Capital Beltway. County inspectors had determined that the building was in such deteriorated condition that it was structurally dangerous, and their determination was confirmed by several structural engineers. The building was demolished on November 29, 2001. The County Historic Preservation Commission is now in the process of drawing up a memorandum of agreement with the property owners. The agreement will contain several measures to compensate for the loss of the historic landmark - e.g., the developing property will contain a landscaped garden space with a commemorative plaque and a replica of the historic turnpike milestone, the new development on the property will include an educational, interactive computer exhibit on the history of the tavern, and a restoration fund will be established and dedicated to the preservation of the County's other historic properties.

Brown's Tavern was a two-and-one-half-story frame side-gabled building, with numerous additions on the side and rear, and a prominent twentieth-century front portico. The main block of the building dated from the 1830s, and part of the rear wing may have been significantly earlier. The building served for nearly fifty years in the nineteenth century as a tavern and stage stop on the turnpike between Washington and Baltimore. For nearly fifty years during the twentieth century it served as the centerpiece of a motor-hotel complex. On the grounds south of the tavern building stood an original, and badly weathered Turnpike milestone. Carved into its east face was the inscription: "25 M to B" (25 miles to Baltimore). In 1998 the historic milestone was removed for safekeeping, and stored at one of the headquarters of the State Highway Administration; a replica will soon be created and placed at the site of the historic tavern complex.

The White House Tavern stood on a tract of land known as Chew's Folly, which belonged at the end of the eighteenth century to William Evans of Baltimore. Evans owned the "White House" Tavern at this location, on the west side of the road which ran between Bladensburg and Vansville; it was a two-story frame structure, 30 by 18 feet, with a rear addition of essentially the same size, and at the end of the century it was occupied and operated by a man named Thomas Roades.

At the end of the eighteenth century, the General Assembly began to consider the establishment of a toll pike between the new Federal City and Baltimore. The first Act of Assembly related to this subject was in 1796, but the construction of the road did not begin until the end of 1812. In the meantime (1807), William Evans died in Baltimore, and

his real estate was bequeathed to two executors, William Lorman and William Gwynn, in trust for his daughter, Sarah, who was the wife of Jacob Giles Smith. Lorman and Smith, both of whom lived in Baltimore, soon became much involved in the building of the Washington and Baltimore turnpike. By Act of Assembly in 1812, a company was incorporated to build the road, sixty feet wide, from Baltimore south, past McCoy's tavern at Vansville, past Evans' White House tavern, and Ross's Tavern (now known as the Rossborough Inn at the University of Maryland campus), then through Bladensburg into Washington. Both Lorman and Smith were appointed supervisors for construction of the road at the Baltimore end. The White House Tavern, during the possession of Jacob Smith and his wife, became one of the principal stops for the stagecoaches which ran along the new turnpike.

Jacob Smith died in the 1820s, leaving his widow, Sarah Evans Smith, and two adult children. In 1830 the Smith heirs, together with trustee Lorman, conveyed the 500-acre Evans/Smith land to Richard Stockton and William Stokes of the prominent Stockton and Stokes stagecoach company. This land included the improvements "known as White House and at which a Tavern was formerly kept, described in Evans' will as that at which the line of stages from Baltimore to Washington were accustomed to stop." This 500-acre farm was purchased by John W. Brown in 1835.

John W. Brown was born in New York in 1799; circa 1818, he came to Maryland, and began to work as a stagecoach driver on the Baltimore Washington pike. At some point during this period, he became the manager of the White House Tavern, and, if family tradition is correct, also served temporarily

as the manager of Ross's Tavern, which was owned after 1821 by George Calvert of Riversdale, one of the directors of the Washington and Baltimore Turnpike.

According to family tradition, the old White House Tavern was destroyed by fire during Brown's management, and it was he who built the familiar structure to replace it circa 1834. Certainly the structural members and interior trim of the building would support this date of construction, as does the noticeable increase in the assessed value of the property recorded in 1834. The new tavern was significantly larger (circa 45 by 30 feet) than the original; the rear kitchen wing, however, had dimensions similar to those of the rear addition recorded in 1798, and may have rested on those older foundations. It has not been firmly substantiated whether the new building occupied the precise location of the original, but in any case, Brown purchased the entire 500-acre White House Farm, including the new Tavern, early in 1835.

John W. Brown occupied and operated the new White House Tavern from the time of its construction circa 1834 until his death in 1862. Ironically, within a short time after the construction of the new tavern, the Baltimore and Ohio railroad line began to operate, on a line just a half mile to the east, between Baltimore and Washington. After 1835, traffic on the turnpike began to decrease, replaced by the convenience of the new railroad; in defense against its new competitor, the turnpike directors began to decrease the turnpike tolls, maintenance of the road consequently deteriorated, and by the period of the Civil War, the Washington and Baltimore Turnpike was in serious trouble.

John W. Brown died in 1862, leaving his

considerable real estate (by then over 1500 acres), including the White House Farm and Tavern, to be equally divided between his wife and nine children. His widow continued to operate the Tavern for approximately ten more years, serving also as trustee for the three youngest (minor) children. When the property was divided among the heirs, it was the Browns' youngest surviving daughter, Almira Brown Mulloy, who received the portion where the tavern stood. It remained in her possession, as a rental residence, until 1913. The property changed hands several more times before it was purchased by the Irwin family in 1940.

The twentieth century saw another great change in transportation patterns with the advent of the automobile. Whereas traffic on the turnpike road had decreased during the nineteenth century due to the competition of the parallel railroad, line, it began to increase again in the 1920s and 1930s with the growing number of privately owned automobiles and the improvement of the old turnpike road into the heavily traveled Route 1. In 1940 Almira Brown Mulloy's ten-acre allotment was purchased by Felix Irwin, and the century-old tavern structure was converted into a motor hotel. The two-story Victorian veranda with its jigsaw balustrades and perforated frieze course was removed, and replaced with tall tile columns; in place of the second-story veranda, a small second-story balcony was built to frame the central entrance. A porch along the north gable end was enclosed to serve as the office entrance and waiting room. Within a few years, small brick cottage units were built on the grounds north and west of the tavern, substantially increasing the capacity of the motor hotel. Although its appearance and its setting had been considerably altered, the White House Tavern had once again come to reflect a latter day manifestation of its

original function, i.e., a stopping place for travellers on a heavily-used artery of transportation.

The complex operated as a motel for nearly fifty years in the twentieth century. By the 1990s, the motel complex had shut down, and the historic tavern building was in seriously deteriorating condition. Various plans began to be considered for development of the property. Years of neglect, vandalism, and finally the tornado of September 2001 took their toll, and the building was determined to be beyond salvage. Its demolition late in November 2001 has taken away a familiar landmark of considerable historical importance.

Susan G. Pearl, January 2002. The following article is also by Susan and includes previously published information.

SAVING LANDMARKS

Although the County Historic Preservation Commission worked for several years with the owners and developers in an effort to save Brown's Tavern, these efforts in the end failed. The Historical Society was not involved in these efforts, but has taken steps to become very much involved (through joining with other groups in the preservation community) in recognizing and preserving another part of our heritage.

Three Society members, President John Petro, Historian Susan Pearl, and Director Mildred Ridgely Gray recently met with staff of the County Board of Education regarding the preservation of Ridgely School, one of our County's landmarks in the history of

African-American education. Ms. Gray who both attended the school and taught there, also represented the Ridgely family that is so closely associated with the school and the nearby Ridgely Church. Ms. Pearl also represented the Historic Preservation Commission, through which the Ridgely School may achieve Historic Site designation (and thus protection). They were joined by Carolyn Rowe, representing the Historical and Cultural Trust and its current project to erect historical markers at several of the County's Rosenwald schools. (For information about Rosenwald Schools, see PGCHS *News and Notes*, XXVIII, Number 2, March 2000.) All expressed concern about the deteriorating condition of the building, presently used as the County School bus dispatch depot, and the hope that, like the Highland Park School (a happily successful preservation case), Ridgely School can be recognized and protected through the County's Preservation Ordinance.

The Board of Education staff seemed genuinely interested in the history and significance of Ridgely School, and will undertake an examination of its structural condition. We have now had a second productive meeting with the Board of Education staff, and will keep the Society membership informed of progress through upcoming issues of *News and Notes*. For now we will update and reprint part of the above-cited *News and Notes* article on Ridgely School and on Highland Park School (another Rosenwald School). As counterpoint to the loss of Brown's Tavern, read on - about the history of Ridgely School, and about the successful preservation, rehabilitation and continued use of Highland Park School.

Prince George's County Historical Society
Heritage Calendar
March 2002

- 2,9,16 Colonial Mornings: Colonial Children's Activities
Montpelier Mansion 10-12 301-953-1376 \$\$
- 4- Ecology & Natural History of the Anacostia River- Lecture
Bladensburg Waterfront Park 301-779-0371
- 7&14- Peter Pan Club-pre-school activities
College Park Aviation Museum 10:30 301-864-6029 \$\$
- 10- "An Afternoon with Stephen Foster" Musicale
Mariatta House Museum 4PM 301-464-5291 \$\$
- 10- Sweetheart Tea
Belair Mansion 4PM 301-809-3089 \$\$
- 10- "The Race Between the Wright Brothers and Samuel Langley" Dr. John Anderson
College Park Aviation Museum 2PM 301-864-6029 \$\$
- 14- Valentine Wedding Reception
Darnall's Chance 9-1 301-952-8010 Free
- 15- Valentine Tea
Montpelier Mansion 3PM 301-699-953-1376 \$\$
- 16- Opera in the Mansion
Belair Mansion 6PM 3-1-809-3089 \$\$
- 16&17- Landsknecht Winter Camp- Roman Empire
Marietta House Museum 9-3 301-464-5291 Free
- 17- "The Women of Marietta"
Marietta House Museum 4PM 301-464-5291 \$\$
- 18- Presidents' Day Shoreline Walk
National Colonial Farm 11:30-2 301-283-2113 Free
- 23- "Around the World with Amelia Earhart" a Living History Presentation
College Park Aviation Museum 1 & 3 301-864-6029 \$\$
- 24- George Washington Musicale
Montpelier Mansion 2PM 301-953-1376 \$\$
- 28- "The Great Black Jockeys" Edward Hotaling lecture
Belair Mansion 7:30 301-809-3089 Free

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Prince George's County: A Pictorial History

by Alan Virta Revised 1998 Updated Edition. Hardcover 308 pages. Price \$42.95 S&H \$3.00*

The history and essence of Prince George's County come alive in words and pictures in this beautiful collector's edition. Written in a fascinating narrative with more than 350 photographs, maps and illustrations, many in full color and previously unpublished.

Calvert of Maryland

Reprint of James Otis Kaler's 1910 publication. Hardcover 166 pages. pen and ink illustrations. Price \$6.95

This fact-based novel shows the home life of the colonists from a child's viewpoint. This story is told in the first person by young

Atlas of fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland

Reprint 1975. Soft cover 47 pages. Price \$10.00

Compiled, Drawn & Published from Actual Surveys by G.M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" stretches. Indexed.

Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland 1861

Reprint 1996. Soft cover 32 pages. Price \$10.00

Atlas was adapted from Martenet's Map of Prince George's County Maryland, with information from 1860 federal census for each Election District. Indexed.

Prince George's County, Maryland Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885

Volume 1 Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish & Queen Anne's Parish

by Helen W. Brown Reprint 2000 Soft cover 200 pages. Price \$18.00

Prince George's County, Maryland Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885

Volume 2 Protestant Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Parish and Prince George's Parish

by Helen W. Brown Reprint 2000 Soft cover 196 pages. Price \$18.00

Out of the Past - Prince Georgians and their Land

by R. Lee Van Horn Reprint 1996 Hardcover 422 pages. Price \$20.00

Chronicle of everyday life in Prince George's County, Maryland from the time of its founding in 1696 until the beginning of the Civil War from information gleaned from public records, newspapers and private papers.

Tricentennial Cook Book

Compiled & Edited by Dorothy Rainwater & Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound 150 pages.

Price \$10.00 Contains recipes collected from county residents as part of the tricentennial celebration.

Journey Through Time - A Pictorial History of the Prince George's County Police Department

by Lt. Dennis Campbell Printed 1991. Hardcover 304 pages. Price \$40.00 S&H \$3.00*

A history of the county police department covering over 200 years. Indexed.

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Ridgely

The Ridgely School ("Colored" School #1 in Election District #13) was built in 1927. Before this school was built, classes for elementary students had been held in the Lodge, or "Society Hall", which stood on the lot immediately adjoining to the east, and 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, the Lodge, and, later, the adjoining schoolhouse.

In the survey of Colored Public Schools of 1923/24 (at which time there were 42 elementary schools for black children in Prince George's County), it was recorded that a new Rosenwald school was programmed for construction at Ridgely. In 1927, the Board of Education purchased 2 acres of land from the Ridgely family. The architectural firm of Linthicum and Linthicum was contracted to design a two-room schoolhouse on this land, 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 of which served at least three grade levels, a central passage, and an entranceway flanked by two cloakrooms.

Ridgely School served as a Special Center during the early 1950s, and 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, and although it is not in good condition today, 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's during the Rosenwald program.

Highland Park School

The Highland Park School was built only a year after Ridgely School. It was designed by the same architectural firm as Ridgely, but it differs greatly from Ridgely in size, material, purpose and locale. Two schools, one at Highland Park and one at Lakeland were built from the same design in 1928. The Lakeland and Highland Park Schools are large and substantial brick structures; each was built in a developing suburb, 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 north central area.

The Highland Park and Lakeland schools were substantial brick buildings, architect-designed by the firm Linthicum and Linthicum of Raleigh, North Carolina. They

were nearly identical to one another, built on the same plan. Each school had six large classrooms (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 parapets of the two schools are slightly different in decoration, but both are distinguished by the use of stone for the parapet caps, the keystones and decorative plaques. The two schools opened in the fall of 1928, serving all grades from first through twelfth. Over the more than 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, and later as elementary schools.

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. It was designated as an Historic Site under the County's Preservation Ordinance in 1992, and today it has been thoroughly rehabilitated. Highland Park School has opened once again, this time as a neighborhood elementary school. Through a project undertaken by the Historical and Cultural Trust, a handsome bronze sign will soon be erected on the school grounds, commemorating the history and significance of this important educational landmark.

From the Editor's Desk

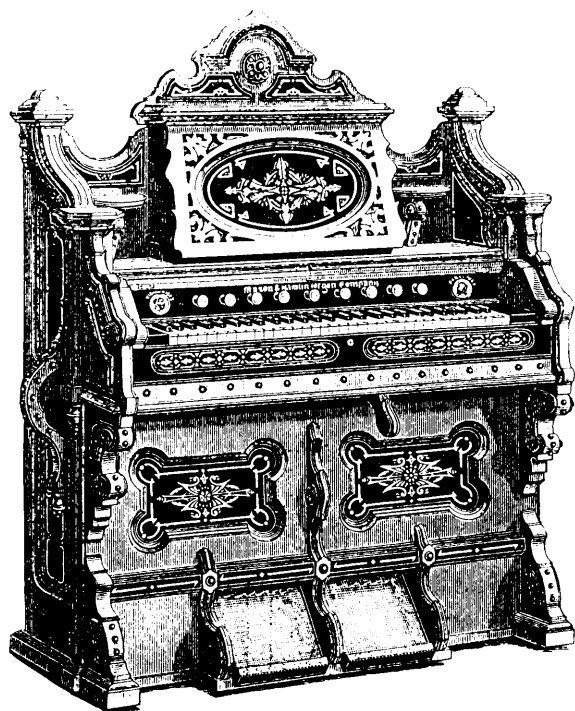
As many of our readers know, I prefer to organize newsletters around themes. This can be an annoying habit, especially when I repeatedly ask my main supplier, Historian Susan G. Pearl, for information and articles. So, once again I am indebted to her. The theme for this issue relates to a musical term, *counterpoint* or "a theme or element in a work of art that forms a contrast with another" and was brought to mind by the approaching musical event of the year, the Schubert Festival, March 23-25. (See their website at www.stompingground.com/schubert for details) and a call from our old friend **Paul Lanham**. He drew my attention to an article in the Real Estate section of the *Washington Post* dated Saturday, January 19, 2002. The piece called "Eclectic Area Shows What's **Not in** a Name" concerned the renaming of the Whiskey Bottom Road Elementary School in the early 1990s to Laurel Woods Elementary to escape certain historical connotations. Paul pointed out that the article quoted "local historian John Calder" which was the *nom de plume* of John Brennan, who was very active in the early days of the Historical Society and who encouraged Paul to run for President of the organization. The discussion of the historical significance of the name Whiskey Bottom brought to mind an earlier issue of *News and Notes* from the fall of 2000 whose theme was "What's **in** a Name." Point-Counterpoint.

Susan had already written an article on the loss of Brown's Tavern in College Park and I went back to her and requested a counterpoint story. She kindly updated a previously published article related to the Ridgely and Highland Park schools. It seems like a fitting tribute to February as Black History Month although as historical society

members, we celebrate all historical roots every month.

I would also call your attention to an exhibit at the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center, 12826 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, called "*What's Hair Got to Do With It? The Historical and Cultural Significance of African American Hair and Hairstyles*" on display until February 24, 2002. For additional information on the exhibit or on the M-NCPPC Black History Program, call 301-454-1780.

On **February 10th**, at Marietta Mansion, join us for **Henry Wixon** singing songs by Stephen Foster, a favorite American songwriter of the 19th century who wrote the words and music to such favorites as *My Old Kentucky Home*, *Oh! Susanna*, *The Old Folks at Home*, *Camptown Races*, *Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair*, and *Beautiful Dreamer*. He will be accompanied by **Helen Smith** on an 1876 pump organ donated to the Mansion by **Jane Eagen** and **Lewis Dodd** which belonged to his grandmother. (Details in Calendar)



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In Memoriam

*On December 31, 2001, at age 94, **Lena Cantrell Dixon**, mother of former Prince George's County Historical Society President Joyce McDonald, died in Red Lion, PA. Mrs. Dixon was an accomplished needlewoman, a talent inherited by her daughter. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Mrs. Dixon, while visiting Joyce, volunteered at many Historical Society events, on various projects, and made craft items to sell in the Gift shop. Remembrances of Mrs. Dixon may be sent to 7117 Pony Trail Lane, Hyattsville, MD 20782*

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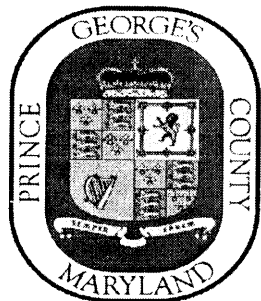
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Prince George's County Historical Society News and Notes

XXXI Number 2

OUR 50th YEAR

MARCH-APRIL 2002



A VERY MOVING STORY: Buena Vista finds a New Home

The Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has for many years been attempting to find a preservation solution for Buena Vista, a handsome Greek Revival style farmhouse in the Glenn Dale area. Buena Vista was built for William T. Duvall circa 1856 at the time of his marriage. It is a two-and-one-half-story frame house with fine Greek Revival style decorative details, a later Victorian wraparound porch, and a 1929 kitchen wing. William Duvall operated a small store on the property (the store building was demolished circa 1970), and also served as postmaster for the area. The Duvall family occupied the house until the end of the nineteenth century, when the property was purchased by Daniel B. Lloyd, official recorder for the U.S. Senate. Lloyd improved and enlarged the property, created inscribed marker stones to identify his "Buena Vista" property, and in 1929 built an adjoining kitchen wing; the Lloyd family retained the Buena Vista property until the 1960s.

The Buena Vista property was slated for commercial development, and within the last two years a small shopping center (Duvall Village) was constructed. Many of the large and ancient trees were removed, the long-time tenants moved out of the house, and the old entry lane gave way to paved parking areas. HPC staff worked with a sequence of owner/developers of the shopping center, the latest of which fully cooperated by repairing and stabilizing the house. Until a little more than a year ago, however, neither the developers nor the HPC had found a long-term use for the house itself, which stood at one end of the shopping center, secured but empty.

Then Henry and Nora Wixon came into the picture. Living in nearby Glenn Dale and having long admired the house, they made a proposal to the developers of the shopping center property: that the developers should give the house to the Wixons, who would then make arrangements to move it to their 26-acre farm almost exactly a mile away from its original site. In the spring of 2001, the HPC reviewed the proposal, and approved the work permit to move the house from its original site. Two months later, the HPC reviewed and approved the design by architect Miche Booz, who had designed for the Wixons a handsome and architecturally compatible addition to Buena Vista. During all of this time, and for the remainder of 2001, the Wixons worked on the countless details for arranging the move. There were frequent and unexpected obstacles, delays, and postponements, but the Wixons were patient and persistent, and the move finally took place in February 2002.

The Wixons contracted with *Expert House Movers*, who had moved the Bowie Railroad Buildings (Historic Site 71B-2-9) in 1992 and the Overseer's House (Historic Site 82A-44) in 1993, and early this year they began to prepare the house for the move. The kitchen wing was separated from the original block of the house and moved onto a flatbed truck; the main house, estimated to weigh approximately 100 tons, was then moved onto a larger truck. The Wixons then began carrying large stones from the original foundation to their farm for eventual use in constructing the new foundations; at the same time they were authorized by the Duvall Village developers and by the HPC to remove Daniel Lloyd's inscribed marker stones to the new location. The route of the house move had been chosen and permission to traverse publicly owned land was secured:

north from the site across Maryland Route 450, through the grounds of the old Glenn Dale Hospital, then east, south and east again through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Introduction Station to the Wixons' adjoining farm. And the move was set to begin at a minute after midnight on the morning of Wednesday, February 20.

A group of interested and excited observers had gathered by 11:45 on Tuesday night, including photographers and reporters, and about 14 trucks loaded with all of the different equipment that would be needed, huge amounts of wood and metal for building ramps, trucks with cherrypickers from the electric, telephone, and cable companies to move wires, as well as two colorfully blinking police cars to stop traffic on eight-lane Route 450, and to escort the moving carriers. We watched the kitchen wing slowly move off the site beginning at 12:15 on its flatbed truck, bumping gently into the hanging traffic light, backing up, straightening out and then doing it right. The wing was carried through the hospital grounds and parked on the side of the road before the turn into the U.S. Department of Agriculture land.

Then at 1:12 a.m., the main block of the house started to move onto Maryland Route 450, and this was lots more tricky. About 10 workmen (employees of *Expert House Movers*) began to build a ramp over the grassy highway median. Then these men ran along under the very slowly moving trailer, laying down boards in front of the 32 wheels, removing them and laying them down again as the wheels slowly moved. It took exactly one hour for the truck to get over the median of Highway 450 - police cars brightly blinking all the while.

Then the truck-with-house proceeded west on 450 to the corner where it had to turn right onto Old Glenn Dale Road, to drive through the hospital grounds. Turning this corner with a 100-ton house proved problematical, but it was slowly accomplished. Someone had miscalculated by 8 inches the traveling height of the house, and the chimneys would not fit under the telephone cable which had already been raised 10 feet. So one of the utility men went up in his cherrypicker, and physically hoisted the heavy cable over one chimney and then the other, to cheers from the crowd. And the house started moving slowly up the road through the hospital grounds.

Some of us left at this point to get a few hours of sleep, knowing that the next big hurdle (crossing the stream into the U.S.D.A. grounds) could not be reached before 8 a.m. Sure enough, when we got there a little after 8 a.m., the kitchen wing was coming slowly down the hill toward the stream, with the big house appearing on the horizon behind it (amazing sight!!!).

The kitchen wing passed over the existing bridge fairly easily. Getting the big house across was another matter, but the moving company director had assured us that he had it all figured out, and so he had! As the house rolled slowly down toward the bridge, the workmen laid large metal plates over the stream just next to the bridge, creating a comical looking jerry-rigged bridge snuggled right up to the existing bridge. Then the cab of the large truck drove across the existing bridge, while the men working under the trailer adjusted things so that the carrier-with-the-house-on-it straddled the abridge abutment, and came across beside the cab. Incredible to watch!

The rest of the day's work seemed simple in comparison - by 4:00 that afternoon, both parts of the house were comfortably resting (still on their carriers) on the lower field of the farm. In the next two days, first the wing, and then the main house were pulled up the hill to their intended resting places above their newly poured footings. Each was gradually jacked up, as substantial wooden cribbing was constructed beneath, allowing the trucks to drive out from under, and raising both parts of the house about 10 feet above the footings. During the next weeks, the new foundations will be built beneath them, creating a full basement and using stones from the original foundations of the 1856 house. Then work will begin on the handsome new addition.

It is interesting to note that the Wixons' farm was once part of the Marietta plantation of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall, and it directly adjoins the present 25-acre grounds of the Marietta House Museum. William T. Duvall was a distant cousin of the Justice, and so, in a sense, Buena Vista has returned home. Marietta is owned by M-NCPPC, and it also houses the headquarters and library of the Prince George's County Historical Society. At this time of year, while there is no foliage in the woods between Marietta and Buena Vista, each house is visible from the other. Over the next months, the Historical Society will be watching the progress of this exciting project with interest and enthusiasm.



St. George's Day at St. Thomas' Church

Motion and moving make up the theme for this issue of *News and Notes*, and the Historical Society will be **moving** south for the celebration of this year's St. George's Day. From the northern edge of the County in 2000 (Laurel) and 2001 (Bowie), we will travel south to Croom to celebrate St. George's Day this year.

St. Thomas' is a cruciform brick structure, constructed between 1742 and 1745 as a mission chapel of St. Paul's at Baden, using a plan nearly identical to that of St. Paul's (built only a decade earlier). St. Thomas' Church has particular significance because of its close association with its Rector Thomas

John Claggett, the first Episcopal bishop to be consecrated (1792) in the United States. The architectural importance of St. Thomas' Church is based not only on its original form, but also Gothic Revival details from the 1850s, and the bell tower constructed (1888) in memory of Bishop Claggett, resulting in a very handsome church building that tells the full story of its evolution over more than 250 years. St. Thomas' stands on a tree-shaded knoll surrounded by a landscaped burial ground; it is one of the most beautiful and picturesque historic buildings in Prince George's County.

Dinner will be served in the parish hall by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), St. Thomas' Chapter, and will be followed by our traditional presentation of St. George's Day awards and a presentation by the Prince George's County Hall of Fame. Tours of the church will be led by St. Thomas' Parish historian Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

From the Editor's Desk

As usual, we are indebted to *Historian Susan G. Pearl* for the preceding articles. I really feel like I should have gotten up in the middle of the night and driven to Glenn Dale to see this historic building transit Route 450. Also, as usual, she has produced articles of a thematic nature with enthusiasm. She has many wonderful photographs of the move which will be available at the Society Library and we encourage members to view them there since it is impossible to produce them all in this newsletter. We appreciate Susan's historical background on St. Thomas' Church and look forward to seeing you all during the St. George's Day celebrations. The invitations are in the mail.

Sharon Howe Sweeting, Editor

Prince George's County Historical Society
Heritage Calendar
April 2002

- 2- "Archeological Findings at the Riversdale Dependency" Don Creveling
Riversdale House Museum 7:30 301-864-0420 \$\$

- 6- Tavern Night
Montpelier Mansion 7:00 301-953-1376 \$\$

- 6- Colonial Tavern Dinner
Darnall's Chance House Museum 301-952-8010 \$\$

- 7- Candlelight Concert James Gholson, clarinet
St Barnabas Church 4:00 301-249-9671

- 9- "1933 Chicago World's Fair Contest on Quilts"
Belair Mansion 7:30 301-809-3089 \$\$

- 13&14-Marching Through Time-History Encampment
Marietta House Museum 11-5 301-464-5291 \$\$

- 16- "Medical Practices in the Early Nineteenth Century" Barbara Glover
Riversdale House Museum 7:30 301-864-0420 \$\$

- 17- "Fashionably Independent-Styles of the Federal Period" Mary Doering
Montpelier Mansion 7:30 301-953-1376 free

- 20- Hands on History Day
His Lordship's Kindness TBA 301-856-0358 \$\$

- 21- St George's Day Dinner
Prince George's County Historical Society 2:00 202-575-1424 \$\$

- 27- Herb, Bread & Tea Festival
Montpelier Mansion 10-4 301-953-1376 free

- 28- 18th Century Architectural Tour
Billingsley House Museum 12-4 301-627-0730

- 30- "Scientific Findings from an African Slave Burial Ground" Mark Mack
Riversdale House Museum 7:30 301-864-0420 \$\$

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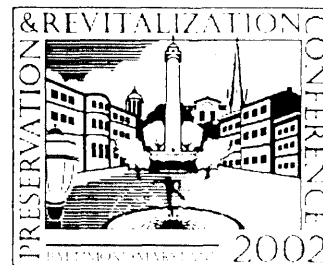
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Annual Preservation Conference



**Maryland's Annual
Preservation & Revitalization Conference**
will be held in the Historic Mount Vernon Cultural District
May 3 and 4, 2002
Pre-registration deadline: April 19, 2002

Conference Program Registration Information

Map & Directions Additional Information

Registration Form (PDF) Registration Form (HTML)

Registration information will be mailed in early March. For information about sponsorships, exhibit opportunities and general conference information, please contact Kathleen Kreul, Conference Coordinator, at 410-685-2886 ext. 302.

Wanted

County **High School memorabilia**-year books, programs, literary magazines. Call **Sarah** 301-277-5468 to arrange pick-up or deliver to Marietta

Local **organization memorabilia** -women's clubs, service clubs, scout troops, civic organizations, Call **Sarah** 301-277-5468

Typists and Filers for Library Death Notice Files. Work at home or at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library.
Call **Sharon** 301-927-4514

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by Alan Virta Revised 1998 Updated Edition. Hardcover 308 pages. Price \$42.95 S&H \$3.00*

The history and essence of Prince George's County come alive in words and pictures in this beautiful collector's edition. Written in a fascinating narrative with more than 350 photographs, maps and illustrations, many in full color and previously unpublished.

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Reprint of James Otis Kaler's 1910 publication. Hardcover 166 pages, pen and ink illustrations. Price \$6.95

This fact-based novel shows the home life of the colonists from a child's viewpoint. This story is told in the first person by young George Calvert, godson of the first Lord Baltimore, George Calvert.

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Reprint 1975. Softcover 47 pages. Price \$10.00

Compiled, Drawn & Published from Actual Surveys by G.M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed.

Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland 1861

Reprint 1996. Softcover 32 pages. Price \$10.00

Atlas was adapted from Martenet's Map of Prince George's County Maryland, with information from 1860 federal census for each Election District. Indexed.

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Contains recipes collected from county residents as part of the tricentennial celebration.

Journey Through Time - A Pictorial History of the Prince George's County Police Department

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A history of the county police department coving over 200 years. Indexed.

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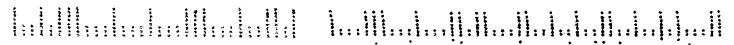


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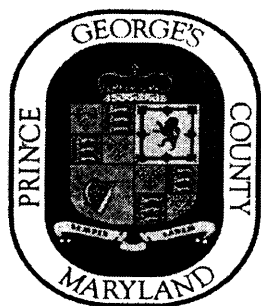
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Prince George's County Historical Society News and Notes

XXXI Number 3

OUR 50th YEAR

MAY-JUNE 2002



HABS AT ST. GEORGE'S DAY

Our celebration of St. George's Day this year was unusual in that we were able to present St. George's awards not only to Jack E. Boucher, the current principal architectural photographer for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), but also to John O. Brostrup, one of his earliest and most important predecessors. When we in the Historical Society informed these two photographers of their selection for awards, and when to our great delight, John Brostrup indicated that he would try to attend, a wonderful progression of events began to unfold. HABS staff was of course eager to meet and talk to Mr. Brostrup, and the HABS office lent its support to ensure Mr. Brostrup's attendance. The days around our St. George's Day observances proved to be an exciting and unique adventure!

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) is the oldest federal preservation program in existence. Its extensive archives of historic structures is regarded among the nation's premier architectural collections. HABS was created in the late fall of 1933 as a make-work program for unemployed architects. According to its author, National Park Service architect Charles Peterson, the selection of structures to be recorded was to represent a complete resumé of the builder's art, from the smallest utilitarian structure to the largest and most monumental.

While the initial HABS experiment lasted for only four months, the enthusiasm for the program was overwhelming. A number of states sought their own WPA funds to continue the work, and through their efforts, the program was kept alive. HABS survived largely due to the dedication of its early participants and the foresight of its all-inclusive original proposal. In 1934, the National Park Service joined with the Library of Congress and the American Institute of Architects as co-sponsors of the program - HABS continues today and next year will celebrate its 70th anniversary.

The early program mobilized approximately 1000 professionals in a very short time. Work was coordinated by the central office in Washington, D.C., through district offices that hired staff, assigned fieldwork, and assembled local advisors to assist in selecting sites. In its nearly 70 years of work, HABS has recorded 28,265 historic structures, and has produced 151,324 large-format photographs, 49,250 sheets of measured drawings, and 90,695 pages of written histories.

As HABS staff members began to assemble all of this information in preparation for their 70th anniversary celebration in 2003, they found that scarcely any record survives of the day-to-day responsibilities of the earliest HABS teams - so of course, the current HABS staff could hardly wait to meet and talk to John Brostrup, who photographed nearly all of the 97 sites that were recorded in Prince George's County in the 1930s. The Historical Society and the Parks Department of M-NCPPC together arranged to record a conversation with Mr. Brostrup the day after our St. George's Day celebration. The interview was conducted by Jack Boucher, Catherine Lavoie and Martin Perschler (all of HABS) in the parlor at Marietta; it covered a wide range of questions, and lively reminiscences of Mr. Brostrup's work here more than 65 years ago (not to mention dramatic interruptions by an accidentally tripped security alarm and the subsequent storming in of the Park Police . . .)

John O. Brostrup came to Washington, D.C., from Omaha, Nebraska, during Christmas week of 1935. He had previously had several years of photographic work experience in Omaha, and when he saw a short article in the *Washington Evening Star* describing the beginnings of the Historic American Buildings Survey, he went to the Survey headquarters, and was hired almost immediately. He worked as photographer for HABS from March 1936 until the end of 1937. His work in Prince George's County was done with the assistance of Forrest Bowie of Mount Lubentia, who made the contacts with property owners and arranged the field schedule. Mr. Brostrup spoke fondly of his memories of Forrest Bowie, their planning meetings at Mount Lubentia,

and their drives through the countryside to the many historic places that they recorded. During the interview he was also able to give some information about the personnel and working arrangements in the Washington, D.C., offices of HABS.

One of the highlights of Mr. Brostrup's visit this April was an afternoon at Mount Lubentia, which he remembered so fondly as the home of his friend and colleague, Forrest Bowie, and which was the scene of their many planning meetings. Andy and Sondra Wallace, who have in the last five years made Mount Lubentia a showplace again, welcomed Mr. Brostrup and his family to Mount Lubentia, and showed him through the house. Mr. Brostrup was particularly happy to see again the beautiful "beaux faits" (china cupboards) in the dining room, which he had photographed in 1936. He arranged (with the help of Jack Boucher) to have his photograph of one of these cupboards framed and signed as his gift to the Historical Society, (see photograph) and formally presented it at the St. George's Day dinner at St. Thomas' Church. We at the Historical Society will treasure this wonderful memento of our connection with the excellent Historic American Buildings Survey collection, and of a very special St. George's Day, 2002!

Submitted by **Historian Susan G. Pearl**,
May 2002 (with thanks to Catherine Lavoie
for information on HABS history)



From Mt. Lubentia, *Andy Wallace* writes:

Saint Georges Day weekend - further notes

When John O. Brostrup visited Mount Lubentia on April 20, it brought back a flood of memories to the pioneer HABS photographer. He had mentioned to Susan Pearl over the phone that Forrest Bowie had been his guide in photographing Prince George's County, and that they had started off each day from Mount Lubentia, but how had he encountered Forrest Bowie in the first place? Sitting on the back porch on Saturday afternoon, Mr. Brostrup filled in some of the gaps in this intriguing story.

As it happened, Forrest Bowie had also gotten a job with the HABS Washington regional office around the same time that Brostrup and his mother came to town from Nebraska. Brostrup and Bowie were the same age, in their early twenties, and, in the midst of the depression, in need of work. Both had skills that qualified them to work

for HABS. Forrest Bowie had training as an architectural draftsman and was intimately familiar with the architectural landscape of Prince George's County. As Brostrup tells it, he met Forrest Bowie in the HABS office shortly after starting work. They quickly became friends and were assigned by Delos H. Smith, the HABS District Director, to work in the county. The choice was fortuitous and the result was one of the most thorough, and wide-ranging, county surveys of any in the country at that time. John O. Brostrup also did HABS photography in Montgomery County, Maryland, and Prince William County, Virginia. Forrest Bowie did detailed architectural drawings of Mount Lubentia in 1936, and, one supposes, other sites in the county. For some reason the Mount Lubentia drawings, drafted for HABS, never made it into the HABS record, but were passed down in the family. When HABS historian Catherine Lavoie found out that they still existed, she was excited about the possibility of finally adding them to the collection, almost seventy years after they were done.

A note on HABS

HABS is the only project begun as a WPA program to survive to the present, truly the last remnant of the New Deal public works political legacy. It's also one of the earliest examples of cooperation between multiple government agencies and the private sector. Although devised as an employment program, since the end of World War II HABS has employed summer teams of advanced undergraduate and graduate architectural students to carry out most of the documentation. In 1969 the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) was added as a second program to document our vanishing industrial and engineering heritage. The American Society of Civil Engineers

became a partner in this project, along with the Park Service and Library. Recently, a third component, the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS), has been added to the program. While administrative responsibility for the programs has always rested with the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior, the collection is housed at the Library of Congress, in the Prints and Photographs Division, in the James Madison Building, where it can be used by the public. The full catalogue is also available on-line on the Library of Congress web site: www.loc.gov/HABS/HAER. Simply click on *American Memory* on the home page and then the collection finder. HABS is under "Art and Architecture." You can then search by geographic location, subject or keyword. You can see all of Mr. Brostrup's photos as well as those of fellow awardee and current HABS photographer Jack Boucher.

MORE HABS!

While we're on the subject of HABS, we want to let our readers know that we have available for sale copies of *Landmarks of Prince George's County*. This beautiful, coffee-table-type book, published in 1993 by Johns Hopkins University Press, brings together 125 photographs by Jack E. Boucher, chief photographer for the Historic American Buildings Survey, and the descriptions and histories of 51 special historic places in Prince George's County. Copies of *Landmarks* are now available at a reduced price of \$18. You can order copies by mail from the Historical Society, with an additional \$3.00 for shipping (see order form, page of this newsletter), or you can purchase copies on your next visit to the newly enlarged and reopened Marietta Gift Shop!



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**PRESENTATION OF ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS
TO JOHN O. BROSTRUP AND JACK E. BOUCHER
ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, CROOM, APRIL 21, 2002**

Some of you know that much of my time is devoted to researching the land and buildings of Prince George's County. In this work I have made much use of the Historic American Buildings Survey, that federal government program instituted during the Great Depression, that put unemployed architects, historians and photographers to work recording the country's architectural treasures during the difficult 1930s. The Historic American Buildings Survey (we know it as H A B S or HABS) continues today, part of the National Park Service, and because of it we have a wealth of photographs of Prince George's County structures. The Historical Society takes great pleasure in recognizing two photographers (John O. Brostrup and Jack E. Boucher) who, through their individual work for HABS, from the 1930s to today, have contributed immensely to the heritage of Prince George's County. (I hope that you will spend some time looking at our display of some of their photographs.)

I've had the pleasure of working with the present principal architectural photographer for HABS, Jack Boucher - it's his photos that so wonderfully illustrate our beautiful *Landmarks of Prince George's County* book. It is an education to work with Jack, and lots of fun as well, as those of you know who attended the illustrative program that he presented for the Society last fall. Jack has recorded more than 900 images of 62 historic places in our county; you are familiar with many of them, and we are very fortunate to have them.

But I have also made much use of the **earliest** HABS photos from the 1930s, when

97 historic places in Prince George's were recorded. Since one third of those 97 buildings are now gone, these images are often our only source of information about them. The name "John O. Brostrup, photographer" is attached to almost all of the 1936 and 1937 HABS photos of Prince George's County, and that name had come to exemplify for me the early HABS collection. But it **never** occurred to me that I would have the opportunity to talk to John Brostrup about his work. However, quite serendipitously last year, we made contact, and through conversations and reminiscences we have learned much about his work of more than 65 years ago, when, guided by historian Forrest Bowie of Mount Lubentia, he traveled our county finding and documenting on film so many of the county's architectural treasures.

The Historical Society thought it highly appropriate to recognize, with special St. George's Day Awards, these two photographers of yesterday and today, who have recorded the landmarks of Prince George's County for our great benefit today and for posterity. We could hardly dare hope that Mr. Brostrup would be able to be present for the occasion, but we were lucky - his son has driven him here from their home in upstate New York, so we have both Mr. Brostrup and Mr. Boucher with us today. For their very important contributions to the recording of Prince George's County's heritage, I am delighted to present this St. George's Day award to John Brostrup and Jack Boucher.

Susan G. Pearl
St. George's Day, 2002

ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS, 2002

Pat Williams for years of work and leadership with Prince George's Heritage, particularly during the development of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, and for her preservation work in the Mount Rainier Historic District.

Sally Bucklee, for research and publication of the book on St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Laurel.

Reverend Jerome Fowler, for gracious and enthusiastic participation at events which touched the history of the Plummer family through slavery into freedom, and his active presentation of the family's role in the history of Riversdale.

Ann Ferguson, for her leadership over three decades in the establishment and active work of the Riversdale Historical Society, and her constant participation in the restoration and interpretation of the Riversdale Mansion.

Carolyn C. Rowe, for her work and with the Prince George's County chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, her successful organization of the Society's annual conference, and her work with the Rosenwald commemorative project of the Prince George's Historical and Cultural Trust.

Barbara Sikora, for her continued and enthusiastic work on the cultural aspects of Prince Georges County history, in particular regarding the County's Catholic heritage, above and beyond her work at Darnall's Chance.

Gene and Lynn Roberts, for years of steady and enthusiastic support, as well as constant and generous offerings of professional assistance, to the Historical Society, both individually and together.

John O. Brostrup and Jack E. Boucher, HABS photographers *extraordinaires*, for their invaluable creation and preservation of the images of Prince George's County's historic architecture.

CELEBRATE AT MOUNT AIRY!

The Maryland Historical Society, the Rosaryville Conservancy, the Aman Trust, and Senator Mike Miller cordially invite you to Maryland's birthday party at Mount Airy Plantation. The event marks the proclamation from Governor Parris Glendening establishing June 20 as Maryland Charter Day. The original Charter was issued by King Charles I of England on June 20, 1632, and this event will be celebrated both in England and in Prince George's County.

In England the celebration will take place at Kiplin Hall in North Yorkshire, birthplace of Maryland and ancestral home of the Lords Baltimore; Kiplin Hall was built by George Calvert, first Lord Baltimore, in 1623.

In Maryland, the celebration will take place at Mount Airy, the home of Lord Baltimore's descendants, built in the eighteenth century. The celebration is supported by Pineapple Alley Catering, the Prince George's County Historical Society, Prince George's Heritage, the Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust, and the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at the University of Maryland, College Park. The Charter Day country house garden party at Mount Airy is open to the public; a \$10 donation is suggested. It will be held on the Sunday after the official Charter Day, on **June 23, 2002, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

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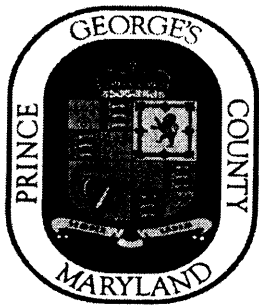
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Prince George's County Historical Society News and Notes

XXXI Number 4

OUR 50th YEAR

JULY-AUGUST 2002



Comte de Rochambeau by G. de
Sainte-Aubin, Musée Bonnat, Bayonne,
France.

Rochambeau

There is an old saying in the State of Virginia that goes like this: "Anybody who is anybody is from Virginia, except maybe Ulysses Grant." A variation of this statement could apply to the town of Bladensburg: "Anybody who was anybody during the founding of our nation passed through Bladensburg, Maryland," which leads to the visit of General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, the Comte de Rochambeau, in 1781 and 1782.

The Revolutionary War was not going very well. General Washington was in New York with his army keeping the British under General Clinton in check. It was 1780, Washington was expecting our new French allies to arrive, and together they would attack Clinton who was holding New York City. General Rochambeau arrived at Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, July 11, 1780, with 32,000 people in 32 cargo ships protected by 11 warships. Rochambeau met with Washington and it was decided that they would decoy the British in New York by making Clinton believe that the armies had not moved. Rochambeau with his 5,000 troops and Washington's 4,000 troops would march 600 miles through Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia in the spring of 1781 to engage General Cornwallis whose British army was encamped on the Yorktown peninsula in Virginia.

Over the years there have been several attempts to mark the Rochambeau route from New England to Virginia, with historic signs and parks. The first attempt was made in 1925. There have been at least five other attempts since then. In 1958, during one of these attempts, the 14th Street Bridge in Washington, D.C., was renamed the Rochambeau Memorial Bridge even though Rochambeau crossed the Potomac at Georgetown. Now there is another attempt called the

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary

Route, National Heritage Act of 2000, Public Law 106-473. The purpose is to identify all the sites where the army camped on its way to Yorktown and to raise to a high level the quality of heritage preservation along the route by interruption programs and historic markers at each campsite. The armies started their march south on Monday, June 18, 1781. When they arrived at Wilmington, Delaware, General Washington proceeded ahead to his home at Mt. Vernon where he had not been in six years. The next day Rochambeau also left and proceeded to Mt. Vernon. One can only speculate that the route they took was through Baltimore, Bladensburg and Georgetown by way of the old colonial road that became the national highway or Route One today (or they could have gone south from Bladensburg along the Addison Chapel road to Alexandria Ferry in what is now Oxon Hill, Maryland.)

The main part of both armies continued to move south through Maryland camping overnight at 10 different locations. When the armies reached Annapolis they found that the ships they expected were not plentiful enough to carry the whole army to Williamsburg, Virginia. There was room only for the soldiers and some field pieces. The Army left Annapolis September 21, 1781, arriving at Williamsburg on September 25, 1781. The support units of the armies, supplies, animals, heavy equipment and support personnel would have to go over land to Williamsburg. The long column, consisting of 220 or more wagons, 1,500 horses, 800 oxen with support troops and camp followers hired along the way, would cover the distance to Williamsburg in 17 days arriving in Williamsburg October 7, 1781.

The supply column headed west on September 21st out of Annapolis toward Prince George's County on the old Annapolis road. Arising at 2 a.m., they marched until noon and then camped in order to avoid the heat of summer days in Maryland. They covered 10 to 15 miles a day. One of the French staff officers directing the train, Louis-Alexander Berthier wrote a journal of the places they stopped and composed sketches of many of the places. On the first-day march from Annapolis September 21, 1781, they crossed the county line and entered Prince George's County. They set up camp at the "Easton Brothers" Plantation (the Ashton Brothers Plantation priests were located at White Marsh Church near present day Bowie). The second day out of Annapolis, September 22, 1781, the column moved from Ashton Brothers to the Age House (near Bladensburg). We are fortunate here that Berthier scouted the area around Bladensburg. One of his objectives was to identify camp areas that they might use on their return march north. It must have been quite an exciting day in Bladensburg as the support troops, wagons and animals rolled into the small town, a parade that was many miles long.

The next day September 23, the column moved on to Georgetown where they crossed the Potomac and moved through Virginia to Yorktown and their rendezvous with history. In July 1782, the French Army going north came back to the same area where they had camped going south. This time they went on to Baltimore and did not go to White Marsh or Annapolis.

Notes: (1) French map of the campsite outside of Bladensburg. *See below.* (2) The Rochambeau army was not all French. There were several companies of Italian troops. (3) The definitive book on Rochambeau in America is "The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783", by Anne S. K. Brown and Howard C. Rice Jr., and is located at the Hall of Records in Annapolis.

Written by **Robert A. Crawley**



MORE ON ROCHAMBEAU'S ARMY

Bob Crawley's interesting article in this issue of *News and Notes* on the Comte de Rochambeau (1725-1807) notes the current effort to mark the route of Rochambeau's army south to (and north from) Yorktown in 1781 and 1782. It is interesting to try to trace the movements of the army through Prince George's County, but it is difficult because time, development, and flood

control projects, etc., have erased many of the landmarks. However, notes from the officers of the wagon train/supply column heading south in September 1781, as well as Louis-Alexandre Berthier's beautiful and informative sketches from the return trip in July 1782, give us some useful hints. *See below.*

When the supply troops headed west from Annapolis, 21 September 1781, they traveled the first day as far as the Ashton Brothers' [the French officers recorded it as "Easton" Brothers] plantation on the Prince George's side of the Patuxent River. This was Whitmarsh, the large plantation operated by Jesuit priests and headed by John Ashton. The mid-eighteenth stone chapel survives as part of the old Sacred Heart Chapel (Historic Site 71A-19), standing on the hill overlooking the modern Sacred Heart Church on Maryland Route 450. Before the Declaration of Rights (November 1776), it was not permitted for the Roman Catholic Church to hold property. The land on which the chapel stood had to be held in the name of an individual tax-paying priest - in this case, John Ashton. Afterwards, during the years of the American Revolution, Catholics could again worship publicly, but the Whitmarsh property was still recorded in the name of Ashton. The extensive farmland (over 2000 acres) that supported the clergy included dwellings and farm buildings in addition to the chapel, and was cultivated by a labor force of 63 slaves. Notes from the officers of the supply troops indicate that at Whitmarsh they had found "abundant forage and water within reach."

[It was at Whitmarsh, just a few years later (April 1789), that John Carroll of Upper Marlborough was elected the first American bishop of the Roman Catholic Church, an

election that was confirmed by the Vatican in 1790.]

The wagon train left Whitmarsh the next morning (22 September), following the Annapolis-Bladensburg road, roughly the alignment of today's MD 450. Soon after leaving their camp at Ashton's, the supply column passed "quite a fine house on the left." This was very likely Belair, the 1740s brick plantation house built for Provincial Governor Samuel Ogle (Historic Site #71B-4, listed in the National Register of Historic Places). In 1781, Belair was the country seat of the Governor's son, Benjamin, himself soon to be chosen as Governor of the new State of Maryland. During the 1780s, however, the Ogles spent most of their time at their townhouse in Annapolis, now the Naval Academy alumni club known as Ogle Hall.

[On this subject, it is interesting to note the opinions of Benjamin Ogle's wife, Henrietta. During the spring of 1781, six months before Rochambeau's army arrived in Annapolis, Henrietta Ogle enthusiastically recorded her delight at the arrival of another group of French officers in Annapolis: "I like the French better every hour," she wrote to her Lowndes cousins at Bostwick in Bladensburg. "The divine Marquis de la Fayette is in town, and is quite the thing. We abound in French officers, and some of them very clever. But the Marquis - so diffident, so polite, in short everything that is clever!"]

The night of the 22nd/23rd of September 1781 was spent, according to officers' journal, at the "Age House" near Bladensburg - this location is still a mystery! Many have tried to discover what and where the "Age House" might have been, but the solution still eludes us. I have tried to

identify it with some of the homes of the Hodges family (the name "Hodges" would, by a Frenchman, be pronounced nearly identically to the French word "Age"), but most of the Hodges' plantations were located a few miles south of the Bladensburg road and therefore seem unlikely. I haven't given up, however, and when I have time, I'll try again to search out everything I can about all of the houses that were standing anywhere near Bladensburg in 1781.

The next morning, 23 September, the wagon train left the "Age House," continuing west on the "chemin d'Anapolis" through Bladensburg, and onto the road to Georgetown. The column passed through Bladensburg without stopping, but Berthier's notes suggest that he did indeed scout the area for possible future use - "headquarters would be well lodged on either side of the River . . . there are fine campsites here, as well as pasture and forage." (This proved to be useful information during the return trip the following summer.) But in September 1781, the supply column merely passed through the town of Bladensburg and continued toward Georgetown, then crossing the Potomac River to Virginia. Less than a month later, 19 October 1781, the British surrendered at Yorktown. But that's another story!

Nearly eight months after the battle of Yorktown (in July 1782), Rochambeau's army made the return trip through Prince George's County. This time the entire army, not just the supply column, passed through Prince George's County. Berthier's superb sketch of the army's 17th encampment near Bladensburg gives considerable detail, and it is possible to identify with a fair degree of accuracy the location of the camp. On the return trip the army was grouped into four

divisions, each division a day behind the one before, each using the encampment site just left by the preceding division. The first division came eight miles from the previous camp at Georgetown; they arrived in the Bladensburg area 19 July 1782, spent two days there, and proceeded north on the 22nd. The fourth and last division left the Bladensburg encampment, heading north, on 24 July.

The encampment was actually not in Bladensburg proper, but approximately a mile to the north, on both sides of the old road which would, within a generation, be improved to become the Washington and Baltimore Turnpike (we know this section today as Alternate U.S. Route 1). Some of the infantry camped on the east side of the road, north of the Northeast Branch in the general vicinity of today's East Hyattsville, now a solidly commercial/industrial area near the present Hyattsville Viaduct. Other units of artillery and wagons were camped on the west side of the road, stretching south toward the confluence of the Northeast and Northwest Branches of the Anacostia. Still another somewhat smaller contingent was camped on the south side of the Northwest Branch, along the old road to Georgetown, in an area which is today part of North Brentwood.

I have not yet been able to find records of archaeological investigations in this area, but I am working with staff from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers searching for records of their findings during the flood control project of the 1950s. It is hard to imagine that there would be much physical information remaining after the changes brought about by that massive project, but I am still hopeful that records of the work in 1954 may shed some light on the subject. We will keep you posted.

In any case, Rochambeau's army continued north 13 miles from the Bladensburg encampment, the first division reaching the next (18th) encampment 22 July. The 18th encampment was at Snowden's Iron Works, north of Montpelier and just across the Patuxent River in Anne Arundel County. Again, Berthier's sketch of the encampment gives some details of the arrangements. The first division moved on the next day (23 July) nine more miles north to Spurrier's Tavern (which has interesting connections to our Riversdale!), then on to Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and New England over the next several months. Rochambeau left American shores 8 January 1783, returning to France 10 February 1783. Unlike LaFayette, who returned to the United States in 1824/25 (see *News and Notes XVIII*, Numbers 2 and 3, February and March 1990), Rochambeau never returned. His troops, however, both through military action and detailed documentation, made an important contribution to the new United States and to Prince George's County.

By *Susan G. Pearl* July 2002



Mark Your Calendars

Take me out to the Ballgame

HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER
PICNIC
Sunday, August 18, 2002

Picnic: 2:00 to 4:00 at Marietta;
RAIN or SHINE

Bring your own Picnic Foods;
Society will provide drinks and dessert
Travel to Baysox Stadium around 5:00.
All Members and *GUESTS* Welcome

Prince of a County Reception 2002

Annual Fundraiser is scheduled for
Sunday, September 29, 2002, at

Waverly,

a beautiful 1855 Italianate-style
house in the rural area of Croom.

More details in next issue of *News and
Notes.*

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

A new school year is about to begin with new leadership and new enthusiasm. The Society is offering **YOU** an opportunity to be a part of this renaissance.

When the Board of Education implemented the Social Studies unit about the History of Prince George's County, the Society offered several in-service training sessions to prepare the teachers. For a variety of reasons this opportunity has not been available for several years. Many sixth grade teachers are not from the area and do not have a background in the rich historical and cultural heritage of our county. We believe that every teacher should have access to a copy of *A Pictorial History of Prince George's County* to enrich their awareness of local history.

You can purchase a copy of this valuable book at a reduced price of **\$40.00** including shipping and we will arrange for delivery to the school of your choice. If you do not have a school to designate we will select one for you. A bookplate with an appropriate inscription will be placed in each book. This would be an excellent way to memorialize a loved one or to recognize a favorite teacher.

For additional information or questions contact Sarah at 301-277-5468 - sarahbourne@juno.com

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Landmarks of Prince George's County

125 black and white photographs of the rich architectural legacy of Prince George's County by Jack E. Boucher. Arranged chronologically, the photographs and captions offer a panoramic overview of the County's architectural and historical development. Indexed. Hardcover 144 pages. Price \$18.00 Shipping \$3.00*

Prince George's County: A Pictorial History

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Calvert of Maryland

This fact-based novel shows the home life of the colonists from a child's viewpoint. This story is told in the first person by young George Calvert, godson of the first Lord Baltimore, George Calvert..
Reprint of James Otis Kaler's 1910 publication. Hardcover 166 pages, pen and ink illustrations. Price \$6.95

Atlas of fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland

Compiled, Drawn & Published from Actual Surveys by G.M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed.
Reprint 1975. Soft cover 47 pages. Price \$10.00

Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland 1861

Atlas was adapted from Martenet's Map of Prince George's County Maryland, with information from 1860 federal census for each Election District. Indexed. Reprint 1996. Soft cover 32 pages. Price \$10.00

Prince George's County, Maryland Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885

Volume 1 Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish & Queen Anne's Parish
by Helen W. Brown Reprint 2000 Soft cover 200 pages. Price \$18.00

Prince George's County, Maryland Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885

Volume 2 Protestant Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Parish and Prince George's Parish
by Helen W. Brown Reprint 2000 Soft cover 196 pages. Price \$18.00

Out of the Past - Prince Georgians and their Land

Chronicle of everyday life in Prince George's County, Maryland from the time of its founding in 1696 until the beginning of the Civil War from information gleaned from public records, newspapers and private papers.
by R. Lee Van Horn Reprint 1996 Hardcover 422 pages. Price \$20.00

Tricentennial Cook Book

Contains recipes collected from county residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled & Edited by Dorothy Rainwater & Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound 150 pages. Price \$10.00

Journey Through Time - A Pictorial History of the Prince George's County Police Department

A history of the county police department covering over 200 years. Indexed.
by Lt. Dennis Campbell Printed 1991. Hardcover 304 pages. Price \$40.00 Shipping \$3.00*

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*** P.G. Pictorial History, *Journey Through Time & * Landmarks of Prince George's County**

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Prince George's County Historical Society News and Notes

XXXI Number 5

OUR 50th YEAR

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2002



WAVERLY

We are very fortunate this year to be able to celebrate our annual *Prince of a County* event at Waverly, a house and setting that is truly unique in Prince George's County. Waverly is a beautiful Italianate-style frame house located on rolling farmland between Croom and Mount Calvert. It was built for the family of John W. Burroughs, son of Richard Burroughs of Brookridge, a prosperous planter of the Croom area. In 1852, John Burroughs married a young woman from Montgomery County, and three years later purchased 273 acres of the large tract known as Mount Calvert Manor. The large and handsome house that we know as Waverly was built at about this time. (There is a long-standing, but unsubstantiated, tradition that the house was actually built by striking shipbuilders from Baltimore. If anyone has any documentation for this tradition, **please** let me know!!)

Waverly exhibits many of the finest details of the Italianate style of architecture, with its widely overhanging eaves supported by bold decorative brackets. Burroughs' new house introduced a new style to this rural area, and its bold Italianate features and unusually large size attracted the notice of other local residents. Certainly Waverly must have influenced Edward G. W. Hall, who lived in a fine old 18th-century brick house on the northeast edge of Upper Marlborough. In 1858, within a few years of the completion of Waverly, Hall undertook the conversion of his Marlborough home into the image of Burroughs' new house. Hall's house (now rebuilt to its original 18th-century configuration, and open to the public as the Darnall's Chance house museum) was originally a one-and-one-half-story gambrel-roof structure. When its renovation was completed in the summer of 1858, it had taken on most of Waverly's features, albeit in brick rather than wood: its deeply overhanging eaves with central cross-gable and decorative jigsaw brackets, its projecting bay which lighted the formal parlor, and even its interior chimneys (a major alteration from their original exterior location).

Waverly is distinguished by board-and-batten siding, unusual in Prince George's County in this period. Waverly's interior also exhibits several particularly fine elements of Victorian Italianate decor, e.g., the pastel marble mantels, the massive and ornate three-story staircase, and the molded plaster cornices and ceiling medallions. Another attractive feature about Waverly was the set of outbuildings that Burroughs had constructed to service the residence. They are particularly interesting in that they reflect the style of the house on a simpler level - hip roofs, board-and-batten siding,

and overhanging eaves punctuated by jigsaw brackets. The wash/wood house and the meat/meal house still stand in good condition just to the rear of the dwelling.

After the Civil War, like many other planters of Prince George's County, John Burroughs went into debt, mortgaged his property, and soon defaulted on payments. The property was offered for sale in 1878, advertised as "a very handsome, commodious and well appointed frame dwelling containing 10 or 12 rooms and spacious cellars, one double house for servants, meat house, stable, poultry houses, carriage house and granary, all recently built." The property was purchased by the Franklin Bank of Baltimore and for the next two decades was the home of tenants and several short-term owners. After the death of the last of these short-term owners, testimony from local residents described Waverly as "too large for the neighborhood." Then in 1899, the 273-acre farm was sold to William H. Duvall, and Waverly became the Duvall family home for the next century.

In 1894, in a ceremony at St. Thomas' Church, Croom (where we celebrated St. George's Day this past April!), William Henry Duvall had married Matilda Wood, who had grown up at Brookewood, the Wood family farm just west of the village of Croom. Five years later, Duvall purchased the "handsome," "well appointed" (even if "too large" . . .) and its 273-acre farm. The Duvalls raised eight children on this beautiful farm. Their eldest son, W. H. Duvall, Jr., born a few years before his parents purchased Waverly, was raised on the Waverly farm, and spent the rest of his life in the Croom area. Much of his life was devoted to collecting antique American farm implements and other

memorabilia of early farm life. Mr. Duvall was one of the earliest recipients of our Historical Society's *St. George's Day Awards* for his outstanding collection, and today the William Henry Duvall Tool Collection is one of the treasures of the M-NCPPC museum system.

Many of the other descendants of William Henry and Matilda Wood Duvall have remained in the Croom area, and several of the eight children spent their entire lives at Waverly all of their lives, into the 1990s. Then in 1997, the beautiful Waverly house and 12 acres of the original farm were purchased by Andrew and Sarah Duley, who will be our hosts at this year's *Prince of a County* reception.

The Duleys have made some interesting and wonderful improvements to the interior of their house, including the creation of a gourmet kitchen in one of the rear parlors, and conversion of the original kitchen wing into a family room. The fine decorative details, such as the magnificent staircase, marble mantels, 12-foot sliding pocket doors, and ornate plasterwork have been preserved intact. Waverly is once again "very handsome, commodious and well appointed!" We look forward to a very special day on September 29, at beautiful Waverly.

Susan G. Pearl, August 2002

Also from PGCHS Historian Pearl

Again this summer I had the pleasure of working with history professor Joe Citro (Prince George's Community College) on the summer institute on Prince George's County History for County school teachers.

Six sixth-grade teachers from our public schools spent a week early in August studying the overall history of the County and visiting a variety of historic places. I spent one day traveling with them to various African-American historic places, including the Northampton Archaeological Park, the Ridgely Church and School and Dorsey Chapel, and was pleased by their obvious interest and enthusiasm.

I was reminded during our travels of Joe Citro's role in our introduction to HABS photographer John Brostrup, who together with Jack Boucher, was among this year's *St. George's Day* awardees (see *News and Notes*, Vol. XXXI, No. 3, May/June 2002). Early last year Professor Citro, who often visits family members in Rochester, New York, met Mr. Brostrup at his retirement home in that city. Familiar with the wonderful Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) photograph collection, and knowing how often I used and loved that collection, Joe called and told me about Mr. Brostrup, whose name to me exemplified the early days of HABS. Through Joe Citro, we made the connection with Mr. Brostrup, and the rest, as they say, is history . . . The Historical Society is still savoring the excitement of Mr. Brostrup's *St. George's Day* visit this past April, and the many things we learned from him about HABS in the 1930s. We are still working on editing the photo-recorded interview which we did with Mr. Brostrup and current HABS staff. Thank you again, John Brostrup! And thanks, Joe Citro!

50th Anniversary Dinner
Thursday, November 7,th 2002

Join us in celebration of the original meeting of the founders of the Prince George's County
Historical Society in the music room of the Calvert Mansion "***Riversdale***"

Here in the room at Riversdale where twelve prominent citizens of Prince George's County met
in 1952 to form our Society, you will be served a menu of traditional Maryland fare including:

Salad---Crabcake---Ham---Vegetable---Dessert---Coffee & Tea

6:00 to 7:00 Social hour-----Dinner served at 7:00

Price of \$30.00 per person

Seating is limited, so mail your reservations early to:

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6808 Dartmouth Ave.
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Catered by Calvert House Inn Reservations by November 1, 2002

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Membership	Donna Schneider/Anna Holmes		Diane Stultz
		3 Year	Mildred Ridgely Gray
Gift Shop	Stella Uber		Iris McConnell
Marietta House	Susan Wolfe		Joyce Uber
			William Uber

BUS TRIP



WHEN: Saturday, October 19th

Leaving Marietta at 8:45 a.m.
returning at 5:45 p.m.

WHERE: Frederick County Historical Society Museum, library
and Garden.

National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

Buffet lunch at Richardson's

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and garden.

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2A Southway
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For information call:
301-345-9797

Welcome to New Members

The following individuals became members of the Prince George's County Historical Society during the 2001-2002 membership period:

Patricia Belser
Dr. and Mrs. Christopher Bever
Jack Boucher
John O. Brostrup
Leo Bruso
Sally M. Bucklee
Grace Elaine Catchings
Dr. Joseph F. Citro
Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Drane
Michael G. Dressler
Debi Durgadeen
Ann Ferguson
David P. Fogle
Rev. L. Jerome Fowler
Kimberly Hampton-Tuckson
Nina A. Haramis
Nicole Harmon
Ann-Marie Harris
Nicholas Snowden Hill IV

Andrew W. House
Evelyn Hughes
Lois and Donald Jackson
Kimberly E. Johnson
Margaret C. Johnson
Margaret Kastner
Linda Kelly
Elizabeth H. Lingg
Evelyn Love
Richard A. Morris
Barbara M. Murphy
Nila M. Reynolds
Carolyn Rowe
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Scott
Barbara Sikora
Elaine Tayler
Carlton Wm. M. Teslik
Victoria Thompson
David Turner

Virginia Beauchamp Named Outstanding Citizen

Longtime Historical Society Member **Virginia Beauchamp** has been named Outstanding Citizen of Greenbelt for 2002. Virginia, an authority and writer on women's issues, currently serves as a reporter for the *Greenbelt News Review* and it was in that capacity that she attended Greenbelt's annual Labor Day Festival. The story however, focused on her and her extraordinary volunteer activities which earned her the Outstanding Citizen award. One of her Historical Society related-activities was a fascinating program on authors of Prince George's County, held at the University of Maryland several years ago. She has been a constant and faithful donor to our library. Congratulations, Virginia.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Landmarks of Prince George's County

125 black and white photographs of the rich architectural legacy of Prince George's County by Jack E. Boucher. Arranged chronologically, the photographs and captions offer a panoramic overview of the County's architectural and historical development. Indexed. Hardcover 144 pages. Price \$18.00 Shipping \$3.00*

Prince George's County: A Pictorial History

The history and essence of Prince George's County come alive in words and pictures in this beautiful collector's edition. Written in a fascinating narrative with more than 350 photographs, maps and illustrations, many in full color and previously unpublished. by Alan Virta Revised 1998 Updated Edition. Hardcover 308 pages. Price \$42.95 Shipping \$3.00*

Calvert of Maryland

This fact-based novel shows the home life of the colonists from a child's viewpoint. This story is told in the first person by young George Calvert, godson of the first Lord Baltimore, George Calvert..

Reprint of James Otis Kaler's 1910 publication. Hardcover 166 pages, pen and ink illustrations. Price \$6.95

Atlas of fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland

Compiled, Drawn & Published from Actual Surveys by G.M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed.

Reprint 1975. Soft cover 47 pages. Price \$10.00

Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland 1861

Atlas was adapted from Martenet's Map of Prince George's County Maryland, with information from 1860 federal census for each Election District. Indexed. Reprint 1996. Soft cover 32 pages. Price \$10.00

Prince George's County, Maryland Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885

Volume 1 Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish & Queen Anne's Parish

by Helen W. Brown Reprint 2000 Soft cover 200 pages. Price \$18.00

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by R. Lee Van Horn Reprint 1996 Hardcover 422 pages. Price \$20.00

Tricentennial Cook Book

Contains recipes collected from county residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled & Edited by Dorothy Rainwater & Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound 150 pages. Price \$10.00

Journey Through Time - A Pictorial History of the Prince George's County Police Department

A history of the county police department covering over 200 years. Indexed.

by Lt. Dennis Campbell Printed 1991. Hardcover 304 pages. Price \$40.00 Shipping \$3.00*

Shipping:

*** P.G. Pictorial History, *Journey Through Time & * Landmarks of Prince George's County**

Shipping is \$3.00 each for these books. They are shipped separate.

ALL OTHER BOOKS - SHIPPING \$2.50 EACH AND 50¢ FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK.

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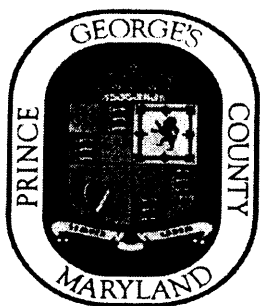
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Prince George's County Historical Society News and Notes

XXXI Number 6

OUR 50th YEAR

NOV-DEC 2002

SOCIETY KICKS OFF ITS JUBILEE YEAR

On September 15, 1952, a group of 12 distinguished Prince Georgians gathered in the music room at Riversdale, the Calvert Mansion, to initiate planning for the formation of what became the Prince George's County Historical Society. The people who met on that evening in 1952 were:

T. Howard Duckett, M. Hampton Magruder, John S. Stanley, Leroy Pumphrey, Kent R. Mullikin, A. Gwynn Bowie, T. Hammond Welch, Mrs. Rhoda Christmas Bowling, Mrs. G.W.S. Musgrave, Mrs. Susanna Cristofane, and Oden Bowie.

The photo shows the sole survivor of that intrepid band of Prince Georgians, **Oden Bowie**, delivering remarks at a dinner held on November 7, 2002, to commemorate the beginning of the Society's hemi-centennial. The following information was provided by Eugene B. Roberts, Jr., as an introduction to Mr. Bowie's remarks.

"Oden Bowie has joined us tonight at "Riversdale" to honor the history of Prince George's County, just as he joined a group of 12 distinguished citizens of Prince George's at this very house, in this very room, on September 15, 1952, to initiate the planning for an organization that, in time, became the Prince George's County Historical Society.



**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 14 AT MARIETTA 2 PM
BRING ALL THOSE FANCY FOODS YOU REMEMBER FROM THE
1950s
AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

"Mr. T. Howard Duckett was elected Temporary Chairman and Mr. John Stanley as Membership Chairman. If I remember correctly, Mr. Duckett is also credited with starting Park and Planning, WSSC and one of the local banks, so clearly this was a meeting of people who counted.

"We are honored that Oden Bowie could be with us tonight and we are grateful to him and his co-conspirators who built the Historical Society that we have all enjoyed participating in.

"Just as the Society, Oden has had a busy and successful fifty years.

"Oden was born in 1914 and has lived all his life at 'Fairview', his family's ancestral home in Bowie, Maryland. 'Fairview' was built in roughly 1790 by Baruch Duckett, Oden's great-great-great-grandfather. In 1802, Kitty Duckett, daughter of Baruch Duckett, married William Bowie of Walter who moved into 'Fairview' upon their marriage. Consequently, as of this year, there have been Bowies living at Fairview for 200 years. 'Fairview' is a large house and it has often accommodated two generations. Tonight Oden is accompanied by his daughter, Ambler Bowie Slabe and her husband Bill Slabe, who also live at 'Fairview'.

"Oden followed the pattern of many of his ancestors by leading a successful life, combining agriculture and public service. Oden graduated from the University of Maryland and then returned to farm at 'Fairview'. Over the years he grew tobacco, general crops and cattle. As the tobacco market weakened he shifted more to cattle and then in the 1980s he began growing turfgrass in cooperation with his neighbors and cousins, the Roberts, at Fairwood Turf Farm. Fairwood, historically, was a part of 'Fairview'.

"In 1954, Oden took a job in the office of Secretary of State Senate of Maryland and forty-two years later he retired as Maryland's longest serving Secretary of the State Senate. (He was Secretary of the State Senate for 27 years, from 1969 to 1996.) I once asked someone familiar with the legislature what was Oden's secret of long-term success in Annapolis. After all, State legislatures are volatile places, people come and go, etc.

"The response came back 'Oden treats everyone the same. He plays no favorites. He is an absolutely straight shooter. He would not know how to be dishonest, disingenuous or devious. Everyone respects him.'

"Oden retired to 'Fairview' in 1996 where he continues, to this day, to cut and bale hay for his horses. He checks daily on his horses at the Bowie Race Track and on the progress of the sod growing operation and now the construction project at 'Fairwood.'

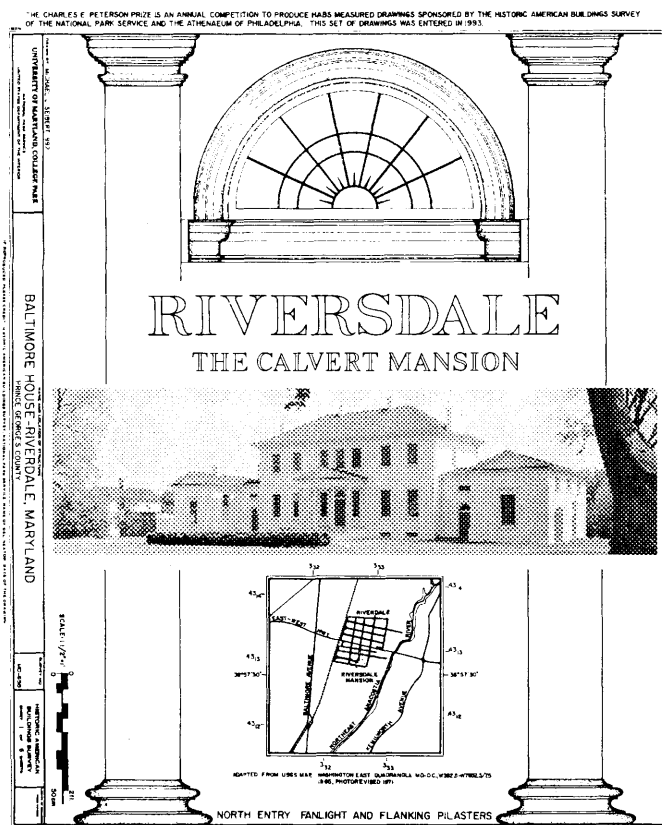
"Actually there is a third reason why it is appropriate that Oden Bowie be in this room tonight. 'Riversdale' was built by another one of Oden's great-great-great-grandfathers, Baron Henry J. Stier of Belgium.

“Riversdale’s’ most noteworthy period was under the stewardship of Henry Stier’s daughter, Rosalie Eugenia Stier Calvert and her husband George Calvert, Oden’s great-great-grandparents. George and Rosalie Eugenia’s daughter, Rosalie Eugenia Calvert married Charles Henry Carter of ‘Goodwood’ and their daughter, Alice Carter married Oden Bowie of ‘Fairview’, Oden’s grandfather, who became Governor of Maryland from 1869 to 1873.

“Without further ado I would like to introduce Oden Bowie - one of the founding fathers of the Prince George’s County Historical Society.”

SOCIETY CONNECTIONS WITH HISTORIC PLACES

Riversdale is nationally significant for its architecture as one of the last and best of the Maryland five-part mansions, a regional form that developed from Palladian beginnings as expressed through British architecture books of the eighteenth century; it is, however, distinguished from other examples



of this type by the European design details brought to America by its original Flemish builders. The plantation complex was documented from its beginning by original family letters and papers that still survive. Riversdale is uniquely important as the repository (during the early years of the nineteenth century) of the Henry Joseph Stier family’s collection of Old World paintings, the most outstanding collection of its type in the United States at that time. The property is also significant for its association with Charles Benedict Calvert. During the middle of the nineteenth century, the Riversdale plantation was brought to its greatest prominence by Calvert, the prime mover in the establishment of the Maryland Agricultural college (now the University of Maryland at College Park) on part of the extensive Riversdale acreage, and also in the

establishment of the federal-level Bureau of Agriculture, now the U.S. Department of Agriculture. During the twentieth century, Riversdale was the home of a succession of United States congressmen: Senator Hiram Johnson of California, Senators Thaddeus and Hattie Caraway of Arkansas, and Congressman Abraham Lafferty of Oregon. Owned for the last half-century by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, it was restored and opened to the public in 1993. It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1997.

It was at Riversdale in the fall of 1952 that a group of Prince George's County citizens began planning to establish the PGCHS; and Riversdale was the site of meetings of the Society in the early years of its existence, and during the period when Montpelier was undergoing restoration in the early 1980s. Having begun to acquire some artifacts and a significantly growing number of books, under the leadership of Fred DeMarr, Riversdale became the Society's headquarters in the early 1980s and remained such until the move to Marietta in 1985.

.....

Montpelier, also designated as a National Historic Landmark, is the grandest of the many Snowden family plantations built in the Laurel area. Wealthy Quakers, the Snowdens dominated the local economy from the late 1600s with their iron works and later textile mills. Major Thomas Snowden built Montpelier about 1783 on the family estate, which at one time totaled 27,000 acres. Among the guests entertained here were George and Martha Washington and Abigail Adams.

6. Historic American Buildings Survey E.H. Pickering, Photographer September 1936
HABS, MD.17-LAUR.V.1-6



The stately two-story, hipped-roof Georgian mansion, with flanking hyphens and wings, is elegantly balanced and classically inspired. Its interior detailing -- cornices with agricultural motifs, a round-arch china cabinet, and elaborate mantels -- is without equal in the county. A terraced front lawn with formal boxwood gardens includes a rare hexagonal summer house from 1796.

Montpelier remained in the Snowden family until 1888. Its kitchen and servants wing date from about 1916. The last private owner-resident was Breckinridge Long, assistant secretary of state under Presidents Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt. Montpelier was conveyed to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1961, was restored and is now open to the public. Montpelier was the regular meeting place of the PGCHS for a number of years until it was closed for its major restoration in the early 1980s.

THANK YOU

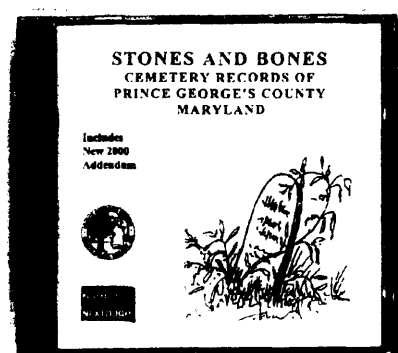
On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Officers and all of the members of the Prince George's County Historical Society, we wish to extend thanks to **Sarah and Andrew Duley** for their generosity and hospitality in the use of their beautiful home **Waverly** for the Society's fundraiser in September.

Stones and Bones -- Cemetery Records of Prince George's County, Maryland

NOW ON CD-ROM

The Prince George's County Genealogical Society has published an electronic version of the 1984 hardback edition of ***Stones and Bones*** and included the Addendum published in 2000.

The hardback version of ***Stones and Bones*** which was published originally in 1984 and reissued in 1988, covered all the known church cemeteries, as well as the private and family burial grounds in the county. The book included a brief history of each church, and cemeteries were grouped by religious denomination. This publication also contains records of tombstones found in the smaller church and family cemeteries in the County. A listing of the larger commercial cemeteries was also included.



The 2000 Addendum covered new material, corrections to the original work and the discovery of additional grave sites. Now the original work and the 2000 Addendum are available on a CD-Rom. The CD is windows compatible, requires 23 MB of hard drive space, 16 MB of memory and a monitor resolution of 800 X 600 or higher. The CD is driven by Infosolutions Folio Viewer software, which makes it easy to install and use. There is an electronic index with an every word search capability, as well as bookmarks, sticky notes, highlighter and a cut and paste function.

The CD was produced to fill the needs of those who wanted the out-of-print hardback edition. Installation of the database is quick and easy and you can be up and searching in a matter of minutes. The electronic index makes it very easy to search for family names. Names can be highlighted and printed out or cut and pasted into other documents. If you are doing family research in Prince George's County, this is a must have research tool. The CD is available from the Prince George's County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 819, Bowie, MD 20718-0819, \$36.00 plus \$2.50 shipping. The Genealogical Society is having a Christmas sale from 10 November to 31 December 2002, and during that period ***Stones and Bones*** can be purchased for \$30.00 plus \$2.50 shipping. For additional information about the sale and other publications of the Genealogical Society check out their website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mdpgcgs>.

– Diane Stultz

A Special Christmas Present

Here is **YOUR** opportunity to make a difference in our public school education curriculum!

When the Board of Education implemented the Social Studies unit about the History of Prince George's County, the Society offered several in-service training sessions to prepare the teachers. For a variety of reasons, this opportunity has not been available for several years. Many sixth grade teachers are not from this area and do not have a background in the rich historical and cultural heritage of our County. We believe that every teacher should have access to a copy of ***A Pictorial History of Prince George's County***, published by the Society and written by Alan Virta, to enrich their awareness of local history.

The Prince George's County Historical Society has made it possible to acquire a copy of this valuable book at a reduced price of **\$40.00** inclusive of shipping and handling, for delivery to the school of your choice. If you wish to donate but do not have a particular school in mind, we can assist you in selecting one. A bookplate with an appropriate inscription will be placed in each book. This is an excellent way to memorialize a loved one or to recognize a favorite teacher.

For additional information, please contact Sarah Bourne at 301-277-5468 or by email at sarahbourne@juno.com. **THANK YOU!**

ANOTHER 'BLAST FROM THE PAST'

This issue of News and Notes has been edited by a guest - yes Les Sweeting was in town for a few days around Thanksgiving and he put this one into the computer. Les has been living and working in Macedonia - and even though he is 6 time zones to the East he does not forget the Prince George's County Historical Society. He has undertaken the job of creating an electronic copy of all News and Notes issues since Volume 1, Number 1 appeared in March 1973. He has completed scanning and editing 1973 through 1989 and has brought them back on a CD-Rom so that the Board can consider whether to publish them. Over the next few months Les will work on the issues beginning with January 1990 and eventually we will have a complete electronic version of this resource.

So Happy Holidays from a past president and one who thinks fondly of PGCHS every week!

—Les Sweeting

REMEMBER THE FIFTIES?

A couple of years ago, the Society Holiday Party was built around a theme - "Food through the Millennia" and this was a lot of fun for the researchers and those who attended the event. This year - in honor of our Jubilee - we are harking back to the Fifties - a time when life seemed sweeter and America was still innocent. Please join the members of the Prince George's County Historical Society on December 14 beginning at 2 PM and bring a guest (or two) and your favorite snack from the Fifties!

Everyone makes fun of our childhood! Comedians joke about it. Grandkids snicker - twenty-somethings shudder and say "Eeew!" But was our childhood all that bad? Judge for yourselves!

- In 1953 the U.S. population was less than 150 million - yet you knew more people then, and you knew them better - and that was good!
- The average annual salary was less than \$3,000 - yet our parents could put some of it away for a rainy day and we still lived a decent life - and that was good!
- A loaf of bread cost about 15¢ - but it was safe for a five-year-old to skate to the store and buy one - and that was good!
- Prime-time meant I Love Lucy, Ozzie and Harriet, Gunsmoke and Lassie - so no one ever heard of ratings or filters - and that was good!
- We did not have air conditioning - so the windows stayed up and half-a-dozen mothers ran outside when you fell off your bike - and that was good!
- Your teacher was either Miss Matthews or Mrs. Logan or Mr. Adkins - but not Ms. Becky or Mr. Dan - and that was good!
- The only hazardous material you knew about was a patch of grassburrs (nettles) around the light pole on the corner - and that was good!
- You loved to climb into a freshly made bed - because the sheets were dried on a clothesline - and that was good!
- People generally lived in the same hometown with their families so child care meant grandparents or aunts and uncles - and that was Good!
- Television was in black and white - but outdoors was in glorious color - and that was certainly good!
- Your Dad knew how to adjust everybody's carburetor - and the Dad next door knew how to adjust the TV knobs - and that was very good!
- Grandma grew snap beans in the back yard - and chickens behind the garage - and that was definitely good!

AND Just when you were about to do something 'really bad' - Chances were that you'd run into your Dad's high school coach - or the nosy old lady from up the street - or your little sister's piano teacher - or somebody from church - All of them knew your parents' telephone number - and your first name - and, yet, THAT WAS GOOD!

REMEMBER?

SEE YOU AT 2 PM ON THE 14TH OF DECEMBER AT MARIETTA!

**Prince George's County Historical Society
Heritage Calendar
December 2002**

- 7- Farmhoused by Candlelight
National Colonial Farm 5-8PM 301-283-2113 free
- 7 Holiday Tea
Riversdale House Museum 1-3 301-864-0420 \$\$
- 7- Dickens Christmas Party
His Lordship's Kindness 6-9 301-856-0358 \$\$
- 7-8 Belair Christmas by Candlelight
Museum & Stable 4-7 301-809-3089 \$\$
- 7,8,9 Holiday Candlelight Tours
Marietta House Museum 6-8:30 301-464=5291 \$\$
- 8 Family Holiday Fun
Bowie Train Museum 12-4 301-809-3089 free
- 11-14 Holiday Candlelight Tours
Montpelier Mansion 6-9 301-953-1376 \$\$
- 11/29 3rd Annual Gingerbread House Show
12/14 Darnall's Chance House Museum 12-4 301-952-8010 \$\$
- 11-12 WWII Welcome Home Christmas Candlelight Tours
15-16 His Lordship's Kindness 5-9 301-856-0358 \$\$
19
- 12&26 Holiday High Tea
Belair Mansion 301-809-3089 \$\$
- 13 Christmas Carols Singing Celebration & Refreshments
Dorsey Chapel 7-9 301-352-5544 free
- 14 Colonial Christmas for Kids
Belair Mansion 10 AM 301-809-3089 \$\$
- 14 Holiday High Tea
His Lordship's Kindness 2-4 301-856-0358 \$\$
- 14-16 A Civil War Yuletide
Surratt House 5-9 301-868-1121 \$\$
- 15 Hansel & Gretel Tea Party
Darnall's Chance House Museum 2-3 301-952-8010 \$\$
- 26&27 Winter Evenings
Riversdale House Museum 7-9 301-864-0420 \$\$

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DUES CATEGORY (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

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