



# News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

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## THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION JANUARY 1, 1863

New Year's Day, 2013, is the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. This event merits study and celebration, though we should remember that it did not apply to Maryland, a slave-holding state that had NOT seceded. (Emancipation came to Maryland somewhat later, in the new Maryland Constitution of 1864.) Still, I am very much aware of that tumultuous period as I work my way through the 1861, 1862, and 1863 diaries written by John William Burroughs of Croom, Prince George's County. Having reached the beginning of January 1863 in Mr. Burroughs' diary, and the official day of the Proclamation, I am confronted with the fiery reaction of an average, and probably typical, slave-holding Prince George's County plantation owner. This is powerful and disturbing material, but I have excerpted here several entries from Burroughs' diary, to give you a glimpse of some of the thoughts of plantation owners in our County 150 years ago.

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### ***Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863***

*This is the first day of the new year and a beautiful clear one. . . . May the future become as bright! . . . Mr. Lincoln's "Emancipation Proclamation" did not come to us in papers to day, as he promised, he does not always keep his promises. Our unhappy war was to have been ended long since by his promise, but in that he has also disappointed us. If he attempts to carry out the course marked out, I will be disappointed if he is not numbered among the absent ones from Washington before the 1<sup>st</sup> of next January 1864.*

### ***Friday January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1863***

*Clear, beautiful day. . . . Mr. Lincoln has at last issued his Emancipation Proclamation and ended by calling God to witness its justice and constitutionality, he is simply calling on God to witness what he knows to be a lie. Can such a man prosper? Can a government prosper with such a man at its head? His future alone can determine. God grant it may be a brighter future than I anticipate! . . . .*

### ***Friday Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 1863.***

*Snowed a little last night, but clear this morning and turned out to be a beautiful day. A great many negroes are going off under the impression that they are to be free from Mr Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation, but they will all rue the day they leave their comfortable homes, and I do sincerely hope Old Lincoln may yet be made to rue the day he offered them inducements to leave their masters, or failing in that, to cut their throats. God grant he may be made to suffer the extent of the law as a negro inciter to insurrection! "Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad."*

### ***Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup> 1863***

*. . . . This has been an epoch in the history of my otherwise fortunate, pecuniary life - four of my hands, Tom Bruce, Sue's Tom, Sam, and Letty went off last night together with five (5) of Pa's negroes - Cornelius, Daniel, Bob, Eliza & last of all that I expected, . . . . Basil - under Abraham Lincoln's proclamation of freedom. If they enjoy it, it is more than I do under his rule - Pa' has gone up to the bridge etc, to put persons on the watch out for them. There is a fearful retribution awaiting Lincoln*

## 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.

## FREDERICK S. DEMARR LIBRARY OF COUNTY HISTORY

Greenbelt Library Building  
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## **ODEN BOWIE**

The last original member of the group that created the Prince George's County Historical Society, Oden Bowie, passed away shortly after we went to press for the previous issue of *News & Notes*. He and his family have always been very supportive of the Society, for which we are very grateful. Following is a brief history of his remarkable life.

Oden Bowie, grandson and namesake of Maryland Governor Oden Bowie (1869-1872) and son of Marie Williams and Washington Booth Bowie, died October 23, 2012, from complications after a fall. He lived his entire life at "Fairview," his ancestral home in Bowie, Prince George's County, Maryland. He was the 6th generation of his family to live at "Fairview." He was 97.

He was a lifelong farmer, raising tobacco, cattle, crops, and lastly, sod in connection with the Fairwood Turf Farm. He was part of the office staff at Edelen Brothers Tobacco Warehouse in Upper Marlboro. In the footsteps of his grandfather, he successfully explored the world of horse-racing: owning, breeding, raising and racing thoroughbreds.

His ancestors and he were lifelong members of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Collington. As a young boy in the 1920's, he traveled by horse to church. Horses were tied in the old horse barn, and then dressed in their Sunday best, he and the rest of the Bowie family would go into the church and sit in the pew where his grandfather sat years before. He served on the vestry in many capacities, including over 20 years as Senior Warden. Oden also oversaw the care of the Holy Trinity Cemetery. He was a charter member of the Board of Directors of Collington Episcopal Life Care Community in Bowie and he was the last living Founder of the Prince George's County Historical Society founded 60 years ago.

In 1954, Oden started working in The Office of the Secretary of the Maryland Senate, and 42 years later he retired as Maryland's longest serving Secretary of the Senate having served from 1969 to 1997. Someone familiar with the legislature once asked what was Oden's secret of long term success in Annapolis. The response was "Oden treats everyone the same. He plays no favorites. He is an absolutely straight shooter. He would not know how to be dishonest, disingenuous or devious. Everyone respects him."

He graduated from the Donaldson School and the University of Maryland's School of Agriculture, founded by his great great uncle, Charles Benedict Calvert of "Riversdale." Several years ago he was honored as the University of Maryland's oldest living All American Lacrosse player. He was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity. He was a member and past President of The Southern Maryland Society and the Vansville Farmers Club, and a member of the South River Club.

He was predeceased by his wife, the former Laura Brainard of New Haven, Connecticut. He is survived by his two daughters, Ambler Bowie Slabe (William) of Bowie, Maryland, and Maude Bowie Hays of Annapolis, and two grandsons, Bret Bowie Hays and Craig Bowie Hays.

Continued from page 1

and his party, & as sure as there is a just God they will suffer ten fold for every moment of anxiety and trouble they have caused others.

**Sat. Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 1863**

*Clear, windy and very cold . . . . I believe this is as cold night as any we have had this winter. We have heard nothing from our runaway negroes yet. Amid all our troubles, the temptations thrown in the negroes way to draw them off, they being deluded ignorant creatures, I hardly can blame them. Freedom when really lost, having been once enjoyed, is really a loss. The word carries a thrill of joy or pain with it. It is that or the loss of it which causes all of our present troubles, it is that for which the South are now enduring more trials, young and old, rich and poor, than ever so many people went through before. It is the want of it that now poor down-trodden oppressed Maryland is suffering. But how different the negroes freedom is from that! he leaves comforts, a good home, for a tyrant Yankee master. They are ignorant of the fate that awaits them."*

.....

John Burroughs comes across in his diary as a responsible individual, a hardworking farmer, and affectionate family man, but it is clear that he had absolutely no understanding of **Freedom** from the perspective of the members of his slave force. I had hoped to find expression of this perspective in the journal of Adam Francis Plummer, part of which has so fortunately been preserved and is now held at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum. Plummer, a literate member of the Riversdale (Prince George's County) slave force, wrote a journal beginning in 1841, the year of his marriage, until his death in 1905. I did not find an entry for January 1863, but I did find that a copy of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address had been preserved in the journal, together with a note added in 1922 by Plummer's daughter – that her father "admired Lincoln more than anyone I know."

- Susan G. Pearl

**PISCATAWAY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE**

The Accokeek Foundation has launched a very special project that seems particularly appropriate to have begun in November, which was **National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month**. An oral historian, assisted by a high school intern from the Piscataway Indian tribe, interviewed a Piscataway elder about the cultural meanings and traditional practices related to agriculture and the environment here in Southern Maryland. The elder shared what she had learned from her elders - things like "Great grandfather used to plant after the frogs came out. If the frogs were awake, the land was awake." But the moment that jumped out was when the elder said to the intern, "My great aunt was your great-great-grandmother." Earlier in the day the intern had shared that this was the first time he had met this elder. The fact that the interview had helped create a connection for the young man not only to this elder, but to her memories of his great-great-grandmother, was a powerful example of the impact that oral history interviews can have that goes far beyond the information shared during the interview.

This was the first of many interviews that will be done with members of the Piscataway on their connection to the land. From this material we will be developing an exhibit as one part of a much bigger project called the **Piscataway Cultural Landscape Initiative**, the goal of which is to connect people to the environment through interpretation of the indigenous cultural landscape of the Piscataway people. I had the honor of speaking on a panel at the National Preservation Conference earlier this month about this initiative and the significance of our site as part of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Captain Smith recorded a detailed account of meeting the Piscataway Indians in 1608 on the land that is now Piscataway Park. Because this land was saved from development through a remarkable public/private partnership to protect the view from George Washington's Mount Vernon, we have a landscape that can now help tell the story of the Piscataway people, whose connection to the land stretches back hundreds of generations.

The oral history project has been made possible through a grant from the Maryland Traditions program of the Maryland State Council on the Arts, a donation from the Washington Post, and a generous contribution by a Foundation board member.

For more information about this exciting project or to learn how you can become involved, please feel free to contact me at [lhayes@accokeek.org](mailto:lhayes@accokeek.org).

-Lisa Hayes

## BOARD ELECTIONS

At the Society's annual holiday gathering, we took a few minutes to hold our elections. Congratulations to those who were re-elected for another term!

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

Directors: Elizabeth Beesley  
Elizabeth Lingg  
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Andrew Wallace

## BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG MEMORIAL MONUMENT



to "Undaunted in Battle" by Joanna Campbell Blake

The Aman Memorial Trust has announced the completion of the full-size clay model by sculptor Joanna Campbell Blake. The model will now go to the foundry to be cast in bronze and will be a part of the memorial as a tribute of gratitude to those who fought and died at the Battle of Bladensburg on August 24, 1814.

Although the American forces suffered a military defeat at Bladensburg and were ordered to retreat, one epic moment has survived that mournful day - the memorable fight and last stand of United States Marines and Flotillamen and a few of the Militia led by Commodore Joshua Barney. This American force of 600 men refused to retreat, and were later recognized for their valor, courage, and resolute spirit. Beset on all sides by overwhelming numbers, they counter-attacked several times and temporarily held off the British force. Finally Barney was wounded; shot in the leg. At that point, unable to walk, he ordered his men withdraw.

The Monument presents Commodore Joshua Barney, not in a moment of triumph, but shortly after he was wounded. He is being assisted by Charles Ball, a former slave and member of the flotilla who fought alongside Barney. A third figure represents a member of the U.S. Marines. All three figures are looking up, "Undaunted".

The Aman Memorial Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt organization that has championed historic preservation and revitalization in Bladensburg for 30 years; John Giannetti is Chair and Dick Charlton is Treasurer. John Sower, President of Friends of the Battle of Bladensburg, is an advisor.

Joanna Campbell Blake, a resident of Cottage City, is a figurative sculptor with a studio in Brentwood, MD. She has worked at Kaskey Studio, Inc. since 2001, and has been involved in sculpting several large public monuments, most notably the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.

Initial funding for the Monument has been provided by the Aman Memorial Trust, the State of Maryland Bond Bill program, M-NCPPC, and private donations.

The Monument is part of the Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration program that has been coordinated by the Mayor's War of 1812 Task Force with support and assistance from M-NCPPC, National Park Service, State of Maryland, Anacostia Trails Heritage Association, Prince George's County, Port Towns CDC, Friends of the Battle of Bladensburg, and others.

## PRINCE GEORGE AND THE BRITISH LINE OF SUCCESSION

Much is in the news lately about the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Catherine, who are expecting their first child in the spring. Even their official website confirms it.

It's also been said, with no uncertainty on this point, either, that the child will be third in line to the British throne, after Prince Charles, Prince of Wales and elder son of Queen Elizabeth II, and Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and elder son of Charles. Prince Harry of Wales, Charles's younger son, will move back a place, from third to fourth. And there are literally dozens more after them, all with their places in the line of succession.

So what's that to us Americans, Marylanders, Prince Georgians? Just something to follow – or not – on TV or Internet or printed page? Well, as it turns out, our county's namesake, Prince George of Denmark, had a part, centuries ago, in radical and permanent changes to the rules governing the British line of succession.

If it weren't for King William III of the Netherlands, Prince George of Denmark, and their 17<sup>th</sup>-century allies, William and Kate wouldn't be parenting a future monarch of the United Kingdom.

It all started in the Chapel Royal, London, in 1683, when Prince George of Denmark married Anne, granddaughter of King Charles II and younger sister to Mary, wedded to King William III of the Netherlands. James II, who became king of England, Scotland, and Ireland on Charles II's death in 1685, had powerful enemies in England. James, of the royal House of Stuart, was unpopular as an absolutist monarch not favorable to parliamentary government. James and most Stuarts were also Roman Catholic, and since the reign of Elizabeth I a century earlier, no English monarch could safely trifle with the supremacy of the Church of England.

In what came to be called the Glorious Revolution of 1688, William III and his Dutch navy invaded, supported in arms by Prince George of Denmark, already in England. King James II fled to France in December, and a parliamentary convention in 1689 declared William and Mary joint English monarchs, finding that James II had abdicated. Parliament that year also enacted the Bill of Rights 1689, legislation settling succession to the throne on William and Mary and their heirs and then on Anne and her heirs.

The tragedy, for Anne and Prince George, was the early deaths of their five children. The oldest survivor, Prince William, Duke of Gloucester, died at age eleven in 1700, eight years before his father. Anne also suffered miscarriages, but in spite of their family misfortunes Anne and Prince George are said to have had a strong and faithful marriage. According to accounts of the time, George was genial and affable, popular at court. He advocated Anne's views, even when his were different.

All of this, the Glorious Revolution, the Bill of Rights 1689, the joint reign and early deaths of William and Mary without heirs, the deaths of Queen Anne and Prince George's children, *and* -- last but certainly not least -- the desire of English nobles and Parliament to ensure that no Roman Catholic ever succeed to the throne, resulted in the early 18<sup>th</sup>-century statute that governs the line of succession to this day. The law was signed by King William III just months before his death, but Queen Anne and Prince George approved, supported, and implemented the new legislation.

The 1701 statute specifically by name excluded eligibility to the throne of all senior blood lines in the House of Stuart, bestowing seniority instead on Electress Sophia of the House of Hanover, in Germany. Born in 1630, Sophia was (through her mother, Elizabeth Stuart) the grand-daughter of James I, King of England from 1603 to 1625. The eldest member of her line, she was selected because Hanoverians were confirmed Protestants who would never acknowledge authority from the Church of Rome. The 1701 law reshuffled wholesale the lines of succession.

The new law, the Act of Settlement 1701, with amendments, other less significant legislation, and the common law, governs succession to the British throne to the present day. Queen Anne died in 1714 without surviving heirs, and the House of Hanover then displaced the Stuarts. The Electress Sophia died two months before Anne, but under the 1701 law Sophia's son George became king. The line continued, including George III, who saw the loss of the American colonies but then the defeat of Napoleon, and ended with the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. The House of Hanover ruled Great Britain and Ireland, as well as Canada, Australia, India, and the other Commonwealth countries as they came into the British Empire, for almost two centuries. Succession to the throne then devolved under the law to the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (later recast as the House of Windsor), the house of Prince Albert, consort to Victoria, which continues in Queen Elizabeth II, crowned in 1952 and celebrating sixty years on the throne.

The last part to the rules of succession is the 2012 Cabinet agreement, to be followed by legislation in Parliament and the Commonwealth countries, changing the "cognatic primogeniture" (first heir, male

Continued from page 6

preferred) rule of the common law and the Act of Settlement. When Kate and William's eldest child reaches adulthood, he or she will be eligible to the throne of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, regardless of gender. The rules will work like this: The eldest son of Elizabeth II started a new line of succession; that son, Charles, started his own line in his own eldest son; and that son, William, will now start his line with his eldest child – whether son or daughter.

So you see, Prince Georgians, we perhaps more than other Americans have a sort of kinship with the child of William and Kate. Without the Glorious Revolution, the Act of Settlement 1701, and the reign of Queen Anne with our own Prince George, the British monarchy – and the history of the world – over the last three centuries would have been quite, quite different.

- Steven Gilbert

## MARYLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is producing a program about the historical connections between the home in England of George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, and those historic places in Prince George's County that are associated with his descendants. During the spring of 2012, staff and crew of MPT visited Kiplin Hall, the early 17<sup>th</sup>-century home of George Calvert in North Yorkshire, and filmed the University of Maryland architecture students studying and working there. Then this fall, the MPT crew traveled around Prince George's County, visiting and filming Mount Airy, Riversdale, and the University of Maryland at College Park. Mount Airy was the 18<sup>th</sup>-century country estate of Benedict Calvert, son of Charles Calvert, the Fifth Lord Baltimore. Riversdale became the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century home of Benedict's son, George Calvert, after he married Rosalie Stier. And it was George and Rosalie Calvert's son, Charles Benedict, who founded the Maryland Agricultural College, which we know today as the University of Maryland at College Park. To make the circle complete, faculty and students of the University of Maryland have for more than two decades attended summer or semester sessions at *The University of Maryland Study Center at Kiplin Hall*, working on the physical structure and its history.

Collaborating with the MPT staff on this film were David Fogle, University of Maryland Professor Emeritus who led the first classes of students at Kiplin Hall, Susan Pearl, Historical Society Historian, and Ed Day, Manager of the Riversdale House Museum. The film will be shown on MPT directly preceding an episode of "Downton Abbey", so that anglophiles who love great historic houses can have a double treat! It will be shown from **8:30 to 9:00 p.m., Thursday, February 7, 2013**. Don't miss it!



*Kiplin Hall*

## PYON SU RETURNS

Historical Society members may remember reading the article in our July/August 2005 *News & Notes* about Pyon Su, the first Korean national to graduate from an American university. Pyon Su (also known as Penn Su, or Su Penn) graduated from the Maryland Agricultural College (now the University of Maryland at College Park) in June 1891, but was killed by a moving train at the College Park railroad station just four months later. Earlier in 2012, I was contacted by Harold Pyon, a relative of Pyon Su, and asked to work with the crew from the Korean Broadcasting System to produce a documentary about Pyon Su. Mr. Pyon met with Anne Turkos, University of Maryland archivist, and also with Charles B. Calvert, the grandson of Richard Calvert, one of Pyon Su's classmates at the Agricultural College. Another of Pyon Su's classmates was Grant Ammen, son of Admiral Daniel Ammen, who had established the Ammendale Institute in the 1880s, and who provided a burial place for his son's friend at Ammendale.

In December 2012, I met Mr. Pyon and the film crew at Riversdale, the home of Richard Calvert's grandparents and great-grandparents, for an interview, and for filming of some of our papers, maps, and photos related to Pyon Su and his connections with the Calvert and Ammen families. I was assured that we will be provided with a DVD of the finished film documentary when it is finished, and I hope that we can host a showing of the film, complete with a Korean interpreter from the University of Maryland.

- Susan G. Pearl

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2013

- 2013** - Montpelier Mansion will be closed for much of the year for major restoration work. The mansion will be partnering with local places for programming, call 301-377-7817 or visit [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com)
- January 2013**—Surratt House Museum will be closed for the month to complete repairs to earthquake damage.
- January 5** - Mrs. Rumney's Sewing Circle at Belair Mansion 12-4 PM; visit with Mrs. Rumney, Belair's 18th century housekeeper, and her friends as they stitch and prepare for a Twelfth Night Celebration; free, 301-809-3089, [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)
- January 12** - Stitch 'n Time Club at National Colonial Farm; learn about the cultivation of fleece, dyeing of wool, and colonial textiles; open to novice and expert spinners, knitters, sewing needle or machine; details call 301-283-2113, x12 or [programs@accokeek.org](mailto:programs@accokeek.org)
- January 15** - Friends of the Greenbelt Museum Lecture at Greenbelt Community Center, room 201, 7:30 PM, Eric Zhang will discuss his blog which has been chronicling life in Greenbelt through 2012
- January 20** - "I Am the American Flag" at Harmony Hall Regional Center, 1 PM; Scott Hill, Chief of Interpretation-George Washington Birthplace National Monument/Thomas Stone National Historic Site, M-NCCPC and the DAR present the journey of a flag that has voyaged farther than any other flag in history
- February 1, 8 and 15** - Enslaved Women of Darnall's Chance Tours at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 1 & 3 PM; view tour focus on the African-American women who lived at Darnall's Chance with a special emphasis on the Bentley Family of Upper Marlborough; please arrive 10-15 minutes before tour time; free
- February 5** - Black History Month Program at Deerfield Run Community Center, 2:30-4PM; make and take shakerees, African percussion instruments used by slaves in colonial America conducted by Montpelier Mansion staff; free
- February 7** - Man or Myth?: The Fine Art of Portraying George Washington at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; presented by Carol Borchert Cadou, Robert H. Smith Senior Curator & VP for Collections, Mount Vernon Estate; \$40/person; 410-685-3750 x337
- February 9** - Stitch 'n Time Club at National Colonial Farm; learn about the cultivation of fleece, dyeing of wool, and colonial textiles; open to novice and expert spinners, knitters, sewing needle or machine; details call 301-283-2113, x12 or [programs@accokeek.org](mailto:programs@accokeek.org)
- February 9** - "Finding Your War of 1812 Ancestors" at Belair Mansion 3 PM; professional genealogist, Marie Mechiori, will discuss finding your 1812 ancestors; free, 301-809-3089, [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)
- February 12** - Black History Month Program at Deerfield Run Community Center, 2:30-4PM; make and taste hominy, a corn dish often made by slaves in 18th century America, conducted by Montpelier Mansion staff; free
- February 12** - For All the World To Hear: Stories from the Struggle for Civil Rights at Maryland Historical Society, 6-8 PM; experience a dynamic oral history performance by 10 senior adults sharing stories of their involvement with the struggle for civil rights; a mediated, interactive audience discussion follows; free; 410-685-3750 x337
- February 12** - "Annabella Sneed...Indentured Servant" Second Tuesday Lecture at Belair Mansion 7:30 PM; Carolyn Murphy from the Historic Annapolis Organization, will offer a first person look at the life of Annabella Sneed, giving a glimpse at the life of those who worked under harsh conditions to secure passage to the colonies; free, 301-809-3089, [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)
- February 14** - Home School Fun at Belair Mansion, 10 AM-3 PM; home school children are invited to enjoy a number of early American skills - churn butter, stitch, dance and discover colonial history; free, 301-809-3089, [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)
- February 21** - "Night of Doo-Wop" at Oxon Hill Manor, 6:30-8 PM; celebrate black history by looking into the past. Doo-wop originated in the 1940s in the African-American community and was one of the most mainstream, pop-oriented R&B styles of the time; free, light refreshments; call 301-839-7782 for more information
- February 26** - Black History Month Program at Deerfield Run Community Center, 2:30-4PM; make and take corn husk dolls as done in 18th century Maryland, conducted by Montpelier Mansion staff; free
- February 22** - Free Trade and Sailors' Rights at Maryland Historical Society, 7:30 PM; join Paul Gilje, the George Lynn Cross Research Professor at the University of Oklahoma, as he presents his pioneering research on the quest of sailors' rights during the War of 1812; free; 410-685-3750 x337
- Jan. 16 to Feb. 26** - "Fighting on Two Fronts: African Americans in the Military" at Montpelier Arts Center. The annual Black History Month exhibit highlights African American service and support veterans of the U.S. Military from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War. Free, open daily from 8:30 AM to 5 PM; for more information call 240-264-3415
- Jan.-Mar. 2013** - the National Capital Radio and Television Museum will feature "vintage" broadcasts" - visit and take a trip down Memory Lane (not the one in the M Section - but the one from your viewing past!). Check the museum's website [www.radiohistory.org](http://www.radiohistory.org) or call 301-390-1020 for a program schedule. Programs are free.
- Jan.-Dec. 2013** - Greenbelt: The First 75 Years 1937-2012 exhibit at the Greenbelt Community Center, open daily
- Feb.-Dec. 2013** - Between the Lines: Southern Maryland in the Civil War at Surratt House Museum, during tour hours, Wed.-Sun.
- Battle of Bladensburg Visitor Center** at Bladensburg Waterfront Park has exhibits and events about the "Forgotten War"-the War of 1812
- 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

### NPS RELEASES NEW MOBILE APP FOR CHESAPEAKE EXPLORATIONS

The National Park Service released "Chesapeake Explorer", a mobile application designed to help visitors discover and enjoy fun and inspiring places and activities in the Chesapeake region. Chesapeake Explorer aggregates information about national parks, state parks, Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network sites, and sites along three national historic and scenic trails in the watershed. Chesapeake Explorer can suggest thematic tours to explore, whether by bike, car or on foot, and can build customized tours. It also includes historical information and helps travelers plan their visit along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. It provides information about the locations, hours, activities and fees of these places. The app is free and available now for iPhones and soon on Android devices. To download Chesapeake Explorer, visit [www.chesapeakeexplorerapp.com](http://www.chesapeakeexplorerapp.com).

## 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. 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 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.
- 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.**
- 11. Prince George's County Maryland** - A pictorial history of the county, an Arcadia Images of America book by Katharine D. Bryant and Donna L. Schneider. Soft cover, 128 pages. Price: \$18.99

\*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.

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## Prince George's County Historical Society Membership Application

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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



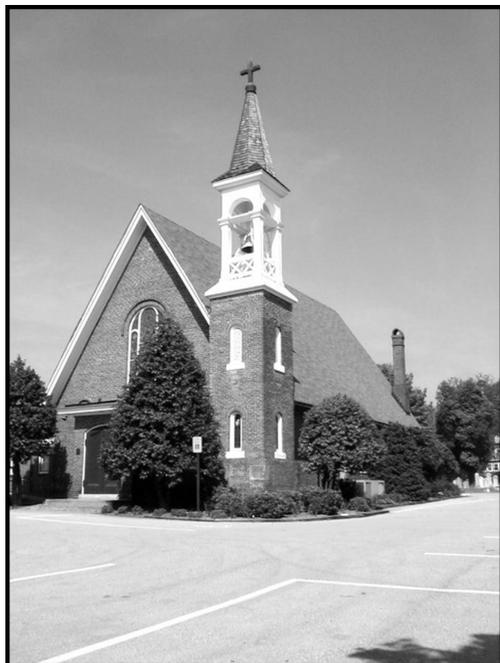
# News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XLII Number 2

March & April 2013

## ST. GEORGE'S DAY 2013



The Prince George's County Historical Society will gather at St. John's Episcopal Church in Beltsville on Sunday, April 21, to celebrate the 317<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Prince George's County. The actual historic date was, of course, April 23, 1696, but as has been our custom for much of our Society's history, we will meet on the Sunday afternoon closest to that date.

This year our dinner meeting will be held in the Parish Hall of St. John's, which adjoins the 1877 church building. The Zion Parish was formed in 1811 to serve northern Prince George's County, and the first church was built near Vansville, not far from the present site. This early church was destroyed by fire in 1847, and the congregation began making plans to construct a new church. In 1855, John W. Brown, innkeeper at the White House Tavern, deeded to the Vestry of Zion Parish one and one-half acres "on the west side of Baltimore Washington Turnpike, on the west side of a hill. . . 100 yards from Beltsville." The new and present church site was about 1-1/4 mile northeast of Brown's

White House Tavern, on the popular and much-traveled turnpike. A frame church was erected at this location two years later, and its consecration took place on 6 August 1857, under the leadership of its Rector, William Pinkney. Misfortune visited the new church on this site also, however, when the new frame structure was destroyed by fire on Good Friday morning, 1867. Again the congregation rebuilt on this site, this time in brick a year later. Almost incredibly, this brick church was also destroyed, this time by a tornado, on the Fourth of July in 1874; but again the congregation determined to rebuild. The present Gothic Revival brick church, designed by prominent Baltimore architect, John R. Niernsee, was erected. Reverend Pinkney, by this time having been consecrated as the fifth Bishop of Maryland, laid the cornerstone on 26 July 1877. It reads:

*St. John's P.E. Church*

*Erected 1857*

*Destroyed by fire 1866*

*Rebuilt 1868*

*Destroyed by Storm 1874*

*Rebuilt 1877*

The church was consecrated by Bishop Pinkney almost exactly 135 years ago, on 22 April 1878. It is a fine example of late-nineteenth-century Gothic Revival church architecture. The Parish Hall was constructed in 1925 just south of the church, incorporating some decorative details of the church. In 1960 a breezeway was constructed to connect the Parish Hall with the church, and was later enclosed. And then in the early 1990s, careful renovations were carried out on the Parish Hall, as well as a prize-winning restoration of the very handsome 1877 bell tower.

*Continued on page 3*

## 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)  
[PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com](mailto:PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.pghistory.org](http://www.pghistory.org)

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Treasurer/Membership: Donna L. Schneider  
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Newsletter Contributors: Elizabeth Dougherty, Christine Garcia, Nathania Branch Miles, Susan G. Pearl, Donna Schneider, Laurie Verge, Pamela Williams

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Webmaster: Jarrett Stoltzfus

*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



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lisa Butler  
Steven Gilbert  
Kerstin Harper

Kiwani Pickens  
David Prevar  
Jarrett Stoltzfus



## 2013 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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Continued from page 1

The site of St. John’s Church is notable for its large and beautiful tree-shaded graveyard with many ancient stones. The church itself is a prominent landmark on one of the earliest and most important arteries of transportation in this area; it has served the Episcopal community of Beltsville for 135 years, and, with its predecessors, for more than 150 years. It will be a wonderful place to celebrate the birth of our County! Tours of the church and graveyard will be provided, with dinner and the awards program following. As always, on St. George’s Day we will be joined by the Prince George’s County Hall of Fame, whose inductee this year will be Effie Gwynn Bowie, the author of “Across the Years in Prince George’s County,” that most indispensable volume of genealogical information on many of the old families of our County - almost all of us have consulted it over and over again. You will receive your St. George’s Day invitations soon, and we look forward to seeing you at St. John’s Church on April 21!

**CELEBRATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN BOWIE, MARYLAND**

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee of Bowie, under the leadership of Joan E. Christian, is celebrating its 7<sup>th</sup> annual program at the Christian Community Presbyterian Church of Bowie on Sunday, April 28, 2013, from 3:30 to 6:30 pm. The program is supported by county and state legislators and the Prince George’s Historical Society is a partner. The Committee was established to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on his birthday in January, however, due to the unpredictable winter conditions in January the celebration was moved to April in observance of his life’s work and community service. The program begins with a keynote address, the Pinpoint Players of Bowie dramatization of “1,001 Inventions,” a small award ceremony recognizing community leaders and students for their outstanding contributions to the county, and ending with a dinner. The program is free but dinner is \$12.00 per person. Members are encouraged to attend.

**The Museum for Black Innovation and Entrepreneurship  
Presents  
Creatively Making a World of Difference:  
African American Innovators and Entrepreneurs**

**Free and Open to the Public  
THEARC, 1901 Mississippi Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20020**

Homage is paid to the inventive spirit of renowned and lesser-known contemporary and historical African Americans through exhibits, lectures, and discussions:

The live *Exhibit* runs from 1 to 31 March 2013, meet and talk with exemplary entrepreneurs and innovators from Wards 7 and 8 during the week, with one-hour lectures and discussions sessions every Saturday (except the 16th): 11 AM-12 PM; 1-2 PM; and 3-4 PM.

A Special *Highlights Exhibit and Reception for Innovators and Entrepreneurs* will take place from 2-5 PM on Saturday, 16 March, with a keynote by Patricia Sluby, Exhibit Curator, and introducing milliner Crystal Little, cosmetic chemists Dr. Tiffanie Bailey Lash and Dr. Tashni-Ann Dubroy, nutritionist Tambra Stevenson, architect Randall S. Marshall, and entrepreneur Kathy Wilson.

Questions, please call 781-708-2764.

## THE WAR OF 1812 COMES TO PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

The period 2012-2015 marks the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Many defining engagements of that war took place in and around Prince George's County. The University of Maryland's Department of Residential Facilities along with the Maryland Humanities Council, the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and Maryland Milestones, Inc. will sponsor two free events based on the War of 1812. Both events will be on campus at the University of Maryland. Both are scheduled in Ulrich Recital Hall inside the east entrance to Tawes Hall. Hourly parking is available in the Union Lane garage on campus. Tawes Hall is located at coordinates G2 on the map at this link: [tinyurl.com/UMcampusMap](http://tinyurl.com/UMcampusMap)

**The War of 1812 at Riversdale Plantation:  
A Living History Portrayal of Rosalie Stier Calvert**  
A historic character depiction by Ms. Mary Ann Jung  
Wednesday, March 13, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Through this interactive program, the audience learns what it meant to be in charge of two growing plantations in early 1800's Maryland through the remarkable story of Rosalie Calvert. Ms. Jung tells the story of what happened to this unusual businesswoman, her husband, and their nine children during that tumultuous time. Her performance provides an overview of the War of 1812, America's second war of independence, our forgotten war.

**The Search for the Scorpion: Underwater Archeology  
May Reveal Joshua Barney's Flagship**  
A presentation by Dr. Susan Langley  
Wednesday, March 27, 1:00- 2:30 p.m.



*Artifacts from the wreck of the Scorpion*

Commodore Joshua Barney developed and led the Chesapeake Bay Flotilla during the War of 1812. A small fleet of armed barges, the flotilla harried the British Navy in the Chesapeake. Under orders to avoid their capture by the British, Barney scuttled all the vessels of the flotilla in the Patuxent River. A vessel presumed to be Barney's flagship, a refitted gunboat named the Scorpion, was located in that river in the late 1970s near Wayson's Corner, MD. Maryland's State Highway Administration, the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), and the U.S. Navy are now conducting an underwater archaeological survey of the wreck. Dr. Langley, from MHT, is one of the principal investigators on the project.

Each program will feature simultaneous interpretation of English into Spanish. If requested within two weeks of the program, American Sign Language interpretation will also be provided. Due to the size of the venue and the nature of the programs, participants are strongly encouraged to arrive before 1:00. Seating is limited.

Contact Chris Garcia at [\(301\) 314 - 7552](tel:3013147552) or [Garcia@umd.edu](mailto:Garcia@umd.edu) during business hours for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**SURRATT HOUSE MUSEUM MEETS THE FOREIGN PRESS**  
\*\*\*\*\*

On the morning of February 11, 2013, staff members at Surratt House Museum greeted a contingent of over twenty representatives from the foreign press as they toured sites related to the Lincoln assassination story. Among the participants were the screenwriter and producer of the new National Geographic Channel's docu-drama, *Killing Lincoln*, which premiered on February 17. That night - February 11, staff members and the executive committee of the Surratt Society enjoyed the red carpet premiere of the program at the National Geographic headquarters in Washington.

Based on the best-selling novel of the same name by commentator Bill O'Reilly, the film has corrected some of the book's errors and has been receiving good reviews. The lead role of John Wilkes Booth is played by Jesse Johnson (son of Don Johnson for you baby boomers), and gives an outstanding performance in both looks and character.

**WAR OF 1812 PASTPORT WEEKEND**

Mark your calendars for the weekend of June 22-23, 2013. The Historical Society and Maryland Milestones will be sponsoring a kick-off weekend and summer contest featuring the county's War of 1812 sites listed in the M-NCPPC's "Your Pastport The War of 1812," which can be viewed and downloaded at <http://history.pgparcs.com/Home.htm>. Starting that weekend and up to August 17, you will have the opportunity to visit 16 various public and private sites within the county and receive pastport stamps for entry into a contest. More details will be in the May/June issue of *News & Notes*.

**MARYLAND'S STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN IS BEING UPDATED**

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), announced efforts to update Maryland's State Historic Preservation Plan. The goal of the preservation plan is to gain a full understanding of the issues facing historical and cultural resources in Maryland and to identify innovative strategies for their recognition, long term care, and enhancement.

This year-long plan update process will rely upon public participation throughout 2013. Outreach efforts will begin with an online survey, currently underway. This spring, MHT will conduct interviews with major stakeholders and then, during May and June, will host public forums at various locations statewide. Following the analysis phase over the summer, the plan will be published later this fall.

Visit the MHT website for a more detailed description of the planning process and many of the key issues that will be covered by the plan at [mht.maryland.gov/plan](http://mht.maryland.gov/plan) or "like" us on Facebook at [PreserveMaryland](https://www.facebook.com/PreserveMaryland). To participate in the online survey, visit the MHT website or go to: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/MDPRESPLAN](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MDPRESPLAN). Contact Tim Leahy at 410-514-7625 or [tleahy@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:t Leahy@mdp.state.md.us) with questions and comments.

**LEVITTOWN....SOUTH OF THE BORDER?**

William Levitt, developer of Belair At Bowie, was indeed a well travelled individual. In the middle of 1963, with his Belair development underway, Mr. Levitt decided to look south...way south! To Puerto Rico!

Levittown, Puerto Rico (yes, that's its name!) is a suburb of San Juan, and is one of the largest planned communities in the country. The community is divided into eight sections (sound familiar?) which are called *seccions*. Information on the development doesn't allude to an alphabetized street naming scheme, but...who knows?

Levittown PR is known for a large, bright blue painted water tower which has been converted to a public library. It was one of the first water towers in Puerto Rico used to provide potable water to homes. The community's main avenue is "Bulevar de Levittown," or Levittown Blvd., which contains, following Levitt's ideas, a collection of shops and stores – the largest collection in the area.

The community featured four models: Broche de Oro, La Camafeo, Diadema, and Esmeralda. Models were 3 and 4 bedrooms, and had, depending on the model, 1-2 1/2 baths. All were on one level...no Colonials or Cape Cods! And, true to Levitt sales, buyers were given a list of upgrades to make their house their home - or casa.

Not a small village, Levittown, Puerto Rico boasts 27,000 residents. For those planning an excursion...it boasts a tropical climate all year round. If you're thinking about Puerto Rico for a winter vacation, don't just go for the rum and the sunshine...check out our "sister" to the south!

*-Excerpted from City of Bowie Museums Musings*

**SOCIETY'S WEBSITE**

Many thanks to new member, Jarrett Stoltzfus, who has volunteered to be our webmaster. Changes have already been made to our website, [www.pghistory.org](http://www.pghistory.org), with several more updates in the plans, including an online archive of past issues of *News & Notes*. Check us out!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MARCH & APRIL 2013

**2013** - Montpelier Mansion will be closed for much of the year for major restoration work. The mansion will be partnering with local places for programming, call 301-377-7817 or visit [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com)

**March 1-31** - Creatively Making a World of Difference: African American Innovators and Entrepreneurs exhibit and lectures; see page 3 for more information; free

**To March 25** - Exploration and Experiments in Aviation Art Contest at College Park Aviation Museum; art contest for K-12 and college students; for more information call 301-864-6029 or visit [www.collegeparkaviationmuseum.com](http://www.collegeparkaviationmuseum.com)

**March 2** - Bessie Coleman at College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM; Dr. Daisy Nelson Century will tell stories about the first African American woman to earn a pilot's license in the United States; free with museum admission

**March 7** - "These gems have life in them": The Jewelry Collection at the Maryland Historical Society by Alexandra Deutsch, 7 PM; \$40/lecture, series/\$175, series for couple/\$300

**March 9** - Intro to Spinning at the National Colonial Farm, 11 AM-1 PM; textile artist, Sylvia DeMar, will lead a beginning spinning class; \$10, for more information and to register call 301-283-2113 or visit [www.accokeekfoundation.org](http://www.accokeekfoundation.org)

**March 12** - "The War of 1812-lecture on early food and history leading up to the war, what was consumed and where it came from" by Katie Barney Moose at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, 301-809-3089, [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

**March 13** - The War of 1812 at Riversdale Plantation: A Living History Portrayal of Rosalie Stier Calvert at Ulrich Recital Hall, University of Maryland, 1-2:30 PM; see page 4 for more information; free

**March 14** - "Latinos in the Civil War: A Maryland Perspective" by Marta Cruz Kelly at Laurel Municipal Pool Room; 7 PM; free

**March 14** - Road to Emancipation: Reflections on Slavery and Emancipation at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; discussion with about the arduous journey toward emancipation in Maryland; \$15/non-member, \$10/member

**March 15-17** - Fourteenth Annual Surratt Symposium: The Lincoln Assassination: More Will Be Revealed. Call 301-868-1121 for details

**March 16** - Foodways is Back! at National Colonial Farm, 12 noon; a "kitchen table conversation" about how tastes have changed over 300 years, theme is "Garden Party" featuring Jerusalem Artichokes and Forced Cucumbers; free

**March 17** - Seasonal Selections & Storytime at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM; produce from the garden and orchard are used; storytime features children's tales related to what's cookin' in the kitchen, stories at 12:30 and 2:30 PM; free

**March 17** - Kitchen Guild Open House at Riversdale House Museum, 3:30-5 PM; chat with members who prepare seasonal foods while sampling dishes cooked over the open hearth; free, registration required by March 15 by calling 301-864-0420

**March 20** - "Eve of Battle," an Interactive Living History Presentation by the Maryland Historical Society Players at Montpelier Arts Center, 7:30 PM; free

**March 21** - Maryland Day at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; special lecture by Dr. Henry Miller on new discoveries at Historic St. Mary's City; \$35/non-members, \$25/member

**March 23** - Tailcoat Workshop at Riversdale House Museum, 9 AM; costume historian shows how to use modern tailoring techniques to construct a civilian man's Federal/Regency style tailcoat. Pre-workshop instructions will be sent; registration required by March 18 by calling 301-864-0420

**March 23** - Myths, Mysteries, and True Histories of the Underground Railroad by Dr. Kate Clifford Larson at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; free

**March 27** - The Search for the Scorpion: Underwater Archeology May Reveal Joshua Barney's Flagship at Ulrich Recital Hall, University of Maryland, 1-2:30 PM; see page 4 for more information; free

**April 1-30** - Chesapeake Woodturners Guild Exhibit at National Wildlife Visitors Center, 9 AM-4:30 PM; free

**April 4** - Richard Catron Woodville: Baltimore's Genius of the 19th Century lecture by Joy Peterson Heyrman at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; \$40/lecture, series/\$175, series for couple/\$300

**April 7 & 21** - Seasonal Selections & Storytime at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM; produce from the garden and orchard are used; storytime features children's tales related to what's cookin' in the kitchen, stories at 12:30 and 2:30 PM; free

**April 9** - "Folklore and History of the River plus today's Citizen's Advocacy Campaign" by Fred Tutman, Riverkeeper for the Patuxent, at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, 301-809-3089, [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

**April 13** - "Laurel Station: A Living History Program", a Civil War encampment at American Legion Post 60, 2 Main Street, Laurel; 9 AM-3 PM; free

**April 16** - Charles Ball, A Living History Presentation by Vincent Leggett at Laurel Library, 7:30 PM; free

**April 17** - Kids Day at Billingsley House, 10 AM-1 PM; ages 3-5, storytelling about local history, creative play, crafting; free

**April 20** - Beyond Brick and Mortar: Discovering Baltimore's Architectural Heritage at Maryland Historical Society, 9 AM; celebration of American Library Week by learning how to utilize the library's resources; free/members, \$10/non-members

**April 20-21** - "Marching Through Time" at Marietta House Museum, 10 AM-5 PM; re-enactments of camp life from Roman soldiers to Desert Storm; \$5/person, call 301-464-5291 for more information

**April 21** - St. George's Day Awards and Dinner at St. John's Episcopal Church in Beltsville; invitation to follow with details

**April 23** - Federal Flavors at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM; foodways historian and Kitchen Guild member Kari Barrett discusses the flavors of the Federal table 200 years ago, a small tasting included; payment required by April 15, call 301-864-0420

**April 28** - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 7th Annual Celebration at Christian Community Presbyterian Church, 3:30-6:30 PM, see page 3 for more details; free, but dinner is \$12/person

**May 11** - Children's Day at National Colonial Farm, 11 AM-3 PM; be a part of history and farm life; \$5 admission, members are free

**Jan.-Mar. 2013** - the National Capital Radio and Television Museum will feature "vintage" broadcasts" - visit and take a trip down Memory Lane (not the one in the M Section - but the one from your viewing past!). Check the museum's website [www.radiohistory.org](http://www.radiohistory.org) or call 301-390-1020 for a program schedule. Programs are free.

**Jan.-Dec. 2013** - Greenbelt: The First 75 Years 1937-2012 exhibit at the Greenbelt Community Center, open daily

**Feb.-Dec. 2013** - Between the Lines: Southern Maryland in the Civil War at Surratt House Museum, during tour hours, Wed.-Sun.

**Battle of Bladensburg Visitor Center** at Bladensburg Waterfront Park has exhibits and events about the "Forgotten War"-the War of 1812

**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.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>

## 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.
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- 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.
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- 11. Prince George's County Maryland** - A pictorial history of the county, an Arcadia Images of America book by Katharine D. Bryant and Donna L. Schneider. Soft cover, 128 pages. Price: \$18.99

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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)

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# News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

**XLII Number 3**

**May & June 2013**

## **2013 ANNUAL PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION RECEPTION**

Tuesday, May 14, 2013  
Tours and refreshments 5:30 - 6:30 PM  
Program begins at 6:30 PM

Space is limited  
RSVP by May 10  
301-864-0420 or [riversdale@pgparks.com](mailto:riversdale@pgparks.com)

Surratt House Museum  
9118 Brandywine Road  
Clinton, MD 20735



*40 Lincolns at Surratt House*

Originally built as a middle-class farm house for John and Mary Surratt in 1852, the Surratt House is infamously connected to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. During the crucial decade before the Civil War, the house served as a tavern and hostelry, a post office, and a polling place. During the War, it was a safe house in the Confederate underground system which flourished in Southern Maryland. Today, the museum recaptures the history of the mid-19th century life and focuses on the fascinating web of the Lincoln assassination conspiracy and the involvement of the Surratt family. The Surratt House opened as the first historic house museum in Prince George's County on May 1, 1976. It has proved to be a very successful example of government and community working together to preserve history.

## 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)  
[PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com](mailto:PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.pghistory.org](http://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: Julia Cowdery, Christine Garcia, Nathania Branch Miles, Susan G. Pearl, Carolyn Rowe, Donna Schneider, Laurie Verge

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

Webmaster: Jarrett Stoltzfus

*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



## 2013 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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Judy and Ken Schneider  
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## ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS

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

**Patrick and Nancy Clagett**, for their outstanding restoration of Kingston in Upper Marlboro

**Ralph Eshelman and Burton Kummerow**, for publication of *In Full Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake*

**City of Greenbelt**, for the celebration of the city's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**Beth Lingg**, for her dedicated efforts and contributions to the public programs of the Prince George's County Historical Society

**Mildred Ridgley Gray and LaVerne Gray**, for their constant and devoted efforts in the recognition and preservation of the historic Ridgley community

**Leigh Ryan**, for years of support at Riversdale, including work on the lectures series, volunteer management, and the history of the Plummer family of Riversdale

**St. John's Episcopal Church, Beltsville**, in recognition of more than 150 years of service to the Beltsville community

### THE HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

**Effie Gwynn Bowie** (1869-1950) was a leader in the religious, civic, and social life of Prince George's County. Her 1947 book, *Across the Years in Prince George's County: A Genealogical and Biographical History of Some Prince George's County, Maryland and Allied Families*, was, and continues to be, a landmark reference work on prominent County families from the late 18th century through the middle of the 20th century.

From left to right are three of Effie Gwynn Bowie's grandchildren: A. Gwynn Bowie, Jr., Clotilda "Tillie" Gwynn Bowie Cassidy, and Effie Gwynn M. Fox.



### CELEBRATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. TO BE RESCHEDULED

Due to the illness of one of the event's principal organizers, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration on April 28, 2013, did not occur. It is expected that the program will be rescheduled and details will be provided once known.

## **Eighth 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 Eighth Annual Juneteenth Seminar, "Footprints and Roots," on Saturday, June 15, 2013, at the Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774, from 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 PM. The seminar will consist of a series of workshops for beginner to advanced family researchers. Museum curator, Alcione Amos, from the Anacostia Community Museum, will deliver the keynote address.

In addition to workshops on such topics as beginning genealogy, the underground railroad, ante-bellum free people of color, Freedman's Bureau records, and familysearch.org, there will be activities for children (ages 7-12), designed to introduce them to the world of genealogy and family history. Juneteenth is celebrated in more than 200 cities in the United States to commemorate the final announcement in June, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, of the emancipation of enslaved persons. This event took place some two years after the original proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863. The newly freed men and women, who could not read or write, orally recorded the day as one of the tenths in June. From that day until this, there have been celebrations throughout the United States to mark the date. Juneteenth, as it came to be called, is now a national holiday in 12 states and the District of Columbia.

In conjunction with this event, the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation is holding a family fun day in the park from noon until five. Bring a picnic basket, blanket, and lawn chair and participate in an afternoon of live entertainment, with guest speakers, games, arts, and crafts. Ethnic and regional food will be available for purchase by a variety of vendors. There will also be information booths staffed by civic and community groups located in the County.

All the activities at both of these community events are **FREE** and open to the public. For more information, call Carolyn Rowe, (301) 292-2751 or Jane Thomas, (301) 292-1207.

### **China's National Memories A UPHPA Program Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**

From the 1930s through World War II, United States fighters supported the people of China in their struggle against Japanese invaders. Until well into the 21st century, few in our country and even fewer in China remembered the efforts of those Americans, military and civilian, who fought and died for China. For many Chinese people, that changed with the 2010 publication of a book of photographs.

A team of researchers and documentarians from Greater China has made a series of trips to work at the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park. Their mission has been to recapture the history of an alliance that proved critical to both our nations. The team was based in University Park while researching their country's wartime story, much of which had been recorded by the US Army Signal Corps in the early to mid 1940s.

The team's work has resulted in two volumes of the publication, "China's National Memories," two documentary films, and a photographic exhibition that has been seen by thousands in major Chinese cities. University Park Historic Preservation Association (UPHPA), in collaboration with the College Park Aviation Museum (CPAM), will sponsor a screening of one of the team's documentaries, "The Search for Major McMurrey," on the evening of Thursday, May 16. UPHPA has graciously invited Historical Society members to join them for the presentation.

Join us at 7:30 PM on May 16 in the auditorium at CPAM as we mark Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and remember an alliance that directly influenced the outcome of a world war. CPAM is located at 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive in College Park. The event is free and no reservations are needed.

**WAR OF 1812 PASTPORT WEEKEND**

Due to unforeseen complications, the War of 1812 Pastport Weekend scheduled for June 22-23, 2013, has been cancelled. We apologize for any inconvenience.

**REVOLUTIONARY WAR LECTURE AT BELAIR**

Prince George’s County and the City of Bowie have deep historical roots. While no battles of the American Revolution took place on county soil, other important events occurred – especially in the waning days of the war. Join the City of Bowie Museums and the Prince George’s County Historical Society at Belair Mansion on May 2, at 7:00 pm for a look at “Rochambeau’s March through Prince George’s County.”

Dr. Robert Selig, noted Revolutionary War Historian, will discuss Rochambeau’s troop/supplies movement between Annapolis and Bladensburg and beyond. In a tremendous move of supplies and wagons, Rochambeau’s troops marched along a route that took them eventually to Yorktown, where the British surrendered to American forces. Dr. Selig will also offer a look at new discoveries about the historical trek.

Belair Mansion is located at 12207 Tulip Grove Drive in Bowie. The lecture is free and open to the public; no reservations required. For further information, email: [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) or call 301-809-3089.

**MARCH MADNESS AT THE MUSEUM**

It wasn’t just basketball drawing crowds during the month of March. At the historic Surratt House Museum in Clinton, Maryland, 146 registrants from twenty-five states, Canada, and Washington, D.C. participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Assassination Conference sponsored by the museum and its volunteer associate, the Surratt Society. Distinguished speakers and authors from Virginia, Maryland, Iowa, Texas, and Louisiana shared their information on the Greatest Crime of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, signed books during an Authors’ Hour, and enjoyed camaraderie during this three-day event. The conference also included bus tours to the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Maryland and the African American Civil War Museum and Memorial in Washington, D.C. On the final day, a bus tour covered the escape route of John Wilkes Booth. The highlight of the event was a banquet presentation by Erik Jendresen, the screenwriter and producer of National Geographic’s recent film, *Killing Lincoln*, whose premiere on February 17 garnered the largest audience for such a film in the channel’s history. During the event, Laurie Verge, director of Surratt House Museum received special recognition and a standing ovation for her many years of work assisting researchers, authors, and the media.

**A TRIBUTE TO ORLANDO RIDOUT V  
BY THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

In early April we lost one of the giants in the field of architectural history and preservation. Orlando Ridout - the fifth of this name, and a seventh generation direct descendant of Provincial Governor Samuel Ogle of Belair – died at far too young an age on April 6. Orlando was Chief of Survey and Registration at the Maryland Historical Trust, and his knowledge and understanding of the nuts and bolts of historic architecture was staggering, as was his willingness, eagerness, and ability to communicate this understanding.

Some of us were very lucky, following him through attics, basements, and crawlspaces of some of Prince George’s most glorious and most unpretentious historic structures, from the amazing quarters at Kingston, to the stables at Concord, the Clagett House at Cool Spring Manor, Compton Bassett, Melford, and many others. It was hard taking notes while crawling, but one did not want to miss a single syllable of the information that he was explaining as we went.

He was not directly involved with our Historical Society, but he kept abreast of the research and preservation successes that Prince George’s has had, and made sure we knew how important they have been. He was a tremendous asset to Prince George’s County and to all of Maryland, and he will be sorely missed.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MAY & JUNE 2013

- 2013** - Montpelier Mansion will be closed for much of the year for major restoration work. The mansion will be partnering with local places for programming, call 301-377-7817 or visit [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com)
- May–November 3** - War of 1812 exhibit at Mahan Hall at the Naval Academy in Annapolis featuring material from collection of William I. Koch and the Naval Academy; Mon-Sat 10 AM-4PM, Sunday 11 AM-4 PM; free
- May-June 2013** - the National Capital Radio and Television Museum will feature “vintage” broadcasts” – visit and take a trip down Memory Lane (not the one in the M Section – but the one from your viewing past!). Check the museum’s website [www.radiohistory.org](http://www.radiohistory.org) or call 301-390-1020 for a program schedule. Programs are free.
- May-Dec. 2013** - Greenbelt: The First 75 Years 1937-2012 exhibit at the Greenbelt Community Center, open daily
- May-Dec. 2013** - Between the Lines: Southern Maryland in the Civil War at Surratt House Museum, during tour hours, Wed.-Sun.
- May 2** - “Rochambeau’s March through Prince George’s County” at Belair Mansion, 7 PM; lecture by Dr. Robert Selig; see article on page 5
- May 11** - Children’s Day at National Colonial Farm, 11 AM-3 PM; be a part of history and farm life; \$5 admission, members are free
- May 11** - Rome at Riversdale at Riversdale House Museum, 11 AM; early 19th c. America was greatly influenced by the classical world. Celebrate ancient Rome, participate in activities, watch Legion XX battle demonstrations; \$5/adult, \$3/child
- May 11** - Mrs. Rumney’s Sewing Circle at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; join Col. Tasker’s 18th c. housekeeper, Mrs. Rumney, as she welcomes her circle of ladies for an afternoon of stitching and gossip; free, 301-809-3089
- May 12** - Special Mother’s Day Treat at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; moms and special ladies receive 20% discount, punch & cookies; free
- May 12** - Free Mother’s Day Tours at Darnall’s Chance House Museum, 12-4 PM; free when accompanied by paying child or grandchild
- May 12** - Mother’s Day in the Garden at Riversdale House Museum, 12:15 PM; special ladies receive free tour with each paid admission
- May 13** - “The Battle of Bladensburg” at Maryland City at Russet Branch of the Anne Arundel County Public Library System, 7:30 PM; Mary Haley-Amen will discuss Prince George’s County’s involvement in the War of 1812; free, 301-377-7817
- May 16** - China’s National Memories at the College Park Aviation Museum, 7 PM; sponsored by UHPA, free, see article on page 4
- May 18** - Pirate Fest at Darnall’s Chance House Museum, 11 AM–4 PM; swashbuckling re-enactors, hands on children’s activities, music, food, children’s pirate costume contest, treasure hunt and more; \$5/person
- May 19** - Bowie Heritage Day at Belair Stable Museum/Belair Mansion/Bowie Railroad Museum, 12-4 PM; music, activities, games, NTrack Modellers, the “Lego Lady” and much more; free
- May 19** - Seasonal Selections & Storytime: Cream of the Crop at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM; Guild members demonstrate foodways in the dependency kitchen using produce from the garden and orchard; stories at 12:30 and 2:30 PM; free
- May 19** - Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; President Abraham Lincoln, as portrayed by the renowned James Getty, discusses the trials and tribulations behind writing this important document; free
- May 19** - Hyattsville House Tour presented by the Hyattsville Preservation Association, 1-5 PM; self-guided tour starting at the City of Hyattsville’s Municipal Building; advance tickets \$10/person at Franklin’s Restaurant or Municipal Building; \$12/person day of tour
- May 21** - Kids Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-12 noon; railroad fun for youngsters ages 1-11; free
- May 25** - Belair Studs on the Diamonds at Baysox Stadium, 6 PM; sporting jerseys in Belair colors of white with red polka dots, the Baysox will be the Belair Studs for one night only, jersey auction to benefit Friends of Belair Estate; tickets required
- May 26** - Roosevelt Ride in historic Greenbelt, 11 AM; thrown on some vintage clothes, grab your picnic basket and meet at the Greenbelt Community Center to ride through the community and then eat on the lawn or just join for the picnicking; free
- June 1-30** - Print Ads of 20th Century Women’s Fashions at Marietta House Museum, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays 12-4 PM; history of women’s fashions in the 20th c. and how fashions have influenced the lives of women; admission charge
- June 2** - Seasonal Selections & Storytime: In a Jam at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM; Guild members demonstrate foodways in the dependency kitchen using produce from the garden and orchard; stories at 12:30 and 2:30 PM; free
- June 4** - Peale Family of Painters in Prince George’s County by Susan G. Pearl at Greenbelt Public Library, 7 PM; repeat of November 2012 lecture; call 301-345-5800 for details
- June 8** - Tuesday Time Travelers at Belair Mansion, 10:30 AM; history fun for ages 4-11; free
- June 12-15** - From Enemies to Allies, an International Conference on the War of 1812 and its Aftermath at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis; for details, visit <http://starspangled200.com/feta#UWwTqayFMik>
- June 15** - 8th Annual Juneteenth Seminar “Footprints and Roots” at the Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park, 8:30 AM-4 PM, free; see article on page 4
- June 16** - Free Father’s Day Tours at Darnall’s Chance House Museum, 12-4 PM; free when accompanied by a paying child or grandchild
- June 16** - Father’s Day Tours at Riversdale House Museum, 12:15 PM; special gentlemen receive free tour with each paid admission
- June 16** - Seasonal Selections & Storytime: A Roast for the Table at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM; Guild members demonstrate foodways in the dependency kitchen using produce from the garden and orchard; stories at 12:30 and 2:30 PM; free
- June 17-21** - Hands-on History Weeks: Historic Holidays at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM-3 PM; ages 8-12 spend the week exploring history and traditions of American holidays through games, activities, crafts and cooking; advance registration required by May 31 by calling 301-864-0420, resident \$30/day \$135/week, non-resident \$36/day, \$144/week
- June 20** - Kids Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-12 noon; railroad fun for youngsters ages 1-11; free
- June 24-28** - Hands-on History Weeks: Historic Holidays at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM-3 PM; ages 5-8 spend the week exploring history and traditions of American holidays through games, activities, crafts and cooking; advance registration required by May 31 by calling 301-864-0420, resident \$18/day \$78/week, non-resident \$22/day, \$96/week
- June 25-27** - Summer Days at the National Colonial Farm, 10 AM-1 PM; costumed interpreters will instruct on how, in the colonial days, a child living on a farm would grind corn for baking, card wool for clothing, search the field for hornworms, and play colonial games, bring your own picnic; \$5/child; call 301-283-2113 x28 for details
- June 29** - The Campaign for Vicksburg 150 Years Later at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; Professor emeritus Craig Symonds of the U.S. Naval Academy discusses the campaign for the Confederate citadel at Vicksburg in the spring and summer of 1863. This siege and the ensuing fall of the city would split the Confederacy and give the Union control of the vital Mississippi River ; free
- Battle of Bladensburg Visitor Center** at Bladensburg Waterfront Park has exhibits and events about the “Forgotten War”-the War of 1812
- 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.anacostiatrills.org](http://www.anacostiatrills.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.radiohistory.org](http://www.radiohistory.org), [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.
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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 you must also be a PGCHS member, 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

XLII Number 4

July & August 2013

## JOIN US FOR A TRIP TO TANGIER ISLAND, VIRGINIA SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2013

We will leave Crisfield, Maryland promptly at 12:30 PM to visit the **historic and charming Tangier Island** aboard the *Steven Thomas*, a 90-foot boat licensed for 300 passengers. **The cruise cost is \$27.00 per person.** The boat also features an air-conditioned lounge, upper sun deck, snack bar, and men's and women's restrooms. The cruise takes just over one hour to get out to Tangier Island, as the boat makes the 12 mile trip out to the island. Once on Tangier Island you'll be able to discover an island with a way of life that is fast disappearing from the American scene. The island has changed very little since it was first settled by John Crockett in 1686.

When we arrive, we will dine together as a group at Hilda Crockett's Chesapeake House and enjoy the famous "family style" lunch. Lunch includes: Chesapeake Bay Crab Cakes (they're home-made from Chesapeake Blue Crab), Chesapeake Style Clam Fritters, Virginia Ham, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Pickled Beets, Apple Sauce, Green Beans, and Hot Corn Pudding. Let's not forget Home-made Rolls, fresh daily baked Butter Pound Cakes, and Beverages. The restaurant is handicap accessible. **The lunch price per person is \$22.00, children ages 6-12 is \$10.00 and ages 5 & under is \$5.00.** If not interested in joining us for the lunch as a group, you can eat at one of other restaurants on the island or relax at the picnic tables by the dock.

After lunch all can enjoy the following activities:

- ◆ a relaxing afternoon stroll through the island pathways
- ◆ watch the crab boats come and go from the harbor
- ◆ visit the Tangier Island Museum and learn more about the history, culture and heritage of the people who live there
- ◆ stroll past the lone school that provides classes for kindergarten through high school

**We will board the *Steven Thomas* at 4:00 PM and arrive back Crisfield at 5:15 PM.**

If interested in staying overnight, there are rooms available on the island at the Bay View Inn at 757-891-2396 or the Chesapeake House at 757-891-2331. It is suggested to make a reservation as soon as possible to ensure a room. The ticket cost for the ferry is higher for overnight stays at \$35.00 per person.

If you are interested in joining us, please **RSVP to Jack Thompson no later than Tuesday, July 23, 2013, and mention if you are joining us for lunch.** Jack can be reached at 301-237-6249 or email at [jthomps577@aol.com](mailto:jthomps577@aol.com).

**Meeting Location For Ferry Boarding: W Main Street and S 10th Street, Crisfield, MD (Exact meeting location details will be provided immediately upon purchase of tickets.)**

Take Route 50 East and cross over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. Take the Route 50 Bypass near Salisbury, MD. The Bypass becomes Route 13. You will be heading South. Continue on Route 13 until you come to the Route 413 Exit. Take the Route 413 Exit to the city of Crisfield (about 12 miles). Turn left on 10th Street. The Tangier Island Cruise parking area will be on your right.

## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Webmaster: Jarrett Stoltzfus

*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



## 2013 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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Andrew and Sondra Wallace  
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## IN MEMORIAM - JANE EAGEN DODD



Jane Dodd (left) and Joyce McDonald  
at Hitching Post Hill

It is with great sadness that the Prince George's County Historical Society announces the passing of our great friend and supporter, Jane Eagen Dodd.

Jane was born, lived, and taught in Prince George's County. She grew up in Capitol Heights and her father's family has roots in the county going back to the 1700s.

Jane's love of history was very apparent. She was an educator in the County for over 30 years teaching history to elementary school students. For many years, Jane continued to educate county residents at Prince George's Community College. Her classes would travel around the county to see museums, historic sites and exhibits, and she would bring in guest lecturers to talk about history. She co-authored a couple of books on Maryland history and was the President of the Historical Society from 1995-1999. Under her leadership, the Society helped to raise funds for restoration work at

Marietta House Museum in Glenn Dale. Jane was also instrumental in the County's tricentennial celebration in 1996 and forming the Prince George's County History Consortium, which was a result of history museums and groups coming together for the county's tricentennial. In addition, she was a commissioner on the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission for 14 years.

At a high school reunion about thirteen years ago, she re-connected with a classmate, Lewis Dodd, who was then a widower. They were happily married for almost 12 years when Lew died of cancer last summer.

After his recent death, Jane never regained her spirit, spunk, or zest for life. An astute doctor at Doctors' Hospital finally diagnosed her with a rare autoimmune disease a month before her death. Unfortunately this disease was unforgiving and she passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 18th, about 10:00 in the evening. She has been cremated and will lie in rest at the Columbarium at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, on Rt. 450, in Bowie, MD. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

**SAVE THE DATE!**
  

 Prince of a County Reception at West End Farm in Croom
   

 Sunday, September 15, 2013
   

 Invitations will be sent in August
   


**18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG ENCAMPMENT  
AT RIVERSDALE**

**August 24, 2013, Noon – 4pm  
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD  
FREE**

In August 1814, a disheartened Rosalie Calvert, the mistress of Riversdale, wrote to her father, “...we have been in a state of continual alarm...I am sure you have heard the news of the battle of Bladensburg where the English defeated the American troops with [President James] Madison ‘not at their head, but at their rear.’” Flush with success, the British then burned Washington. Events turned in Baltimore a few weeks later and the *Star-Spangled Banner* was born.

Join the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration at Riversdale’s annual Battle of Bladensburg Encampment on **Saturday, August 24, from noon-4pm**. This FREE family-friendly event features American and British War of 1812 troops, including Ship’s Company, Baltimore United Volunteers, and Aisquith’s Sharp Shooters. Kids, you might even get recruited for the American militia! Check out cavalry and horseback demonstrations with the Maryland Light Dragoons, too! Take a peek into camp life with demos, gunnery drills, cannon firings, and kitchen and camp displays throughout the afternoon.

We’ve got children’s activities at the ready, too! Kids can enjoy story time with an author, arts and crafts, and even try on period dresses and uniforms. **Girl and Boy Scouts, call for details on how you can earn a badge or patch!**

All events on the grounds are FREE. House tours are on a first come, first serve basis and are sponsored by Maryland Milestones/ATHA Inc. The Riversdale Kitchen Guild will sell historically inspired refreshments. For more information, call 301-864-0420, email [Riversdale@pgparks.com](mailto:Riversdale@pgparks.com), or TTY 301-699-2544.



**STAR SPANGLED EXPLOSION**

**Limited Edition Ice Cream**

Strawberry ice cream with Sherry red, white and blue sprinkles and chocolate malted milk “cannon balls”

**Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812**

The Dairy  
10 AM - 4 PM Weekdays  
Closed Weekends  
Turner Hall - U.S. Route 1  
University of Maryland - College Park



## YEARBOOKS WANTED

If you have any yearbooks from county high schools that you no longer want, please think of donating them to the Frederick DeMarr Library of County History. Contact Sarah Bourne at sarahbourne1@verizon.net or 301-277-5468 to arrange pick-up or drop off. Thank you!

## GREENBELT THEATRE



Partners in Preservation is a program that partners American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to give up to \$1 million in grants to historic places across the country. This year's grants were given throughout the Washington, D.C. Metro Area. In Prince George's County, the Greenbelt Theatre received \$75,000 to renovate its historic art deco lobby. The public was allowed to vote for the winners and the Washington National Cathedral was the winner of the popular vote and will receive a grant of \$100,000 to restore two bays of the vaulted ceiling inside the nave that was damaged by the August 2011 earthquake. To see the entire list of grant awardees visit: <http://partnersinpreservation.com/dc-metro/>.

## ENDANGERED MARYLAND LIST

Preservation Maryland has announced their 2013 list of endangered Maryland sites. The Indigenous Landscapes in Dorchester, Charles, Prince George's, Worcester, St. Mary's and Wicomico counties led the list. These lands comprise a dozen areas associated with Native-American tribes, including the Piscataway, Choptico, Nanticoke, and Manokin. Threatened by development, these unspoiled landscapes will be lost without protection. "A lack of knowledge of these resources threatens their existence," says one of the sites' nominators to the Endangered Maryland list. "A unifying approach to preserving, studying, and interpreting cultural and natural facets of [these] landscapes is needed." The remaining endangered sites are Belward Farm, Montanverde, and Washington Grove in Montgomery County, Cooper Apartments in Anne Arundel County, Fort Carroll in Baltimore County, Locust Grove School and Fort Frederick School in Washington County, Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick County, Scotland Post Office in St. Mary's County, and Rogers-Buchanan Cemetery at Druid Hill Park in Baltimore City. For more information about this and previous year's Endangered Maryland list, visit: <http://www.preservationmaryland.org/programs/endangered-maryland/>.

The nomination of endangered sites must be done by an organization who demonstrates the importance of the site to its community and is worthy of preservation. A committee of preservationists evaluate the nominations based on seven criteria: historic significance, urgency of the threat, feasibility of solution, level of community support, geographic diversity, diversity of resource, and diversity of the type of threat. This designation is intended to raise awareness, demonstrate support for preserving the site, and help to find viable solutions for doing so.

## MORE FROM JOHN W. BURROUGHS' CIVIL WAR DIARIES

One hundred and fifty years ago, the battles of the Civil War were raging, and the people of Prince George's County who remained at home hungered for every day's news. The diaries of John William Burroughs (1829-1884) of Waverly in Croom illustrate daily how this planter attempted to live a normal life while keeping up as much as possible with the news of the deadly battles that were taking place not far away. A few selections from the spring/summer of 1863 will give you an idea of his everyday tasks as a farmer, the ordinary necessities of caring for a family, even some continued social niceties, amidst the horrors of war and his strong Confederate sympathies. (See *News & Notes, Jan-Feb 2013*: Mr. Burroughs' diary entries at the time of the Emancipation Proclamation.)

-Susan G. Pearl, Historian

Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 1863: Cloudy this morning, but beautiful clear afternoon. . . . Commenced laying off Corn land. This is Abe Lincoln's Fast Day . . .<sup>1</sup>

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 1863: We had a very hard rain last night and cloudy all day. Pa<sup>2</sup> went up [to Upper Marlborough] after mail. Hooker has been driven back over the river from Fredericksburgh (*sic*).<sup>3</sup> Hands prizing tobacco and fencing around the meadow

Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 1863: Raining all day. Went to Marlboro, news came of Hooker defeat, and re-crossing of the river at Fredericksburg

Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 1863: Clear morning, warm. Went to Marlboro' with Dicky<sup>4</sup> in little carriage to have it mended . . . Pretty shower of rain this afternoon. [*In his May 13<sup>th</sup> entry, Burroughs listed some of his expenditures while in Marlborough that day:*

Wilson <sup>5</sup> - Brown sugar, slippers	\$8.73
Dr. Harper - Congress water, toothbrush, chloride ( <i>sic</i> ), lime, oranges etc. <sup>6</sup>	\$2.97
Medley's - dinner, horse feed (Dick & self) <sup>7</sup>	\$1.25]

Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 1863: Clear and cool. Misses Sallie and Rachel Clagett and Mollie Scott dined here today,<sup>8</sup> also Pa who went to Marlboro the evening after mail. "Stonewall" Jackson reported dead. Hope it is not so.

Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 1863: Clear and very cool, windy. . . . Dick & I rode to Marlboro' after mail. Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson is dead.<sup>9</sup>

*Continued on page 7*

<sup>1</sup> On March 30, 1863, President Lincoln, at the request of the Senate, proclaimed that Thursday, April 30, 1863, would be a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer. He urged people to unite at places of worship in the hope "that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace."

<sup>2</sup> Richard Burroughs (1803-1870), John William Burroughs' father, lived at his nearby Brookridge plantation.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph Hooker, appointed commander of the Union Army of the Potomac in January 1863, was defeated by Gen Robert E. Lee at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, April 30 to May 6, 1863

<sup>4</sup> Burroughs' eldest son, Richard, then 8 years old.

<sup>5</sup> George Wilson's store on Main Street

<sup>6</sup> (Dr.) James Harper operated a drug store on Main Street, across the side street from Wilson's store. "Congress Water" was a saline mineral water from the Congress Spring at Saratoga, New York. Chloride may have simply indicated salt, or possibly a zinc chloride that was in the 19th century used to treat and preserve wood, e.g., fence posts.

<sup>7</sup> James Medley and Daniel Dyer in 1858 opened a tavern/hotel in the venerable Marlborough House, which had previously served as the Planters' Bank in Upper Marlborough. The "Medley" Hotel became a popular gathering and dining place in the County Seat.

<sup>8</sup> Sallie and Rachel Clagett were the daughters of Thomas Clagett of Weston, and Mollie Scott was their cousin.

<sup>9</sup> Confederate general Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was injured in the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 2, 1863. His arm was amputated, and he died on May 10 of complications from pneumonia.

Continued from page 6

Monday, May 25th 1863: Cool and cloudy. Hands been working in garden all day. Went to Marlboro'. Henry Brooke and J. H. Waring and family were arrested yesterday.<sup>10</sup>

Wednesday, May 27th 1863: Clear, cool. Pa took Susie & Carrie<sup>11</sup> to Marlboro' this afternoon in buggy . . . Hands ploughing and picking tobacco bed.

Friday, May 29th 1863: Clear nights and mornings cool. Vicksburg not yet taken. Rode to Marlboro' today after the mail.

Monday, June 1st 1863: Clear, warm in middle of day, very windy, dry. Tobacco plants failing very rapidly, prospects for a crop gloomy in the extreme. . . I rode to Nottingham this morning to see Dr. Mac – about Mr. Waring's trial.<sup>12</sup>

Friday, June 5th 1863: Clear, but cloudy tonight and strong indications of rain. Took all children but Jimmy to Marlboro today, had their hair cut . . .<sup>13</sup>

To George Cutting children's hair	\$ .60
To Wilson Cookies and shoes	\$ .67 ½
To Hall Hat for Willie	\$ .25

Tuesday, June 16th 1863: Clear, Cooler than yesterday. Went to Marlboro after the mail. News important from Hagerstown, Winchester, etc, being in possession of Confederates . . .

Friday, June 19th 1863: Rained again last night. Planted about 10,000 tobacco plants from bed up in woods.

Thursday, June 25th 1863: Clear morning but rain in afternoon. Rode up to Marlboro after mail. Movements of Confederates shrouded in mystery – Rain tonight. Killed beef this afternoon.

Friday, June 26th 1863: Rain last night, very damp and cloudy all day and prospect of more rain tonight. Planted 30,000 tobacco hills today, all the plants I had large enough. I am 34 years old today in good health probably better than I have ever been.

Saturday, July 4th 1863: Clear, warm but windy. . . . News of interest in papers but nothing decisive.<sup>14</sup> This is July 4th but our independence and liberty have gone and there is nothing now to celebrate. Nothing has occurred to mark the day. A celebration now would be a mockery.

Sunday, July 5th 1863: Clear and dry. Went to church, Susie with us. No news today from the fighting. (*Burroughs gave Ella<sup>15</sup> and Dick 5 cents each to put in the church offering; he himself gave 20 cents.*)

Monday, July 6th 1863: We have a fine rain today, the best for months wetting the ground thoroughly. Rode to Marlboro' this evening after mail, news from the armies under Lee & Meade armies is very unsatisfactory indeed – if all in the papers were true Lee's army is on the verge of certain destruction.

<sup>10</sup> Col. John H. Waring, whose two young sons Robert and William had enlisted in the Confederate army (Robert died late in 1862), lived in the Baden area and farmed his plantation "Bald Eagle." He was arrested and court martialled for harboring Confederate military persons. Found guilty, he was sentenced to confinement at Fort Delaware for the duration of the war, but Lincoln pardoned him in February 1864. His property was confiscated, and his son, Billy was sent to Point Lookout, but escaped. "Bald Eagle" was returned to the family at the end of 1864. Henry Brooke was John Waring's cousin; he served in the Confederate army, and later (1867-75) served as Clerk of the Prince George's County Court.

<sup>11</sup> Susan and Caroline were the Burroughs' second and third daughters, then 6 and 4 years of age.

<sup>12</sup> See Footnote 10. Dr. John Maccubbin was the Burroughs' family doctor; he lived in Nottingham.

<sup>13</sup> Willie was the Burroughs' second son, John William, born 1861. James (Jimmy) was the youngest of the Burroughs children, born in January 1863. Hall and Anderson's store was on Main Street in Upper Marlborough.

<sup>14</sup> Burroughs was probably waiting for something definite from Vicksburg (Confederate army surrendered to Grant on July 4th, the same day that Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia began its retreat from Gettysburg). He apparently did not get definite word on both campaigns until July 6th.

<sup>15</sup> Catherine Ella was Burroughs' eldest daughter, then 10 years old.

## COMMENTS FROM A COLONIAL CHARACTER

Historical Interpretation is a challenging career path. However, it can be rewarding and fun if you don't mind low pay (or in many cases, no pay) and extreme weather conditions. I often portray Mrs. Bolton during our school programs at the National Colonial Farm (Accokeek Foundation). My appearance dressed as a Colonial character will quiet the rowdiest of school groups. I have had many enjoyable years talking to children about the 18<sup>th</sup> Century farmhouse, farm chores, tobacco chores, cooking, gardening, spinning and the idea of independence from England. The children want to know if I am real and do I really live here. In my mind, at that moment, I really am Mrs. Bolton of 1770. I can easily conjure up stories of what is happening at that particular moment on my family's small tobacco plantation in southern Prince George's County in the Colony of Maryland before the Revolutionary War.

One of my biggest mental challenges is word usage. Many colonial words or phrases are lost completely with elementary age children. So, I try to stay understandable and relatable. Once, a very bright child wanted to know why I did not have an English accent. I simply stated that I had never been to England. At a colonial Conference several years ago, I learned it is better not to try and have a colonial accent. (Of course, no audio of 18<sup>th</sup> Century voices is available.) One should articulate each word clearly if you are portraying an educated, gentry character. And, the words of a middlin' sort farm character should not ring as clear. So, my slight southern drawl works nicely for my Mrs. Bolton.

The biggest physical challenge is the extreme outdoor temperatures. Visitors always want to know how one can stand all the clothing in the heat of summer. I've found the right material is the answer. A light linen shift will actually help you stay cool. Once wet with sweat, a breeze will instantly cool you. As for the cold, anything wool will keep you warm and dry.

What is most rewarding, is to see the bright eyes of a child light up when Mrs. Bolton steps out from behind the door and the child experiences history come alive when I say, "Good day."

-Tricia Hardin, National Colonial Farm Interpreter



*Photos courtesy of Accokeek Foundation*

## **PGCHS LIBRARY SAVES THE DAY!**



PGCHS Historian Susan Pearl was scheduled to present an illustrated lecture on “The Prince George’s County Travels of the Peale Family of Painters” at the Greenbelt library on the evening of June 4<sup>th</sup>. Due to some staff problems at the library, together with equipment malfunction, PowerPoint proved to be impossible in the meeting room, despite the concerted efforts of various scientists among the audience. But another audience member, familiar with our wonderful library, came up with the solution – “We’re a small enough group (11 or 12) – can’t we just gather around the Historical Society library computer?” And so we did! A late start, and a slight editing of the presentation, a clear view by each member of the by-now-closely-bonded group, and a great time was had by all!

Another success for the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History!

## **PRESERVATION RECEPTION AND AWARDS**

The 2013 Prince George’s County Historic Preservation Reception was held on Tuesday, May 14 at Surratt House Museum. The evening began with remarks by Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Prince George’s County Planning Board Chairman, and Aubrey D. Thagard, Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.

A highlight of the evening were the various presentations.

Historic Preservation Commission Chairman John Peter Thompson presented Historic Site Plaques to St. Philip’s Chapel Site & Cemetery in Aquasco, the Publick Playhouse in Cheverly, The Newton White Mansion & Warington Cemetery in Mitchellville, Kingston in Upper Marlboro and St. Mary’s ME Church Site & Cemetery in Upper Marlboro.

Aaron Marcavitch, Executive Director of Maryland Milestones/ATHA, Inc., awarded the Tourism Achievement in History to the Greenbelt 75th Anniversary Committee, the Tourism Achievement in Natural Resources to the National Wildlife Visitors Center, the Tourism Achievement in Arts to the Hyattsville CDC and a Special Maryland Milestones Award to Edward P. Day, manager of Riversdale House Museum.

The University of Maryland Graduate Program in Historic Preservation gave Derek Anderson the Prince George’s Heritage Scholarship and St. Clair Wright Award.

Many thanks to the event’s sponsors: Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Surratt House Museum, Prince George’s County Historical Society, Prince George’s County Historical & Cultural Trust, Maryland Milestones/ATHA, Inc., Prince George’s Heritage, Aeon Preservation, Aman Memorial Trust, Community Forklift, LLC, Petro Design/Build, Prince George’s Conference & Visitor’s Bureau, Riversdale Historical Society, Surratt House Society, Jack Thompson Corporation, the University of Maryland, and Laurie Verge.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JULY & AUGUST 2013

**2013** - Montpelier Mansion will be closed for much of the year for major restoration work. The mansion will be partnering with local places for programming, call 301-377-7817 or visit [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com)

**July-September 2013** - the National Capital Radio and Television Museum will feature "vintage" broadcasts" every Friday-Sunday at 2 PM. Check the museum's website [www.radiohistory.org](http://www.radiohistory.org) or call 301-390-1020 for a program schedule. Programs are free.

**July-November 3** - War of 1812 exhibit at Mahan Hall at the Naval Academy in Annapolis featuring material from collection of William I. Koch and the Naval Academy; Mon-Sat 10 AM-4PM, Sunday 11 AM-4 PM; free

**July-Dec. 2013** - Greenbelt: The First 75 Years 1937-2012 exhibit at the Greenbelt Community Center, open daily

**July-Dec. 2013** - Between the Lines: Southern Maryland in the Civil War at Surratt House Museum, during tour hours, Wed.-Sun.

**July 1** - Time Travelers at Belair Stable, 10:30 AM-Noon; horsing around - stable history and fun, craft; free

**July 13** - Knitting for Beginners at Accokeek Foundation, Education Center, 11 AM-1 PM; will introduce beginners the art of knitting using hand-spun wool from the farm's heritage sheep flock; \$10/person, call 301-283-2113 to register or go to [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.org)

**July 13 & 14** - Mid-Summer Open House & Civil War Encampment at Surratt House, 12-4 PM; free tours and an afternoon in camp with the 3rd US Regular Infantry; however, on Sunday our troops will have broken camp to join in following Lee's retreat from Gettysburg

**July 16** - Kids Kaboose at Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-Noon; railroad fun for ages 1-12; free

**July 16-18** - Summer Days at the National Colonial Farm, 10 AM-1 PM; spend your summer days on an 18th century farm; interactive and fun self-guided tour and "Give Ben a Break" with his farm chores; learn how to grind corn, card wool, search the field for hornworms and play colonial games; \$5/youth, groups call for reservations at 301-283-2113 ext. 28

**July 17-August 10** - Blast-in-the-Past at Montpelier Mansion, Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11 AM-4 PM; learn about 18th century Maryland as a farmer, frontiersperson, a milliner, a carpenter, a town crier and more. Ages 2 and up; drop-in, come for an hour or the day; \$1/residents; \$2/non-residents; for more information contact Holly.Burnham@pgparcs.com or call 301-377-7817

**July 17** - Oxon Hill Manor Summer Concert at Oxon Hill Manor, doors open at 6:30, concert 7-8 PM; enjoy smooth jazz from Gentlemen of Distinction featuring Denyse Pearson; free

**July 17 (raindate July 18)** - Jazz on the Lawn at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; New Old Theater presents 1812 Jazz: The Star-Spangled Banner & All Its Cousins; free; bring a picnic or purchase food from Calvert Inn tent, bring your own lawn chair or blanket

**July 18** - Time Travelers at Belair Mansion, 10:30 AM-Noon; "Not All On The Wall" - a look at all kinds of art at Belair Mansion - not just the pictures; ages 4-12, free

**July 19 & 26** - Story Time at Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM; stories & activities about nature, history, the seasons and more; ages 3-6; free

**July 20** - The Way of Food presents "We Go Together" at National Colonial Farm, 10 AM-Noon; take a journey through food traditions as interpreters introduce you to epicurean delights of colonial Marylanders; learn how our tastes and food itself have changed over 300 years as we explore the "receipts" (recipes) and meal preparation; recipes featured are sausage and apples and To Dress a Loin of Pork with Onions; visit [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.org) for more information

**July 26** - A Trip Through Time: Unlocking Laurel's Past at Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 10 AM; discover surprising facts about Prince George's County's only factory town and its history

**July 27** - Trip to Tangier Island with the Historical Society, 12:30 PM; see front page for details

**July 30-August 1** - Summer Days at the National Colonial Farm, 10 AM-1 PM; spend your summer days on an 18th century farm; interactive and fun self-guided tour and "Give Ben a Break" with his farm chores; learn how to grind corn, card wool, search the field for hornworms and play colonial games; \$5/youth, groups call for reservations at 301-283-2113 ext. 28

**July 31 (raindate August 1)** - Jazz on the Lawn at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; Bruce Ewan featuring Steve Jacobs; free; bring a picnic or purchase food from Calvert Inn tent, bring your own lawn chair or blanket

**August & September** - Exhibit: Hodges' Chance-Treason and the War of 1812 at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 12-4 PM on Fridays & Sundays; learn about the circumstances of John Hodges' arrest for High Treason by the United States in 1815 and his subsequent trial; you can cast your vote for his innocence or guilt; free with museum admission

**August 1** - Time Travelers at Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-Noon; explore Bowie's railroad history, free

**August 3 (raindate August 4)** - Cycle through Aviation History at College Park Aviation Museum, 10 AM; discover 250 years of flight in a guided flat 10-mile bicycle tour along the Anacostia River trails, from the first balloon flight in America to intriguing 20th century inventions and industry; persons 16 & under must be accompanied by an adult; \$2/resident, \$3/non-resident, registration through SMARTlink #1144665

**August 3 & 10** - Story Time at Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM; stories & activities about nature, history, the seasons and more; ages 3-6; free

**August 7 (raindate August 8)** - Jazz on the Lawn at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; Archie Edwards Jambassadors; free; bring a picnic or purchase food from Calvert Inn tent, bring your own lawn chair or blanket

**August 10** - Airmail Day at College Park Aviation Museum, 1-3 PM; celebrate the 95th anniversary of the first airmail flight out of College Park Airport with airmail themed activities; free with museum admission

**August 13** - WASP Congressional Gold Medal Dedication at College Park Aviation Museum, 4 PM; celebrate WASP Elaine Harmon's donation of her Congressional Gold Medal to the museum

**August 16** - Early History of Laurel: Snowdens to WWII at Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 10 AM; a photo presentation of Laurel history from the Snowdens in 1658 through the Revolutionary War, Incorporation of Laurel as a town, WWI and WWII

**August 17** - The Battle of Gettysburg Revisited at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; Civil War scholar and author, Dr. Bradley Gottfried of the College of Southern Maryland will present a program on the critical Battle of Gettysburg that marked the turning point in the American Civil War; free

**August 20** - Kids Kaboose at Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-Noon; railroad fun for ages 1-12; free

**August 7 (raindate August 8)** - Jazz on the Lawn at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; Brulee; free; bring a picnic or purchase food from Calvert Inn tent, bring your own lawn chair or blanket

**August 24** - Rochambeau's March through Bowie at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; join American and British forces in commemoration of General Rochambeau's march to Yorktown in 1781 to help defeat the British; re-enactors, military drill, ladies sewing circle, 18th century groceries, jewelry, clothing, prints, and fun; free

**August 24** - 18th Annual Battle of Bladensburg Encampment at Riversdale House Museum, 12-4 PM; see page 4 for details

**August 31-September 2** - Trains and Planes at College Park Aviation Museum, 10 AM-5 PM; The National Capital Trackers bring miniature trains, villages, tunnels and depots to spark the imagination and bring history to life; free with museum admission

**National Colonial Farm** has classes and workshops; visit [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.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.anacostiatrills.org](http://www.anacostiatrills.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.radiohistory.org](http://www.radiohistory.org),

## 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. 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 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.
- 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.**
- 11. Prince George's County Maryland** - A pictorial history of the county, an Arcadia Images of America book by Katharine D. Bryant and Donna L. Schneider. Soft cover, 128 pages. Price: \$18.99

\*Shipping and handling is \$4.00 per order. If ordering more than one copy of books 1 through 3 add \$3.00 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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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 \$50  
 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* you must also be a PGCHS member, 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

XLII Number 5

September & October 2013

## PRINCE OF A COUNTY AT WEST END FARM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

2 TO 5 PM



**West End Farm** is a multi-section frame house, typical of mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century country houses in Prince George's County. It was built by prominent attorney Caleb Clark Magruder, who maintained a house and law office in Upper Marlboro. In 1854, Magruder purchased part of the Mattaponi acreage from the estate of Robert W. Bowie. Soon afterwards Magruder built his country house at the western boundary of his new property, and called it "West End Farm." With its beautiful rural setting in Croom, Maryland, West End Farm will be a delightful place to celebrate this year's *Prince of a County* fundraising event.

Invitations have already been mailed. However, if you did not receive one and would like to join us, please send \$50.00 per person, payable to PGCHS and mail to PGCHS c/o Donna Schneider, 4701 Colonel Ewell Court, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. For information, please call Donna at 301-982-8539 or email [PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com](mailto:PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com).

\* \* \* \* \*

**NOTE: The Frederick DeMarr Library of County History will be CLOSED on Saturday, August 31, 2013.**

## 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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Website: [www.pghistory.org](http://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: Elizabeth Dougherty, Christine Garcia, Steven Gilbert, Susan G. Pearl, Donna Schneider, Jack Thompson, Jr., John Peter Thompson

Directors: Kent Abraham, Elizabeth Beesley, John Brunner, 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

Webmaster: Jarrett Stoltzfus

*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



## 2013 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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## STINGLESS BEES OF THE YUCATAN

**Sunday, October 6, 2013 at 1:30 PM**  
National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center Auditorium  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop Laurel, MD 20708

Honeybees are not the only bees that make honey. Hundreds of other species of bees known as “stingless bees” also make honey. Most of the stingless bees are native to the tropics of both the eastern and western hemispheres. One of two honey producing species of stingless bees native to the Yucatan Peninsula produces what many consider the finest honey of all. The ancient Maya named this species the Royal Lady (*Melipona beecheii*).

In Mexico, the stingless bees represent at most 3% of the many species of native bees. Despite this relatively low number, the stingless bees of Mexico have had an economic, cultural and social impact unmatched in the rest of the world. Successive generations of Maya have shared the knowledge of stingless beekeeping, known as meliponiculture, for thousands of years. The Royal Lady played an important role in ancient Mayan religion and healing.

Meliponiculture, like apiculture (colony management of *Apis mellifera*, our Italian honeybees), is in danger worldwide. In Mexico, some of the factors leading to the decline of meliponiculture include loss of bee habitat and changing social patterns. Tropical forests where the bees live and young people inclined to ancient ways are both disappearing.

Join the PGCHS at 1:30 PM on October 6 to welcome Susan Langley, PhD, as she shares her knowledge of Mexican stingless bees and the Mayan culture that has managed them for millennia. Dr. Langley, herself an accomplished honeybee keeper, recently traveled to Central America where she experienced first hand the practices and products of meliponiculture. On October 6, a tasting panel chosen from the audience will have an opportunity to sample several different honeys from stingless bees and honeybees.

Please join us for our second celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month as we explore a little known aspect of Mexican history and culture. After the presentation, a group of Society members plans to dine at Taqueria la Veracruzana, an authentic Mexican restaurant located at 8730 Cherry Lane in Laurel. All members of the audience are welcome to come along.



### THE SOCIETY IS UNDERTAKING A STRATEGIC PLANNING EXERCISE

The current mission of the Prince George's County Historical Society is to preserve and promote the County's long and diverse history through:

- Reproducing new and out-of-print historical materials.
- Collecting records, documents, photographs, and artifacts reflecting the County's social, economic and political history.
- Operating the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History.
- Providing educational opportunities through lectures, programs and tours.
- Recognizing and supporting individuals and organizations that are making significant contributions to the preservation of the County's rich multi-ethnic, multi-cultural heritage.

From time to time, it is proper and necessary to review the mission and purpose of an organization through a strategic planning process. The Prince George's County Historical Society is working its way through a review of its mission. The reason for the Historical Society to undertake a mission review is to learn and to make decisions about the future of the organization.

The mission review process, begun in the spring of 2013, involves seeking answers through consensus to the following questions: Mission, Values, Vision, External analysis, Internal analysis, Goals, Action planning.

The officers and board received an external review in March 2013 and will meet with the contractor to discuss the mission of the Society in its ongoing process of strategic planning.

## FROM THE LIBRARY

The last few months at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History have been very busy ones. Through the efforts of our library volunteer, Clement Lau, we have greatly benefitted by the recent relocation of his University of Baltimore Law Library, receiving some of the library equipment that could not be moved into their new building. We have received a really functional microfilm reader, as well as lots of small library supplies, and will soon also receive a photocopier, and possibly some much-needed book shelves. Come and visit us in a few more months, and you'll be pleased with the new improvements! Thank you, Clement!

On July 17 I was contacted and asked to give a brief tour of our library for the new Area Managers of the County libraries, who would be meeting at the Greenbelt Library on July 18. Fortunately, I had an appointment with a researcher at our library on the 18<sup>th</sup>, so I was on site, and delighted to give the managers a tour. They seemed very much interested – they spent more than an hour in our library asking lots of questions, and went away, I believe, very favorably impressed.

I am also happy to report that County offices are coming to us for assistance with history-related projects. We were contacted in late May by the Parks and Recreation Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, seeking historical photographs for their exhibit at the Maryland Municipal League conference in June. We were able to transmit to them digital copies of about twenty of our archival photographs, many of which they used in their "Telling Our Story" exhibit; their kind acknowledgment indicates that this assistance was "invaluable to our exhibit." Then in July, we had a visit from the Community Affairs director for County Executive Rushern Baker. He was collecting **historical facts about the County** in order to set up a *Jeopardy*-like game for the annual conference of the Maryland Association of Counties in mid-August. We, of course, have an abundance of facts here; we gave him about two hours worth of the most surprising and interesting that we could think of, and he went away happy. We're looking forward to being able soon to view on the web a little *Jeopardy* action from the conference.

Also in July, I met with our first and (so far) only annoyed potential researcher, who had tried to contact us asking for an appointment, but had not been able to retrieve my response. I told him that I did not think that we could help him, but that I would be happy to try. We made a weekday appointment, and he came and spent several hours at our library – although I was not able to help him with his particular subject, he found several other interesting things at our library and went away happy. (Whew! I did not want to spoil our record of always making our researchers very happy!)

We have now received from Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) a DVD of their film biography of Pyon Su, the first Korean national to graduate (1891) from an American university - the Maryland Agricultural College (now University of Maryland at College Park). We were able to assist Harold Pyon, a collateral relative of Pyon Su, with his research into the M.A.C. and the families who befriended Pyon Su while he was here; we have actually featured some of Pyon Su's story in several articles in the past (see *News & Notes*, July-August 2005, and January-February 2013). Pyon Su graduated from the M.A.C. in June 1891, and began a statistical study of the agriculture of China and Japan for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, but was tragically killed in a railroad accident at the College Station near the M.A.C. in October of that year. It was very interesting to work with Mr. Pyon and the KBS video staff, and University of Maryland archivists, on a subject quite a bit different from our usual daily inquiries. The film was shown on Korean TV a few months ago, and we look forward to showing the video here sometime in the future.

We have now celebrated the fifth anniversary of our move to the Greenbelt Library building, and I can report that I recently overheard a reference to the DeMarr Library as the "jewel of the Prince George's County Historical Society" . . . . Be sure to come and visit – we are open every Saturday from noon to 4:00 p.m., and during the week by appointment.

Susan G. Pearl, PGCHS Historian

## ANOTHER PRINCE . . . !

To follow up on the news, so recent from across the seas, that Parliament at Whitehall and Commonwealth countries 'round the globe had changed their laws to ensure that the eldest child of William, Duke of Cambridge, whether boy or girl, would be next after William to succeed to the British throne, we now learn the legislation may have been a lot of fuss over nothing. That at least seems so for now, for the next generation of royals in the United Kingdom. For the new babe, the first child subject to the new rules, turned out to be male.

As we heard within hours of the event, Duchess Catherine of Cambridge gave birth to a son, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. The young charge, some day to be prince and then king, is said to be doing fine, in health and also legally. He has the right set of fingers and toes, eyes and ears, and sits squarely in the royal line of succession, where he'd have been even under the old laws, the Act of Settlement 1701 and later statutes. Those ancient rules, now into their fourth century, have been around since the days of Queen Anne and her consort, Prince George of Denmark – our county's namesake – and would have worked just fine for William and Kate's new child, without a change to the laws.

It may happen, though perhaps not within the lives of any reading this, that the new statutes will someday serve to promote an elder princess over her younger brother. For the near term, though, and perhaps into the next century, the changed rules won't have to be applied.

For those keeping track, who want to get the new order right, no official programs have been issued. But the names can be gleaned from the current press, online and off, and there's not much controversy about them. So: As sitting monarch we have Elizabeth II, elder daughter (in the absence of sons, at the time) of King George VI, in her sixty-first year on the throne. First in line of succession is Prince Charles, eldest son of Elizabeth and Philip, her consort; next would be William, the proud new father and the son of Charles and the late Diana Spencer; and third now has arrived George Alexander Louis, son of William and Kate and, if all goes well, the future king of Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Harry, younger son of Charles and Diana, moves down a rung, from third in succession to fourth. And yes, they're all men, the next three after Elizabeth, and all eldest children.

Local progressives, then, have good news and bad to mull over. Feminists yearning for equality won't get to see a House of Windsor daughter crowned ahead of her younger brother, anytime soon. But all us Prince Georgians can look forward to yet another George, the seventh, someday on the throne.

-Steven Gilbert



### TANGIER ISLAND TRIP

Historical Society members and their families had a great trip on the ferry and visit to Tangier Island. A family-style lunch at Hilda Crockett's Chesapeake House was enjoyed by (left to right) Jack Thompson, Jr. (standing), Kathleen Litchfield, Imara Ashton, Nathania Branch Miles, Dianne Abraham and Kent Abraham. A few of us even decided to make a weekend of it and spent the night and went back on the ferry Sunday afternoon. It was a great opportunity to explore the island by bike, meet and talk with the locals, and relax.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2013

**2013** - Montpelier Mansion will be closed for much of the year for major restoration work. The mansion will be partnering with local places for programming, call 301-377-7817 or [www.pgpcgs.com](http://www.pgpcgs.com)

**Fridays & Sundays in September** - Hodges' Chance: Treason and the War of 1812 (Exhibit) at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 12-4 PM; John Hodges, a wealthy Upper Marlboro merchant who lived at Darnall's Chance in the early 19<sup>th</sup> c., was charged with High Treason by the U.S. in 1815. Learn about his arrest, subsequent trial, and cast your vote for his innocence or guilt; free with admission

**September 2013** - the National Capital Radio and Television Museum will feature "vintage" broadcasts" every Friday-Sunday at 2 PM; check the museum's website [www.radiohistory.org](http://www.radiohistory.org) or call 301-390-1020 for a program schedule; free

**September-November 3** - War of 1812 exhibit at Mahan Hall at the Naval Academy in Annapolis featuring material from collection of William I. Koch and the Naval Academy; Mon-Sat 10 AM-4PM, Sunday 11 AM-4 PM; free

**September-December 2013** - Greenbelt: The First 75 Years 1937-2012 exhibit at the Greenbelt Community Center, open daily

**Sept.-Dec. 2013** - Between the Lines: Southern Maryland in the Civil War at Surratt House Museum, during tour hours, Wed.-Sun.

**September 1** - Fun and Games at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; young visitors can enjoy table top games from the past: draughts (checkers), the game of goose, nine pins and more, make a silhouette picture; free

**September 3** - History of College Park Airport lecture at College Park Aviation Museum, 6 PM; free

**September 4** - "Can a Complex Research Problem be Solved Solely Online?" by Tom Jones at New Carrollton Municipal Center, 7 PM; for more information email [pgcgs@juno.com](mailto:pgcgs@juno.com)

**September 7** - Summer Sips at Riversdale House Museum, 3 PM; put on your party clothes and spend the afternoon surrounded by the beauty of the late summer garden as you enjoy historically-inspired small plates paired with summer beverages crafted from our local, fresh produce; ages 21 & up, advance payment required by September 1 by calling 301-864-0420; capacity is limited

**September 8** - Grandparents' Day Tours at Riversdale House Museum, 12:15-3:15 PM; the Calvert children kept in touch with their Belgian grandparents by writing letters. Keep in touch with your grandparents by bringing them, or another special senior guest, for a free guided tour. Limited to one free tour with each paid admission

**September 10** - Second Tuesday Lecture at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; Genealogist Rebecca Koford will discuss "Preserving the Pensions: War of 1812", free; call 301-809-3089 for details

**September 14** - Civil War on the Homefront at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; join members of the Atlantic Guard Soldiers Aid Society as they interpret Civil War civilian life; free

**September 15** - Prince of a County at West End Farm in Croom, 2-5 PM; see page 1 for details; \$50.00/person

**September 15** - Mr. Lincoln's Neighborhood: A Luncheon Program at Colony South Hotel, 2-5 PM; Dr. William Bushong of The White House Historical Association will speak on the White House and its surrounding neighborhood; pre-paid reservations required by September 10 by calling Surratt House Museum at 301-868-1121

**September 17** - Kids Kaboose at Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-Noon; railroad fun for ages 1-10; free; details 301-575-2488

**September 18** - Fall History Lecture, 7:30 PM; David Taylor speaks on his book "The War of 1812 and the Rise of the U.S. Navy"; free; contact Montpelier Mansion for location at 301-377-7817

**September 21** - Jazz Concert on the Lawn at Marietta House Museum, 2 PM; bring a blanket and picnic basket to enjoy local jazz performers; free

**September 22** - Seasonal Selections: Pies at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM; using produce from the garden and orchard, Guild members demonstrate foodways in the dependency kitchen; selections inspired by the traditional cycles of a 19<sup>th</sup> c. farm; free

**September 28** - Join College Park Aviation Museum, Montpelier Mansion, National Capital Radio & Television Museum, Riversdale House Museum and other area museums for Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live; find out more and print the required ticket here: [www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/)

**October 1** - Landscapes of College Park Airport lecture at College Park Aviation Museum, 6 PM; free

**October 2** - "Finding Your Virginia Ancestors" by Sharon Hodges at New Carrollton Municipal Center, 7 PM; email for information: [pgcgs@juno.com](mailto:pgcgs@juno.com)

**October 5** - The Jubilee Voices at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; the Washington Revels' Jubilee Voices preserve African-American history through songs and stories; free

**October 6** - Seasonal Selections: The Sweet & Savory Apple at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM; using produce from the garden and orchard, Guild members demonstrate foodways in the dependency kitchen; inspired by the traditional cycles of a 19<sup>th</sup> century farm; free

**October 6** - Stingless Bees of the Yucatan at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, 1:30 PM; see page 3 for details; free

**October 8** - Second Tuesday Lecture at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; Joan Scovill will offer a look at "Jerusalem Mill": A Colonial Village on the Gunpowder", free; call 301-809-3089 for details

**October 15** - Kids Kaboose at Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-Noon; railroad fun for ages 1-10; free; details 301-575-2488

**October 16** - Fall History Lecture, 7:30 PM; Mike Lucas, archaeologist for M-NCPPC, will speak on the findings at Nottingham, which was a thriving commercial center in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century; free; contact Montpelier Mansion for location at 301-377-7817

**October 18** - A Gothick Moonlit Evening at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; explore two centuries of vampire tales during a moonlit tour of the grounds with selected readings from John William Polidori's *The Vampyre*; ages 12 & up, advanced payment required by October 11 by calling 301-864-0420, capacity is limited

**October 20** - Seasonal Selections: From Field to Forest at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM; using produce from the garden and orchard, Guild members demonstrate foodways in the dependency kitchen; inspired by the traditional cycles of a 19<sup>th</sup> century farm; free

**October 25-26** - Twilight Tales at the National Colonial Farm Education Center, 7 & 8 PM; a spooky dramatic production tours the farm after sunset exploring the 18<sup>th</sup> c. attitudes towards death with song and instrument; visit the cemetery and Tavern of the Lost Souls for a frightening musical treat; \$7/members, \$10/non-members, for details call 301-283-2113 or [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.org)

**October 26** - Fall Bash at Marietta House Museum, 1-4 PM; enjoy pumpkin painting, pictures and kids crafts, ages 1-12; \$5/child, adults/free (one pumpkin per child)

**October 26** - The Great Jack O'Lantern Campfire at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 7 PM, (rain date October 27 at 6 PM); see a dazzling display of dozens of hand-carved illuminated jack o' lanterns, bask in the warmth of a campfire, roast marshmallows, enjoy popcorn and cider; listen to haunted Halloween tales, have your fortune told. Kids can win a prize on a hunt for glowing jack o' lanterns

**October 28** - Hands-on History: Toys Through Time at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; spend the day creating handmade toys while learning about 200 years of toys and play; advanced payment required by October 14 by calling 301-864-0420

**November 4** - History Lecture Lunch Day at Belair Mansion; a day-long program on 18<sup>th</sup> century foodways, call 301-809-3089 for details

**National Colonial Farm** has classes and workshops; visit [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.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:** [history.pgpcgs.com](http://history.pgpcgs.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/fowal>, [www.radiohistory.org](http://www.radiohistory.org), [www.surrattmuseum.org](http://www.surrattmuseum.org), [www.battleofbladensburg1812.com](http://www.battleofbladensburg1812.com), and, [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs/index.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs/index.htm)

## 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. 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 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.
- 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.**
- 11. Prince George's County Maryland** - A pictorial history of the county, an Arcadia Images of America book by Katharine D. Bryant and Donna L. Schneider. Soft cover, 128 pages. Price: \$18.99

\*Shipping and handling is \$4.00 per order. If ordering more than one copy of books 1 through 3 add \$3.00 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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## Prince George's County Historical Society Membership Application

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Membership Category (Please check one)

Full-time Student \$10     Individual \$30     Family \$45     Corporate \$75     Life Member \$50  
 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 you must also be a PGCHS member, 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

XLII Number 6

November & December 2013

## HOLIDAYS IN THE HERITAGE AREA: WAR OF 1812 KICKOFF

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013, AT 6:30 PM**  
**RIVERSDALE MANSION**  
**4811 RIVERDALE ROAD, RIVERDALE, MD**

Join M-NCPPC, Maryland Milestones and the Prince George's County Historical Society for food, fun, and history! With the big 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake coming next year, we will be unveiling the historical signage, traveling exhibits, and events calendar. Mingle afterward and celebrate the big opportunity for heritage tourism in Prince George's County.

There will be a brief Historical Society meeting prior to the event at 6:30 PM.



Wealthy Flemish financier Henri Joseph Stier of Antwerp fled Europe with his family during the French Revolution. In 1799, Stier's younger daughter, Rosalie Eugenie, married planter George Calvert of Prince George's County, a descendant of the fifth Lord Baltimore.

In 1800, Stier bought 729 acres near the port of Bladensburg and commissioned the building of Riversdale. The Stiers moved into their partially built house in 1802.

In 1803, Mr. and Mrs. Stier and their older children returned to Antwerp. George and Rosalie Calvert moved into Riversdale and completed construction in 1807. The correspondence between Rosalie Calvert and her family survives and is the

basis for *Mistress of Riversdale: the Plantation Letters of Rosalie Stier Calvert*, edited by Margaret Law Callcott (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991). These letters provide a rich source for the restoration and interpretation of the house. Mrs. Calvert never returned to Europe. She died at Riversdale in 1821 at age 42 having borne nine children; five lived to maturity. George Calvert did not remarry and died in 1838.

Charles Benedict Calvert, the Calverts' son, continued living at Riversdale. A progressive farmer, he founded the Maryland Agricultural College (now the University of Maryland, College Park) and, as a U.S. congressman, sponsored legislation establishing the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He died in 1864.

Riversdale's success was dependent on the labor of enslaved African-Americans such as Adam Francis Plummer. Born into slavery in 1819, Plummer was moved to Riversdale at the age of ten. Unlike most enslaved workers, he could read and write, and in 1841, shortly after his marriage to Emily Saunders Arnold, he began keeping a diary. This diary is one of the few first-hand accounts of slavery and emancipation in Maryland; it is now held by the Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, D.C.

Following Charles Benedict Calvert's death, Riversdale began to decline. In 1887, the estate was sold to developers who used the house as their headquarters as they built the commuter suburb of Riverdale Park. The mansion served as a boarding house and a country club before being purchased by William Pickford. The house was leased to U.S. Senator Hiram Johnson, former governor of California. In the late 1920s, U.S. Senator Thaddeus Caraway of Arkansas bought the house. Caraway died in office and his widow, Hattie, went on to become the first woman elected to the Senate. The last private owner of the house was Abraham Walter Lafferty, who lived there until the 1940s.

In 1949, Lafferty sold the property to The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Riversdale was used as office space. Restoration began in 1988 and the house was opened to the public as a museum in 1993.

## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Webmaster: Jarrett Stoltzfus

*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



## 2013 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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## FREDERICK DEMARR LIBRARY

During the upcoming holiday season, the Frederick DeMarr Library will be closed on Saturday, November 30 and December 21 and 28, so our staff can enjoy time with family and friends.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT INCREASE APPROVED

The Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission is pleased to announce that on July 24, 2013, the Prince George's County Council passed legislation to amend the County Code related to the percentage of improvement costs eligible for property tax credits from **10% to 25%** for work completed after June 1, 2013. Eligible work includes repairs, restoration, or preservation of exterior features of designated structures. This action was authorized by the legislation enacted by the State of Maryland earlier this year.

The increase in the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Tax Credit applies to property owners within the county who own individually-designated historic properties or who own contributing resources located in locally designated historic districts. Applications are reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission for eligibility, and then forwarded to the Prince George's County Office of Finance/Treasury Division for final approval.

In 2013, the HPC certified a variety of applications. Examples of the projects certified eligible include: repairing gutters, chimneys and masonry, repainting of siding/trim, porch restoration, restoration of windows, and compatible new construction. All eligible property owners are encouraged to take advantage of the increased tax credit amount by submitting a Historic Area Work Permit, completing eligible projects, and then applying for the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Tax Credit at the time the eligible work is completed. For more information, contact M-NCPPC Countywide Planning, Historic Preservation Section at 301-952-3680 or e-mail at [HistoricPreservation@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:HistoricPreservation@ppd.mncppc.org).

## IN MEMORY OF JANE EAGEN DODD

Jane Eagen Dodd was a woman immersed in the history of Prince George's County, Maryland. Jane was forever passionate about sharing the rich and vibrant history of Prince George's County with County residents and visitors alike. A lifelong native of the County, Jane lived the history of the County and brought it to life for generations of County school children in her role as a teacher in the Prince George's County public schools. Additionally, Jane inspired individuals of all ages to understand and appreciate the history of our county through her extensive work as president and longtime officer of the Prince George's County Historical Society. One notable effort begun by Jane and proceeding still today is to provide a copy of "I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer" to all public elementary school libraries in the Prince George's County school system. The story recounts the remarkable life of Marylander Matthew Henson an African-American explorer who accompanied Admiral Robert Peary on his 1909 journey to the North Pole.

Donations are being accepted to make Jane's dream a reality. If you wish to make a donation in memory of Jane Eagen Dodd, or to simply assist in bringing this unique book to the school libraries of Prince George's County, please send a check payable to PGCHS in the amount of your choosing to Prince George's County Historical Society, at P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014. All books donated will include a book plate recording that the book has been provided by the Prince George's County Historical Society in memory of Jane Eagen Dodd. Individual donor names will not be included.

The Prince George's County Historical Society, its Board of Directors, and the friends and family of Jane Eagen Dodd thank you for your financial assistance in providing this inspirational story to the youth of our County.

## I REMEMBER ANNA MAE (1926-2013)

On August 15, 2013, my dear friend, Anna Mae Queen Holmes closed her eyes for the last time and went to join her beloved Ralph Holmes and ancestors. Anna Mae was the first daughter of six children born to Leo and Sarah Marion Queen, born on April 16, 1926, in Northwest Washington, D.C. She had a great childhood with loving parents in a good Christian home living in North Brentwood, MD. Both her parents worked and were good role models for Anna as she grew into a young woman who would take the world on in her own way.



Anna Mae was educated in the Prince George's County School system at a time when the county schools were segregated. Anna Mae was an excellent student and attended Brentwood Elementary School and Lakeland Senior High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Bowie State College class of 1946. Like most Negro teachers in her time, Anna had to go north to complete her graduate education and received her Masters of Art degree in Early Childhood Education from New York University.

In 1949, Anna Mae married Ralph Holmes on April 22, and bought a home in Northeast Washington, DC on the county line because of a Prince George's County ordinance prohibiting the sale of houses to Negroes. To this union they had three wonderful children, Cheryl, Mark and Michael Holmes. Anna described this period of her life as challenging and exciting and stated that she could not have completed it without the love and support of her husband Ralph. In January 1994, Anna lost her beloved Ralph after 45 years of marriage and it was an adjustment for her.

Anna knew that she wanted to be a teacher and pursued an advance graduate Specialist degree in Reading from the University of Maryland. Anna also studied advanced special education at Morgan State University and George Washington University. In 1970 Anna was one of the first African American Supervisors in the Northern Area Reading Program Prince George's County. After teaching for 34 years she retired from the Prince George's County Public Schools.

She enjoyed her teaching career but was enjoying her retirement more. I can't remember the last time we talked, but I remember our last phone conversation because she was getting ready to do what she loves best, go on a cruise. For Anna was always on the move attending some meeting, visiting friends and still driving herself around the county, Annapolis and the Eastern shore to relax. She always talked about her time spent with the family on the Chesapeake Bay.

I learned that while she was born in Washington, DC her ancestral roots were at the Fairview Plantation at Collington in Bowie. Anna talked of her friendship with Oden Bowie, on the Fairview Plantation when his grandfather Oden Bowie was Governor of Maryland. Anna stated that her great grandparents, Basil and Lizzie Woods, were enslaved and buried there. The world has lost a remarkable woman who researched her family history and recorded her life and times in her book, "Treasured Reflections of Time: Memoirs of Anna Mae Queen Holmes." As president of the North Brentwood Historical Society, Anna served as project director of the 2004 publication, "Minding Our Own Business: An Oral History of North Brentwood Entrepreneurs."



I always loved talking with Anna as she was a special lady with many stories filled from oral history, the history of African Americans in the county, and the tribulations of the various cultural changes living in the county. I learned that Anna was deep into the historic preservation of the African American communities that seem to get lost with each progressive move towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Her greatest passion was to see that the plans for the African American Museum Cultural Center of North Brentwood would be finished. She worked extremely hard to get it off the ground with the assistance of funding from the Prince George's County Council.

When I first met her I was impressed by this little lady who had the presence of a Queen; little did I know that "Queen" was her maiden name.

## **LECTURE SERIES SYNOPSIS: STINGLESS BEES OF THE YUCATAN**

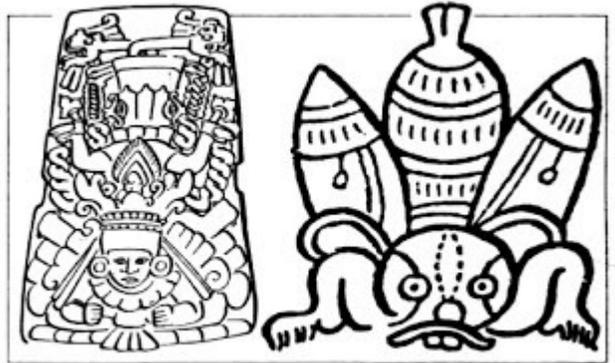


An enthusiastic group of PGCHS members joined Professor Susan Langley on October 6th, to hear a delightful and informative lecture on ancient Mayan bee cultures, current Mexican bee-keeping, and the Yucatan stingless bee. These bees, actually a different species from our more familiar Italian bees, have been cultivated for hundreds of years. In fact, we were shown numerous examples of archaeological evidence of Mayan hives and of the importance Mayans attached to these bees, their wax and their honey.

After the lecture, we joined Dr. Langley for a honey tasting, sampling several Central American honeys and even tasting the governor's own honey (as Dr. Langley is the Maryland Governor's own beekeeper). We gathered for lunch afterward at

a superb Mexican restaurant, Taqueria la Veracruzana in Laurel, to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

This lecture series is still in development, but look forward to a future talk on the pirates of the Chesapeake (including the very first donors to the College of William and Mary), as Dr. Langley is teaching a course on that subject. Keep your eye on this space, or on our website, or add your name to our e-mail list for announcements and reminders.



*Continued from page 4*

But make no mistake Anna Mae Holmes was a mover and a shaker in North Brentwood and Prince George's County, MD. Anna was a joiner and belonged to many organizations. Anna Mae and I were both members of the Afro-American Historical Society, Inc., Prince George's County Chapter and on the Board of Directors of the Prince George's County Historical Society. Anna Mae was a community activist and took her civic duties very seriously so she became an active member of several county-wide organizations which recognized her achievements and service through several awards. Anna Mae received from the Prince George's County Council a proclamation for Outstanding Contributions to the Preservation of African American History; she received the National History Award from the Afro-American Historical Society for her contributions to Black History; and the St. George's Day Award from the Prince George's County Historical Society;

Anna Mae had a lot of hobbies, but she excelled at making quilts and was always willing to show them off. She told me that she got into quilting working with her mother with the Daughters of Dorcas Quilting Group. She had made at least 30 or more quilts which tell a history of family and friends.

I didn't know that she was sick and it was hard to believe because I never heard her ever speak of being tired. She had so much energy and vitality when you were around her you felt energized as well. Anna Mae (Queen) Holmes was a delightful and extraordinary woman, a daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to many who loved her. She would credit her mother Fanny, for instilling in her the desire to continue sharing the family history, preserve it and to pass it on. It goes without saying that her smile and wit will be missed by all who knew her. On August 23, 2013 the family held a Celebration of Life for Anna Mae and a great life it was.

-Nathania A. Branch Miles



**MEET THE AUTHOR: BRIAN JAY JONES, HENSON BIOGRAPHER**

7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, November 14, 2013  
Custis Hall in Riverdale Presbyterian Church  
6513 Queen's Chapel Road  
Town of University Park, MD

Society members are invited to meet the best selling author of "Jim Henson: The Biography" when he visits University Park, a town where the late Jim Henson spent much of his youth. Brian Jay Jones' most recent book was released on September 24 and within a week hit the New York Time Best Seller list. Since then, Jones has been a guest on the Diane Rehm Show, Jon Stewart's The Daily Show, the Tavis Smiley Show and the Today Show.

Jones also wrote "Washington Irving: An American Original" (2008). This book won the St. Nicholas Society of New York's medal for literary excellence. It has been called the definitive biography of the author of "Rip Van Winkle" and other American literary treasures.

Bring copies of Brian's books for signing and find a unique answer to your holiday gift giving questions. Jones' website, [www.brianjayjones.com](http://www.brianjayjones.com), provides an extensive overview of his work and recent appearances.

**2014 SLATE OF OFFICERS**

At the Holidays in the Heritage Area: War of 1812 Kickoff on December 18, 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 at 6:30 PM. 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: Jane Taylor Thomas
- Treasurer: Angel Reynolds
- Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Elected for a 3-year term:

- John Brunner
- Bremante Bryant
- Elizabeth Dougherty
- Christine Garcia
- Keith Gray
- Sealani Weiner

Elected for a 2 year term:

- Joseph Plenzler
- Patti Skews

Elected for a 1 year term:

- Donna Schneider
- Jack Thompson, Jr.

**SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014**

The Prince George's County Historical Society is sponsoring the Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage next year. The tour will highlight Prince George's County as a staging ground for the British on their march to seize and burn Washington, D.C. in the summer of 1814. Travel part of the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Byway that "connects the places, people and events that led to the birth of the National Anthem."

Full details will be in our March-April 2014 issue of *News & Notes*, but here is a sampling of the pilgrimage. The tour will begin on the Patuxent River in Nottingham, will travel historic Fenno Road to St. Thomas Episcopal Church, will make stops off Croom Road and Croom Station Road, have lunch by Milloff's Catering at Trinity Church and a walking tour in the Town of Upper Marlboro, before ending the afternoon with wine and cheese at Darnall's Chance.

We are looking for volunteers to help with selling and taking tickets at the tour locations. Volunteers can receive discounted tickets for the day. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jack Thompson at 301-237-6249 or email [pgchsmembers@hotmail.com](mailto:pgchsmembers@hotmail.com).

**HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Are you looking for something unique to give this holiday season? Something that says "Prince George's County?"

- \* We have gift certificates available for the Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage. Gift certificates are \$30 each and can be used for any of the 2014 Pilgrimage tours: Prince George's County on April 26, Baltimore County on May 4, Talbot County on May 10, Calvert County on May 17 and Kent County on May 31.
- \* A new Prince George's County Historical Society gift membership for \$20. A \$10 savings off an Individual membership.
- \* A 15% discount on Society publications, except "Landmarks of Prince George's County." The discount is not available on website orders.

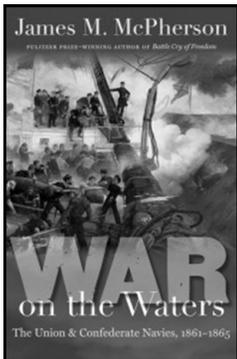


If you have any questions, please email [pgchsmembers@hotmail.com](mailto:pgchsmembers@hotmail.com). To order, please make checks payable to PGCHS and mail to PGCHS Holiday Sales, PO Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738.

**PRIDE IN PRINCE GEORGE'S**

The exhibit at the U.S. District Court Building in Greenbelt has been extended until the end of the year. Entitled "Pride in Prince George's," it includes 60 photographs, taken mostly in the 1970s, of historic buildings and vistas from the first overall survey of historic places in Prince George's County. These very impressive photographs were taken by Michael F. Dwyer, former historian for Prince George's and Montgomery counties. The U.S. District Court is located at 6500 Cherrywood Lane, and entrance is free of charge between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Rare Special Appearance at The Maryland Historical Society**  
**An Evening with James M. McPherson:**  
**"Civil War on Land and by Sea: Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief"**



The Maryland Historical Society proudly welcomes Pulitzer-prize winner author and historian **Professor James M. McPherson** on **Thursday, November 14** beginning at **4 PM!**

Dr. McPherson will speak on the subject of **The Civil War on Land and by Sea: Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief**. McPherson will discuss President Lincoln's role as a war leader and commander-in-chief, touching on Lincoln's role in naval war policy. With the film "Lincoln" on many minds, McPherson's analysis of the president's special, even unique, leadership skills during the crisis makes this one of the most eagerly anticipated Maryland Historical Society events of the year.

The evening begins at 4 pm with a personal tour with Dr. McPherson of our "Divided Voices: Maryland In the Civil War" Gallery. McPherson's lecture and book signing will follow at 6 pm. Light refreshments will be served. The evening will culminate with a dinner at The Maryland Club at 8pm. Seating for the Dinner is limited to 50 people.

Dr. McPherson will be signing copies of his newest book, *War on the Waters: The Union and Confederate Navies, 1861-1865*. Copies of his book, as well as his other recent publication, *Lincoln, Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief* by James M. McPherson, will be available for purchase.

Dr. James M. McPherson is the George Henry Davis '86 Professor of History Emeritus at Princeton University. He has published numerous volumes on the Civil War, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Battle Cry of Freedom*, *Crossroads of Freedom* (which was a New York Times bestseller), *Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution*, and *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War*, which won the Lincoln Prize.

**Lecture and Book Signing Only:** Tickets for the Lecture and Book Signing, beginning at 6 pm, are \$20 per person for MdHS members and \$25 per person for nonmembers.

**Dinner, Civil War Gallery Tour, Lecture and Book Signing:** Tickets for the Civil War Gallery Tour, Lecture & Book Signing and Dinner at the Maryland Club are \$125 per person.

Tickets may be purchased at [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org) or calling 410-685-3750 ext. 377.

## 1812 HAUTE COUTURE FASHION SHOW AND TEA

Fabulous dresses, eveningwear and military uniforms of 1800s will hit the catwalk on November 3, 2013, at 2:00 PM at the Maryland Historical Society.

Baltimore National Heritage Area, in conjunction with the Baltimore Fashion Alliance, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and MdHS, will present original designs inspired by the 1812 era. Models will don dresses of the 1800s—including daywear, eveningwear, and military regalia—and walk down a catwalk especially constructed for the event.

Baltimore's own "fashionista" Betsy Bonaparte will model the "latest" French fashions and strut her stuff on the runway. Visitors will additionally be able to learn more about Betsy's fantastic fashion sense in the exhibition, *Woman of Two Worlds: Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte and her Quest for an Imperial Legacy* on display at MdHS (June 9, 2013 - June 9, 2014).

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and tea will be served. Tickets: \$35 per person, phone 410-685-3750, ext. 377 or email [events@mdhs.org](mailto:events@mdhs.org).

Event organized by the Baltimore National Heritage Area, with support from the Baltimore Fashion Alliance, the Maryland Historical Society, the National Park Service, and the American Flag Foundation.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2013

- Nov.-Dec. 2013** - the National Capital Radio and Television Museum will feature "vintage" broadcasts" every Friday-Sunday at 2 PM; November is Comedy Month and December is Santa's Big Broadcast Month ; check [www.ncrtv.org](http://www.ncrtv.org) or call 301-390-1020 for a program schedule; free, but donations welcome
- Nov.-Dec. 2013** - Greenbelt: The First 75 Years 1937-2012 exhibit at the Greenbelt Community Center, open daily
- Nov.-Jan. 3** - Early 20th Century Holiday Postcard Exhibit at Marietta House Museum, Fri.-Sun., 12-4 PM; history itself can be tracked on postcards, from historical buildings, famous people, art and more; hundreds of holiday postcards, including rare Halloween postcards from the 1900s; free with museum admission
- Nov.-Dec. 2013** - Between the Lines: Southern Maryland in the Civil War at Surratt House Museum, during tour hours, Wed.-Sun.
- Nov. 29-30, Dec. 1, 6-8, 13-15** - 14th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 12-5 PM; for a sweet treat, come and view and amazing display of edible gingerbread houses, visitors have a the opportunity to vote in the Viewer's Choice Award Competition; \$1/person
- November 3** - Taste of Laurel at Laurel Museum, 1:30-3:30 PM; donation per family to LARS
- November 4** - Tavern Games Night at Maryland City at Russett Library, 6:30-8 PM; hear period music, dress up in colonial style clothes, learn an old English country dance, light refreshments; free; location is 3501 Russett Common in Laurel
- November 9** - Speakeasy Tea at Montpelier Mansion, 1:30 PM; dig out your grandmother's flapper dress, prize for best costume; prix fixe menu and surprise libation; \$29/person, \$25/Friends of Montpelier; reservations required at 301-377-7817
- November 9** - Hollywood and the Civil War: Glory at Surratt House Museum, 6 PM; tells of the first formal unit of the U.S. Army to use African American soldiers; free
- November 10** - Seasonal Selections: Fall Feast at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM; using produce from the garden and orchard, Guild members demonstrate foodways in the dependency kitchen; selections are inspired by the traditional cycles of a 19th century farm; free
- November 14** - An Evening with James M. McPherson: "Civil War on Land and by Sea: Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief", see page 9 for details
- November 14** - Meet the Author, Brian Jay Jones, Henson Biographer, 7:30 PM, see page 7 for details
- November 16** - Maryland Legacy Day at LDS Family History Center, 3601 Southern Avenue in Suitland, 1-4 PM; sponsored by the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc.-Prince George's County Chapter; Donald K. Creveling, Archaeology Program Manager for M-NCPPC, will discuss "African-American Archaeological Research in Maryland;" free; for details contact Carolyn Rowe at 301-292-2751 or Jane Thomas at 301-292-1207 or <http://pgcm.aahgs.org/>
- November 16-17** - Regency Ladies Weekend at Riversdale House Museum; spend the weekend experiencing the life of a Regency-era woman as you explore fashion, cooking, amusements and more; delight in the rare opportunity to spend the night in the museum, advance registration required by calling 301-864-0420
- November 20** - History Lecture at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; Mary Pickersgill, as portrayed by Jill Crowther-Peters of the Flag House and Star Spangled Banner Museum of Baltimore, tells her story; free
- November 23** - Taste of the Past at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; sample heritage desserts from the 18th and 19th centuries; free
- November 30** - Black Friday on Saturday Stocking Stuffer Day at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; 20% discount in the museum shop
- December 1** - Holiday Open House at Belair Mansion, 12-7 PM; tour the decorated Mansion, enjoy the traditional music of "Bedlam"; Candlelight by Twilight from 3-7 PM; the City of Bowie's Holiday Tree Lighting and Santa's arrival by fire truck at 7; free
- December 1** - Trainspotting and Santa at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10 AM-4 PM; visit Bowie Station and watch unusual railroad cars whizz past on Amtrak's busiest day of the year; the NTrack Model-
- ers will have a model layout in the caboose; Santa Claus will visit the Welcome Center between 11 AM-3 PM; free
- December 3** - Oxon Hill Manor Holiday Tea at Oxon Hill Manor, 1-3 PM; enjoy live music, a variety of tea and tasty bites; \$25/ resident/\$30 non-resident; pre-registration required by calling 301-839-7782 by November 22
- December 6-8** - Holiday Open House at Laurel Museum, 10 AM-2 PM on Fri. and Sat., 1-4 PM on Sun.
- December 7** - Breakfast with Sint Niklaas at Riversdale House Museum, 9 & 11 AM; meet Sint Niklaas, the Flemish forerunner of our modern Santa Claus; enjoy a Belgian-inspired breakfast, receive a special gift; children ages 3-10; registration required by November 16, 301-864-0420
- December 7** - Santa Fly-In at College Park Aviation Museum, 12-4 PM; watch Santa fly into historic College Park Airport and have your picture taken with him; holiday arts & crafts will be offered; free with museum admission
- December 7** - Holiday History Happy Hour at Belair Mansion, 5-7 PM; enjoy wassail and a lecture on the History of Holidays; free
- December 13-15** - Holiday Tea at Montpelier House Museum, 1 PM, enjoy a tour and a prix fixe menu; \$29/person, \$25/Friends of Montpelier, reservations required by calling 301-377-7817
- December 14** - KinderKistmas at Belair Mansion, 10 AM-noon; holiday tour and fun for young revelers ages 3-9; free
- December 14** - Holiday House Tour in Laurel, 3-6 PM; call 301-725-7975 or visit [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org) for details
- December 14** - 'Tis the Season at Surratt House Museum, 12-4 PM; the halls will be decked, meet Father Christmas, sample cider and sweets, and discounts in the gift shop; regular tour admission
- December 14** - Marietta Holiday Feast at Marietta House Museum, 4 PM; enjoy Federal period food, spirits and entertainment; \$50/person, reservations required by calling 301-464-5291
- December 18** - Holidays in the Heritage Area: War of 1812 Kickoff, 6:30 PM, free, see page 1 for details
- December 14-21** - Holiday Trains and Planes at College Park Aviation Museum; the National Capital Trackers bring a fascinating and constantly moving display of model railroads that spark the imagination and bring history to life; free with museum admission
- December 21** - Hansel & Gretel Tea Party at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 2 PM; listen to the story of Hansel & Gretel, enjoy tea and dessert; ages 5 and up, capacity limited, \$15/resident, \$18/non-resident, reservations required, Smartlink Class #1346567
- December 28** - The Calverts by Candlelight at Riversdale House Museum, 6 PM; experience the decorated and candlelit museum as the Calverts welcome guests to their home for tours, refreshments and diversions
- December 30** - Kringle Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-noon; railroad fun for ages 1-10 - with a holiday theme; free
- January 11** - Twelfth Night Ball at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM; celebrate the traditional end of the holiday season at a Regency-style ball and supper; black time or period attire encouraged; registration required by January 4, 301-864-0420

**National Colonial Farm** has classes and workshops; visit [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.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:** [history.pgpcgs.com](http://history.pgpcgs.com), [www.marylandmilestones.org/events](http://www.marylandmilestones.org/events), [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org), [www.greenbeltmuseum.org](http://www.greenbeltmuseum.org), [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org), [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org), <http://pgcm.aahgs.org>, [www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/ntedu.html](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/ntedu.html), [www.radiohistory.org](http://www.radiohistory.org), [www.surrattmuseum.org](http://www.surrattmuseum.org), [www.battleofbladensburg1812.com](http://www.battleofbladensburg1812.com), and, [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs/index.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs/index.htm)

Darnall's Chance is looking for participants for its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Gingerbread Show. Participants can find the entry form on their webpage [history.pgpcgs.com](http://history.pgpcgs.com). Winners can earn up to \$450 in prize money. Deadline for entry is November 8, 2013.

## 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. 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 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.
- 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.**
- 11. Prince George's County Maryland** - A pictorial history of the county, an Arcadia Images of America book by Katharine D. Bryant and Donna L. Schneider. Soft cover, 128 pages. Price: \$18.99

\*Shipping and handling is \$4.00 per order. If ordering more than one copy of books 1 through 3 add \$3.00 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.

+ The 15% discount is not available on "Landmarks of Prince George's County."

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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 you must also be a PGCHS member, 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:  
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