



# News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

**XLI Number 1**

**January & February 2012**

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MARLBORO HIGH SCHOOL/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

People and groups with an interest in the history of our County have recently been alerted to the proposed demolition of the building known as OMES – the Old Marlboro Elementary School, the original part of which was built as the Marlboro High School in 1921. The proposal includes the construction (on the site of this school building) of a Family Justice Center that would combine all of the offices necessary to serve individuals and families in need of assistance. There are of course serious logistical problems that would have to be resolved before proceeding with such a plan, but the Historical Society will concentrate on the historical value of the school building and site, and the consideration of potential adaptive re-use and possible preservation. The Society's Board plans to host as soon as possible an informational meeting and discussion on the subject. The property has been designated an Historic Site under the County's Preservation Ordinance, because of its importance in the history of education of the white students of the area. It contains not only the High School/Elementary School building, but also the separate, adjoining small principal's residence (originally 1890s girls' school), and the burial place of Dr. William Beanes and his wife.



This is the property on which Dr. William Beanes lived in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Dr. Beanes was the Upper Marlborough resident who was taken as a hostage by the British invaders in the summer of 1814, because he and several of his friends had captured several British deserters/stragglers. (He was taken to Baltimore, and it was during the attempts of Francis Scott Key to liberate Dr. Beanes, that Key wrote the lyrics to what became our National Anthem.) Dr. Beanes returned to Upper Marlborough, and lived on this property until his death in 1828; he and his wife are buried on the property, and their burial place has been carefully preserved, although it is currently in need of attention.

After Dr. Beanes' death, his house was altered to become the new Marlborough Academy, established in 1835 by an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland. The subjects taught included Dictionary, Geography, Latin, algebra, Geometry, and Cyphering; Greek and French studies were soon added. Hours were 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and September was vacation month. At first only boys were admitted, but by 1840 there were female students as well; a report for 1844 indicates the attendance of 42 boys and 18 girls. (In 1867, after the establishment of the Board of County School Commissioners, a separate public school for girls was established immediately east of the academy building, and the two buildings were separated by a "good and substantial fence.")

In July of 1855 the Academy building burned to the ground. The Upper Marlborough newspaper, *The Planters' Advocate*, reported that "The buildings of the Marlboro' Academy, in this place, were destroyed by fire on the afternoon of last Friday. . . . The fire originated in the garret room of the Academy proper, whence it communicated to the adjoining dwelling of the Principal. The latter was not occupied at the time but was in a state of repair – a considerable sum having been already expended in refitting it, all of which is of course a loss. The fire was not discovered until between 6 and 7 o'clock, and no signs of it were observed at the time school was dismissed about two hours previously. . . . The dwelling portion of the building was one of the oldest houses in the village and was for many years the dwelling of the late Dr. William Beanes." The building had fortunately been insured, and a new academy building was erected by the end of December in that year.

*Continued on page 3*

## The Prince George's County Historical Society

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*News & Notes* is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month. Dates and locations vary. Please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us. All ages are definitely welcome!

## Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

Greenbelt Library Building  
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt  
301-220-0330

Hours: Saturday, 12-4 PM  
By Appointment at Other Times



## Welcome New Society Members

Aimee Carter



### 2012 SOCIETY SPONSORS

The Society would like to say thank you to our generous sponsors. Their donations help to fund the Society's programs and newsletter, as well as the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History. We greatly appreciate the continuous support!

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We have several contemporary descriptions of the Academy during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the most charming being the reminiscences of Frederick Sasscer, Superintendent of Schools for Prince George's County, and Editor of the Upper Marlborough newspaper, the *Prince George's Enquirer*. Towards the end of 1920, Editor Sasscer was temporarily confined to bed, and he used the time to write and publish in his newspaper "reminiscences" of his childhood in Upper Marlborough in the years just after the Civil War. "My little heart fluttered with excitement when, without warning, on a bright autumn morning in 1863 my father announced at the breakfast table that I, the eldest child, was to begin my school career. Accordingly, he led me to Academy Hill and introduced me to Mr. Edward Bushell unto whose tender mercies I was committed . . . my father took leave and I well remember how I cried when I realized I could not return home with him . . . soon I became a part of that little school circle . . . by the next day I had grown big enough and brave enough to go to school and return all by myself." [Young Frederick Sasscer lived at Kingston, just a short distance south of Academy Hill. The Academy building that he attended had been built only eight years earlier to replace the old Beanes residence that had been destroyed by fire.]

Editor Sasscer continued, "The Academy building then consisted of two rooms, one of which was the school room and the other the bed room of the professor. . . . His classes, wonderful to tell, ranged from boys learning the alphabet, the first step in education, then to classes in Cicero and Xenophon. . . . The furniture was of the rudest kind. Desks with sloping lids in sets of three, in all about 30, were arranged against the walls. . . . The very small boys, who had no writing to do, found resting places on two long benches with backs. There were no blackboards, no free books and few physical comforts. The old professor sat at a small table in an arm chair, and was always supplied with a goodly number of supple rods, for the rod was not spared in those primitive days."

Sasscer went on to contrast the simplicity of his mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century schooling with the improvements that he had seen by 1920 (he had served as Superintendent of Prince George's County schools 1902-1914, and had been an innovative and progressive leader), and he noted that Upper Marlboro would soon have a new high school. He referred also to the fact that in 1908 the Academy property had been turned over to the Board of County School Commissioners, and that this 1855 building had thenceforward been used as a public high school - ". . . the trustees and patrons of the Marlboro Academy desire the establishment of a High School at the County Seat . . . it is ordered that a committee be appointed . . . with authority to enter into an agreement whereby the property of said Academy . . . may be used for said proposed High School to be established under the provisions of the General School Law relating to the opening of High Schools." In 1920, Mr. Sasscer recalled that transition, which had occurred during his tenure as superintendent, and looked forward to the construction of the new high school which would be completed in the following year. "The old Academy lost its identity about twelve years ago, when the property was turned over to the School Board in order that the present High School might be established, and our boys and girls alike might enjoy the benefits of instruction in the higher grades. . . . May the new High School building soon to be erected embody in its conveniences all the comforts of the new age, and may the children of the present generation and of generations to come find keen delight and rich enlightenment within its walls!"

The Mission-style two-story high school of 1921 can still be seen at the rear of the present building. Built by Thomas H. Marsden for \$38,000, it was of masonry construction, coated with white-painted cement, and distinguished by a handsome shaped parapet on its south entrance façade. It had eight classrooms, offices and a library, as well as rooms for manual training and home economics. The new school was dedicated on May 19, 1921, with considerable ceremony, and a lengthy speech about the very historical Academy that it was replacing. Soon after the high school opened, elementary school classes also began in the new building. During the 1930s, the building was significantly enlarged - a large red-brick addition including eight more classrooms and an auditorium was built, wrapping around and hiding the south entrance façade of the original 1921 structure. In the 1940s, the original 1921 building was used to house the elementary students, while the newer red-brick structure operated as the High School. After the construction of Frederick Sasscer Junior/Senior High School in 1947, the older students moved to that new school, and elementary school classrooms took up the entire structure on Academy Hill. Known now as the Old Marlboro Elementary School, this building was closed by the early 1970s. For years after that, it served as the office of the Sheriff's Department.

From 1835, when the Marlborough Academy was established, until the 1970s, this site has been an important educational landmark in the County Seat. We will keep you posted as plans for its site unfold.

Susan G. Pearl, Historian

## CIVIL WAR EXHIBITS AT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

A new exhibit at the University of Maryland shows the connections between the university and the Civil War, which started just two years after the university's beginnings.

Did the "Old South Ball" really occur when Confederate soldiers camped on the grounds of the Maryland Agricultural College, as the University of Maryland was then known? How many students left school to fight for the Union, and how many made the long and harrowing trek south to join the Rebel forces? "A College Divided," mounted by the University of Maryland Archives to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the war's beginning, answers these and other questions.

"I knew that many of our students left to fight, and many of our presidents after the war had served in the Confederate military, but I wanted to learn more about the roles these individuals played in the war," says University Archivist Anne Turkos. "Malissa Ruffner, one of our archivists, specializes in genealogical research. She traced the stories of members of the college community—students, faculty, administrators, and trustees—who were affected by the war in some way."

Ruffner assembled some very dramatic tales of the profound impact the conflict had on the young institution. She began by comparing an 1859 student register to military service records, identifying about 30 students who served in the war. These students were joined by professors, presidents, and founding trustees, who served in the military or were directly connected to the war in some way. She found spies and scouts, heroes and foot soldiers.

For example, the founder of the Maryland Agricultural College, Charles Benedict Calvert, supported the war to preserve the Union, but at the same time was part of the southern planter society. Samuel Boyer Davis, who enrolled in the MAC on October 20, 1859, two weeks after the college opened, was in charge of the notorious Andersonville prison in Georgia for one month at the tender age of 20 and later narrowly escaped death by hanging following his conviction for spying for the South.

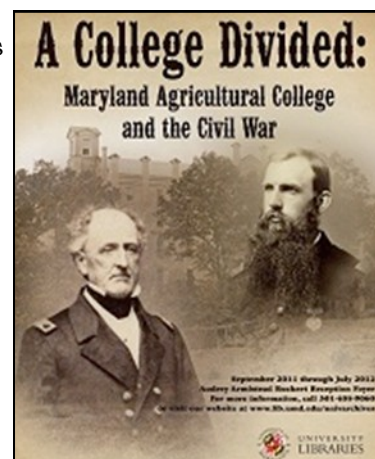
One of the panels tells the story of the southern-sympathizing Waring Family of Prince George's County. It is illustrated by an image from the John Burroughs diary recently acquired by the Prince George's County Historical Society and shared with University Libraries for the exhibit.

"I contacted Susan Pearl during our research and we were thrilled that she had just transcribed an entry from Burroughs' diary that referred to the funeral of young Bob Waring, a MAC student who left school to enlist in the Confederate army," said Ruffner.

"A College Divided: Maryland Agricultural College and the Civil War" is on display in the Audrey Armistead Ruckert Reception Foyer of the Hornbake Library on the University of Maryland, College Park, campus through July 13, 2012. Free and open to the public during the library's open hours (Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday, 12 noon - 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.). The exhibition complements the show in the Maryland Room Gallery, "Women on the Border: Maryland Perspectives of the Civil War."

The University Park Historic Preservation Association has invited the Historical Society to join them on an archivist-guided tour of these two exhibitions on Sunday, January 29. The tour begins at 2:00 PM in Hornbake's Maryland Room, just inside the library's main entrance. Free parking is available in the Regent's Drive parking garage, adjacent to the library. There is no charge for this tour, but space is limited. For more information, write Chris Garcia at [urbanipm@gmail.com](mailto:urbanipm@gmail.com).

If you are unable to attend the January 29 tour, the Historical Society is also planning a tour in the spring. Details will be provided once they are finalized.



### AND THEY'RE FREE!

The Prince George's County History Consortium, ATHA, The Surratt Society, The Department of Parks & Recreation, the Laurel Historical Society, and The City of Bowie Museums have joined forces to fund a booklet commemorating the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Entitled *Battle Lines: Prince George's County in the Civil War*, the text and photos focus on "Lines of Protection, Spies, Freedom, and Assassination from 1861 to 1865." For a free copy of this booklet, visit or contact any of the sponsoring museums and groups.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ELECTED BOARD

At our Annual Meeting in November at the Alamo Restaurant, the following were elected or re-elected. Congratulations!

President:	John J. Petro	Board Members:	Kent Abraham
Vice President:	Lynn Springer Roberts		Beverly Addison
Secretary:	Jack Thompson, Jr.		Dan Louck
Treasurer:	Donna L. Schneider		Nathania Branch Miles
Historian:	Susan G. Pearl		Edward Scott

## HISTORIC HOME CALENDARS

Celebrate 2012 and the Society's 60th anniversary with the purchase of our calendar featuring various historic homes in our County. The calendar is available for \$5 each, including tax, plus \$1.50 for shipping. Please send payment to the address below. To save the cost of shipping, calendars can also be purchased at the DeMarr Library.

## THANK YOU

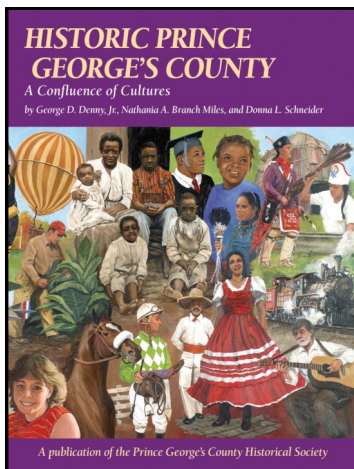
Thank you to everyone who has donated yearbooks and annuals to the DeMarr Library and we welcome more!

If you have any yearbooks you would like to donate, please call Sarah Bourne at 301-277-5468 or email her at [sarahbourne1@verizon.net](mailto:sarahbourne1@verizon.net)

## HISTORIC PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY: A CONFLUENCE OF CULTURES

The Historical Society's latest publication, *Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures*, is now available for purchase. The authors, George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles and Donna L. Schneider, created a book that blends the county's cultural history with the heritage of businesses who make their home here.

Photographs from personal collections of county residents, as well as photos that are not as widely known, are arranged throughout the book and highlight the diversity of our county. The book explores the culture of who we are and where we live, the culture of work, education and pastimes. The book does not cover every aspect of our rich and varied culture, but will hopefully bring back some fond memories, educate about our today, and show what our future might hold.



We are offering the book for sale at the introductory price of \$39.95, a savings of \$10 off the cover price, until February 29, 2012. Maryland residents must add 6% sales tax for a total cost of \$42.35. If you are willing to pick-up the book at the DeMarr Library in Greenbelt, the offices of Petro Design/Build in Bowie or from author George Denny, then there is no charge for shipping, otherwise the shipping costs an additional \$5.

If you would like to purchase multiple copies of the book, please contact Donna at 301-952-8539 or [pgchssales@hotmail.com](mailto:pgchssales@hotmail.com) for more information.

Please make checks payable to PGCHS and mail to PGCHS Book Sales, PO Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014. Please provide a phone number or email address so we can contact you regarding the pick-up of your order. Thank you.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2012

- January 28** – Winter on the Plantation—A Black History Month Program at Montpelier Mansion, 1 – 3 PM; through hands-on activities, learn about the lives of Montpelier's enslaved workers; call 301-377-7817 for more information
- January 14** - Mad Science at College Park Aviation Museum, 11 AM and 1 PM; before Wilbur and Orville could even begin to build an airplane, they had to understand the science that makes flying possible. Join Mad Science of Washington DC for an exciting and interactive program about science; \$5/person, tickets available day of show
- January 14** – Radio History Lecture—The Role of the Associated Press in Radio Journalism at National Capital Radio & TV Museum, 2 PM; Ken Mellgren, NCRTV Board Member, will explore an interesting interface in broadcast media; free, but donations accepted; call 301-390-1020 for additional information; Snow date: January 21
- January 17** – Kids Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-12 PM; ages 1-11 enjoy railroad fun; free, details call 301-575-2488 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)
- January 18** – Surratt House Reopens for the 2012 Season, 11 AM – 3 PM on Wednesday-Friday, 12-4 PM on Saturday and Sunday
- January 22** – Mrs. Ogle's Winter Sewing Circle at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; enjoy 18th century living history as Mrs. Ogle greets her friends for a winter afternoon of sewing and gossip; free, for more information call 301-809-3089
- January 29** - University Park Historic Preservation Association tour of University of Maryland Civil War exhibits, 2 PM; see article on page 4 for details
- February 2** - Francis Scott Key Lecture Series at Maryland Historical Society, 11 AM; "Oh the terrible velvet curtains!" Benjamin Henry Latrobe and the Madison's Decorate the President's House; \$40, one of six lectures, contact Kellie Saunders at 410-685-3750, x399 for series details or to purchase series or visit [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org) for more details
- February 5** - True Life: I'm a Laurel Mill Worker exhibit at Laurel Museum, 1-4 PM; free, refreshments provided
- February 11** – Tuskegee Airmen at College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM; meet a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and learn about their history and the current organization; free with museum admission
- February 11** – Tasting the Past:: A Chocolate Sampler at Riversdale House Museum, 2 PM; taste your way through the history of chocolate in America, from its beginnings as a breakfast beverage to the confection that we know today; \$20/resident, \$24/non-resident, ages 21 & up, reservations required by February 3 by calling 301-864-0420
- February 11** - A Friendship Tea at Montpelier Mansion, 2:30 PM; enjoy finger sandwiches, cakes, pastries, scones and tea; \$27.50/person and includes self-guided tour; reservations required by calling 301-377-7817
- February 12** – Trains in the Caboose! at Bowie Railroad Museum, 11 AM - 4 PM; imagine riding the railroad as the NTrack Train Modellers set-up in the Caboose...get into training; free, call 301-575-2488 for more information
- February 13** – Brown Bag Lunch Lecture at Belair Mansion, noon; topic to be announce; bring a brown bag lunch, coffee and tea provided; free, for more information call 301-809-3089
- February 14** - Sylvia's Diary: Unraveling the Mysteries of a Federal-Era Journal at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; Alden O'Brien, Curator of Textiles at Washington's DAR Museum, discusses her fascinating quest for - and her ultimate discovery of - a real person from the past; free, but donations accepted; call 301-809-3089 for more details
- February 18** – 79 Wistful Vista: Fibber McGee and Molly's Years in Radio at Belair Mansion, 2 PM; the Radio History Society's Brian Belanger and Ed Walker recall one of the most delightful programs in broadcast history; free, but donations accepted; call 301-390-1020 for more information; snow date February 25
- February 19** - George Washington Musicales with Zephyrs and Flora at Montpelier Mansion, 2 PM; this recorder ensemble, accompanied by other period instruments, performs music from the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque eras, as well as folk and religious music from around the world; \$10/Friends of Montpelier, \$15/non-members, reservations required by calling 301-377-7817
- February 21** – Kids Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-12 PM; ages 1-11 enjoy railroad fun; free, details call 301-575-2488 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)
- February 23** – Seen & Heard: Maryland's Civil Rights Era in Photographs and Oral Histories at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; a panel discussion and exhibition; free, visit [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org) for more details
- February 25** – Meet Harriet Tubman at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; Gwendolyn Briley-strand portrays the "Moses of Her People" who led slaves to freedom and served the Union as a spy and scout; free; for details call 301-868-1121 or visit [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org)
- February 26** – The Plummers' Kitchen and Closet at Riversdale House Museum, 12 noon; the Kitchen Guild prepares foods in the dependency that enslaved African Americans ate in 1812, including members of Riversdale's Plummer family and an exhibit in the house highlights how they dressed; \$3/adult, \$2/senior, \$1/student

**Laurel Museum** is closed until February.

**National Colonial Farm** has classes and workshops; visit [www.accokeekfoundation.org](http://www.accokeekfoundation.org) for more details.

**Patuxent Research Refuge** has many free public programs ranging from art exhibits, bird, nature and flower walks, to owl prowls and hands-on wildlife activities; visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov> for more information or call 301-497-5887

For details and additional events, visit: [www.pgpc.org](http://www.pgpc.org), [www.accokeekfoundation.org](http://www.accokeekfoundation.org), [www.anacostiatrains.org](http://www.anacostiatrains.org), [www.cityofbowie.org/LeisureActivities/Museum](http://www.cityofbowie.org/LeisureActivities/Museum), [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org), <http://pgcm.aahgs.org>, <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>, [www.greenbeltmuseum.org](http://www.greenbeltmuseum.org), [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org), [www.laurelhistory.org](http://www.laurelhistory.org), and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

## **Publications for Sale**

- 1. 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, 1993. Arranged chronologically, the photos and captions offer a panoramic overview of the county's architectural and historical development. Indexed. Hard-cover, 144 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 2. 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, with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. Price: \$42.95.
- 3. 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. Author: Lt. Dennis Campbell. Indexed. Printed 1991. Hardcover, 304 pages. Price: \$40.00.
- 4. Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures\*** – A cultural history of Prince George's County, with many photographs from private collections. Authors George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles, Donna L. Schneider. Printed 2011. Hardcover, 192 pages. Price: \$39.95.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume I - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 9. 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. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 10. 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. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 11. Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. Price: \$10.00.

\*Shipping and handling for books numbered 1, 2, and 3 is \$3.00 for each copy and book number 4 is \$5.00, because of size and weight. They are shipped separately. Shipping and handling for all other books is \$2.50 for the first book and 50 cents for each additional book.

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# News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

**XLI Number 3**

**May & June 2012**

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH RECEPTION, 2012

This year's Historic Preservation Month Reception will be held at Ridgeley Rosenwald School, an outstanding example of restoration in Prince George's County. Constructed in 1927 on land provided to the Board of Education by the Ridgley family, this building remained in the ownership of the Board of Education after it closed as a school in the 1960s, and was then used as the school-bus dispatch office for the County's public schools. Over the last seven years, interested citizens and organizations have worked toward the restoration of the building, and it opened as a museum and community meeting place in September 2011. We will celebrate this very special restoration success at the school on May 16, 2012.

The Ridgeley School (Colored School #1 in Election District #13) was built in 1927, one of four two-teacher schools in Prince George's County funded in that year by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Before this school was built, classes for elementary students had been held in the "colored hall" or "society hall" which stood on the lot immediately adjoining to the east. The hall was informally connected with Ridgley Methodist Episcopal Church, located a short distance to the east on the north side of Central Avenue. The first church on this site had been erected in the 1870s, on land which was deeded to Lewis Ridgley and two other black trustees out of the Berry family land holdings. By the 1890s a small community had developed in this area; its focal points were Ridgley Church, the lodge, and, later, the adjoining schoolhouse. (The spelling of the Ridgley name varies; the restored schoolhouse will be known as Ridgeley School.)

In the 1923/24 academic year, there were 42 elementary schools for black children in Prince George's County. In that year a committee of the Colored Public School Trustees Association conducted a survey of the County's colored public schools, in which it was recorded that a new Rosenwald school was being requested for the Ridgley community. "It is already on the program to build a new Rosenwald school at Ridgeley. The committee can only say that it is urgently needed." The committee went on to encourage the Ridgley community members to pursue their hopes for a new school building, and not to "let up in their drive till the new building is finished, fully equipped and every child has a comfortable seat in which to study." Six Prince George's County schools were built with Rosenwald support in the 1925/26 year, and four more, including Ridgeley, would be completed in 1926/27.

A formal request was addressed to the Board of Education in March 1926 for a new school for Ridgley, but the Ridgley delegation was informed that their request came too late to put in that year's budget. The Board agreed, however, to support the request if the community would furnish two acres of land for the proposed school. Accordingly, in February 1927, Mary Eliza Ridgeley (daughter-in-law of Lewis Ridgley, who had founded the nearby Methodist church) offered 2 acres of the family's property to the Board for the construction of the school, and the offer was accepted.

At its meeting in June 1927, the Board of Education contracted with Burton A. Ford to erect three colored schools - \$4,281.54 for a school at Ridgley, the same amount for a school of the same plan at Clinton, and \$4,221.54 for a different design at Collington. The deed of land from the Ridgeleys was executed two weeks later. This land lay on the south side of Central Avenue a short distance west of the church, with a right-of-way to the avenue.



*(continued on page 3)*

## The Prince George's County Historical Society

Phone: 301-220-0330

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*News & Notes* is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month. Dates and locations vary. Please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us.

## Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

Greenbelt Library Building  
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt  
301-220-0330  
Hours: Saturday, 12-4 PM  
By Appointment at Other Times



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The Society would like to say thank you to our generous sponsors for their support. Their donations help to fund various Society programs and its newsletter, as well as the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History.

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## SEVENTH ANNUAL JUNETEENTH SEMINAR, "FOOTPRINTS AND ROOTS"

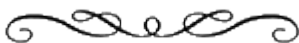
The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Prince George's County Maryland Chapter, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Suitland (Maryland), and the Prince George's County Historical Society will jointly sponsor the Seventh Annual Juneteenth Seminar, "Footprints and Roots," on Saturday, June 16, 2012, at the Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774, from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. The seminar will consist of a series of workshops for beginner to advanced family researchers. Author, genealogist, historian, and professor, Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, will deliver the keynote address.

In addition to workshops on such topics as the 1940 census, African-American women in the military, Hispanic genealogical research, and DNA among others, there will be special activities for children (ages 7-12), designed to introduce them to the world of genealogy and family history.

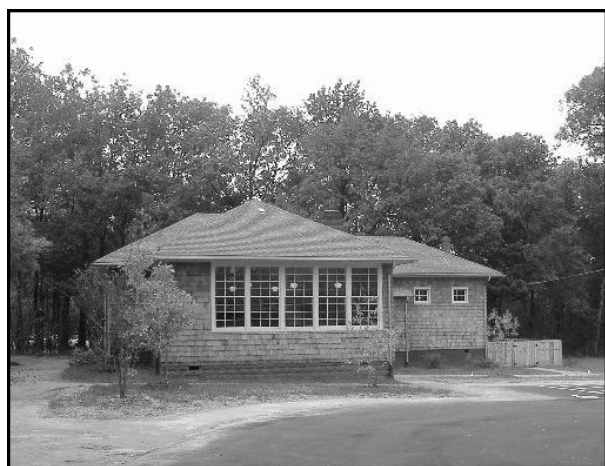
The Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation is holding a family fun day in conjunction with this event. Bring a picnic basket, blanket, and lawn chair and participate in an afternoon of live entertainment, with guest speakers, games, arts and crafts, food, and fun. All the activities at both of these community events are **FREE** and open to the public.

Juneteenth is celebrated in more than 200 cities in the United States to commemorate the final announcement in Galveston, Texas, of the emancipation of slaves some two years after the original proclamation. From that day until this, there have been celebrations throughout the United States to mark the date, June 19, 1865, when the last enslaved persons learned of their freedom. Juneteenth, as it came to be called, is a national holiday in 12 states and the District of Columbia.

For more information, call Carolyn Rowe, (301) 292-6897 or Jane Thomas, (301) 292-1207.



*(continued from page 1)*



Papers in the Rosenwald Fund Archives record that the school was of the two-teacher plan, that the total cost of its construction was \$5,300, of which the largest part (\$4,400) came from public taxation, \$200 was contributed by the local black community, and \$700 came from the Rosenwald Fund. Ridgeley School opened in the fall of 1927, with two large classrooms, each of which served at least three grade levels. Instruction in home economics and in vocational carpentry was offered in the central passage between the two classrooms. Two privies stood on the two-acre property, as well as space for sports and games. Members of the Ridgeley family remained very much involved in the affairs of the school.

Within twenty years of the opening of the Ridgeley School, the rear (south) addition was constructed, adding a third large classroom. Later, until 1957, the schoolhouse served as a special center for children with special needs. From 1963 until 2009, the building served as the school-bus management office for the Prince George's County Public Schools. By 2002, when the National Trust brought attention to Rosenwald schools through their listing among the nation's Most Endangered Buildings, the Ridgeley school was in deteriorating condition, but was recognized as being Prince George's County's Rosenwald school closest to its original condition. In 2004, a committee formed with the express purpose of bringing about the preservation and restoration of the schoolhouse. Restoration of the building was accomplished through an agreement between the Board of Education and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the work was carried out by the Oak Grove Restoration Company. The building was opened to the public in September 2011 as a museum and educational meeting place.

The Prince George's County Historical Society will be the principal sponsor of the Preservation Reception this year, assisted by many other County organizations. We will celebrate together at Ridgeley School on Wednesday, May 16, from 6 to 8 PM, with tours and information about Ridgeley, light refreshments, the awarding of Historic Preservation plaques, and exhibits by history- and preservation-oriented organizations. The evening is free. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by May 11, 2012, by calling 301-864-0420 or email [riversdale@pgparks.com](mailto:riversdale@pgparks.com). We look forward to seeing you at the Ridgeley Rosenwald School on May 16!

## ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to our 2012 St. George's Day Awardees. This year's winners are:

**Melissa Avery, Donald Lynch and Tom Alderson** for the publication of *Riverdale Park (Images of America)*

**City of Bowie** in celebration of the 50-year history of the Belair-at-Bowie community

**City of Hyattsville** in celebration of the 125th anniversary of its incorporation

**Geoffrey and Sally Fallon Morell** for restoration of the P.A. Bowen Farmstead

**Patuxent Research Refuge** in celebration of its 75 years of history

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church, White Marsh** in celebration of its 270-year history

**Dr. Sandra B. Shannon** for the publication of *A Time to Build*, a history of the First Baptist Church of North Brentwood

**Town of University Park** in celebration of the 75th anniversary of its incorporation

A surprise award was given to **George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania Branch Miles and Donna L. Schneider** for the publication of *Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures*

The Hall of Fame of Prince George's County partnered with us again this year for their annual recognition of a distinguished Prince Georgian of the past. Their 2012 inductee is the Society's own **Frederick S. DeMarr** (1928-1997). Fred was long known as "Mr. Prince George's County History," and served as the Society's president from 1972 to 1984. He was instrumental in starting this newsletter, and was the creator of the Society's library. The Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History, located in the lower level of the Greenbelt Public Library, is his legacy.

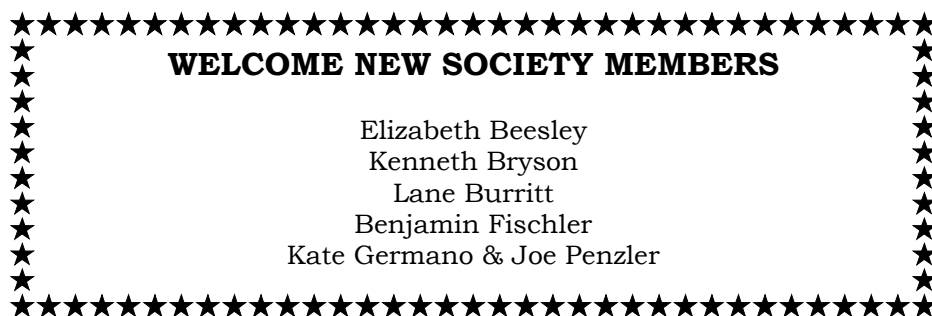
## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust, in partnership with Prince George's Heritage Inc., Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Inc., and the African American Heritage Preservation Group, seeks to engage the citizens of Prince George's County, Maryland, in an ongoing dialogue on the impact of history in their community and the importance of heritage preservation at all levels of civil society. We seek to bring together citizens, preservation advocates, municipal and county government leaders, non-profit organizations and other stakeholders in a variety of settings to discuss the impact of heritage issues in the community and the best means for interpreting and honoring that legacy.

The main part of this program is a series of community conversations. These events will help direct how the preservation community and elected officials should celebrate and interpret the rich cultural legacy of Prince George's County in ways that are lasting and meaningful for everyone. With the upcoming anniversaries of the War of 1812, the Emancipation Proclamation, and post-Civil War reconstruction just around the corner, how should we focus our energies and limited resources?

We hope to share and learn more about some of the rich history that surrounds us and to spur a lively dialogue with all participants. The information generated will be captured in on-line surveys, participant questionnaires, and recorded onsite to create a robust record of responses to be shared with civic leaders and all members of the heritage preservation community.

The next public forums are May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Oxon Hill Manor in Oxon Hill, MD, and June 20<sup>th</sup> at Darnall's Chance in Upper Marlboro, MD. The doors open at 6 PM and the program is from 6:30 to 8 PM.



## PROJECT LEADS TO NATIONAL RECOGNITION

In 2010, the Surratt Society embarked on a project to fund a tombstone for Elizabeth Keckly, a remarkable woman who bought her freedom from slavery (and that of her son) through her talents as a designer and seamstress. She went on to be employed by many of the ladies of high society in Washington, D.C. before the Civil War. Because of her skills, she was introduced to First Lady Mary Lincoln and became not only her modiste, but also a close confidante during the crucial years of the war. Her later book, *Behind The Scenes*, became a valuable tool for researchers studying the Lincolns' years in the White House.

Because of the publicity generated by the dedication of Mrs. Keckly's marker at the National Harmony Memorial Park in Landover, Maryland, the staff at Surratt House Museum was contacted by the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Initiative. They were asked to apply for Mrs. Keckly's gravesite to be included in the program because of the tremendous efforts that the lady had made in assisting contraband during and after the war. The newly freed people needed shelter, clothing, and food, and Mrs. Keckly worked with Frederick Douglass, Mrs. Lincoln, and churches and civic groups to aid in this endeavor.

Mrs. Sandra Walia, research librarian for the Surratt House Museum's James O. Hall Research Center, prepared the necessary papers; and on March 16, 2012, she and the museum staff and members were pleased to receive notice that the application had been approved and that Mrs. Elizabeth Keckly will be honored with inclusion in the Network to Freedom program.

## ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA EVENTS

As the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the Battle of Bladensburg nears, take a step back in time to the 1800s with music - dance and drums, gospel choir, classical songs, children's games, farm animals, 1800s trade and craft demonstrations, food - old time favorites, bar-b-que and Native American food, heirloom plant and crafts sale at [A Day in Everyday Life at Bostwick](#). Browse the May Basket competition entries, take a springtime walk around the grounds and let the kids play! Festivities are on May 6 from 1 to 4 PM at Bostwick House, 3901 48th Street in Bladensburg. Admission is free. For more information, contact Sarah at 301-887-0777 or visit [www.battleofbladensburg1812.org](http://www.battleofbladensburg1812.org).

The 7th Annual Bike Rally that is sponsored by Maryland Milestones (formerly ATHA), the "Rivers to Rockets Rally", will be held May 19, 2012, from 8:30 AM to 1 PM at Bladensburg Waterfront Park. Come and experience the War of 1812 and the Port of Bladensburg, ride past the oldest operating airfield in the United States, and head on to the home of Goddard - the city of Greenbelt (celebrating its 75th anniversary). We will host a 20 mile route via Berwyn Heights to Greenbelt to see them on their 75th Anniversary, although if sufficient interest is available, we may include a longer route for advanced riders or a shorter route for less advanced riders. We will use the Anacostia Tributary Trail System for our routes, but we will have to cross some major roads at a few points. Families are encouraged to participate and see the sights. We will have lunch and breakfast foods as well as a t-shirt for participants. Come experience our backyard!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MAY AND JUNE 2012

- May 5** - Pirate Fest at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 11 AM-4 PM; features swashbuckling re-enactors, hands-on children's activities, music, children's pirate costume contest, treasure hunt; \$5/person
- May 5** - The Titanic Disaster and Radio at Laurel Branch Library, 2 PM; Radio & Television Museum presents Chris Sterling from George Washington University who discusses one of the vital applications of pre-broadcast radio and what happened to the Titanic; free
- May 6** - A Day in Everyday Life at Bostwick at Bostwick House, 1-4 PM; free, see article on page 5
- May 7** - Brown Bag Lunch Lecture at Belair Mansion, 12 noon; free, bring your lunch, for topic information call 301-809-3089
- May 10** - Authors and Artifacts at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM: J.S.A. Staggs, University of Virginia Professor of History discusses his forthcoming book, *The War of 1812: Conflict for a Continent*; \$35/members, \$50 non-members
- May 12** - "Let's Move!" - The 19th Century Way at Surratt House Museum, 12-4 PM; try your hand at farm chores and doing household tasks that would have helped the Surratt family stay healthy in the 19th century; free, outdoor program; call 301-868-1121 for details
- May 13** - Mother's Day Tours at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 12-4 PM; complimentary mother or grandmother tour with paying child
- May 13** - Mother's Day Tours at Riversdale House Museum, 12:15-3:15 PM; free guided tour for a special lady per paid admission
- May 15** - Kids Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-12 noon; railroad fun for ages 1-11; free, call 301-575-2488 for details
- May 15 & 16** - Her Story... Our Story: 1912-2012, A Garden Club of America Flower Show at Maryland Historical Society; Greenspring Valley Garden Club celebrates their centennial anniversary; May 15 - 2-4 PM flower show & 6-8 PM preview party/lecture with Dean Norton, Head Horticulturist, Mt. Vernon Estate; May 16 - 10 AM-5 PM flower show
- May 16** - Historic Preservation Month Reception at Ridgeley Rosenwald School, 6 PM; free, see article on page 1 for details
- May 16** - Spring Lecture Series at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; Wayne Smith, Civil War re-enactor, author, history teacher and Montpelier docent, will share his findings on the three children and ten grandchildren of Nicholas and Elizabeth Snowden, who have documented Civil War service; free, call 301-377-7817 for more information
- May 19** - 7th Annual Bike Rally, the "Rivers to Rockets Rally" at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 8:30 AM-1 PM; see page 5 for details
- May 19** - What's in your Closet? Textile Preservation Workshop at Montpelier Mansion, 9 AM-12 noon; learn how to preserve your family's textiles by Montpelier Mansion's Collections Manager, Karen Whitehair; ages 16 & up; limited seating, \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident, call 301-377-7817 for reservations
- May 20** - 44th Annual Bowie Heritage Day at Belair Mansion, Stable, railroad and Welcome Center; free, call 301-809-3089 for details
- May 20** - Hyattsville Preservation Association House Tour, 1-5 PM; for information call 301-699-5440
- May 23** - History in the Making at Oxon Hill Manor, 6 PM, see article on page 4
- May 26** - War of 1812: British Invasion of Prince George's County Bus & Boat Tour leaving from Darnall's Chance House Museum, 8 AM-5 PM; Dr. Ralph Eshelman leads tour along the routes and waterways the British traveled through the county in August 1814; \$65/person, reservations required by calling 301-952-8010
- June 6** - Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures book signing and author discussion at Prince George's Community College, 6:30 PM
- June 8** - Brown Bag Lunch Lecture at Belair Mansion, 12 noon; free, bring your lunch, for topic information call 301-809-3089
- June 9 & 10** - Rome at Riversdale at Riversdale House Museum, 11 AM (June 9) & 12 noon (June 10); celebrate ancient Rome as you participate in activities and watch battle demonstrations by Legion XX; \$5/person, \$3/student
- June 9** - Our Flag Was Still There: The Bicentennial Gala of the War of 1812 at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM: dinner, dancing and opening of *In Full Glory Reflected: Maryland During the War of 1812*; \$250/person, reservations by calling 410-685-3750 x399
- June 12** - "He Taught Me Everything I Know..." A Centennial Celebration of the Life of Arthur "Al" Welsh, Washington Aviation Legend at College Park Aviation Museum, 7 PM; lecture about the Wright Brothers' most trusted pilot, exhibit, commemorative sign dedication and reception; \$5 suggested donation, reservations required by calling 301-864-6029
- June 13** - Oxon Hill Manor Summer Concert at Oxon Hill Manor, 7-8 PM; enjoy the Herb Smith Trio (jazz) and your own picnic dinner on the manor grounds; concert held indoors if extreme heat or rain; free
- June 16** - Juneteenth "Footprints and Roots" at Watkins Regional Park, 8:30 AM - 4 PM; free, see article on page 3
- June 17** - Father's Day Tours at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 12-4 PM; complimentary father or grandfather tour with paying child
- June 17** - Father's Day Tours at Riversdale House Museum, 12:15-3:15 PM; free guided tour for a special gentleman per paid admission
- June 18-22** - Hands-on History: Star Spangled Summer Days at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM-3 PM; ages 8-12 experience the lives of soldiers and sailors, the Calverts, First Lady Dolley Madison, and others through activities, crafts and games highlighting The War of 1812; \$30/day or \$135/week for resident, \$36/day or \$144/week for non-resident; call 301-864-0420 for reservations
- June 18** - Friends on the Road; join the Friends of Belair Estate on a bus trip to Richmond to explore the Confederacy; fee and reservations required by calling 301-809-3089
- June 19** - Kids Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-12 noon; railroad fun for ages 1-11; free, call 301-575-2488 for details
- June 19** - Tuesday Time Travellers - Horsin' Around at Belair Stable, 10:30 AM-12 noon; ages 6-11 enjoy tour and activities; free, for more information call 301-809-3089
- June 20** - History in the Making at Darnall's Chance, 6 PM, see article on page 4
- June 25-29** - Hands-on History: Star Spangled Summer Days at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM-3 PM; ages 5-8 (details June 18-22); \$15/day or \$65/week for resident, \$18/day or \$78/week for non-resident; call 301-864-0420 for reservations
- June 30** - Victors, Not Victims: The United States Colored Troops' Role in the American Civil War at the Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; Hari Jones, curator of the African-American Civil War Memorial and Museum gives an in-depth history of the origins and importance of the USCT's contribution to the American Civil War; free, call 301-868-1121 for more details

**National Colonial Farm** has classes and workshops; visit [www.accokeekfoundation.org](http://www.accokeekfoundation.org) for more details.

**Patuxent Research Refuge** has many free public programs ranging from art exhibits, bird, nature and flower walks, to owl prowls and hands-on wildlife activities; visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov> for more information or call 301-497-5887

For details and additional events, visit: [www.pgiparks.com](http://www.pgiparks.com), [www.anacostiatrains.org](http://www.anacostiatrains.org), [www.greenbeltmuseum.org](http://www.greenbeltmuseum.org), [www.cityofbowie.org/LeisureActivities/Museum](http://www.cityofbowie.org/LeisureActivities/Museum), [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org), <http://pgcm.aahgs.org>, <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>, [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org), [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org), and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

- 1. 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, 1993. Arranged chronologically, the photos and captions offer a panoramic overview of the county's architectural and historical development. Indexed. Hard-cover, 144 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 2. 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, with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. Price: \$42.95.
- 3. 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. Author: Lt. Dennis Campbell. Indexed. Printed 1991. Hardcover, 304 pages. Price: \$40.00.
- 4. Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures\*** – A cultural history of Prince George's County, with many photographs from private collections. Authors George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles, Donna L. Schneider. Printed 2011. Hardcover, 192 pages. Price: \$49.95.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume I - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 9. 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. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 10. 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. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 11. Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. Price: \$10.00.

\*Shipping and handling is \$4.00 per order. Additional copies of books 1 through 5 add \$1.00 for each additional book. Shipping and handling for international orders, please call 301-220-0330 or email the Historical Society at [pgchslibrary@aol.com](mailto:pgchslibrary@aol.com) for current postage rates.

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☐ Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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☐ \$35 for individual    ☐ \$50 for family    (a \$15 savings off each category)

Please make checks payable to **PGCHS** and mail your check and this form to:  
Prince George's County Historical Society, P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014



# News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

**XLI Number 4**

**July & August 2012**

## **PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE TOURS AND PICNIC**

National Wildlife Visitor Center  
at Patuxent Research Refuge

### **Tours and Picnic**

Join us Sunday, July 22nd, at the  
wonderful Patuxent Research Refuge  
in Laurel, Maryland.



Great Blue Heron  
photograph by Ed Grimes,  
a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service volunteer

This renowned research center was established by Franklin Roosevelt in 1936, and is the only National Wildlife Refuge in the United States established to support wildlife research. The refuge encompasses 12,841 acres, and is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Visitors' Center is the largest science education center in the Department of Interior, and includes some amazing exhibits. You can find more than 270 varieties of birds here, from Bald Eagles to chickadees. Five miles of hiking trails are available, there is a tram tour at 11:30 (\$3 per person), there's a delightful movie on the history of the refuge, there's a tour of the whooping crane preservation center, there's a gift shop (of course), and join us for a picnic.

If you're interested in the whooping crane tour, call immediately as there are only a few spaces available to us. Call Kent Abraham at 301.996.6981.

Come early for the tram tour, or meet us for the picnic at 1:00. The picnic is rain-or-shine, as we'll have an indoor space, but bring your own picnic and prepare to pack all remains home.

### DIRECTIONS:

**From Washington, D.C.:** Take Baltimore/Washington Parkway (Route 295) North, Exit 22 to Powder Mill Road-Beltsville exit. Turn right (east) onto Powder Mill Road and go 2.0 miles. Turn right into Visitor Center entrance (Scarlet Tanager Loop). Go 1.4 miles to Visitor Center Parking area.

## The Prince George's County Historical Society

Phone: 301-220-0330

Email: [pgchslibrary@aol.com](mailto:pgchslibrary@aol.com) or [info@pghistory.org](mailto:info@pghistory.org)  
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*News & Notes* is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month. Dates and locations vary. Please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us.

## Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

Greenbelt Library Building  
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt  
301-220-0330

Hours: Saturday, 12-4 PM  
By Appointment at Other Times



## 2012 SOCIETY SPONSORS

The Society would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support. Their donations help to fund various Society programs and its newsletter, as well as the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History.

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## FRED DEMARR - ST. GEORGE'S DAY 2012

## INDUCTION TO HALL OF FAME



Frederick S. DeMarr  
Portrait painted for the Prince George's County  
Hall of Fame by James Masters

How do I tell you about Fred DeMarr? I have given quite a few speeches in the past for inductions of Prince Georgians into the County Hall of Fame – outstanding historic figures, governors, movers-and-shakers, from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries who made their significant contributions to our county's history generations before us.

But this is so different, and to me much more difficult. Most of us here knew Fred and loved him – some of you are even related to him - we spent countless hours talking to him, working with him, attending affairs like this with him. He was for so many years the face and the voice of the Prince George's County Historical Society, a legend in his own right. How on earth do I talk to you about Fred DeMarr?

I will try . . .

Frederick Stanley DeMarr was born in Mount Rainier, in February 1928. His father was Joseph DeMarr from Woodville, Aquasco - his mother was Elizabeth Roeder of Upper Marlboro. Very shortly after Fred was born, his father built a Sears, Roebuck house in Berwyn and it was there that he spent his childhood.

He attended Berwyn elementary school, and graduated from Hyattsville High School in 1945 as class president. He graduated from the University of Maryland (where he was active in the Sigma Chi fraternity) in June 1949 with a B.A. in Government and Politics, and received an M.A. (also in Government and Politics) in June 1954.

After college Fred taught at U.S. military installations in Germany, Greenland, Labrador, and Newfoundland through what was just then developing as the University College of the University of Maryland.

In the 1960s he served as dean of students at C.W. Post College and then Hofstra University on Long Island, NY.

Fred returned to Maryland in 1970, and became administrator of the Student Union, where he remained till retiring in 1995.

After he returned to Maryland, Fred became very active in the PGCHS, and served as our president from 1972-84. He began the Society newsletter, *News & Notes*, in 1973, and at about the same time initiated the tradition of celebrating St. George's Day, the anniversary of the establishment of Prince George's County on 23 April 1696. Fred served on the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust, and on the Hall of Fame; he was an advisor to the Jaycees during their restoration of the George Washington House in 1976. In the early '80s he served on the advisory committee in the development of the *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* which initiated the County's Preservation Program.

Fred was an inveterate collector of written material, and his masses of books and other materials on Prince George's and Maryland history formed an actual library, which he generously shared with anyone who wanted or needed information. This library moved from wherever the Historical Society happened to have its headquarters at the time - Montpelier to Riversdale to Marietta - and wherever it was, Fred spent as much time as he could with it, regaling visitors with his extensive knowledge of just about everything Prince Georgian. All kinds of people visited, were fascinated, and learned – and came back to learn more. He became something of a legend – truly “Mr. Prince George's County History”!

*Continued on page 6*

## ROSENWALD SCHOOL CONFERENCE AT TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

Two years ago, with grant funding from the state of Maryland and the sponsorship of our Historical Society, I completed a two-year study of the 156 Rosenwald schools in Maryland – schools for African-American students, built between 1918 and 1932 in 15 southern states with financial support from the Julius Rosenwald Fund. From June 13 to 16 this year, I attended a special National Trust for Historic Preservation conference on Rosenwald schools, and presented the results of the Maryland study. The conference was held at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama.

The conference was a lively gathering of approximately 340 people who have attended, researched, worked on, and/or had a special interest in Rosenwald schools, and it was a wonderful experience! Tuskegee is an absolutely inspiring place, and I made sure to walk all around the beautiful historic nucleus of the campus, which is itself a National Historic Landmark. Reminiscences of its founder, Booker T. Washington, and its most famous scholar, George Washington Carver, are everywhere. The conference offered sessions about ongoing state-surveys of the schools, tips on funding and preservation, research sources, individual school stories, presentations on Rosenwald, Washington, and other individuals who were critically involved in the beginnings of the Rosenwald project, and much more. The only problem was that there were so many interesting concurrent sessions that it was impossible to attend every one that I wanted to.

My presentation on the Rosenwald schools of Maryland was part of a panel with surveyors from Arkansas and Mississippi, and the comparisons among our three states were very interesting. We are fortunate that in Maryland 53 (just over one third) of the 156 Rosenwald schools survive. In each of Arkansas and Mississippi, only about two dozen schools are known to survive out of a total of approximately 340 in Arkansas and 560 in Mississippi – only 7% and 4% survival rate in Arkansas and Mississippi, respectively. I learned that in North Carolina, which at 787 had the largest number of Rosenwald schools, only approximately 160, or 20%, are known to survive. Georgia has a slightly better survival rate – 51 out of 242, or 21%. Kentucky comes closest to our percentage of survivals, with 40 schools surviving out of 155, or 26 percent. As other states complete their surveys, we will have a better idea of the total number of still-standing Rosenwald schoolhouses, and perhaps we can understand the factors that affected the wide variety in survival rates. Although the majority of the Rosenwald schools in Maryland were in rural areas when they were built, Maryland has seen more growth around their locations, and the consequent conversion of the schoolhouses into residences, church halls, or community centers. Schools in the Deep South, however, often stood nearly alone in vast agricultural areas, and the land was considered too valuable to maintain a small structure on it.

I was fortunate to be able to spend a couple of hours in the impressive Tuskegee Archives. I went through several boxes (only a fraction) of the numerous Clinton Calloway papers – Calloway was the Director of the Extension Department at Tuskegee, and it was he who received applications for Rosenwald funding and was responsible for the logistics of the funding and construction. I was interested in the connection between Clinton Calloway and his brother Thomas Junius Calloway, who was a Washington, D.C., attorney and land developer. Thomas Junius developed and resided in the community of Lincoln in Prince George's County; he facilitated the construction of the "Buena Vista" Rosenwald School in Lincoln in 1921 and became its first principal. Although I read through a number of letters between the brothers, I did not find what I had hoped for, i.e., correspondence specifically about the Lincoln school, which was surprisingly large and well equipped. I may be tempted to return to Tuskegee after the entire Calloway collection is completely processed.

Tiffany Williams Jennings, my colleague at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, attended the Tuskegee conference, and Tiffany prepared and explained her large poster on the restoration of the Ridgeley School, where we celebrated Historic Preservation Month on May 16. Also attending were two other members of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority who are now acting as docents at Ridgeley School. Other Marylanders in attendance represented the Banneker-Douglass Museum, and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. Peter Ascoli, grandson of Julius Rosenwald, who spoke to us here in Prince George's County in 2007 about his grandfather's work with Booker T. Washington and the resulting Rosenwald School project, spoke at the conference's plenary session, as did his cousin Alice Rosenwald. The session ended with a long and emotional standing ovation when Alice Rosenwald announced her \$100,000 donation to the National Trust for the research and restoration of Rosenwald Schools.

The excellence of the conference and the experience of time spent at Tuskegee will certainly be a highlight of my work in 2012, and I am grateful and proud that the Prince George's County Historical Society played a part in this worthwhile project!

Susan G. Pearl, Historian

## WELCOME NEW SOCIETY MEMBER

Holly Cobb

## SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 23, 2012

## Prince of a County at Warren House in Riverdale

2 to 5 PM

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORY AND PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

About four years ago, the Historical Society started talking about the plethora of organizations, commissions, and associations that were involved with the preservation and history of Prince George's County. Though there have been and continue to be many activities throughout the years at which historical and/or preservation buffs could meet, there had never been an organized effort to bring the groups together to synchronize calendars and activities.

The Historical Society invited over 50 groups to participate in a meeting on April 14 at Marietta House Museum to see if there was any interest among us to form such an entity. After discussion among the participants, it was determined that this was a great idea and the Prince George's County History and Preservation Alliance was born.

The agreed purpose of the alliance is three-fold: (1) to partner in programs to increase public participation; (2) to establish stronger voices in our communities, county and state; and (3) to coordinate our calendars so that individuals could attend more of the enriching events presented.

The dialogue has begun and we plan to meet on a quarterly basis. We are beginning to learn about each other, coordinate our calendars, invite each other to activities, and coalesce around common issues.

If someone from your organization was not able to make this first meeting, please join us the next time. If you didn't receive an invitation and would like to participate, please provide contact information so that we can include you in the next meeting. Please send an email to [pgchsmembers@hotmail.com](mailto:pgchsmembers@hotmail.com) with the subject: Next Prince George's Alliance Meeting.

## MARYLAND MILESTONES 2012 PHOTO CONTEST

## CALL FOR ENTRIES!

Capture the beauty, history, activities, and character of Northern Prince George's County and the member communities for the 2012 Maryland Milestones Photo Contest.

Winning entries will be featured in the 2013 Maryland Milestones Calendar.

Contest Categories are: River to Rockets (History), Expression of Arts (Culture), Nature of the Area (Nature) and For the Fun of It (Recreation). The deadline for entries is September 8, 2012.

Download Rules & Entry Form at: [www.marylandmilestones.org](http://www.marylandmilestones.org) or contact Aaron Marcavitch at 301-887-0777 or [aaron@anacostiatrails.org](mailto:aaron@anacostiatrails.org).

Continued from page 3

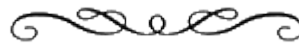
He had some quirks – he couldn't stand the thought of computerizing the library. Who needed it? He knew where everything was. As he said often, the best thing to do with a computer was to take a hammer to it!

I had one little quarrel with Fred – he was too generous and trusting! He would let almost anyone borrow materials from his library (and some of those things never came back, as we learned years later). On the rare occasions when I let him talk me into borrowing something, I insisted on writing for him a dated IOU – but after his death I found some of those IOUs, crumpled up and thrown trustingly into the trash . . .

His death in September 1997 was sudden, untimely, and utterly unexpected – and for a while disbelieved. After we got over the initial shock, we determined that we would take loving care of his library– and went to work to do the best we could with it. His family fully supported the effort, with generous donations from members of his family. The library was legally transferred to the Historical Society by Fred's sister, Louise Tatspaugh (our library “angel”) and the Society is working hard to continue its very important use and work. It is Fred's legacy! Fred would be very happy, I think, because his library (the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History) is still achieving something that Fred regularly accomplished without even knowing or trying; all the people who spent time with him in his library would walk out smiling, because they would leave his library having learned something interesting that they had never expected to discover. With hard work by a number of individuals, AND (sorry Fred!) a lot of help from electronic accessioning, e-mail, and the web, we are determined to continue that tradition - to continue the legacy of Fred DeMarr.

I can think of no-one who more completely fulfills the criteria - of creativity and contribution to Prince George's County - for induction into the Prince George's County Hall of Fame. I am honored to present to you our own Frederick Stanley DeMarr.

Susan G. Pearl, 22 April 2012



## HISTORY REMEMBERED – AND MARKED

In April of 2011, The American Film Company and director Robert Redford released *The Conspirator*, a film which focused on the trial of Prince George's native and accused assassination conspirator, Mary E. Surratt, as portrayed by actress Robin Wright. The male lead was played by James McAvoy, serving as defense lawyer Frederick A. Aiken – a wounded Union soldier of the Civil War who returned to civilian life to face an even greater challenge as he faced a military court trying the conspirators in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

The untested lawyer faced insurmountable odds during a time of turmoil at war's end. Despite the barriers placed in his way, Aiken's summation speech in defense of Mrs. Surratt is regarded by many as one of the greatest speeches in American history.

In the course of assisting with the movie's production, the staff and researchers at Surratt House Museum found that Frederick Aiken has been in an unmarked grave in Georgetown's historic Oak Hill Cemetery since his early death in 1878. The Surratt Society began a fund-raising campaign; and on the afternoon of June 14, 2012, a ceremony was held at Oak Hill to dedicate the tombstone which now marks the grave. The inscription on the stone is the opening lines of his summation speech in defense of Mary E. Surratt.

*For the lawyer as well as the soldier, there is an equally pleasant duty –  
An equally imperative command.  
That duty is to shelter from injustice and wrong the innocent,  
To protect the weak from oppression.*

## WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE TOBACCO BARN?



Have you been to the farm lately? What's going on with the Tobacco Barn?

If you have walked around the National Colonial Farm lately you may have noticed something a little off. The tobacco barn is looking a little less than colonial lately as it gets a bit of a face lift—or a “sill” lift if you will.

The tobacco barn, like most 18th century buildings I'm sure, has endured its fair share of wear and tear. This is not the first time the barn has had to be repaired and it certainly will not be the last. This time, it seems the old sill has rotted through and the beam that is being taken out—a replacement itself—due to weather over time, needs to be replaced again. The replacement sill is being installed through an intricate process requiring the whole barn to be lifted up off of the old sill while the new one is carefully put in its place. If this was an issue back in the 1770s, barn owners would just have built a new barn rather than replaced a beam. They did not have the tools or technology to lift the whole barn to replace this one piece. Oh, the modern ways of historic preservation.

The repair work is being done by our good friend, Jeff Thompson from Colonial Woodwrights, a preservation consultant company in Aquasco, Maryland. Jeff and his team won a Historic Preservation Award in 2010 for their work on the [Mackall Barn at Historic St. Mary's City](#). The project is being overseen by our own National Colonial Farm manager, Matt Mattingly, who invites everyone to come by and see this exciting project in action.

Historic preservation has been a cornerstone of the Accokeek Foundation's mission since its founding over 50 years ago. Francis Bolton, Robert Ware Strauss, Henry Ferguson, and Charles Wagner saw a need to preserve this land and George Washington's view. They did so partly by engaging the surrounding community to get involved in learning the importance of preserving history for a better future.

This vision continues here this summer. Not only is the Tobacco Barn being restored, but thanks to a generous grant from the [Daughters of the American Revolution](#) our beloved [Laurel Branch](#) house will also be getting a midsummer make over. The clapboards on the exterior southside of the house, as well as some surrounding fencing will be replaced. It will be an exciting summer for the Accokeek Foundation and for preserving the history of Southern Maryland.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JULY AND AUGUST 2012

- July 4** – Reading of Declaration of Independence (& Ice Cream Tasting) at Bladensburg Library, 12:30-1:30 PM; reading by local residents and elected officials, children are invited to sign the Declaration in their best John Hancock afterward and a scoop of “Star Spangled Explosion” ice cream will be served
- July 10-13** – “Summer Days at the National Colonial Farm”, 10 AM – 3 PM; youth will experience 18<sup>th</sup> century farm life by helping with farm chores, plan 1.5 hours to complete activities; \$5/youth; reservations required by contacting the manager of education at [education@accokeek.org](mailto:education@accokeek.org)
- July 11** – Summer Concert at Oxon Hill Manor, 7-8 PM; Ginny Carr-Scott Giambusso Duo presents Great American Songbook Jazz on the grounds; free, call 301-839-7782 for more information
- July 13** – 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Montpelier Summer Concert Series: “Appaloosa” at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30-9:30 PM; bring a picnic, blanket and/or chair; free, in the event of heavy rain, performance will be cancelled, please call 301-776-2805 or 301-953-7882 after 5 PM for updates
- July 14** – Civil War Open House at Surratt House Museum, 12-4 PM; the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Volunteer Infantry demonstrates Civil War camp life, guided tour of Surratt House and a history lesson life in Southern Maryland during the great conflict; free, for more information call 301-868-1121 or visit [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org)
- July 14** – A Soldier’s Life as Told by Music at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; Gilmore’s Light Ensemble perform music that echoes the trials, tribulations and memories of the Civil War soldier; free, for more information call 301-868-1121 or visit [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org)
- July 19-August 11** – Blast in the Past: Hands-On History Playground at Marietta Mansion; grounds will be transformed into a history playground, learn about life 200 years ago; ages 6-15, \$1/resident/day, \$2/resident/day
- July 19 -21** – Shakespeare in the Park: “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, 7 PM; performances at Watkins Regional Park (19<sup>th</sup>), Montpelier Mansion (20<sup>th</sup>) and Hillcrest Heights Community Center (21<sup>st</sup>), free
- July 22** – Patuxent Research Tours and Picnic with the Historical Society, see page 1 for details
- July 25 (raindate July 26)** – Jazz on the Lawn featuring Cheek to Cheek at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy the jazz, bring a picnic or buy dinner from the Calvert House; free and supported by a Maryland States Arts Council grant; for more information call 301-864-0420
- July 27** – 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Montpelier Summer Concert Series: “Riseband & Show” at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30-9:30 PM; bring a picnic, blanket and/or chair; free, in the event of heavy rain, performance will be cancelled, please call 301-776-2805 or 301-953-7882 after 5 PM for updates
- July 28 & July 29** – “That’s Entertainment: The Politics of Mirth” at National Colonial Farm, 4-7 PM; the time is 1774 and you’re invited to the Bealle Barbeque. Be entertained the colonial way with food, sport, and merriment! Museum professionals, through an interactive performance and presentation of 18<sup>th</sup> century entertainments, enlighten guests about the social aspects of a colonial-era barbeque. The event will feature a quarter-race, a uniquely American invention and a tradition with deep roots in Prince George’s County; admission is \$10/non-member, \$7/member, food is additional; call 301-283-2113 for details or visit [www.accokeekfoundation.org](http://www.accokeekfoundation.org)
- August 6-9** – Science in the Summer Camp at Meeting Room at Laurel Pool with the American Association for the Advancement of Science; a fun science program telling about how Laurel was founded and helps elementary school children “grow into science”; free, but enrollment is required by calling 301-725-7975 and more information at [www.scienceinthesummer.com](http://www.scienceinthesummer.com)
- August 6-10** – Destination 18<sup>th</sup> Century: A Week of Hands-On History Days for Kids at Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM – 2 PM; explore a different colonial theme each day, for ages 8-12; fee and advance payment required by calling 301-377-7817
- August 10** – 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Montpelier Summer Concert Series: “I & I Riddim” at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30-9:30 PM; bring a picnic, blanket and/or chair; free, in the event of heavy rain, performance will be cancelled, please call 301-776-2805 or 301-953-7882 after 5 PM for updates
- August 11** – Annual War of 1812 Encampment at Riversdale House Museum, 12-4 PM; join British and American War of 1812 troops as they camp on the lawn to prepare for battle; children activities, live music, refreshments; grounds are free, admission for house tours; call 301-864-0420 for details
- August 11** – Hollywood and the Civil War: The Red Badge of Courage at Surratt House Museum, 6 PM; tells the story of a Union soldier of the Civil War who struggles to find the courage to fight in the heat of battle; free
- August 12** – Airmail Day at College Park Aviation Museum, 1-3 PM; celebrate the anniversary of the first Airmail flight out of the College Park Airport by creating your own stamp and airmail bag; free with museum admission, call 301-864-6029 for more information
- August 15** – Summer Concert at Oxon Hill Manor, 7-8 PM; Bill Thomas Blues Band on the grounds; free, call 301-839-7782 for more information
- August 15 (raindate August 16)** – Jazz on the Lawn featuring MSG Acoustic Blues Trio at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy the jazz, bring a picnic or buy dinner from the Calvert House; free and supported by a Maryland States Arts Council grant; for more information call 301-864-0420
- August 24** – 1812 Visitor Center Grand Opening at Bladensburg Waterfront Road, 10 AM – 2 PM; kick off the War of 1812 Bicentennial with two years of celebrations and events centered around Maryland’s involvement in the War of 1812 and early 19<sup>th</sup> century history; speakers, re-enactors, historical demonstrations, activities, pontoon boat rides, vendors, walking and bike tours, and more; call 301-779-0371 for details
- August 24** – 1812 Night at Bowie Baysox at Prince George’s Stadium, 6:30-9:30 PM; baseball and battle mix with the Ships Company singing the National Anthem and living history re-enactors wandering through the stands
- August 25** – War of 1812 Drill at Marietta House Museum, 1-5 PM; War of 1812 re-enactors practice their drills; learn how to fire a musket and drill yourself; \$10/person, call 301-464-5291 for details

**National Colonial Farm** has classes and workshops; visit [www.accokeekfoundation.org](http://www.accokeekfoundation.org) for more details.

**Patuxent Research Refuge** has many free public programs ranging from art exhibits, bird, nature and flower walks, to owl prowls and hands-on wildlife activities; visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov> for more information or call 301-497-5887

For details and additional events, visit: [www.pgpcparks.com](http://www.pgpcparks.com), [www.anacostiatrials.org](http://www.anacostiatrials.org), [www.greenbeltmuseum.org](http://www.greenbeltmuseum.org), [www.cityofbowie.org/LeisureActivities/Museum](http://www.cityofbowie.org/LeisureActivities/Museum), [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org), [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org), <http://pgcm.aahgs.org>, <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>, [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org), and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

- 1. 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, 1993. Arranged chronologically, the photos and captions offer a panoramic overview of the county's architectural and historical development. Indexed. Hard-cover, 144 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 2. 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, with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. Price: \$42.95.
- 3. 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. Author: Lt. Dennis Campbell. Indexed. Printed 1991. Hardcover, 304 pages. Price: \$40.00.
- 4. Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures\*** – A cultural history of Prince George's County, with many photographs from private collections. Authors George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles, Donna L. Schneider. Printed 2011. Hardcover, 192 pages. Price: \$49.95.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume I - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 9. 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. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 10. 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. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 11. Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. Price: \$10.00.

\*Shipping and handling is \$4.00 per order. Additional copies of books 1 through 5 add \$1.00 for each additional book. Shipping and handling for international orders, please call 301-220-0330 or email the Historical Society at [pgchslibrary@aol.com](mailto:pgchslibrary@aol.com) for current postage rates.

Make checks payable to PGCHS. Maryland residents, please add 6% sales tax.

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## Prince George's County Historical Society Membership Application

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (HOME): \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (BUSINESS): \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (Please check one)

‘ Full-time Student \$10   ‘ Individual \$30   ‘ Family \$45   ‘ Corporate \$75   ‘ Life Member \$500

‘ Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor:   ” Platinum Level \$1,000   ’ Gold Level \$500   ’ Silver Level \$250   ’ Bronze Level \$100

‘ I am also interested in helping the Society as a volunteer. Please contact me.

For membership in the Maryland Historical Society, include an additional

☐ \$35 for individual   ☐ \$50 for family   (a \$15 savings off each category)

Please make checks payable to **PGCHS** and mail your check and this form to:  
Prince George's County Historical Society, P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014



# News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

**XLI Number 5**

**September & October 2012**

## PRINCE OF A COUNTY 2012

The Prince George's County Historical Society is fortunate to be able to celebrate its annual reception and fundraising event at a beautiful Queen Anne style house in the community of Riverdale Park. This year's *Prince of a County* event will be held at the Warren House, on Sunday, September 23, 2012.



The Warren house is a 2-1/2-story, hip and gable-roofed frame house which features a variety of fine details; an oriel window, projecting bays, and gables decorated with Queen Anne style shingle. A two-story semi-octagonal projecting bay lights the south façade, and is surmounted at third level by a pediment decorated with fish-scale shingles. The south façade is sheltered by a one-story porch, the principal opening of which is surmounted by a steep gable filled with raised geometric design. The side elevations of the house are varied by contrasting details: on the west an oriel window at second-story level, and on the east two asymmetrical cross-gables at third-story level.

This handsome house was built circa 1913 from a design very close to that of the Lewis Holden House, built more than a decade earlier in Hyattsville. The Warren House reflected the change in taste over the years between the construction of the two houses. While the Holden House was highlighted by Queen Anne style panels in its large oriel window, and a sleeping porch with turned balusters and spindle frieze, the Warren House had a more classical appearance with its pedimented gables and dentillated cornices. The Warren House was built for the family of Claude Warren, who served as Mayor of Riverdale from 1953 until his death in 1964. It is now the home of our host, Michael Herman, who also served as Mayor of Riverdale - from 2001 to 2003. A prominent and handsome landmark in the town of Riverdale Park, the Warren House will make a beautiful setting for this year's *Prince of a County* celebration. If you have not received an invitation, call Susan Pearl at 301-262-3367. We look forward to seeing you at the Warren House on September 23!

## The Prince George's County Historical Society

Phone: 301-220-0330

Email: pgchslibrary@aol.com or info@pghistory.org  
PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com

Website: www.pghistory.org

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Vice President: Lynn Springer Roberts  
Secretary: Jack Thompson, Jr.  
Treasurer/Membership: Donna L. Schneider  
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*News & Notes* is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month. Dates and locations vary. Please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us.

## Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

Greenbelt Library Building  
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt  
301-220-0330  
Hours: Saturday, 12-4 PM  
By Appointment at Other Times



## 2012 SOCIETY SPONSORS

The Society would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support. Their donations help to fund various Society programs and its newsletter, as well as the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History.

### Platinum:

Robert M. DeMarr  
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Barry and Mary Gossett  
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## **HISPANICS AND THE CIVIL WAR**

**Saturday, October 6, 2012**

**2:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Prince George's County Memorial Library, New Carrollton Branch  
New Carrollton Meeting Room**



Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 and ends on October 15. In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed a week in September as Hispanic Heritage Week. Twenty years later, President Ronald R. Reagan expanded the period to Hispanic Heritage Month. The month marks a period dedicated to recognizing the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans and for celebrating their vibrant cultures.

The beginning date reflects the date on which Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua all declared their independence from Spain in 1821. In addition, Mexico celebrates independence on September 16, Chile on September 18, and Belize on September 21.

The Prince George's County Historical Society will celebrate Hispanic Heritage this year with a visit from the National Park Service's Chief of Interpretation and Education. Ms. Marta Cruz Kelly will introduce the Park Service's recent publication "Hispanics and the Civil War: From Battlefield to Homefront". With Ms. Kelly's guidance, we will explore the many and often-untold

stories of Hispanic men and women who bore arms or in other ways supported the war effort during the period 1861-1865. An excerpt may be found at the following website: <http://www.nps.gov/resources/story.htm?id=235>. Of special interest may be the information about a certain USN admiral for whom two of Washington's metro stations are named.

Marta Cruz Kelly was named national Chief of Interpretation and Education in November 2010. For thirty years prior to her current appointment, "she (has) designed and managed large-scale education and civic engagement programs incorporating partnerships and cutting edge technology" according to National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis. Kelly now oversees all National Park Service interpretive services, including education programs, community outreach, planning, employee training, cooperating associations, and the volunteer-in-parks program. She provides guidance to 5,100 permanent and seasonal interpreters and 196,000 volunteers. In 2009, 173 million people participated in National Park Service interpretive activities.

Kelly's other National Park Service experience includes serving as the site manager at Mary MacLeod Bethune National Historic Site in Washington, DC, as a training manager at Albright Learning Center located in Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, and as superintendent of New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park.

After the lecture, please join us for an informal gathering to enjoy authentic Mexican food at Taco Rico, 4811 Edmonston Road in Hyattsville. We will begin gathering at 4:30 PM with dinner at 5 PM. If you plan to attend dinner, please RSVP to Yaremi at [yaremi@petrodesignbuild.com](mailto:yaremi@petrodesignbuild.com) or at 301-249-9000, so arrangements can be made with the restaurant for seating.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Celebrate the Prince George's County Historical Society's 60th Anniversary

When: Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 6 PM

Where: National Agricultural Library in Beltsville

Price: \$60/person or \$100/couple

Dinner, Dancing and Tours of the Special Collections

Invitations will be sent in September

The National Agricultural Library's Abraham Lincoln Building ([USDA ARS NAL](#)) is located in Beltsville, Maryland, 15 miles northeast of Washington, DC, near the intersection of U.S. Route 1 and Interstates 95 and 495 (Beltway Exit 25-North). The Library occupies a 14-story building on the grounds of USDA's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). On May 15, 1862, Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Agricultural Act that established the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The newly created Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of Agriculture were and are charged with the duty "to acquire and preserve in his Department all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain by means of books and correspondence." In 1864, USDA received appropriations that included for \$4,000 for the library and laboratory.

Today, the National Agricultural Library is one of five national libraries of the United States. It houses one of the world's largest and most accessible agricultural information collections, if not indeed the largest and serves as the nexus for a national network of state land-grant and U.S. Department of Agriculture field libraries. In fiscal year 2011 (Oct 2010 through Sept 2011) NAL delivered more than 100 million direct customer service transactions.

The *Special Collections* of USDA ARS NAL houses rare books including Fuchs and Linnaeus originals, manuscript collections, nearly 300,000 nursery and seed trade catalogs, photographs, and posters including original Smokey the Bear art work, and books, paintings and art from the 1500s to the present. Materials cover a variety of agricultural subjects including horticulture, entomology, poultry sciences, natural history, and are not limited to domestic publications. As part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Special Collections at the National Agricultural Library is charged with arranging, describing, preserving and making available rare materials significant to the history of agriculture and the USDA.

*"More than 100 white boxes fill [shelf after shelf of the fifth floor](#) at the National Agricultural Library (NAL), **sheltering secrets of U.S. Department of Agriculture** parasite investigations from 1886 to 1987. The boxes are filled with line drawings, photographs, lantern slides, research notes, documents, and correspondence that represent the early history of parasitology work, especially in taxonomy and systematics, conducted over the past 100 years and more by USDA scientists."*

### Fast Facts:

Time period: 1886 to 1942, with the majority created between 1894 and 1916.

Content: 7,584 watercolor paintings, lithographs and line drawings, including 3,807 images of apples.

Fruit origins: The plant specimens illustrated originated in 29 countries and 51 states and territories in the U.S.

Artists: The paintings were created by approximately twenty-one artists commissioned by USDA for this purpose. Some works are not signed.

Reproductions: NAL can provide, for a fee, high quality prints and digital files of the images. Please refer to the "[Buy Rare and Special Collections Products](#)."

## MELWOOD PARK OPEN HOUSE TOURS



This unique dwelling was visited by George Washington on several occasions and the British Army camped here during their march to Washington, D.C. in August 1814, during the War of 1812.

Address: 10908 Old Marlboro Pike,  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Dates: Saturday, September 8 and 15

Time: Two tours will be given each day at  
12 PM and 2:30 PM.

**Space is limited. RSVP Required to: Michael Vallen at [michael.vallen@melwoodparke.org](mailto:michael.vallen@melwoodparke.org)**

Parking is available on site if needed. Water and restrooms will also be available. Donation of \$5 is suggested for the building fund.

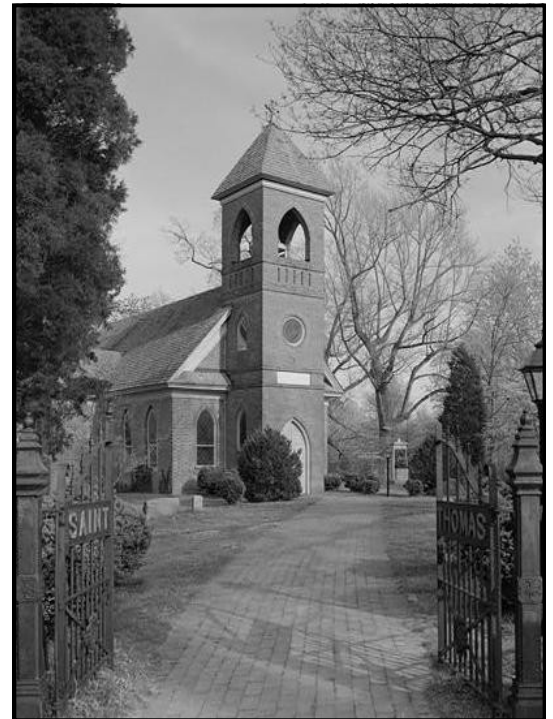
"Melwood Park" website with additional information and building history can be found at:  
<http://www.melwoodparke.org>

## FROM THE DIARY OF JOHN WILLIAM BURROUGHS

The Historical Society recently bought the diaries written by John William Burroughs in 1861, 1862, and 1863. I have been working my way through this wonderful source, transcribing and researching context. The Burroughs family lived at Waverly, and were parishioners at St. Thomas' Church in the nearby village of Croom. John Burroughs served on the Vestry of St. Thomas', and often wrote of his attendance at the church services – this account from 150 years ago is a particularly delightful one, surprisingly whimsical in the midst of the tragic war news that he was faced with every day.

Sunday, March 2, 1862

"Communion day, and plenty of singing, a very unusual thing in our little church . . . . The quality - as I am not a musician, I will not judge - it is enough however to say it was sufficiently loud - if there were any slumbering insects laid away in the old brick awaiting the approach of genial warmth of the summer sun to bring them to life, they were probably prematurely aroused to meet an unwelcome (to them) snow, which we found rapidly falling after service. At any rate we all got home safely with our hearing unimpaired . . ."



Susan G. Pearl, Historian

What's a Historic Structure Report?  
Why do I need one?

Our site has an MHT historic easement?  
What does that mean as we make plans to paint the back porch?

The MHT staff wants to "inspect" our easement property?  
How should I prepare for their visit?

Who can help us make plans to repair our 1892 structure?

What's a CAP assessment and why do I need one?  
What does it cost?

**Caring for Your Historic Site: A Workshop**  
**Belair Mansion**  
**Tuesday, September 10, 2012**  
**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

This workshop will feature practical advice on caring for your historic property. It will be led by staff from the Maryland Historical Trust and Heritage Preservation in Washington, DC. The intended audience is those with just a little experience and lots of questions about how to preserve your historic property. Join us for a day where you will learn a lot and have some fun, too. Lunch and materials are included in your registration fee.

**RSVP      BELOW      TO      RESERVE      YOUR      SPACE!!!**

Email: MAlexander@mdp.state.md.us  
Fee: \$20 – Make checks payable to:  
Maryland Association of History Museum  
Mail to: Tiffany Davis  
College Park Aviation Museum  
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive  
College Park, MD 20740

*Sponsored by: Maryland Historical Trust, City of Bowie Museums, Somerset County Historical Society, Heritage Preservation and the Maryland Association of History Museums*

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

On July 3, 2012, the Prince George's County Council unanimously approved the slate of new and re-appointed commissioners for the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, the Honorable Marilyn Bland, swore-in the nine members: John Peter Thompson (Chair), Edward M. Scott (Vice Chair), Michael Callahan, James "Eddy" Campbell, Lisa Pfueller Davidson, Nathania A. Branch Miles, Yolanda Muckle, Susan Pruden and Donna Schneider. Congratulations! To learn more about the HPC and its commissioners, visit: [http://www.pgplanning.org/About-Planning/Our\\_Divisions/Countywide\\_Planning/Historic\\_Preservation/Historic\\_Preservation\\_Commission.htm](http://www.pgplanning.org/About-Planning/Our_Divisions/Countywide_Planning/Historic_Preservation/Historic_Preservation_Commission.htm)

## HERRICK FAMILY ASSOCIATION

The Herrick Family Association is holding its 2012 annual meeting in Salem and Beverly, Massachusetts, September 27-30, 2012. Planned are tours to Herrick sites, houses, land, graveyards and artifacts along with speakers addressing 17th century archaeology and parishioners of the First Church in Beverly. A reception on the 27th and dinner on the 29th feature Herrick topics including the publishing of the final volume of the Herrick Genealogical Register, the DNA study progress and research about the origin of Henrie Hericke. All Herricks and allied families are welcome! To learn more contact:

Dale Yoe - yoeda@comcast.net or 410-326-4763

Alice Herrick Reynolds - reyno23@aol.com or 763-476-0612

Sharon Herrick - herricksf@aol.com

The Herrick Family Association: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~herrick>

### FURNITURE FINDINGS AT MONTPELIER: A TALK BY SUMPTER PRIDDY III

**Where:** Montpelier Mansion  
9650 Muirkirk Road  
Laurel, Maryland 20708

**When:** Saturday, September 15, 11am to 1pm

**What:** Sumpter Priddy, former curator for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, lectures frequently throughout the United States. He has contributed articles to *The Magazine Antiques*, the Chipstone Foundation's *American Furniture*, and has served as consultant to numerous publications. His company, *Sumpter Priddy III, Inc.* has gained widespread recognition for inventory of outstanding quality and for ground breaking scholarship in American decorative arts. Mr. Priddy will speak on some of Montpelier's fine antique furniture.

**Cost:** \$15; \$10 for students (with ID), museum professionals (with ID), Montpelier volunteers, and Friends of Montpelier members. Reservations required. Please call (301) 377-7817.

### HISTORIC PROPERTY GRANT PROGRAM & WORKSHOP

The 2013 Prince George's County Historic Property Grant Program is accepting applications. The deadline is November 15, 2012. For instructions and the application, visit: [http://www.pgplanning.org/About-Planning/Our\\_Divisions/Countywide\\_Planning/Historic\\_Preservation/Programs\\_and\\_Services/Historic\\_Property\\_Grant\\_Program.htm](http://www.pgplanning.org/About-Planning/Our_Divisions/Countywide_Planning/Historic_Preservation/Programs_and_Services/Historic_Property_Grant_Program.htm)

Also, on Tuesday, September 25 from 10:30 AM to 12 noon at Newton White Mansion, there will be a grant workshop to explain the requirements. There is no cost to attend the workshop, however reservations are required by calling 301-952-3680 or email: [propertygrant@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:propertygrant@ppd.mncppc.org).



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2012

- September 2** - Artillery Firing at Fort Washington, 1-3 PM; the Fort Washington Guard will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; \$5/car; call 301-763-4600 for more information
- September 6-9** - Prince George's County Fair at Show Place Arena, visit [www.countyfair.org](http://www.countyfair.org) for schedule
- September 6** - Francis Scott Key Lecture Series at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; Emily Schulz, Deputy Director and Curator, The Society of the Cincinnati will discuss the American Eagle as a Symbol of the New Nation; \$40, [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org) or call 410-685-3750 x377 for tickets
- September 7-9** - Star-Spangled Banner Weekend at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, 8 AM; features parades, fireworks, military encampment, authors, patriotic band concert; Saturday evening program is free
- September 8** - Tour of Gorman Farm by Laurel Historical Society, 10 AM; free, but reservations required - [info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org)
- September 8 & 15** - Melwood Park Tours, 12 and 2:30 PM; RSVP required, see page 5 for details
- September 8** - Gingerbread House Workshop at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 1-3 PM; get hints and techniques for your gingerbread masterpiece; \$5/person, reservations required by calling 301-852-8010
- September 8** - Salute to America Concert by the U.S. Naval Academy Band at Allen Pond Park, 7 PM, bring flags and candles
- September 10** - Caring for Your Historic Site: A Workshop at Belair Mansion, 10 AM - 4 PM; see page 6 for more information
- September 11** - Second Tuesday Lecture at Belair Mansion, 7-9 PM; free, call 301-809-3089 for topic
- September 13** - Singing Laurel's History at Laurel Museum, 6 PM; Laurel native George McCeney, a singer, songwriter & trustee of International Bluegrass Museum sings songs related to Laurel history; free, information: [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org) or 301-725-7975
- September 15** - Furniture Findings at Montpelier at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM - 1PM; see page 7 for more information
- September 15** - Port Towns Day at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 12-9 PM; enjoy music, food, crafts, a movie and activities sponsored by the towns of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Edmonston and Cottage City; free
- September 15** - Out of the Attic Appraisal Fair at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; bring up to 4 items for evaluation by Weschler's; \$10/item, reservations required by calling 301-864-0420
- September 19** - Fall History Lecture Series at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, call 301-377-7817 for program information
- September 22** - 1812 Re-enactment & Encampment at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum; 10 AM-5 PM; American and "British" Re-enactors demonstrate battle and camp life, historic craft demonstrations and hands-on activities; \$3/person or \$10/car
- September 22** - "The Civil War Afloat: Secretaries, Strategies, Ships, Sailors, and Key Battles that Shaped the War on Salt and Fresh Water" at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; discuss the various elements shaping the United States Navy during the Civil War and the crews that manned the vessels with author Andrew Jampoler; free, call 301-868-1121 for details
- September 23** - Prince of a County at Warren House, 2-5 PM; \$50/person, see page 1 for more information
- September 29** - The Art of Cookery Made Federal & Fancy at Riversdale House Museum; enjoy tastings of 1812-era recipes using produce from Riversdale's garden and orchard; \$23/resident, \$28/non-resident, reservations required by calling 301-864-0420
- October 4** - Francis Scott Key Lecture Series at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; Edward C. Papenfuss, Maryland State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents will discuss Mapping Baltimore During the Era of the War of 1812; \$40, [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org) or call 410-685-3750 x377 for tickets
- October 6** - War of 1812: British Invasion of Prince George's County Bus & Boat Tour at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 8 AM-5 PM; Dr. Ralph Eshelman will guide the tour; \$65/person, ages 18 & up, reservations required by calling 301-952-8010
- October 6** - Bowie International Festival "Around the World in Just One Day" at Allen Pond Park, 11 AM-5 PM; entertainment, food, activities and vendors; call 301-809-3011 for information.
- October 6** - Hispanics and the Civil War at Hyattsville Library, 2 PM; free, see page 3 for more information
- October 7** - Kinderfest at Watkins Regional Park, 12-5 PM; entertainment, hayrides, games and crafts for the family; free
- October 7** - Artillery Firing at Fort Washington, 1-3 PM; the Fort Washington Guard will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; \$5/car
- October 7** - Bostwick Harvest Festival at Bostwick House & Gardens; 1-4 PM; call 301-887-0777 for more details
- October 9** - Rosenwald Schools Lecture by Susan G. Pearl at Greenbelt Library Meeting Room, 7 PM; free
- October 10** - Beltville Agricultural Research Center: The Science of Organic Farming by John Peter Thompson at Laurel Library, 7 PM; for more information: [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org) or call 301-725-7975
- October 13** - Prince George's County Historical Society 60th Anniversary, 6 PM; see page 4 for more information
- October 13** - Patuxent Wildlife Festival at National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10 AM-3 PM; enjoy live animals, crafts, tram and research tours; free; call 301-497-5763 for more information
- October 13** - Kids Day in the Kountry at Patuxent Rural Life Museums, 10 AM-3 PM; activities include pony rides, hayrides, crafts, living history re-enactors; free, but charge for photos and face painting; call 301-627-6074 for more information
- October 13** - Name that Ghost! at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; historian Mike Dixon shares his techniques in probing coroner's inquests, police and criminal records, to discover the history of your home and the spirit that may dwell within; free, but space is limited
- October 17** - Fall History Lecture Series at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, call 301-377-7817 for program information
- October 19** - Hands-On History: A Day in the Federal City at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; experience travel to Washington, DC in 1812; ages 8-12, \$15/resident, \$18/non-resident; reservations required by calling 301-864-0420
- October 27** - The Great Jack O'Lantern Campfire at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 7 PM (rain date: October 28, 6 PM); see dozens of hand-carved and illuminated jack o'lanterns, listen to haunted tales, have your fortune told, roast marshmallows; \$3/person
- October 28** - A Grimm Gothick Evening at Riversdale House Museum, 6:30 & 7:30 PM; the brothers Grimm published their first collection of stories in 1812, join us for selected readings and a moonlight tour; \$10/resident, \$12/non-resident, ages 12 & up, reservations required by calling 301-864-0420

**National Colonial Farm** has classes and workshops; visit [www.accokeekfoundation.org](http://www.accokeekfoundation.org) for more details.

**Patuxent Research Refuge** has many free public programs ranging from art exhibits, bird, nature and flower walks, to owl prowls and hands-on wildlife activities; visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov> for more information or call 301-497-5887

For details and additional events, visit: [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com), [www.anacostiatrails.org](http://www.anacostiatrails.org), [www.greenbeltmuseum.org](http://www.greenbeltmuseum.org), [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org), [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org), [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org), <http://pgcm.aahgs.org>, <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>, [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org), and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>



## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

- 1. 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, 1993. Arranged chronologically, the photos and captions offer a panoramic overview of the county's architectural and historical development. Indexed. Hard-cover, 144 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 2. 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, with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. Price: \$42.95.
- 3. 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. Author: Lt. Dennis Campbell. Indexed. Printed 1991. Hardcover, 304 pages. Price: \$40.00.
- 4. Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures\*** – A cultural history of Prince George's County, with many photographs from private collections. Authors George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles, Donna L. Schneider. Printed 2011. Hardcover, 192 pages. Price: \$49.95.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume I - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 9. 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. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 10. 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. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 11. Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. Price: \$10.00.

\*Shipping and handling is \$4.00 per order. Additional copies of books 1 through 5 add \$1.00 for each additional book. Shipping and handling for international orders, please call 301-220-0330 or email the Historical Society at [pgchslibrary@aol.com](mailto:pgchslibrary@aol.com) for current postage rates.

Make checks payable to PGCHS. Maryland residents, please add 6% sales tax.

Mail your order to: PGCHS, Publication Sales, P. O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

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Total Enclosed: \$ _____	Phone: _____
	Email: _____

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## Prince George's County Historical Society Membership Application

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (HOME): \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (BUSINESS): \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (Please check one)

☐ Full-time Student \$10    ☐ Individual \$30    ☐ Family \$45    ☐ Corporate \$75    ☐ Life Member \$500

☐ Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor:    " Platinum Level \$1,000    ' Gold Level \$500    ' Silver Level \$250    ' Bronze Level \$100

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

For membership in the Maryland Historical Society, include an additional

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Prince George's County Historical Society, P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014



# News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

**XLI Number 6**

**November & December 2012**

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

'Tis a Joyous Season!

Please celebrate with us on

Monday, December 17, 2012

from 6 to 9 PM

at Belair Mansion in Bowie, MD

Spend the evening enjoying seasonal music by Colonial-style musical group Bedlam and the Society's own Imara Ashton Miles, delicious food and visiting with friends.



As always, we ask you to bring a dish to share. However, due to health and liability reasons, we have had to make a change for food contributions to the evening. All main and side dishes must come from a commercially licensed kitchen, such as a grocery store or restaurant. In order to avoid having 10 potato salads and six turkeys, please contact Beth Lingg at [bethlingg@comcast.net](mailto:bethlingg@comcast.net) or 301-249-0763 about your food contribution.

Desserts can be homemade, so if you have a knack for baking, you can still share your talents with us!

## The Prince George's County Historical Society

Phone: 301-220-0330

Email: pgchslibrary@aol.com or info@pghistory.org  
PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com

Website: www.pghistory.org

President: John J. Petro  
Vice President: Lynn Springer Roberts  
Secretary: Jack Thompson, Jr.  
Treasurer/Membership: Donna L. Schneider  
Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Newsletter Contributors: Christine Garcia, Steven Gilbert, Susan G. Pearl, Donna Schneider

Directors: Kent Abraham, Beverly Addison, Elizabeth Beesley, John Brunner, Jane Dodd, Elizabeth Dougherty, Christine Garcia, Elizabeth Lingg, Dan Louck, Nathania Branch Miles, Randie Reilly, Angel Reynolds, Nancy Dixon Saxon, Edward Scott, Jane Taylor Thomas, Andrew Wallace, Sealani Weiner

*News & Notes* is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month. Dates and locations vary. Please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us.

## Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

Greenbelt Library Building  
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt  
301-220-0330  
Hours: Saturday, 12-4 PM  
By Appointment at Other Times



## 2012 SOCIETY SPONSORS

The Society would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support. Their donations help to fund various Society programs and its newsletter, as well as the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History.

### Platinum:

Robert M. DeMarr  
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### Gold:

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Ray and Karen Tilch  
Patricia Williams  
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## JOURNEY STORIES

This autumn and winter, the Prince George's County Library is hosting "Journey Stories," the traveling tales of Americans on the move through history. This wide-ranging project is made possible by the Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council in partnership with the Prince County Memorial Library System, the Maryland Humanities Council, and the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibition Service.



Yarrow Mamout

A special "Journey Stories" exhibit will be mounted at the Oxon Hill Library between December 7, 2012 and January 18, 2013; Prince George's County is one of only five communities in Maryland selected to host this national exhibit. Associated lectures, programs, workshops, and other educational opportunities are being offered in various places in Prince George's County in conjunction with the exhibit, beginning in October 2012 and continuing into the months after the exhibit closes in January. These programs illustrate very different types of journeys on a wide range of themes: art, history, transportation, education, diversity, and destinations. The Prince George's County Historical Society has joined in assisting and co-sponsoring this project by offering and promoting three programs: first, in honor of October's Hispanic Heritage Month, we sponsored a program at the New Carrollton Library, at which Marta Cruz Kelly, National Director of Interpretation and Education for the National Park Service, introduced the Park Service's recent publication *Hispanics and the Civil War: From Battle Field to Home Front*. Also in October,

at the Hyattsville Library, PGCHS historian Susan Pearl lectured on her recent study of the Rosenwald schools of Maryland, and the historic cooperative effort between Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald toward progress in African-American education. On November 13, at the Greenbelt Library, Ms. Pearl will speak about the travels in Prince George's County of painter Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827) and other artistic members of his family – through their portraits we have come to know the faces of many leading figures in America's early history. In addition to the portraits of governors, generals, and other prominent Prince Georgians, her talk will highlight Peale's 1819 portrait of Yarrow Mamout, possibly our country's earliest and most significant portrait of an African American.

Historical Society members are encouraged to visit the exhibit at Oxon Hill Library – it explores immigration, migration, and transportation across the United States, and features 3-D imagery, graphic display panels, audio components, and reproductions of period artifacts – and to participate in as many as possible of the associated programs. Dates and details of the "Journey Stories" project are spelled out in the Fall 2012 issue of the library's *CURRENT News & Events*, available now at all of the County's library branches. You can find online information by going to the Library System's home page at [pgcmls.info](http://pgcmls.info). Once there, find the drop-down menu *Events Calendar* at the top of the webpage and scroll down to "Journey Stories Part I."

### OUR LIBRARY ON THE WEB!

On Saturday, October 6, it started out to be a fairly ordinary "Saturday afternoon at the Fred DeMarr Library of County History," but things changed quickly. Photographer Eric Zhang came in and told us that he is in the process of creating a year-long photo weblog of Greenbelt – illustrating all aspects of Greenbelt from January to December 2012, the city's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Because our Historical Society library is located in Greenbelt, he wanted to photograph and record information about it. We took him on a tour of the library, expecting just a few shots and a few explanations, and were pleasantly surprised at the depth of his interest. He photographed examples of just about everything in the library, and more than two hours later, bade us farewell, telling us that a detailed photographic tour of our library would soon appear on his blog.

It was fortunate that we didn't have very many researchers that Saturday, because we were able to show him quite a variety of resources, and the result may turn out to be a very good thing for our library! The complete tour is now available for you to view - check it out at [greenbelt2012.wordpress.com](http://greenbelt2012.wordpress.com). Eric's blog is arranged chronologically. Scroll down to October 6 and you'll find the entry entitled "Prince George's County Historical Society Library".

### 2013 SLATE OF OFFICERS

During this year's holiday party, we will need to take a few minutes out of the fun and frivolity, to attend to one piece of business - the election of officers and members of the board. Below is the current slate. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, or if you are interested in being on the board, please contact John Petro at 301-249-9000.

Elected for a 1-year term:

President:	John Petro
Vice President:	Lynn Springer Roberts
Secretary:	Jack Thompson, Jr.
Treasurer:	Donna Schneider
Historian:	Susan G. Pearl

Elected for a 3-year term to expire in 2015:

Elizabeth Beesley	Nancy Dixon Saxon
Elizabeth Lingg	Andrew Wallace
Angel Reynolds	



## MELWOOD PARK

The Historical Society is concerned about the condition and future of one its most historic buildings. Melwood Park will be a topic of discussion at the November Historic Preservation Commission meeting. Following is a brief history of the property.

Melwood Park is a multi-section, multi-period brick plantation house. It is of outstanding historical significance, having been the home of the prominent Digges family in the 18th and early 19th centuries, and frequently visited by George Washington. It is a unique combination of Colonial/Georgian and Federal-style architecture, with some very early decorative features still surviving. Melwood Park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

The earliest dwelling was built by William Digges, probably around 1730 when he purchased 550 acres of the Melwood Park tract. William Digges died in 1740, devising his plantation to his widow, Eleanor Brooke Digges, and after her death to his son, Ignatius Digges.

The Digges family was Roman Catholic, and maintained a chapel, possibly in one of the rooms of the house. Rev. Thomas Digges offered regular private masses, which were attended by local Catholics during this period when Catholics were not permitted public worship. Thomas Sim Lee, elected governor of Maryland in 1779, was one of the prominent personalities who lived at Melwood Park. He and his wife were active in providing supplies to the American troops during the American Revolution. The Melwood area was a center of activity in the summer of 1814. After a brief skirmish with American troops, the British under General Robert Ross camped nearby on 23/24 August 1814.

The property was sold in 1834 to William Pumphrey and was the family home for several generations. Ownership changed several times in the 20th century and has for many years been uninhabited. Now in seriously deteriorated condition, the house at Melwood Park is, however, salvageable and restorable, and is certainly one of the County's most worthy candidates for preservation and restoration.

## PEACE CROSS

Since Peace Cross in Bladensburg is currently in the news and because of its commemoration to those Prince George's County residents who lost their lives during World War I while serving in the Armed Forces, we thought it was appropriate to provide a brief history of the monument in honor of Veterans Day.

It is significant because of its historical association and the impact of World War I on the County. The impetus for the Cross came from the Prince George's County Memorial Committee, formed for the purpose of raising funds for the construction of a monument honoring the County's war dead. The monument was placed on what was, in the 18th century, the Public Landing for the busy port of Bladensburg. Ground was broken for the memorial in September of 1919. This also marked the dedication of a new road between Bladensburg and Annapolis, to be named the National Defense Highway in honor of the men lost in the war, and now known as MD 450. In 1922 the Commissioners of Bladensburg conveyed the Peace Cross site and the unfinished Cross to the Snyder-Farmer Post of the American Legion; on July 12, 1925, dedication ceremonies were held for the Peace Cross, constructed at a cost of \$10,000 and designed by John J. Earley of Washington, DC. In 1956, a longstanding controversy over ownership was settled by a Circuit Court ruling that title should be vested in the State of Maryland. The land was deeded to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1960, after which that agency carried out restoration work on the monument.

The Cross is 40 feet high, with arms extending 5 feet from the center. Its basic materials are precast reinforced concrete, exposed aggregate and pink granite aggregate. The letters "U.S." have been placed in the middle of the star. At the foot of the Cross and on each side, are inscribed the words "Endurance", "Valor", "Devotion", and "Courage". A bronze tablet on the south face carries the names of the 49 residents of the County who died in WWI.



*Courtesy Prince George's  
County Government*

## MARYLAND'S ORIGINAL "TEA PARTY"

Since about 2009 there's been much said and written of new political factions, mostly out West, that say they stand for real, fundamental conservatism. Members and advocates of the "Tea Party" movement oppose government, centralized in particular, in nearly all aspects, especially tax levy and business regulation, and also in private matters, "Christian" and other. Government action, especially if it's federal, comes in for constant Tea Party condemnation.

What's in the Tea Party title, though? How close do they come, really, to their colonial namesakes, in spirit or action?

### Colonial Tea Party, 1773-75

In early America the Tea Party label – a name coined and used after 1825 to commemorate Boston's rebellious mob action – referred of course to the December 1773 events, in and around Boston Harbor, not to a political group. Those actions helped spark the American Revolution, and modern Tea Partiers apparently take inspiration from them.

In Maryland the events of the 1770s, before the Revolution, all came during the tenure of Robert Eden, her last royal governor. Eden arrived from London in June 1769, after radical colonial leaders – in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts – had taken firm positions, in their legislatures and through merchants' associations, opposing Great Britain's taxing powers and business controls. Crown officials, for George III, and the Lord Proprietor, the sixth (and last) Lord Baltimore, issued Eden detailed instructions, generally keeping to proprietor and mother country their monopolies on appointment of all officials – from clerks to port wardens to judges – as well as the setting of official fees (highly controversial, in Maryland) and the regulation of all shipping in and out of the colony.

The Tea Party actions, starting in Massachusetts and concluding in Maryland, arose from popular feeling or, more accurately, mob fervor. The common patriot line founded Tea Party opinion on universal resentment of British taxation and merchant opposition to the monopoly of the East India Tea Company. But the actions were taken mostly by mob rule, not thoughtful politics.

The Boston Harbor happening, in 1773, came on a dark December eve after a patriots' meeting at Faneuil Hall, led by Samuel Adams. (Adams did not then urge his group to go after the tea, but later defended its destruction.) The "party" saw a leaderless congregation, in high spirits, disguised as war-painted Indians, force its way onto three British vessels and dump the contents of hundreds of tea chests into the harbor. Boston for years had been garrisoned by British regulars, essentially in occupation, to enforce royal orders. Parliament, after the Tea Party, added to the punishment with passage of the Boston Port Bill, intended to place the port under a semblance of martial law.

In early 1774 Marylanders heard of these events. The popular assembly, the Lower House, passed resolutions supporting Massachusetts and opposing the port bill. Governor Eden managed through this time to maintain his personal popularity, despite growing opposition to the Crown, and also the Lord Proprietor, whose title by then had devolved, on his death, from the last Lord Baltimore to his illegitimate son. But Eden was powerless to resist the patriot movement. The weakness of royal and proprietor prerogatives was possibly best demonstrated in Annapolis Harbor in 1774 and '75, with tea party actions following Boston's.

The burning of the *Peggy Stewart* is the best known of Maryland's acts in defiance of Parliament's Tea Act. It wasn't the first, though. Before the brig reached Maryland another English vessel, the *Mary and Jane*, attempted to bring in a tea shipment but was sent back to England, still fully loaded. This mild skirmish between patriots and royal officials was soon followed by the arrival of the *Peggy Stewart*, in October 1774. By then mob feeling in Annapolis was fully aroused, and the brig was doomed.

Popular and merchant resentment to the Tea Act and British tea imports was then at its height.

The *Peggy Stewart* owners, Anthony Stewart and his father-in-law, were well aware of the fever pitch of the rabble. Stewart had been hung in effigy on a makeshift scaffold in front of his manor house, a real threat to a man with a pregnant spouse. At first Stewart tried to claim that the 2,320 pounds of tea had come on board without his knowledge, or the shipmaster's. He then attempted to have all cargo but the tea unloaded, but the port commissioner – another Eden appointee – required the payment of all duties and unloading of all goods, tea and non-tea alike. Stewart, seeing himself in serious straits, personal and commercial, with some possible danger to himself and his family, went public with contrition. He posted a full apology, for himself and his unpopular vessel, and offered to publicly destroy all the tea.

*Continued on page 7*

Destruction of the *Peggy Stewart* was followed weeks later in Frederick County, with the fiery consumption of another load of English tea. Then, in July 1775, a fourth tea-laden vessel, the *Totness*, was run aground near Annapolis and burned, with her cargo. Compared to their Boston brethren, who had merely broken open chests of tea on three British ships and pitched the contents overboard, and who were then punished by a special act of Parliament, Annapolitan patriots proved ambitiously obstreperous, resistive, and destructive. The Marylanders sent home the *Mary and Jane* with her full load of unwanted tea, then burned up the *Peggy Stewart* and her East India cargo, then set more tea aflame in Frederick, and finally put the *Totness* to the fire, with still more tea.

What modern conservatives have done is much the same, really, in the style of the twenty-first century. They've taken a catchy name, one we all vaguely associate with American independence, and commandeered it for their own purposes. The new Tea Partiers of course don't know that the original ones were mostly rabble, nor do they care. For them it's enough that they're associated with colonial patriots who opposed taxation and big government.

The Historical Society would like to  
**THANK** all of our members and  
sponsors for their continual support  
and participation in our activities.

Without your generosity we would  
not be able to preserve, maintain  
and share the treasures of Prince  
George's County history.

Thank You!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2012

- November 2-4** - Heritage Broadcast-I've Got A Secret at National Capital Radio & TV Museum, 2 PM, free; 301-390-1020
- November 3-25** - Needleart 2012 Exhibit at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM-4 PM; a dazzling array of stitched art from needlepoint to ribbon work, vote for the "People's Choice" award, daily demonstrations; \$6/adult, \$5/age 60+, \$3/child
- November 4** - Fifth Annual Taste of Laurel at 817 Main Street, 1:30-3:30 PM; entrance fee is donation of 1 canned good
- November 4** - Fabulous Fashions of 1812 at Maryland Historical Society, 2 PM; a fashion show featuring fabulous 1812 era frocks; \$30/person, register at <http://www.missiontix.com/events/product/15533/>
- November 5** - Annual History Lecture Lunch Day at Belair Mansion, 9 AM-4 PM; join four Civil War scholars for a look at the shortages and deprivations of the war, soldiers aid, and the impact of the war in our area; \$50/person, includes lunch, reservations required by calling 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)
- November 7** - Needleart Lecture at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; Patty Yerger, owner of Samplers Revisited, will speak on reproductions and preservation of antique samplers
- November 9-11** - Heritage Broadcast-The Jack Benny Show at National Capital Radio & TV Museum, 2 PM, free; 301-390-1020
- November 10** - Flying High With Thaddeus Lowe at Surratt House Museum, 1 PM; Professor Thaddeus Lowe, Civil War aeronaut, thrills us with tales of soaring high in the sky to spy; for children 5-12, includes photo opportunities in replica balloon and make your own secret military balloon; free, for details call 301-898-1121 or visit [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org)
- November 10** - Tasting the Past:: A Cider Sampler at Riversdale House Museum, 2 PM; enjoy a guided tasting of hard ciders paired with historically-inspired food; ages 21 & up; reservations required by calling 301-864-0420; \$15/resident, \$18/non-resident
- November 13** - Charles Willson Peale Journey Stories Lecture by Susan G. Pearl at Greenbelt Library Meeting Room, 7 PM; free
- November 13** - Second Tuesday Lecture at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; "Where Valor Proudly Speaks" by Major Aaron Freeman, who will speak of the history and rituals of the regiment that guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery; free
- November 14** - History Lecture at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; Gloria Allen will discuss schoolgirl needlework from both Maryland and DC, and research behind *Columbia's Daughters: Girlhood Embroidery from the District of Columbia* and she will sell and sign copies of *A Maryland Sampling: Girlhood Embroidery, 1738-1860*
- November 16-18** - Heritage Broadcast-Twenty Questions at National Capital Radio & TV Museum, 2 PM, free; 301-390-1020
- November 23, 24, 25, 29, 30** - 13th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 12-5 PM; view an amazing display of edible gingerbread houses and vote for Viewer's Choice; \$1/person
- November 23-25** - Heritage Broadcast-Milt Grant Show at National Capital Radio & TV Museum, 2 PM, free; 301-390-1020
- November 24** - Taste of the Past at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; get inspired for your holiday baking by taking a trip back to our "culinary past" with a sample of holiday desserts from long ago; free call 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) for details
- November 25** - Trainspotting Day at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10 AM-4 PM; kick off the holidays in Old Bowie, visit with Santa, and watch as interesting and unusual cars fly by on Amtrak's busiest traffic day of the year
- Nov. 30-Dec. 2** - Laurel Museum Holiday Open House, 10 AM-2 PM on Friday & Saturday, 1-4 PM on Sunday
- Nov. 30-Dec. 2** - Heritage Broadcast-Sergeant Preston of the Yukon at National Capital Radio & TV Museum, 2 PM, free; 301-390-1020
- December 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9** - 13th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 12-5 PM; view an amazing display of edible gingerbread houses and vote for Viewer's Choice; \$1/person
- December 2** - Belair and Bowie's Candlelight Christmas Tree Celebration at Belair Mansion, 3-9 PM; tour the mansion; music by Bedlam and CCPC Handbell Choir, caroling, cider and cookies, a special guest arrives at 7 PM; free but donations to Bowie Food Bank welcomed
- December 7-23** - Holiday Ornament Emporium at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM-3 PM, closed Wednesdays; artists exhibit and sell original, handmade ornaments, see old and new holiday decorations, and the house will be decorated in traditional holiday greens
- December 7-9** - Heritage Broadcast-The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet at National Capital Radio & TV Museum, 2 PM, free; 301-390-1020
- December 8** - Winter's Eve at the National Colonial Farm, 4-7 PM; kick off the holiday season with a delightful adaptation of Dickens' classic ghost story. Performed as an old-time radio show with live sound effects, "A Colonial Christmas Carol" features Scrooge as a tobacco factor and Bob Cratchit as a free black; enjoy hot cider, sing carols, participate in the Silent Art Auction, which showcases the craftsmanship of the farm's Stitch 'n Time textile club and other local artists; \$2/person or canned food donation
- December 14-16** - Heritage Broadcast-Abbott and Costello at National Capital Radio & TV Museum, 2 PM, free; call 301-390-1020
- December 15** - The Legend of Civil War Santa at Surratt House Museum, 12-4 PM; Civil War Santa delights with tales from the ages; regular tour admission
- December 17** - Historical Society's Annual Holiday Party at Belair Mansion, 6-9 PM; free, see page 1 for details
- December 21-23** - Heritage Broadcast-The Beverly Hillbillies at National Capital Radio & TV Museum, 2 PM, free; call 301-390-1020
- December 27** - Colonial Christmas for Kids at Belair Mansion, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM; youngsters ages 4-10 will enjoy holiday history at Belair with special tour, stories, games and colonial snack; free; call 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) for details
- December 27** - Holiday Story Time and Crafts at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM for preschoolers, 1 PM for elementary; hear stories about holidays from long ago and far away, and make crafts to take home
- December 28** - An 1812 Winter Evening at Riversdale House Museum, 6 PM; pay an evening call on the Calverts, meet the visiting military troops, and enjoy refreshments and children's activities; \$5/adult, children 12 & under are free
- December 29-30** - Heritage Broadcast-The \$64,000 Question at National Capital Radio & TV Museum, 2 PM, free; call 301-390-1020

National Colonial Farm has classes and workshops; visit [www.accokeekfoundation.org](http://www.accokeekfoundation.org) for more details.

Patuxent Research Refuge has many free public programs ranging from art exhibits, bird, nature and flower walks, to owl prowls and hands-on wildlife activities; visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov> for more information or call 301-497-5887

For details and additional events, visit: [www.pgpcarks.com](http://www.pgpcarks.com), [www.anacostiatrains.org](http://www.anacostiatrains.org), [www.greenbeltmuseum.org](http://www.greenbeltmuseum.org), [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org), [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org), [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org), <http://pgcm.aahgs.org>, <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>, [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org), and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

### WEBMASTER NEEDED

We are looking for a volunteer webmaster to assist in maintaining our website. We expect updates will take no more than one to two hours a month. If you are interested in helping, know someone who is, or would like to discuss further, please contact Donna at 301-952-8539 and leave a message or email us at [pgchsmembers@hotmail.com](mailto:pgchsmembers@hotmail.com).

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

### \*\*\* Prices Reduced for Select Publications\*\*\*

- 1. 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, 1993. Arranged chronologically, the photos and captions offer a panoramic overview of the county's architectural and historical development. Indexed. Hard-cover, 144 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 2. 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, with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. Price: \$42.95.
- 3. Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures\*** – A cultural history of Prince George's County, with many photographs from private collections. Authors George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles, Donna L. Schneider. Printed 2011. Hardcover, 192 pages. **Price: \$39.95 - new lower price.**
- 4. 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: \$5.00 - new lower price.**
- 5. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 6. 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.
- 7. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume 1 - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 8. 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. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 9. 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. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. **Price: \$15.00 - new lower price.**
- 10. Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. **Price: \$5.00 - new lower price.**

\*Shipping and handling is \$4.00 per order. Additional copies of books 1 through 3 add \$1.00 for each additional book. Shipping and handling for international orders, please call 301-220-0330 or email the Historical Society at [pgchslibrary@aol.com](mailto:pgchslibrary@aol.com) for current postage rates.

Make checks payable to PGCHS. Maryland residents, please add 6% sales tax.

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## Prince George's County Historical Society Membership Application

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (HOME): \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (BUSINESS): \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (Please check one)

‘ Full-time Student \$10   ‘ Individual \$30   ‘ Family \$45   ‘ Corporate \$75   ‘ Life Member \$500

‘ Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor:   ” Platinum Level \$1,000   ’ Gold Level \$500   ’ Silver Level \$250   ’ Bronze Level \$100

‘ I am also interested in helping the Society as a volunteer. Please contact me.

For membership in the Maryland Historical Society, include an additional

☐ \$35 for individual   ☐ \$50 for family   (a \$15 savings off each category)

Please make checks payable to **PGCHS** and mail your check and this form to:  
Prince George's County Historical Society, P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014