



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Mount Calvert, Society Headquarters

To Our Members and Sponsors:

Welcome to the Prince George's County Historical Society's 2015 annual report. This report is designed to provide a recap of the events and activities of the Society's 63rd year as well as a look forward to plans for the future.

The purpose of the Prince George's County Historical Society is to Collect, Preserve, Interpret, Share and Disseminate the Heritage, History, and Cultures of Prince George's County.

To support our purpose we:

- ❖ Foster an understanding and appreciation of the history and heritage of Prince George's County;
- ❖ Collect, record, organize, restore and preserve historical data, artifacts and all associated materials relative to Prince George's County and the state of Maryland;
- ❖ Promote and encourage research into all aspects of Prince George's County history and heritage;
- ❖ Acquaint and make available to members and the general public historical data and all associated materials relating to Prince George's County through programs and publications arranged or sponsored by the Society; and
- ❖ Encourage and participate in the protection and preservation of historic sites and structures in Prince George's County.

The Society is a non-profit body of five officers and up to 18 directors. The Board of Directors is a volunteer body and serves without compensation. The Society may accept gifts, bequests or endowments and solicit funds for its programs under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Board of Directors as of December 31, 2015

President - John J. Petro
Vice President – Joseph Plenzler
Secretary – Jane Taylor Thomas
Treasurer – Ruth Davis Rogers
Historian - Susan G. Pearl

Directors (year term expires)

Kent Abraham (2017)	Justin McClain (2017)
Michael Arnold (2017)	Barrington McKoy (2018)
John Brunner (2016)	Nathania Branch Miles (2017)
Maya Davis (2018)	Lynn Springer Roberts (2017)
Arthur Dock (2016)	Nancy Dixon Saxon (2018)
Elizabeth Dougherty (2016)	Mandi Solomon (2017)
Christine Garcia (2016)	Patricia Skews (2016)
Kate Germano (2018)	Wayne Tonkins, Sr. (2018)
Stacey Hawkins (2017)	Sealani Weiner (2016)

The Society's 2015 Activities

Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History (DeMarr Library) is located on the lower level of the Greenbelt Public Library. The DeMarr Library was founded by Fred DeMarr, who served as President and Historian of the Society for a number of years. Mr. DeMarr was a life-long resident of the county and had an abiding interest in all aspects of Prince George's County history. His collection was donated to the Society by the DeMarr family after his untimely death in 1997.

The DeMarr Library continues to be staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers including **Susan G. Pearl**, Historian, **Sarah Bourne**, **Dusty Rhoads**, and **Diane Stultz**, Genealogical Research Specialist. Volunteers **Nathan Avant**, **Kurt Flick**, **Sarah Jones**, **Dan Louck**, **Katie Piano**, **Donna Schneider** and **Tom Simon** are engaged in cataloging the collections of written materials and maps, scanning and indexing newsletters, converting VHS tapes to DVD, obituaries and the miscellaneous things that need to be done. Several collections of papers, articles, books, and photographs have been received, including items for the Hyattsville Public Library's collection. Thanks to a grant received from Maryland Milestones Nathan has been actively digitizing from our microfilm collection the late 19th century *Prince George's Enquirer*. We are always in search of yearbooks from schools in the county, so if you have any to donate, please let us know. Questions concerning aspects of the history of Prince George's County may be directed by telephone to 301-220-0330, by email at info@pghistory.org, or on the web message board. Materials do not circulate, but may be used at the DeMarr Library. Photocopies of non-copyrighted materials are free for Society members and color copies or items scanned onto a CD are available for a modest fee.

The library's hours of operation are on Saturdays from 12-4 PM and open at other times by appointment. Please contact us at 301-220-0330 or pgchslibrary@aol.com to schedule an appointment.

Membership and Sponsorship continued to evolve during 2015. We would like to thank all of those members who renewed as well as to our new members who joined us in 2015. The membership cycle is on a calendar year basis from January to December, with dues notices sent to members each December. A membership card is provided for each membership and sponsorship category and all members receive the Prince George's County Historical Society's newsletter. Program discounts will periodically be offered to members. All PGCHS members are able to receive a discounted membership with the Maryland Historical Society with payment of PGCHS dues annually or if you have a life membership. A current membership card must be shown to receive photocopy and book discounts at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library.

Preservation of the county's historic properties has always been an interest of ours. During 2015, we continued to monitor Fairmount Heights High School, Wilmer's Park in Brandywine, the Old Marlboro High School/Elementary School in Upper Marlboro, Peace Cross in Bladensburg, and other properties throughout the county.

Public Relations activities are through our website, www.pghistory.org, newsletter and Facebook page. We updated the website in 2015 and have added content including various DeMarr Library collections, our newsletters, and a blog. The website is still a work in progress with additional items to be added in 2016. Another new social media option we have added is a Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/PGCountyHistory>. Our newsletter continues to be our primary source to impart news and information to our members. In 2015 we changed the issuance of the newsletter to quarterly. The Society sponsored a new project in conjunction with students at the University of Maryland. The students created a video about the Rhode Island Trolley Car Line that can be seen on our website, www.pghistory.org. This is the first of

several episodes planned for our Yesterday & Today feature. The video is courtesy of a grant from Maryland Milestones.

Programs and Activities:

Christine Garcia arranged for the Society to join the University of Maryland's Campus Club for a presentation by Beth Alvarez, Ph.D. on Katherine Anne Porter, Her Library, and Her Work at the University of Maryland's Hornbake Library on April 26, 2015.

On March 28, 2015, **Susan Pearl** and volunteer Sarah Jones represented the Society at the "Kids Passport to History" at the Bowie Public Library. An activity to create a county map by the children that attended met with great success.

The annual St. George's Day awards and luncheon was held on April 12, 2015, at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville. St. George's Awardees were:

Aman Memorial Trust Monument Committee for the creation and dedication of the *Undaunted in Battle* monument

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area for major efforts in the many projects commemorating the Bicentennial of the Battle of Bladensburg

Kenneth Bryson for publication of *Accokeek – Images of America*

Richard Friend for publication of *Lost Laurel*

Marc Leepson for publication of *What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, A Life*

Patrick O'Neill for publication of *To Annoy or Destroy the Enemy: The Battle of the White House after the Burning of Washington*

Prince George's Heritage for the *Beyond the Battle* project, and in particular the October 11 symposium

Stephen Vogel for publication of *Through the Perilous Fight: Six Weeks that Saved the Nation*

The Hall of Fame of Prince George's County dissolved in 2015 and the Society took over its purposes and responsibilities. It is anticipated that inductions will resume in 2016.

The Society led the annual Historic Preservation Week reception held on May 20, 2015, at the College Park Aviation Museum in College Park. We partnered with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, ATHA/Maryland Milestones, the Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust, the University of Maryland, the Aman Memorial Trust and other county organizations and businesses to host the event. The Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission presented historic site plaques to five recipients, Maryland Milestones presented their Heritage Tourism Awards, and the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at the University of Maryland presented the Prince George's Fellowship Award and St. Clair Wright Award.

Jane Taylor Thomas and **Nathania Branch Miles**, as the Society's representatives, joined with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Prince George's County Chapter to host the tenth annual Juneteenth Celebration at the North Forestville Community Center in Forestville on June 13, 2015. The annual event commemorates the end of slavery. This year's observance titled "Footprints and Roots," had a series of workshops for beginner to advanced family researchers.

Our annual Prince of a County fundraiser was held at the renovated Old Greenbelt Theatre in Greenbelt on September 13, 2015. After viewing a film about Greenbelt, attendees were taken up to the projection booth to get a behind-the-scenes perspective.

As a complement to last year's Frida Kahlo presentation, **Christine Garcia** arranged for Professor Evelyn Torton Beck to present "How Art Keeps Hope Alive: Frida Kahlo and Franz Kafka" on October 11, 2015, at the Hornbake Library at the University of Maryland.

We participated again at the Family History Festival at the Maryland State Archives in November. It is an open house-style event that includes lectures, demonstrations, exhibits and opportunities to meet staff from historical and genealogical societies.

The 20th Annual Maryland Legacy Day was a co-sponsorship between the Prince George's County Chapter Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society and the Society. This year's celebration was held on November 21, 2015, at the Church of the Latter-Day Saints Family History Center in Suitland.

Nathania Branch Miles discussed her book "Prince George's County, Living on the Border" on November 5, 2015, at Marietta House Museum in Glenn Dale. This presentation was a co-sponsorship between the Society and Marietta.

We partnered with the Maryland Milestones and M-NCPPC for our annual holiday mixer at the Belair Mansion in Bowie on December 16, 2015. Prior to the event we held our annual elections. Welcome aboard new board members **Maya Davis, Kate Germano, Barrington McKoy** and **Wayne Tonkins, Sr.**

As always, we would like to thank our valued volunteers, members and sponsors for their support and participation. Your continued interest in our programs and activities is greatly appreciated. We could not continue to operate without your involvement.

Platinum:

Barry & Mary Gossett

Gold:

Minuteman Press of Crofton
Evalina Mitchell
Petro Design/Build
Lynn & Eugene Roberts

Silver:

John Brunner
Brian Emerson &
Christopher Lorence
Kenneth & Mary Gossett
Patricia Tatspaugh
Ray & Karen Tilch

Bronze:

Dickerson Charlton
Sandra Cross
Joseph Dehuarte
EHT Traceries
Sandra Emme
Barbara Tatspaugh Funk
Sallie Holder
Andrew & Karen House
Jay Lilly
Rebecca Livingston
Benjamin & Diana McCeney
Mr. & Mrs. James McCeney
Douglas & Susan McElrath
Donna Schneider
Judy & Ken Schneider
Stephen & Barbara Sonnett
Andrew & Sondra Wallace
Patricia Williams
Henry & Nora Wixon

Monthly Board of Director Meetings

The Society has adopted the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM for its board meetings. Periodically meetings will occur on Saturday mornings. The location of the meeting will rotate to locations within the county. All members and sponsors of the Society are welcome to attend these meetings. To find out where and when our monthly meeting is being held, please call 301-249-9000.

Profit and Loss Report – FY14 and FY15

	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
<u>Income</u>		
ATHA Grant	\$ 750.00	\$ -
Book Sales	\$ 1,405.30	\$ 1,112.20
Donations Received	\$ 2,211.25	\$ 3,795.00
Hall of Fame	\$ 3,652.19	\$ -
Interest Income	\$ 54.32	\$ 10.78
Library Income	\$ 1,684.97	\$ 2,415.45
MDHS Dues Received	\$ 2,130.00	\$ 1,235.00
Newsletter Income	\$ 275.00	\$ -
PGCHS Dues Received	\$ 5,548.60	\$ 3,410.00
Program/Activity Income	\$ 25,442.25	\$ 4,815.00
Sponsorships Received	\$ 5,750.00	\$ 7,005.00
Total Income	\$ 48,903.88	\$ 23,798.43
<u>Expenses</u>		
Book Sales Postage/Taxes/Fees	\$ 195.77	\$ 207.66
Donations & Gifts Paid	\$ 226.87	\$ 150.00
Dues & Subscriptions Paid	\$ 138.50	\$ 460.00
General Operations Expenses	\$ 6,752.53	\$ 11,691.48
History Day Awards	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Insurance Paid	\$ 1,317.00	\$ 1,362.00
Library Expenses	\$ 2,558.39	\$ 1,361.81
MDHS Dues Paid	\$ 2,205.00	\$ 1,140.00
Membership Expenses	\$ 1,584.85	\$ 617.85
News & Notes Expenses	\$ 2,502.52	\$ 2,982.21
Video project	\$ -	\$ 828.00
Program/Activity Expenses	\$ 19,182.02	\$ 11,001.25
Total Expenses	\$ 36,813.45	\$ 31,952.26
Profit/(Loss)	\$ 12,090.43	\$ (8,153.83)
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2015		
Checking	\$ 33,637.60	
Accounts Receivable	\$ 60.00	
Fixed Assets	\$ 12,478.27	
Total Assets	\$ 46,175.87	