



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XLIV Number 1

January - March 2015

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

As with everything else these days, the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter is increasing. This is one of the reasons why we have decided to go to a quarterly format starting with this issue.

We plan to supplement the newsletter with monthly email blasts to notify members of events, any updates, as well as any tidbits we think may be of interest. If you would like to be included in our email notifications, please email pgchsmembers@gmail.com with your name and email address. Please note that we will not share your email.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S PROPERTIES OF CONCERN

The Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), appointed by the County Executive, administers the provisions of the County's historic preservation ordinance and preservation tax credit program. The HPC's responsibilities are to protect the properties listed in the County Inventory of Historic Resources. As a result of the protection afforded by the ordinance, today there are 418 historic sites and 4 locally designated historic districts. There are also 75 individual properties and 13 historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR).

The Commission maintains a public list of *Properties of Concern*. These properties are threatened by factors such as neglect, insufficient funds, adverse public policy, and inappropriate development. In recent years, properties noted as *Properties of Concern* have reflected additional threats of the continuing recession: foreclosure, vacancy, and a lagging market. To raise awareness of the properties, the HPC has made this list an integral part of its efforts to work with property owners. The list appears on the monthly HPC agendas and regular updates on these properties are given by staff.

79-019-52	Old Marlboro High School	Upper Marlboro
79-060	Beechwood	Upper Marlboro
79-063-10	Compton Bassett	Upper Marlboro
80-005	Admirathoria	Oxon Hill
82A-023	Furgang Farm	Cheltenham
82A-026	Bellefields (NR)	Croom
86A-022	Mackall House	Croom
86B-001	Gibbons M.E. Church Site	Brandywine
79-019-23	Magruder's Law Office	Upper Marlboro
79-019-51	Old Marlboro Primary School	Upper Marlboro
66-042-159	Sigma Chi (OTCPHD)	College Park
69-005-16	Peace Cross	Bladensburg
70-004	Franklin Pierce House	Lanham
70-030	Arthur Magruder House	Glenn Dale
70-049-33	Calloway House (NR)	Lincoln/Lanham
70-050	Glenn Dale Hospital (NR)	Glenn Dale
74B-014	Goodwood	Upper Marlboro
75A-001	Concord (NR)	District Heights
76B-007	Kildare	Oxon Hill
78-015	Melwood Park (NR)	Westphalia
76A-014	Butler House (NR)	Oxon Hill
67-005	Sportland	Berwyn Heights

OTCPHD = Old Town College Park Historic District

-John Peter Thompson, HPC Chair

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phone: 301-220-0330

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Website: www.pghistory.org

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Vice President: Joseph Plenzler
Secretary: Jane Taylor Thomas
Treasurer/Membership: Keith Gray
Historian: Susan G. Pearl

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Webmaster: Vacant

News & Notes is published quarterly. 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 on the fourth Tuesday at 7 PM. Locations vary, so please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

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

FREDERICK S. DEMARR LIBRARY OF COUNTY HISTORY

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

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



SOCIETY SPONSORS

The Society would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support. Their donations help to fund various Society programs, its newsletter, and the Frederick S. DeMarr Library. Thank You!

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Prince George's African-American Museum &
Cultural Center at North Brentwood, Inc.

Christopher Scarcia

SOCIETY ELECTIONS

Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected or re-elected at the December 8, 2014, meeting:

President: John J. Petro
Vice President: Joseph Plenzler
Secretary: Jane Taylor Thomas
Treasurer: Keith Gray
Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Directors: Kent Abraham
Michael Arnold
Ruth Davis Rogers
Justin McClain

Nathania Branch Miles
Lynn Springer Roberts
Mandi Solomon

IN THE EVENING OF JULY 7th ...



Coffren House
Photograph courtesy of M-NCPPC

Between 2 and 3 p.m., July 7th, 1858, a murder took place inside John W. Coffren's store (PG:86A-27-11) - a store that still stands today in Prince George's County. Located in Croom, a cross-road hamlet near the Patuxent River, a few miles south of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, the building is a once common, and now rare, well-preserved example of a mid-19th century general merchandise store. *(The building located slightly north-west of historic St. Thomas Church on land originally part of the 1671 Claggett land patent known as Croome.)* In this historic building, John A. Goldsborough, a local Justice of the Peace, was assassinated while conducting an "examination" of William T. Talbert who had failed to appear before another local Justice of the Peace, William Fowler, on assault and battery charges. *(William T. Clayton Talbert, Sr (1826 - 1899) is buried in the Talbert family cemetery and would be about the right age.)* Both the victim and the assailant

lived near Croom. Goldsborough lived about a mile from the store and Talbert about "3 or 4 miles" near Rantin's Tavern. *(Stabler, Jennifer, personal communication 25 November 2014. "Paul Talbert's farm was near Cheltenham." Prince George's. One of the newspaper accounts notes incorrectly that Talbert's farm is in Centreville.)* The store owner, John Coffren, who had started out as a 'ditcher', had opened his store around 1853 and by 1857 had become a successful business-man operating the Post Office for the rural community in his country store. *(National Register of Historic Places: Inventory - Nomination Form (PG:86A-11). http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se5/019000/019400/019430/pdf/msa_se5_19430.pdf. The Coffren Store is a two-story rectangular frame structure, 3 x 2 bays, measuring about 24 x 30'. It is set just north of the Coffren House (PG:86A-10) and fronts directly on Croom Road to its east.)*

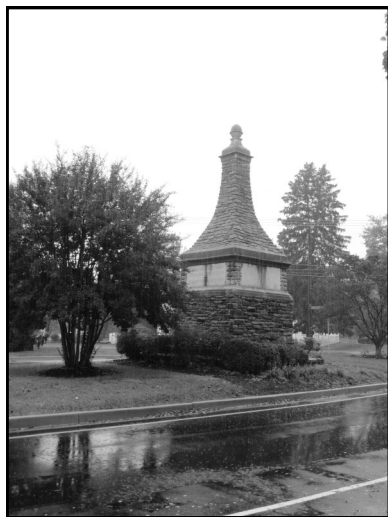
Talbert had been arrested by Constable Richardson and his assistant, William Ryan, and brought before Justice Goldsborough on a failure to appear charge. *(J. F. Richardson was elected and served as Prince George's County, Maryland, Sheriff (1863-1865).)* Ryan would later testify that he had "a conversation with the prisoner, who told him the difficulty would not have gone as far as it had were it not for the Irishman, (Goldsborough.)" Ryan, who was not present at the shooting, testified that the prisoner had told him that "if anyone took an oath to send him to the penitentiary he would kill them." Talbert then "took something out of his pocket, and on being asked what it was, said it was a toothpick; he afterward showed it, and it proved to be a pistol screw..." *(The Sun, September 10, 1859. Baltimore, Maryland)*

The arraignment was held in the one-room interior of the first floor of the store. The accused had arrived early; arrangements had been made at an earlier time between Richardson and

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THE ROBERT CRAIN HIGHWAY, 1927-1977

Reprint from *News & Notes*, December 1977



Photograph courtesy of
M-NCPPC

Fifty years ago saw the end of the steamboat era in Southern Maryland and the takeover of the automobile as the primary means to transport both people and products to the center of civilization and commerce in Baltimore. At 11:00 a.m. on October 22, 1927, a barricade was removed from the newly constructed concrete road at Priest Bridge on the Patuxent (the Anne Arundel-Prince George's boundary at Whitemarsh near Bowie) and an "automobile parade" led by Gov. Albert C. Ritchie proceeded to Upper Marlboro.

The story of the inception of the Robert Crain Highway is told in the printed dedication program.

Forging a New Link in Maryland's State Road System

Measured by miles, Southern Maryland is not far from Baltimore. Measured by the time required to make the trip it has heretofore been more remote than many sections miles further away.

In the early days of American history the people of Southern Maryland had little occasion to travel great distances from their homes. The necessity for an unusual trip was generally a journey to Baltimore to market their products and that meant a long and tedious water trip.

To make the journey by land was inconvenient and difficult. What roads there were, were narrow, twisting dirt paths. Vehicles were drawn by horses, mules or oxen and skillful maneuvering upon the part of the driver was necessary to pass a vehicle bound in the opposite direction.

With the development of the State's resources came a decided demand for better roads and in answer to this demand post roads for the carrying of mails were established and later, public necessity prevailed upon several counties to build county roads. With the event of the automobile came an insistent demand all over the State for better roads and this demand, upon the part of Southern Maryland, became increasingly vigorous in the last decade.

It remained for the late T. Rowland Thomas, a native of St. Mary's County and at that time President of the Southern Maryland Society, to make this demand a reality, and with the interest of both Baltimore City and Southern Maryland at heart he conceived the real need for a direct highway of communication between the metropolis of the State and the Southern Counties.

Such a project required considerable money to be appropriated by the Maryland Legislature and Mr. Thomas selected Mr. Robert Crain, of Charles County, for whom the highway has since been named, to father the project. Mr. Crain's strong and convincing personality "carried on" successfully and in 1922 the Legislature appropriated one million dollars for the construction of the highway.

With this sum, construction was continued until it was demonstrated that further appropriation was necessary. Then a committee headed by Mr. Crain called upon Governor Ritchie to acquaint him with the situation and secure his support in behalf of additional funds. The Governor, realizing the importance of this vital link in Maryland's chain of highways, consented to ask the next Legislature for the necessary additional appropriation and the Legislature of 1927 provided \$250,000 to complete the work.

The construction of the highway was officially begun on September 30, 1922, and in commemoration of the event the Robert Crain Highway Monument erected at Upper Marlboro by the Southern Maryland Society and the Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore (now the Baltimore Association of Commerce) was dedicated. The construction of the Highway was completed in September, 1927.

The Robert Crain Highway is of modern type concrete construction, fifteen and eighteen feet wide and thirty-one and one-half miles long. It extends from Baltimore to a place known as T. B. (Thomas Brooke). It passes through the pleasant countryside of Southern Maryland--a section

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replete with traditional and historical memories and rich in fertile beauty. It reduces the distance between Baltimore and the most remote section section of the Southern Counties to a minimum and makes it possible to travel from any point in Southern Maryland to Baltimore and return in the same day without undue strain or haste.

Maryland highways have opened up avenues of travel scarcely conceived a generation ago and the folks of Southern Maryland blood now residing in Baltimore, as well as their brothers in Southern Maryland, may now enjoy the pleasures and advantages of frequent and reciprocal visits, firmly linking together the mutual commercial as well as social interests of Baltimore and the Southern Counties.



Continued from page 3

Talbert family members. Goldsborough was not at the store when the Talberts arrived and had to be summoned from the local primary school where he was a teacher in order for the proceedings to begin. The parties entered the first floor room of the store and the hearing began. (*National Register of Historic Places: ob cit. "An enclosed wooden counter (behind which the clerk would have stood) runs down the north and south sides of the room, with an opening at the west (rear) of the room. A cash drawer is located in the northwest section of the counter. On the north and south walls of the building and across the west (rear) wall are shelves, drawers and bins for merchandise. North of the entrance door, on the countertop, is a cabinet of numbered post office boxes."*) Justice Goldsborough, in the course of his investigation, asked the defendant, Talbert, if the examination was fair to which Talbert gave his assent repeatedly requesting a speedy incarceration in the county jail in Upper Marlboro.



Talbert House
Photograph courtesy of M-NCPPC

Paul Talbert, William's father, in the negotiations to secure young Talbert's appearance had tried to get Justice Fowler to conduct the hearing. The father would later, under sworn testimony, say that Goldsborough, in reply to his request that he recuse himself, had called him, Paul Talbert, a "perjured old villain." Paul Talbert continued:

"I helped vote him [Goldsborough] out of his school, but he got another school, and I told him, if he would be friendly, I would try to get him back." (*The Sun. 10 September 1859. Baltimore, Maryland*)

Later, witnesses at the trial, including William's brother John, would speak to the defendant's 'fits' and neighbors would testify as to the madness of the Talberts including William's sister. John H. Surratt (Mary Surratt's husband), however, rebutted the testimony saying that he knew Paul and his brother, Charles, for thirty years and never saw any signs of madness, nor had he seen any evidence in the children. (*Planters' Advocate. 21 September 1859. Upper Marlborough, Maryland*)

As Goldsborough went to a desk [counter] in the store to draw up the official papers, most of the bystanders stepped outside. Talbert began to "gradually" approach "Goldsborough as he was writing the commitment." (*John Coffren's brother was behind the counter or at least in the room when the shot was fired. Later testimony records his name alternately as either Stanley or George Coffren sometimes in the same account.*)

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"Having succeeded in gaining a position somewhat in Goldsborough's rear, he produced a pistol, presented it within a few inches of his person and before attracting his attention from the writing, discharged the contents into his body. Goldsborough staggered across the room, when he was supported by some of the bystanders and laid upon the floor. We understand he did not speak, further that to request that his wife might be sent for, and expired in the course of a very few minutes." (*Planters' Advocate*. 14 July 1858)

Some reports said that a possible cause of the murder was an old feud between the two men; while others suggested that "at the time of the shooting, Talbert was laboring under the effects of liquor." An inquest was quickly convened at the scene of the crime.

"A postmortem examination [led by Justice William Fowler who was presented at the hearing that afternoon] was made by Dr. R. J. Scott, Jr., from which it appeared that the ball struck below the left scapula, and, glancing obliquely downward towards the spine, to the fourth lumbar vertebra, there entered the cavity of the abdomen, wounding the descending aorta and producing rapid and profuse hemorrhage which caused death almost immediately." (*Planters' Advocate*. 14 July 1858)

Talbert was arrested immediately and taken to the county jail by Richardson to await a hearing before Justice Medley on Saturday, July 10th. Some months later, Talbert was transferred to Howard County for trial which was to start in the spring of 1859 in Ellicott Mills, Maryland. This trial date was postponed until September due to the absence of key witnesses needed for the planned insanity defense. The prosecutors were Daniel C. Digges of Prince George's and George W. Sands of Howard Counties; the defendant was represented by attorneys John B. Brooke and William P. Preston.

When the trial opened September 9th, 1859, before Judge Brewer, Talbert was represented by Wm. P. Preston of Baltimore County as before, and Caleb S. Keech of Prince George's County in the place of John Brooke. Justice Fowler testified to the issuance of the original writs for assault and battery; Dr. Frederick Sasscer of Upper Marlboro testified that he "got a knitting needle and could not touch the ball with the whole length of it." (*Planters' Advocate*. 14 September 1859) William Talbert's father, who was present at the murder, was asked by the defense attorneys if his son was insane. The State objected to which Mr. Preston replied, "No, Judge Worthington testified to the state of his son's insanity before Your Honor." The Judge, however, countered that Worthington had "only testified to the hereditary insanity of the family."

The September trial ended with a hung jury: 10 for 1st degree murder and two for acquittal. The state moved to retry and after a second trial in April of 1860, William Talbert was found guilty of murder in the second degree and sentenced to 15 years in the Maryland Penitentiary in Baltimore. He reacted violently "when brought into the court to receive his sentence—abusing the Judge, Jury, and Lawyers engaged in the prosecution, in no[t] very choice language." (*Planters' Advocate*. 11 April 1860)

There is much more regarding the events of that summer day in Old Prince George's. Trial reports are filled with allegations of insanity backed by the latest in medical science. Given the attack on the justice system, there is no evidence of any call for '*Judge Lynch*' to make an appearance. The murder was 'front-page' news for over a year, but more urgent events soon overtook the accounts of the murder. In October 1859, when news of John Brown's Raid took center stage, the murder of a local Justice of the Peace no longer was of paramount importance to the residents of a county on the verge of change.

-John Peter Thompson

KATHERINE ANNE PORTER, HER LIBRARY, AND HER WORK

Sunday, February 15, 2015

2:30-4:30 PM

Hornbake Library, University of Maryland

Katherine Anne Porter (1890-1980) published three well regarded collections of short fiction and a best-selling novel and won the National Book Award and a Pulitzer Prize in fiction for her *Collected Stories*. Born in rural Texas in 1890, Porter lived through most of the twentieth century, personally observing important people and events. She was in New York City throughout the 1920s, in Mexico during the retrenchment after the Revolution ended in 1920, in Germany when the Nazis were beginning to gain power, in Paris with other expatriates in the 1930s, in Washington, D.C., during World War II and during the administrations of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. She counted Diego Rivera, Robert Penn Warren, and Eudora Welty among her friends and acquaintances.

The University of Maryland conferred an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters on Porter in 1966. Later that year, she made the first donations of her papers, personal library and personal belongings to the University. In 1968, the Katherine Anne Porter Room was established in McKeldin Library in her honor. (The Porter Room was relocated to Hornbake Library in 2001.) Porter moved to College Park in 1969, and she often visited the Porter Room.

Join Beth Alvarez, Ph.D., the University of Maryland Libraries' Curator Emerita of Literary Manuscripts on Sunday, February 15 at 2:30. In the Porter Room, you will have an opportunity to learn more about this author, journalist, and essayist. Following Dr. Alvarez's presentation, guests can enjoy a documentary about Porter and light refreshments.

This special program represents a partnership between Special Collections and University Archives, University of Maryland Libraries, the Prince George's County Historical Society, and Campus Club (Campus Club is the University of Maryland's network for women faculty, staff, alumnae and wives of faculty members.). Parking is free on Sundays in the Regents Drive Garage on campus.



WOODVILLE SCHOOL

On the cold and blustery morning of November 14, 2014, a shivering but very happy crowd gathered at the historic Woodville School in Aquasco, invited by Senator Thomas V. (Mike) Miller, Jr., to celebrate the unveiling of an historical marker for the school. Senator Miller introduced several elected officials, including County Executive Rushern Baker, and then asked me, as historian for the Prince George's County Historical Society, to give a brief history of the school. This was the third school built for African-American children of Aquasco, following the Freedmen's Bureau school of 1867, and the somewhat larger school built ten years later. The present school was built by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in 1934, just two years after the close of the Rosenwald period of school construction. Much larger and better equipped than the school that it replaced, this new school seemed like a palace to the children who attended it. After *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, the school closed, and the property was purchased in 1956 by the Knights of St. John's Commandery, the black auxiliary of the local Roman Catholic Church. So it has continued to be a meeting and social hall – a place of great pride among the African-American community. This point was reinforced repeatedly after the unveiling of the new sign, as many in the audience told me of their experiences and memories of the school building, and how much it meant to them. It was a joyous occasion, and the PGCHS is very happy to have been part of it.

-Susan G. Pearl, Historian

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY - MARCH 2015

- 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month** - Dinosaur Park in Laurel has a program with paleontologists and volunteers to interpret fossil deposits; 12-4 PM, free
- January-March 2015** - the National Capital Radio and Television Museum will feature "vintage" broadcasts" every Friday-Sunday at 2 PM; January is A Retrospective on Have Gun, Will Travel. February is Game Shows and March is TV Theater Time; check www.ncrtv.org or call 301-390-1020 for a program schedule; free, but donations welcome
- January 6-February 20, 2015** - *Chesapeake Math & IT Academy Charter School Annual Student Art Exhibit* at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM-4 PM (closed Wed.); theme is Autumn Landscapes and Scenes, which students interpret through various techniques; free
- January 14-December 13, 2015** - *The Full Story: Maryland, the Surratts, and the Crime of the Century* at Surratt House Museum; exhibit commemorates the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War and the death of Lincoln by reflecting the role of Maryland in the conflict, the choices made by the Surratt family and the after effects on them and the nation; part of house tour
- January 10** - *Mornings at the Museum* at College Park Aviation Museum, 11 AM; tour topic: Changes in Transportation at the College Park Airfield, admission fee
- January 10** - *Celebrating Ridgely An African American Community* at Ridgeley Rosenwald School, 1 PM; unveiling of Maryland Road-side Historical Marker; RSVP to 410-435-0647 or mrgctinc@earthlink.net
- January 13** - *Vernal Pool Ecology* by Karyn Molines at College Park Aviation Museum, 7:30 PM, learn about the unique ecology of these temporary, shallow water pools that provide breeding habitats for frogs, toads and salamanders
- January 17** - *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 tie or period attire encouraged; reservations required, call 301-864-0420, \$40/resident, \$48/non-resident
- January 31** - *"Best Foot Forward-Etiquette and Manners"* at Marietta House Museum, 2 PM; see how social etiquette has changed from the 1800s to today; ages 6-12, \$2/person, call 301-464-5291 for details
- February 7** - *Valentine's Chocolate Tea* at Marietta House Museum, 2 PM; bring your Valentine to a tea of chocolate; reservations required, \$25/person, call 301-464-5291
- February 7** - *Within These Walls: African American Surgeons and Nurses during the Civil War* at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; program by historian Jill L. Newmark on a subject that has been largely hidden for 150 years; free
- February 10** - *Monarch Butterfly Conservation* by Richard J. Dolesh at College Park Aviation Museum, 7:30 PM; learn how the Monarch butterflies habitat is being threatened and the steps taken to protect and restore their populations
- February 13** - *Barnstorming Bess* at College Park Aviation Museum, 3 & 7 PM; Dr. Daisy Century portrays Bessie Coleman as she broke down barriers in 1921 as the first African-American woman to earn a pilot's license; \$7/person
- February 14** - *Mornings at the Museum* at College Park Aviation Museum, 11 AM; tour topic: African American Aviators; admission fee
- February 14** - *Chocolate Lovers Tea* at the Montpelier Mansion, 1:30 PM; enjoy a prix fixe menu, tea and lots of chocolate, learn about the history of chocolate; adult, \$29/person, \$25/member, call 301-377-7817 to register
- February 15** - *George Washington Musicales* at Montpelier Mansion, 2 PM; featuring Musicians of Mercy (MOM) playing music to honor our first president; MOM is a non-profit raising funds to assist victims of natural disaster and other tragedies; donations accepted to benefit Serenity's Door; \$10/FoM member, \$15/non-member; call 301-377-7817 to make a reservation
- February 15** - *Katherine Anne Porter, Her Library and Her Work at Hornbake Library, 2 PM, see page 7 for details*
- February 27** - *Biological Flyers of College Park Opening Reception* at College Park Aviation Museum, 6-8 PM; Biological Flyers exhibition is a collaboration among the museum, M-NCPPC Park Rangers, the Prince George's Audubon Society and Patuxent Bird Club
- February 28** - *Meet Benjamin Banneker* at Montpelier Mansion, 1-3 PM; Bob Smith playing Benjamin Banneker, visits and tells us about his work as an astronomer, mathematician, almanac writer and farmer, crafts and surprises; \$4/county residents, \$5/non-county residents; call 301-377-7817 to register
- February 28** - *"Discovering Chocolate"* at Marietta House Museum, 2 PM; learn how chocolate is made, taste chocolate and make a chocolate candy dessert; ages 6-12, \$3/person, call 301-464-5291 for details
- March 7** - *Tube Radio Repair Classes* at National Capital Radio and Television Museum, 9 AM-12 noon; to register call 301-390-1020
- March 9-April 30** - *Hidden Treasure: Restoration and Archeology Exhibit* at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM-3 PM (closed Wed.); see some of the 4,000 artifacts found by archeologists during Montpelier's year-long restoration in 2013; included in tour price
- March 9** - *Tube Radio Repair Classes*, see March 7, 6-9 PM
- March 10** - *"Does Tree Species Matter? The Effects of Native and Non-native Vegetation on Food Resources for Breeding Birds"* by Desiree L. Narango at College Park Aviation Museum, 7:30 PM; preliminary findings on a chickadee study, along with ways you can participate in backyard bird research
- March 12** - *"The Secrets of Silver"* at Marietta House Museum, 7 PM; Sarah McCollum, appraiser and owner of Hidden Treasure Appraisals, will discuss how to define your silver and will include original pieces from the Duvall collection; \$5/person
- March 14** - *Refuge System Birthday Bash!* at National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10 AM-3 PM; live animals, music, children's activities, wildlife habitat tram tours; free; call 301-497-5887 for more information
- March 14** - *Mornings at the Museum* at College Park Aviation Museum, 11 AM; tour topic: Women in Aviation, admission fee
- March 20-22** - *Sixteenth Annual Symposium: "...He Belongs to the Ages"* at Surratt House Museum; conference with sessions and bus trips related to the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and its long last effects on our nation; for details call 301-868-1121
- March 21** - *Women Explorers' Tea* at the Montpelier Mansion, 1:30 PM; enjoy a prix fixe menu and tea in celebration of the brave women who explored unknown regions to further our knowledge of the world and beyond; adult, \$29/person, \$25/member, call 301-377-7817 to register
- March 28 - Maryland History Day, Bowie Public Library, 11 AM-3 PM; crafts and activities for school age children; call 301-262-7000 for more information**
- March 28** - *"Blast from the Past into the Present as March Through History"* at Marietta House Museum, 2 PM; learn about historic happenings through the years and make your own timeline; ages 6-12, \$2/person
- National Colonial Farm** has classes and workshops; visit 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.pgpc.org, www.marylandmilestones.org/events, www.cityofbowie.org, www.greenbeltmuseum.org, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, www.mdhs.org, <http://pgcm.aahgs.org>, www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/ntedu.html, www.radiohistory.org, www.surrattmuseum.org, and, www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs/index.htm

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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
- 3. 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.**
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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
- 9. 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
- 10. 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 for current postage rates.

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News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XLIV Number 2

April-June 2015

ST. GEORGE'S DAY 2015 LUNCHEON AND AWARDS

Sunday, April 12, 2015

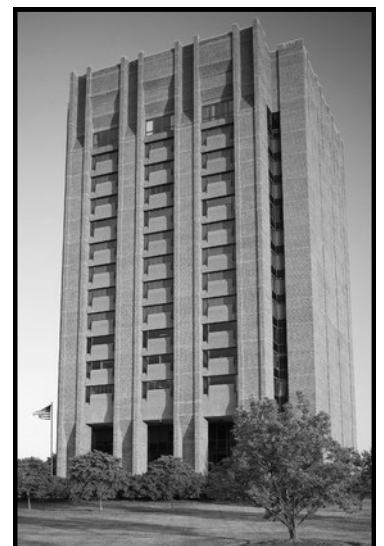
Every year, the Prince George's County Historical Society celebrates the anniversary of the founding of our County on a Sunday close to St. George's Day, the 23rd of April. This year, the 319th anniversary, will be somewhat different from other years; highlighting the rich agricultural history of Prince George's County, we will celebrate St. George's Day at the National Agricultural Library (Abraham Lincoln Building) in Beltsville. The National Agricultural Library is one of five national libraries of the United States, and houses one of the world's largest collections devoted to agriculture and its related sciences. In 1862, all property of the Agricultural Division of the Patent Office was transferred to the newly-created Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of Agriculture was charged with the duty "to acquire and preserve in his Department all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain by means of books and correspondence." Construction of the new library began fifty years ago, in 1965, and the library collections and staff moved from Washington, D.C., into the newly built Abraham Lincoln Building in 1969.

Today, the National Agricultural Library (NAL) holds more than 3.5 million items covering all aspects of agriculture and related sciences. The depth and richness of the collection make it a unique resource, with many materials not available anywhere else in the world. Of particular interest is the Special Collections department – here are housed rare books, manuscript collections, nursery and seed trade catalogs, photographs, and posters from the 1500s to the present. Materials cover a variety of agricultural subjects including horticulture, entomology, poultry sciences, natural history, and are not limited to domestic publications. The Special Collections department at the NAL is charged with arranging, describing, preserving and making available rare materials significant to the history of agriculture and the USDA.

A new Special Collections website includes thirteen exhibits highlighting some of the most popular collections held by NAL. Among these are three in-depth exhibits devoted to Agent Orange, Screwworm Eradication, and USDA History. Six interpretive exhibits are available on topics ranging from Popcorn to Smokey Bear. The four remaining exhibits feature selected images from NAL's collections of manuscripts, rare books, posters, and nursery and seed trade catalogs. In addition to the exhibits themselves, the website provides high-resolution digital copies of 2,300 items, with descriptive information available for an additional 4,200 items which may be viewed in the Special Collections reading room.

Dinner will be served in the library's large and handsome ground-floor meeting room, catered by Pineapple Alley of Mount Airy Mansion, and a group of showcases will be set up around the perimeter of the room exhibiting some of the prizes of the Special Collections department. Library staff will be available to explain some of the exhibits, and you are encouraged to come at 1:00 to have time to view and learn about them before the buffet dinner begins at 2:00. Dinner will be followed by our traditional presentation of St. George's Day awards.

The library is located at 10301 Baltimore Avenue in Beltsville – the very visible, tall building just outside the Capital Beltway at U. S. Route 1.



National Agricultural Library

Continued on page 5

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phone: 301-220-0330

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

Website: www.pghistory.org

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PGCountyHistory>.

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Historian:	Susan G. Pearl

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Webmaster: Vacant

News & Notes is published quarterly. 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 on the second Tuesday at 6:30 PM. Locations vary, so please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

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

FREDERICK S. DEMARR LIBRARY OF COUNTY HISTORY

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

Hours: Saturday, 12-4 PM
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The Society would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support. Their donations help to fund various Society programs, its newsletter, and the Frederick S. DeMarr Library. Thank You!

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Douglas Burton
Michael Southwood

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Have you renewed your annual Society membership? If not, this will be your last newsletter. The Society's membership period is on a calendar year basis - January through December. We ask that memberships be renewed no later than March 31. Please pay your dues today! Thank you.

DO YOU TWEET?

The Prince County Historical Society is now on Twitter. Thanks to our new board member, Justin McClain, we now have a Twitter page. Come sign up and visit us at <https://twitter.com/PGCountyHistory>.

MEA CULPA!

Our apologies to Lynn Springer Roberts for inadvertently leaving her off the list of board members in the Society's FY2014 Annual Report. Even though Lynn stepped down from being the Vice President of the Society, she still continues to be active on the board as a director.

MARLBOROUGH DAY 2015 CANCELLED

Due to changes in policies from a number of groups that have supported the event and time conflicts of the volunteers who organize the event, Marlborough Day will not occur this year. It is possible the event will be able to return in 2016.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE

As a DeMarr Library staff member was going through the Society's files, the invitation below was discovered and yielded a surprise. It looks as if the Prince George's County Historical Society is actually older than we thought! We believed the Society started in 1952 based on the Articles of Incorporation and by-laws. Staff are researching to see if we can find any history of the Society between 1950 and 1952. We will keep you posted as to what we discover.

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
REQUESTS THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE AT THE
OPENING OF ITS
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICES
AND THE
INAUGURATION OF
A PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER THE SIXTEENTH
AT THREE O'CLOCK
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY
THE CALVERT MANSION
4811 RIVERDALE ROAD
RIVERDALE, MARYLAND

R.S.V.P.

BUFFET SUPPER

HISTORIC PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

In June of 2014, the Historic Preservation Section of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) undertook an initiative to conduct site inspections at all 420 individually-designated historic sites in Prince George's County. The objective of this ongoing county-wide survey effort is to provide an updated photographic inventory of sites while inspecting properties to ensure compliance with the county's Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) process. Staff engagement with property owners provides an opportunity to discuss a broad range of concerns and issues involving ongoing owner responsibilities to ensure the preservation of buildings and structures. Updated documentation of current conditions at historic sites provide M-NCPPC staff and the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission with a detailed view of the status of historic buildings, structures, and sites throughout the county.

The documentation and site visit process begins with staff conducting background research on a selected planning area (there are thirty-six in Prince George's County). With an area of nearly 500 square miles and with a population just over 890,000, a systematic geographical approach to planning site visits is critical to providing staff with a manageable task, given the breadth of the county's inventory of historic buildings and structures. Initial contact with property owners comes in the form of mailed correspondence introducing staff and the purpose of the site visit program, including a requested visit date. Property owners are urged to contact the Historic Preservation Section staff should they have any questions regarding any aspect of the site visit.

One goal of the site visit project is to enhance public outreach from M-NCPPC to citizens and property owners. Staff encourages property owners to investigate the county's financial incentives which include the Historic Property Grant Program, county property tax credits, as well as the applicability of state and federal rehabilitation tax credit programs. Staff has talked with many owners of historic sites prior to visits, and in several cases, owners have voluntarily provided guided tours of both the exterior and the interior of their historic property. During a site visit, a team of two staff members provides notice of their arrival to the property owner, and proceed with the exterior inspection of the building and grounds. Staff photographs all elevations of the structures located within the historic site's "environmental setting." The Prince George's County Historic Preservation Ordinance (Subtitle 29 of the County Code) regulates the entire environmental setting, including buildings and landscape features. Following exterior inspection, staff generates field notes and records photographs and site visit information in a database that includes information on property condition, completion of HAWPs, and notes for follow-up visits or future action with regard to conditions at a property. Follow-up work may involve the instigation of after-the-fact work permits to bring the property into HAWP compliance or the issuance of violation notices for work performed that is inconsistent with, or inappropriate or detrimental to, the preservation of the historic resource. This information is then provided to the Historic Preservation Commission as a staff update during the Commission's monthly meetings.

In addition to providing enhanced contact between residents and local government, the site visit project in Prince George's County offers a valuable look at current conditions, as well as the status of work permits issued for properties, and the ongoing maintenance issues involved with the preservation of historic sites. This type of inspection project may be useful to other preservation and historical commissions throughout Maryland as a means of emphasizing the importance of site inspections, of permit follow-up, and of outreach to property owners.



**Prince George's Bank
in Hyattsville**



Ridgeley Rosenwald School

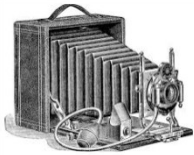
-Robert Krause, Ph.D.

UPPER MARLBORO PHOTO CONTEST

Do you have an old photograph taken in Upper Marlboro before 1945? If you do, then Darnall's Chance House Museum wants to see it! The photograph can be of anything or anyone from Upper Marlboro's past - a building, special event, tobacco warehouse, fishing boat, farm, family picture - you name it. The only criteria are (1) the photograph was taken in the Upper Marlboro vicinity before the end of World War II and (2) it has never been published in a book or newspaper or housed in a public archive/library.

All the photographs gathered for this contest will be given to the Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee for inclusion in their archives.

Five winning photographs will receive \$75 each. All entries will be on public display at the museum on Fridays & Sundays between June 1 and June 30 during tour hours. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Colonial Picnic on June 13th.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2015

For questions, call Darnall's Chance House Museum at 301-952-8010 or email darnallschance@pgparks.com.

CONTEST RULES:

The photograph must have been taken in the Upper Marlboro vicinity before the end of World War II (1945).

The photograph has never been published in a book or newspaper or housed in a public archive/library.

You must enter your submission in one of five categories: Agriculture, Art & Architecture, People, Special Event, or Transportation.

Five winning photographs (one from each category) will be selected and the winners will receive \$75.

You may enter as many photographs as you like.

Contest is open to anyone (including businesses, government agencies, religious organizations, individuals, etc.).

You must submit your photograph(s) by May 15, 2015.

Please provide as much information about the photograph as possible (i.e. date, location, names, etc.).

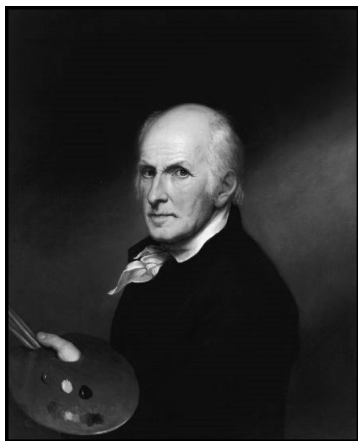
Only scanned digital copies are acceptable. If you don't have a scanner, then bring your photograph(s) to Darnall's Chance and we will scan it at no cost.

Prizes will be awarded on June 13, 2015 at the Colonial Picnic at Darnall's Chance House Museum.

Continued from page 1

You may enter the library grounds and parking lots either from Route 1 on the west, or from Rhode Island Avenue on the east; the main entrance is on the west, facing Route 1. You have probably already received your invitation - if you have any questions, please call Susan Pearl at 301-262-3367. We look forward to seeing you on St. George's Day!

THE PEALE FAMILY OF PAINTERS: TRAVELS THROUGH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



On Thursday evening, April 9, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at Marietta, Susan Pearl will present an illustrated lecture about the travels of members of the Peale family through Prince George's County in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and the paintings that they produced. These were individuals of staggering talents – not just painters (although that is what they are best known for), but inventors, naturalists, founders and managers of museums, teachers, and writers. The faces of a large number of our founding statesmen are familiar to us through their portraits. Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827) was probably the most famous, but this lecture will also feature the works of his sons Rembrandt and Raphaele, as well as of his brother, James, and James' daughter, Sarah Miriam. The lecture will concentrate on the portraits they painted and the places they visited in Prince George's County – our County's history is more richly illuminated because of

the portraits they produced.

The lecture will be held at Marietta, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, Maryland. Call 301-464-5291 for information.

TENTH 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 Tenth Annual Juneteenth Seminar, "Footprints and Roots," on Saturday, June 13, 2015, at the North Forestville Community Center, 2311 Ritchie Road, Forestville, MD 20747, from 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.. The seminar will consist of a series of workshops for beginner to advanced family researchers. There will be special activities for children (ages 7-12), designed to introduce them to the world of genealogy and family history.

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

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

For more information, call Carolyn Rowe, (301) 292-2751 or Jane Thomas, (301) 292-1207.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH RECEPTION

Save the Date! This year's annual Historic Preservation Month Reception will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, from 6-8:30 PM at the College Park Aviation Museum. As always, the event is free. Further details are still being worked out and invitations will follow.

HERITAGE BREEDING AT PISCATAWAY PARK

Spend a weekend afternoon in the Visitor's Center and you're likely to hear the question, "Where are the animals?" more than a few times. The animals on the farm have been a large part of the working landscape at Piscataway Park since the 1960s, but do you know why?

The heritage breeds you often see grazing in the fields, cooling in the shade, or lazing about in the barnyard paddocks are rare breeds of animals that no longer conform to the needs of modern agriculture. With many of the breeds originating in the U.S. around the time of colonial settlement, these animals are an essential part of the Accokeek Foundation's historical programming, but even more importantly, they are preserved to promote sustainable agriculture and genetic diversity that in most cases is in danger of being lost forever.

Through its Heritage Breed Livestock Program, the Accokeek Foundation successfully breeds and preserves American Milking Devon (cattle) and Hog Island sheep. In fact, lambing began just last week and the cattle are expecting any week now.

They also keep, for demonstration purposes, two Ossabaw hog gilts (or females); nine varieties of chickens including Buckeye, Hamburg (two types), Silver Gray Dorking, Araucana, Dominique, Light Brahma, Speckled Sussex, and Welsummer; and three varieties of turkey including Black, Bourbon Red and Chocolate.



According to Livestock Manager Polly Festa, part of saving these breeds is creating a market for them. This means that breeders have a strong reputation for producing quality breeding stock, or consumers demand heritage breed products that include meats, cheeses, milk, and eggs.

The farm is proud to announce that it will have fresh, certified-organic farm eggs available for purchase during the Saturday markets, starting April 25. Selected for their unique array of colorful eggs, the Araucana, Dominique, Light Brahma, Speckled Sussex, and Welsummer chickens are being raised on the Ecosystem Farm to provide pest management and fertilization, as well as delicious eggs for market.

-Contributed by the Accokeek Foundation

KATHERINE ANNE PORTER, HER LIBRARY, AND HER WORK

Due to inclement weather, the lecture was rescheduled to April 26. See the calendar entry on page 8 and the January-March 2015 *News & Notes* issue for full details.

CHARLTON AND GIANNETTI RECEIVE O'MALLEY KUDOS!

Congratulations to the Aman Memorial Trust for persevering UNDAUNTED through the harrowing process of making a monument!

In recognition for their years of services, former Governor Martin O'Malley bestowed honors upon Dick Charlton and John Giannetti in a ceremony in the State House on January 7, 2015. District 47A representative Jolene Ivey and Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller were on hand with many warm words of praise and recognition of the significance of preserving history in our neighborhoods as O'Malley presented the proclamations.

Miller and O'Malley emphasized the importance of local efforts in preserving our shared heritage as have been ongoing in the Port Towns. Both Aman Trust treasurer, Charlton and chairman, Giannetti, were quick to share the honors recognizing the importance of the results of the coalition of local governments, NGO's and individuals over many years in Bladensburg, and in specific, in the last decade in preparation for the commemoration of the Battle of Bladensburg bicentennial.

-Contributed by Prince George's Heritage

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL - JUNE 2015

1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month - Dinosaur Park in Laurel has a program with paleontologists and volunteers to interpret fossil deposits; 12-4 PM, free

Daily - Fort Washington Park - Historic Fort Porch Talks, 11 AM, lasts 15 minutes and topics change daily

Saturdays & Sundays - Fort Washington Park - Historic Fort Tours, 1 and 3 PM, lasts 30-45 minutes; call 301-763-4600 for details

April 1-30 - Hidden Treasure: Restoration and Archeology Exhibit at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM-3 PM (closed Wed.); see some of the 4,000 artifacts found by archeologists during Montpelier's year-long restoration in 2013; included in tour price

April-June 2015 - the National Capital Radio and Television Museum will feature "vintage" broadcasts every Friday-Sunday at 2 PM; check www.ncrtv.org or call 301-390-1020 for a program schedule; free, but donations welcome

April 1-December 13, 2015 - The Full Story: Maryland, the Surratts, and the Crime of the Century at Surratt House Museum; exhibit commemorates the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War and the death of Lincoln by reflecting the role of Maryland in the conflict, the choices made by the Surratt family and the after effects on them and the nation; part of house tour

May - Magnificent Whooping Crane Month at Patuxent Research Refuge and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

June 1-30 - Reflections of the Past - Upper Marlboro Photo Exhibit at Darnall's Chance House Museum, Fridays & Sundays, 12-4 PM, see page 5 for more information

April 9 - Bells Across the Land at Fort Washington Park, 3 PM; commemorates the 150th anniversary of Robert E. Lee's historic meeting with Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House

April 9 - Portraits of Prince Georgians by Members of the Peale Family at Marietta House Museum, 7 PM; \$5/person, see page 6

April 11 - Slow Art Day at the Laurel Historical Society, Laurel Museum, 10 AM-1 PM; view art and discuss your experience over lunch; RSVP to info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org

April 11 - Mornings at the Museum at College Park Aviation Museum, 11 AM; tour topic: Exploring Airmail, admission fee

April 11 - Appomattox: The Beginning of the End at Fort Washington Park, 12-2 PM; learn how soldiers and civilians around Washington, DC, reacted to the news

April 11 - "Plant Flowers and Herbs" at Marietta House Museum, 2 PM; plant flowers and herbs and learn about the growing season; children 6-12, \$3/person

April 11 - National Tartan Day Tea at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 2 PM, Scottish tea fare, wear a tartan or plaid, door prizes; reservations required by calling 301-952-8010, \$23/resident, \$28/non-resident

April 12, May 3, June 7 - Artillery Demonstrations at Fort Washington Park, 1, 2 & 3 PM; Fort Washington Guard members demonstrate loading and firing a cannon while explaining the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era

April 12 - St. George's Day Dinner and Awards at National Agricultural Library, 1 PM, see page 1 for details

April 18 - Birds & Bees at College Park Aviation Museum, 11 AM-3 PM, Birds of Prey Show at noon; \$4/person

April 18-19 - "Marching Through Time" at Marietta House Museum, 11 AM-5 PM; military drills, cannon and musket demonstrations, craft vendors and more; \$5/person

April 22 - Local Media: The Inside Scoop on What's Covered & Why at Laurel Historical Society, 7 PM

April 25 - Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Tea & The Arts at the Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM-4 PM; hand-made arts & crafts, live music, talks, walks, art demos, hands-on history for kids, and vendors, including Jailbreak Brewing Company giving beer samples made with basil and cilantro; free, but fee for tea, purchase tea tickets online at Montpelier's page on www.pgparcs.com

April 25 - "Spring Stroll" (2 PM) and "Vintage Travel Trailer Open House" (1-4 PM) at Marietta House Museum; wear your best hat and stroll the grounds, listen to music, enjoy lawn games and tour vintage Airstream trailers; hats to be judged by community leaders; free

April 26 - Katherine Anne Porter, Her Library and Her Work at UMD Hornbake Library, 2:30 PM; Beth Alvarez, Ph.D. will speak in Porter Room; free parking Regents Drive Garage

April 26 - Riversdale in Bloom at Riversdale House Museum, 11 AM; in partnership with Brentwood Arts Exchange, enjoy the spring garden and make art; free

May 2 - Biological Flyers of Lake Artemesia at College Park Aviation Museum, 8-11 AM; guided bird walk, bring binoculars; admission fee

May 2 - "Making a Special Gift-Mother's Day Gift Making" at Marietta House Museum; ages 6-12, \$2/person

May 9 - Cycle Through Aviation History at College Park Aviation Museum, 10 AM; discover 250 years of flight along this 10-mile loop, \$6/person, call 301-864-6029 to register

May 9 - Mornings at the Museum at College Park Aviation Museum, 11 AM; tour topic: Military History, admission fee

May 10 - Mother's Day Tours at Riversdale House Museum, 12:15-3:15 PM; bring your special lady for a free tour; limited to one free guided tour with each paid admission

May 14 - Laurel Remember the George Wallace Shooting at Laurel Historical Society, 7 PM

May 14 - "Gambling in Maryland" by Senator Mike Miller at Marietta House Museum, 7 PM; will discuss how laws and judicial system were integral to Maryland gambling, past and present; \$5/person

May 17 - The Riversdale Chamber Music Society at Riversdale House Museum, 2:30 PM; a multi-media performance of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* arranged for a woodwind quintet; free

May 30 - Marietta Wine Festival at Marietta House Museum, 11 AM-6 PM; includes food and craft vendors, music and wine education class; ages 21+, ID required, \$20/wine sampling glass

June 7 - Tasting the Past: "The Virginia Housewife" at Riversdale House Museum, 1:15 PM; Leni Sorensen shares her research on Mary Randolph, author of a landmark 19th c. cookbook and her enslaved cooks in antebellum Richmond; \$10/resident, \$12/non-resident

June 11 - Searching Through Genealogy at Marietta House Museum, 7 PM; the Prince George's County Genealogical Society will show how to find our ancestors and their stories; \$5/person

June 13 - Mornings at the Museum at College Park Aviation Museum, 11 AM; tour topic: Biological Flyers of College Park, admission fee

June 13 - Colonial Picnic at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 1-4 PM; pig roast buffet and 18th c. entertainment; reservations required by calling 301-952-8010. Rain date is June 14

June 13 - Wine Festival at Snow Hill Manor; contact Laurel Historical Society at 301-725-7975 for more information

June 20 - Celebrate National Ice Cream Soda Day at Marietta House Museum, 2 PM; learn about and enjoy ice cream and sodas; ages 6-12, \$2/person

June 21 - Father's Day Tours at Riversdale House Museum, 12:15-3:15 PM; bring your special gentleman for a free tour; limited to one free guided tour with each paid admission

June 24 - Jazz on the Lawn at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; bring a blanket or lawn chair, pack a picnic, and enjoy music; moves inside if raining; call 301-864-0420 for details

June 27 - A Proper Tea: Lecture & Afternoon Tea at Marietta House Museum, 2 PM; reservations required by calling 301-464-5291, \$25/person

National Colonial Farm has classes and workshops; visit www.accokeek.org for more details.

National Wildlife Visitor Center is closed on Thursdays.

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.pgparcs.com, www.marylandmilestones.org/events, www.cityofbowie.org, www.greenbeltmuseum.org, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, www.mdhs.org, <http://pgcm.aahgs.org>, <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/ntedu.html>, www.radiohistory.org, www.surrattmuseum.org, and www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs/index.htm

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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
- 3. 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.**
- 4. 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.
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News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XLIV Number 3

July-September 2015

2015 PRINCE OF A COUNTY

This year's Prince of a County fundraiser is being held at the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Completed in 1938, Old Greenbelt Theatre is an iconic building in Greenbelt, MD, a federally planned New Deal-era community. The core of Old Greenbelt was declared a National Historic Landmark district in 1997, with the Theatre a prominent reminder of a bygone era of cinema as well as a cooperative living institution whose values of community service and collective responsibility continue to be pertinent and valuable in present day Greenbelt.

The theatre is being run by the Friends of the Greenbelt Theatre. The Friends of Greenbelt Theatre is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to diverse entertainment and educational cinematic experiences. Its mission is to be a center for culture in Prince George's County by making the Theatre both a cultural and social hub and an economic and artistic driver through a vibrant programming schedule. In its view, this model represents and endorses the ideals of Greenbelt's pioneer citizens, which in many ways are more modern today than ever.

Invitations will be sent in August. In the meantime, save the date!

When: Sunday, September 13, 2015

Where: Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Time: 1 to 3 PM

Cost: \$50 per person

RSVP must be received by September 5, 2015

Mail your check and names of attendees to:

PGCHS
PO Box 1513
Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1513



Old Greenbelt Theatre

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phone: 301-220-0330

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Webmaster: Vacant

News & Notes is published quarterly. 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 on the second Tuesday at 6:30 PM. Locations vary, so please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

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

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Vicki Ames

Dory Cunningham

Debra Likavec

George McDaniel III

Ann Wass

ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2015 St. George's Day Award winners. The awards were presented at the Society's annual St. George's Day Dinner held at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville. Attendees were able to view the Library's special collections and enjoy a buffet lunch catered by Pineapple Alley Catering. The Awards were established in 1974 and have been given annually to honor those that have made contributions to the preservation of our County's heritage. The awardees were:

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

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

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

Richard Friend for publication of *Lost Laurel*

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

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

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

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

The Hall of Fame of Prince George's County, Inc. has recent dissolved and the Society has taken over its purposes and responsibilities. It is anticipated that inductions into The Hall of Fame will resume in 2016.

PLUMMER DAY CELEBRATION

The first Plummer Day Celebration was held on Saturday, May 30, 2015, praising the life of Adam Francis Plummer at the Kingdom Missionary Baptist Church located in Bladensburg, Maryland. The theme of the day, **Adam Francis Plummer: Champion of Faith, Family and Freedom**, chronicles the life and times of a humble but honorable man who in spite of being born a slave managed to share his life story through his personal diary. Adam Francis Plummer began writing a diary at the time of his marriage to Emily Saunders, May 30, 1841, and continued until close to the time of his death in 1905, covering more than 20 years as a slave, and more than 40 as a freedman. Diaries in this period, especially among men, were rare, and nearly non-existent among slaves. However, in spite of laws that prohibited literacy among slaves, Plummer learned to read and write and documented his life in a private diary which survived slavery and passed down through the family. In 1927 his youngest daughter, Nellie Arnold Plummer, published *Out of the Depths or the Triumph of the Cross*, including many excerpts from her father's diary, as well as letters and other records, to create a biography of her remarkable family.

The Plummer celebration was held in the early 19th-century church building where the congregation of St. Paul's Baptist Church began meeting in 1873. This congregation had been started by Plummer's daughter, Sarah Miranda, after she was reunited with her family in 1866. The planning committee, which consisted of Douglas Burton, Rev. Jerome Fowler, Rev. Charles W. Dockett and Rev. Vandy Kennedy, were very excited to honor Adam Francis Plummer, a Maryland native who was born a slave in 1819 and survived many of life's trials and tribulations while trying to keep his family together and live a fulfilling life. Adam was born into slavery at the Goodwood plantation near Upper Marlboro and was owned by the powerful Calvert family until late in 1864, when the new Maryland Constitution abolished slavery in the state. The audience at the Plummer celebration included members of the community and politicians from the surrounding municipalities, as well as descendants of the Plummer family. Co-Chairman Douglas Burton read the citation from the office of County Executive Rushern Baker and there was a hearty welcome from Councilman Walter Ficklin from the Town of Bladensburg. Rev. Charles Dockett, as the Master of Ceremonies, welcomed the community and Rev. Kennedy spoke of the purpose of the occasion. A musical solo was sung by Dr. Frances Plummer, cousin of Rev. Fowler, and the National Anthem was sung by "Just Three." A small reception immediately followed the program.

2015 ANNUAL PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION RECEPTION

This year's annual historic preservation reception was held at the College Park Aviation Museum. The museum is on the grounds of the College Park Airport, the oldest continuously operating airport in the world. The evening began with a welcome by museum director Andrea Cochrane Tracey, who listed the "firsts" that the airfield is known for including where Wilbur Wright taught America's first military officers how to fly, the first controlled helicopter flight, and where America's first airmail service began. Prince George's County Planning Board Chair, Elizabeth Hewlett, emceed the evening which included remarks by David Iannucci, the County's Assistant Deputy Chief Administration Officer for Economic Development & Public Infrastructure. Historic site plaques were presented by John Peter Thompson, Chairman of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission. This year's historic site plaque recipients are:

- **North Brentwood AME Zion Church (68-061-11)** – built in 1920 under the leadership of Rev. Chesterfield Jackson, the church is a stucco-covered brick Gothic revival style building with a pyramidal-roof corner tower. The church is one of two original places of worship in this African-American community.
- **Fairmount Heights World War II Monument (72-009-29)** – erected in 1946, this obelisk-like monument is constructed of coursed gray granite and orange sandstone block in a random arrangement. This monument commemorates the dedication and sacrifice of the young men of Fairmount Heights who served their country in WWII. The names of those who died in the war are inscribed on recently restored metal plaques.
- **Terrett House (Bird Lawn Manor) (76B-012)** – built circa 1910, the Terrett House is a two-and-one-half story hip-roofed house with a foursquare plan. The house is also known as Bird Lawn Farm and was built by Alexander Terrett. The notable two-story verandas on the front and rear were added in 1946 by then owner Michigan Congressman Frederick Crawford, whose renovation included the use of late Victorian decorative elements brought from Michigan.
- **St. Luke's Church Site & Cemetery (77-012)** – also known as Niles Chapel, is located near Upper Marlboro. The site was first constructed in 1868 as a Freedmen's school on land donated by William Niles, a white landowner in the area. Services were held in the schoolhouse until a chapel was built sometime in 1877. This log building was replaced in 1893 by a frame building that was demolished in the 1970s. The remaining graveyard includes approximately 47 marked graves; the earliest stone dates from 1903 and the most recent from 2003. The markers vary greatly by type and material, and include concrete and slate tablets, granite headstones, marble tablets on concrete bases, concrete obelisks, concrete footstones, and concrete headstones.
- **Cedarville Charcoal Kiln (85B-008)** – the cinderblock kiln was built in the early 1940s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The Corps was established in 1933 as part of President Roosevelt's "New Deal." The kiln, which is believed to be a unique example of its type on the East Coast, was built to demonstrate the production of charcoal made from timbers harvested from the surrounding state forest. Another kiln built on the property no longer stands.

Maryland Milestones/ATHA, Inc. presented their Heritage Tourism Awards. Executive Director Aaron Marcavitch recognized the following:

Natural Resources – **Anacostia Watershed Society**
Arts – **Alight Dance Theater**
History – **Prince George's Heritage, Inc.**
Individual Award – **Christine Henry**

The program ended with awards presented by Donald Linebaugh, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at the University of Maryland. He presented the Prince George's Fellowship Award to **Melissa Holo** for her work on the Hyattsville Public Library's Save Our Saucer, and the St. Clair Wright Award to **Tyra Guyton** for her work on the Smithsburg Town Hall Restoration Project.

THIS OLD HOUSE IS ROCKIN...!

Who says history isn't fun? With its historical background related to the Civil War and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, Surratt House has attracted some unique attention over the past forty years. This year has been exceptional with the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War and the murder of President Lincoln.

However, two recent events have kept the staff and volunteers at the museum on their toes. The various 150th commemorations that took place in Washington, D.C. brought increased visitation, but two programs stood out. On April 22, the first of 52 antique cars (ca. 1900-1970) with 95 not-so-antique owners began to arrive at the museum at 8 am armed with coffee and donuts. Two Park Rangers from the Natural and Historical Resources Division of Prince George's County parks and four hoop-skirted ladies from the staff and volunteers of the Surratt House stood ready to direct traffic and guided tours for the next two hours before the cars headed out on the rest of their adventure over the escape route of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln.

The next unique event was a visit from the Secretary of Homeland Security and 53 staff members from that Cabinet Department on May 8. We knew only that we were doing a "training session" for Homeland Security. The day before the tour, however, we got a clue that this was a little higher up than routine training. A Secret Service agent arrived to inspect the buildings and to get information from staff. He also advised that the bus would have two vans of Secret Service as escorts as well as one car each from the police department of Prince George's County and the sheriff's department in Charles County. There would also be additional Secret Service on-site throughout the day. And that is exactly what happened.

The bus and entourage arrived about 1:30 pm, filled with the Secretary and high-level staff. Museum staff had been asked to make a brief presentation on the site's history, so we geared it around the theme of Terrorism: 1865 to tie in with the Lincoln conspiracy history. They did not want to tour the historic house, so staff member Lindsey Horn gave the presentation and then hopped on the bus (in her hoop skirts) and conducted a three-hour tour over the Southern Maryland portion of the John Wilkes Booth Escape Route. When they arrived back at the museum, Secretary Jeh Johnson then announced that he would like to see the interior of historic Surratt House and got his own personal tour. A very gracious thank-you arrived on behalf of the Department a few days later.

HISTORIC SITES SALUTE THE TROOPS

Once again, historic sites of our county's Department of Parks & Recreation are participating in a national program to recognize the service that active and retired military members give to our country. Blue Star Museums offer free tours to soldiers and up to five immediate family members between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Help us spread the word to grab one's military ID and enjoy the history that abounds in Prince George's County at the following sites: Surratt House Museum in Clinton, Riversdale Mansion in Riverdale Park, Montpelier Mansion in Laurel, Marietta House Museum in Glenn Dale, Darnall's Chance in Upper Marlboro, and College Park Aviation Museum in College Park.

We'll take you from plantations to planets.

For information about other sites within Maryland, visit: <http://arts.gov/bsm/state/MD>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER 2015

- 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month** - Dinosaur Park in Laurel has a program with paleontologists and volunteers to interpret fossil deposits; 12-4 PM, free
- 1st Fridays of the month thru October** - Montpelier Mansion has stories, activities, tours and games; 11 AM-4 PM; free
- July & August** - I Spy at Darnall's Chance House Museum, Thursdays & Fridays, 10 AM-3 PM; discover spying techniques General George Washington's Army used to send secret messages; ages 6-13; free
- July-September 2015** - the National Capital Radio and Television Museum will feature "vintage" broadcasts" every Friday-Sunday at 2 PM; check www.ncrtv.org or call 301-390-1020 for a program schedule; free, but donations welcome
- July-October 2015** - Anacostia River Pontoon Boat Tours at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Tues-Fri, 12-12:45 PM, Sat-Sun, 5-5:45 PM; \$2/resident, \$3/non-resident
- July-Fall 2015** - "A Tale of Three Coffins: Living and Dying in 17th Century St. Mary's City" exhibit at Maryland Historical Society. The coffins held members of the Calvert family and will be reinterred beneath the Jesuit Chapel in St. Mary's City after the exhibit
- July-December 13, 2015** - The Full Story: Maryland, the Surratts, and the Crime of the Century at Surratt House Museum; exhibit commemorates the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War and the death of Lincoln by reflecting the role of Maryland in the conflict, the choices made by the Surratt family and the after effects on them and the nation; part of house tour
- July-December 2015** - Ripped from the Headlines: Laurel in the News exhibit at Laurel Historical Society
- Ongoing** - Beyond the Battle: Bladensburg Rediscovered exhibit at Hornbake Library, University of Maryland
- July 5-September 6** - Summer Concerts in Bowie; Saturdays at the Town Green, 4-6 PM & Sundays at Allen Pond Park, 7-8 PM; free
- July 5** - Artillery Demonstration at Fort Washington Park - Historic Fort, 1-3:15 PM; Fort Washington Guard will demonstrate for 15 minutes on the hour and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; \$5/car
- July 8** - Jazz on the Lawn: Bruce Ewan at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy jazz on the lawn; concert moves inside in case of rain; free
- July 9-August 8** - Blast-in-the Past: A Hands-On History Playground at Montpelier Mansion, Thursdays-Saturday, 11 AM-4 PM; young visitors can "camp out" in the wilderness, design a hat at the milliners, get water from the well and much more; \$2/resident, \$3/non-resident
- July 9** - Cold Case Solved: The Stephanie Watson Murder at Partnership Activity Center, 811 Fifth St., Laurel, 7 PM; Richard Friend presents the 1982 murder that shocked Laurel & the blog post that prompted cold case detectives to take a fresh look; free
- July 11** - Kite Workshop at College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM; build and decorate your own kite; \$8 workshop fee, call 301-864-6029 to register
- July 11-12** - Mid-Summer Open House at Surratt House Museum, 12-4 PM; free tours of a house with cool history! July 11 includes 3rd U.S. Volunteer Infantry Encampment
- July 12** - Hidden Spaces Tour at Montpelier Mansion, 3:30 PM; tour goes to areas seldom open to the general public and focuses on the building of the house and changes over its 230 year history; \$15/person, \$10/Friends of Montpelier and active military, reservations required by calling 31-377-7817, space is limited
- July 19** - Load in Nine Times at Fort Washington Park - Historic Fort, 1-3 PM; Fort Washington Guard will demonstrate how the percussion rifle-musket is loaded and fired; free
- July 22** - Jazz on the Lawn: Stacy Brooks at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy jazz on the lawn; concert moves inside in case of rain; free
- August 1** - Paws & Planes at College Park Aviation Museum, 10 AM-2 PM; meet Turbo the Flying Dog, meet furry friends available for adoption and learn about flying; free
- August 2** - Artillery Demonstration at Fort Washington Park - Historic Fort, 1-3:15 PM; Fort Washington Guard will demonstrate for 15 minutes on the hour and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; \$5/car
- August 5** - Jazz on the Lawn: Seth Kibel Quartet at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy jazz on the lawn; concert moves inside in case of rain; free
- August 8** - The United States Colored Troops to the Rescue at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; Dr. Edna Green Medford of Howard University discusses the significant role that African-American soldiers played in the Civil War; free
- August 10-14** - Science in the Summer Camp at Laurel Historical Society; free; for more details and registration call 301-725-7975
- August 14** - Sangria Under the Stars at College Park Aviation Museum, 8-11 PM; stargaze, sip Boordy Vineyards sangria, learn about stars and make your own constellation, \$30/person, registration required by calling 301-864-6029
- August 16** - Load in Nine Times at Fort Washington Park - Historic Fort, 1-3 PM; Fort Washington Guard will demonstrate how the percussion rifle-musket is loaded and fired; free
- August 19** - Jazz on the Lawn: Brulee at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy jazz on the lawn; concert moves inside in case of rain; free
- September 5, 12, 19 & 26** - John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Tour at Surratt House Museum; call 301-868-1121 for availability
- September 5-7** - Trains & Planes at College Park Aviation Museum, 10 AM-5 PM; National Capital Trackers bring their constantly moving display of model railroads; museum admission
- September 6** - Artillery Demonstration at Fort Washington Park - Historic Fort, 1-3:15 PM; Fort Washington Guard will demonstrate for 15 minutes on the hour and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; \$5/car
- September 6** - Hidden Spaces Tour at Montpelier Mansion, 3:30 PM; see July 12 entry for details
- September 10** - Reporting on Integration at Laurel's Schools: Panel Discussion facilitated by Lindsey Baker at Laurel Pool Room, 7 PM; free
- September 12-13** - For Cause & Country: Serving the Soldiers at Fort Washington Park - Historic Fort, 9 AM-5 PM, Saturday, 9 AM-3 PM, Sunday; discover the important role the United States Sanitary Commission played in the lives of Union soldiers and Civil War efforts; \$5/car
- September 13** - Prince of a County at Old Greenbelt Theatre, see front page for details
- September 19-20** - 10th Annual Maryland Lighthouse Challenge at Fort Washington Lighthouse, 8 AM-6 PM; visit <http://cheslights.org> for details; \$5/car
- September 20** - Load in Nine Times at Fort Washington Park - Historic Fort, 1-3 PM; Fort Washington Guard will demonstrate how the percussion rifle-musket is loaded and fired; free
- September 26** - College Park Day at 5100 Paint Branch Pkwy, 11 AM-3 PM; Artists Alley for crafts, food, College Park Aviation Museum scavenger hunt
- September 26** - The 'Coupe Club Dance: Celebrating 75 years of the Ercoupe at College Park Aviation Museum, 7:30-11 PM; kick up your heels to great dance music, silent auction, food, raffle, photo booth and scavenger hunt, prize for best 1940s costume; \$45/person or \$80/couple, register by September 17 at FieldoffFirst.com or at museum
- National Colonial Farm** has classes and workshops; visit www.accokeek.org for more details.
- National Wildlife Visitor Center** is closed on Thursdays.
- 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.pgpc.org, www.marylandmilestones.org/events, www.cityofbowie.org, www.greenbeltmuseum.org, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, www.mdhs.org, www.nps.gov/fowa/index.htm, pgcm.aahgs.org, www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/ntedu.html, www.radiohistory.org, www.surrattmuseum.org, and, www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs/index.htm

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Prince George's County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1513, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1513



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XLIV Number 4

October-December 2015

20TH ANNUAL MARYLAND LEGACY DAY

The Prince George's County Chapter of the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (PGCM-AAHGS) is proud to partner with the Prince George's County Historical Society and the Church of the Latter-Day Saints Family History Center as it celebrates its 20th annual **Maryland Legacy Day** on Saturday, November 21, 2015, from 1:30-3:30 pm. The guest speaker will be C.R. Gibbs, an internationally noted lecturer, exhibitor of historical information and artifacts, and historian of the African presence worldwide. He is the author/co-author of several books. He is the founder of the *African History and Culture Lecture Series* which, for nearly two decades, has regularly brought respected experts to lecture at public forums in the Washington, D.C. - Baltimore area. Mr. Gibbs has served as an assistant technical adviser to the Francis Thompson Company on a film entitled "*American Years*" and as a consultant to the DC Public School System, Georgetown University, Maryland Public Television, and the Smithsonian Institution. The program will be held at the Church of the Latter-Day Saints Family History Center at 4700 Auth Road, Suitland, Maryland.

In 1863, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation affected only those states that had seceded from the United States. Enslaved persons were not freed by the Proclamation in the four "border states" (Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, and Missouri), nor were they freed in two areas occupied by Union troops (Tennessee and lower Louisiana). And they were not freed in the Virginia counties that would later that year become the state of West Virginia. In Maryland, it was not until the passage of the state's Constitution of 1864 that slavery was abolished. Although all four men (Edward W. Belt, Samuel H. Berry, Daniel Clarke, and Fendall Marbury) who were elected as Prince George's County's delegates to the Constitutional Convention voted against its passage, the new Constitution was passed by a slim margin, and signed on November 1, 1864.

For the last twenty years the PGCM-AAHGS has celebrated November 1, 1864, as "Maryland Legacy Day" honoring the men, women and children who survived a terrible time in history. The day is devoted to educating and sharing historical information about heritage of a special group of people who were forced to endure a lifetime of bondage for more than 200 years and were finally able to make their own life's choices as freed men and women on that special day.

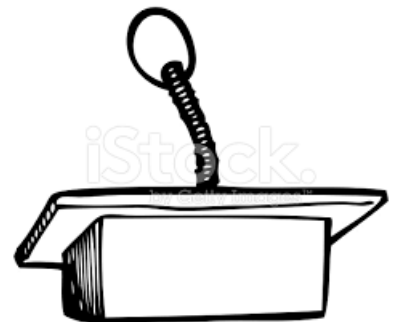
-Nathania A. Branch Miles

UPCOMING LECTURES

Professor Evelyn Torton Beck presents: "How Art Keeps Hope Alive: Frida Kahlo and Franz Kafka" on Sunday, October 11 at 2:30 PM. Although their work is embedded in entirely different cultures and genres of art, their lives have significant parallels. Join us at the University of Maryland's Hornbake Library for an overview of their work in the context of their lives.

Please join us on Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 PM as Nathania Branch Miles discusses her book, "**Prince George's County, Living on the Border.**" Light refreshments will be served, and guests will have a chance to meet the author and book signing. Cost is \$5 per person. Please call 301-464-5291 for more information. Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD.

See page 8 for additional lectures slated for 2016.



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Historian:	Susan G. Pearl

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News & Notes is published quarterly. 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 on the second Tuesday at 6:30 PM. Locations vary, so please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

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

FREDERICK S. DEMARR LIBRARY OF COUNTY HISTORY

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

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



SOCIETY SPONSORS

The Society would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support. Their donations help to fund various Society programs, its newsletter, and the Frederick S. DeMarr Library. Thank You!

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Donna Whitaker

YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join the Society and Maryland Milestones as we celebrate the holiday season. The festive evening will be held on **Wednesday, December 16, 2015**, at Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive in Bowie at 6:30 PM. Food and drink will be provided. Ahead of the party at 6 PM, the Society will hold its annual elections. The slate for the election is as follows and nominations are always welcome:

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

Directors:	Nancy Dixon Saxon
	Patricia Skews



LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSING

The Frederick DeMarr Library will be closed on Saturday, December 26, so staff can celebrate the season with their family and friends. However, we will be open on Saturday, November 28, 2015, and Saturday, January 2, 2016. Please come by!

HOLIDAYS IN THE HERITAGE AREA

Maryland Milestones/ATHA Inc. is again highlighting the great events that are part of "Holidays in the Heritage Area." Many of our regular sites around the Heritage Area have been hosting holiday related programs from mid-November until mid-January when Riversdale House Museum's annual Twelfth Night program occurs. Maryland Milestones has developed a promotion schedule and will be encouraging visitors and residents alike to visit the special website (www.holidaysintheheritagearea.org) as it goes live on October 1, 2015. Additional events will be added as they are provided, so check back often. If your site or program is hosting a holiday themed event around art, history, or natural resources, be sure to let our staff know at aaron@anacostiatrains.org.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORY CONSORTIUM

The Prince George's County History Consortium has been meeting under the staff support of Maryland Milestones/ATHA Inc. and seeking to bolster their work with historic museums and sites which interpret and explain the County's history. This group, made up of representatives from each of the sites, meets on a quarterly basis and has been developing new projects such as an activity book for distribution to students and children. Another project of the group is supporting the annual Prince George's County History Day program. This program, open to public, private, and homeschooled children, is a great opportunity for students to showcase their research on a historical topic. Pooling funds, the group has been supporting the development of additional awards for students which highlight Prince George's County history. Prince George's County History Day is always looking for new judges and support to the students. Email Aaron Marcavitch (Maryland Milestones/ATHA Inc.) for details aaron@anacostiatrains.org.

THE TANGLED TALE OF THREE SISTERS

There is a house in central Prince George's County called Three Sisters whose history has confounded historians and preservationists for years. It is a two-and-a-half-story gambrel-roofed frame structure that sits on Cleary Lane, a few hundred feet west of Lottsford Vista Road and a quarter mile south of U.S. Route 50. The post office address is Bowie, though it lies outside the city limits. Several additions and modifications were made to the house during the 20th century, so many so that it is scarcely recognizable as the ancient house that H. Chandlee Forman photographed in 1934 and later featured in his book, *Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens*. But the gambrel roof so prominent in Forman's photo still peeks out above the porches and additions, revealing its identity. The house once overlooked rolling farmland; now its setting is a spacious suburban lot in the subdivision called Willow Grove.

Until the 1970s and 80s, the history of the house seemed clear. In Forman's day, admirers of old houses—both professional and amateur—almost reflexively attributed the construction of an old house like this one to the original patentee of the land, allowing him a year to get settled and build his home. Thus Forman and other early preservationists duly wrote that the house on Cleary Lane was built in 1684 by Thomas Hilleary, who patented the land (originally 1040 acres) in 1683. They christened the house Three Sisters, the name of Hilleary's land grant, and declared it to be the ancestral seat of the Hilleary family of Prince George's County.

More recent generations of historians and preservationists, however, do not agree. With improved access to archival sources, advanced archeology and dendrochronology, and a better understanding of the evolution of building styles, present-day historians have reevaluated many old homes throughout Tidewater Maryland once thought to date back to the 17th century and determined they are not so old. The house on Cleary Lane is one of them. Architectural historians are now convinced that the core of the structure, as photographed by Forman, dates not from 1684 but from the mid to late 18th century. This re-analysis introduced the question: if not Thomas Hilleary (who was dead by 1697), who, then, built the house, and when?

The answer was not immediately clear. The Three Sisters tract was divided into several parcels in 1708 and further subdivided in 1733, 1743, and 1789. Through most of the 18th and 19th centuries, the Hilleary family owned only about half of the original 1040-acre tract. The chain of title for the acreage on which the house is sited was well documented back to the 1830s but murky before that. The 1798 federal property tax rolls recorded five, maybe six, substantial frame houses with five different owners on the original Three Sisters tract. But which one was the house on Cleary Lane? That has been the mystery.

Recently retired and no longer preoccupied five days a week, I decided to give the house on Cleary Lane another shot. I was able to do that work from my kitchen table 2500 miles away in Boise, Idaho, because Maryland's deeds and wills from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries are now online. Anyone with a computer and Internet access can read them from home, thanks to the digitization efforts of the Maryland State Archives ([Mdlandrec.net](http://mdlandrec.net)) and the Mormon church (familysearch.org). The ability to do the work from home made it a much easier task in the year 2015 for this researcher out West than it would have been for one back home in Maryland even as recently as ten years ago. No treks back and forth between the state archives and the county courthouse, no waits for busy reference staff to pull big bound volumes from the stacks, and the ability to reexamine relevant documents time and time again at will were all big advantages.

This much was known about the house for sure: John B. Magruder, scion of another prominent Prince George's County family, purchased it and 372 acres of land around it from Howerton Cross in 1835. Cross bought the property from heirs of Ninian T. Willett four years earlier, in 1831. But before that, only mystery. No one had ever found a deed or legal paper conveying the property to Ninian T. Willett, which left its previous ownership in question. The reason no such deed could be found turns out to be because no such deed ever existed. Ninian T. Willett purchased the land sometime in the 1820s, not long before his death in 1826, but no deed was ever executed or recorded formally transferring the property to him. That seems not to have hindered the probate process, for his estate was settled and his property disposed of without a deed confirming his title. Howerton Cross, though, must have been nervous about that, so in 1833 he sought out and received a deed from the two women who had sold the land to Ninian T. Willett. Their names were Elizabeth D. Beall and Eleanor Woodward. The "whereas" clauses of their respective deeds to Cross reveal the convoluted history above.



Continued from page 4

So who were Elizabeth D. Beall and Eleanor Woodward? They were the married daughters of a woman named Rachel Williams Turner, and they jointly inherited the house and the land by will from her at her death in 1817. With that knowledge, the earlier history of the house and its ownership fell into place. One of the owners and occupants of part of the Three Sisters tract in 1798, as recorded in the federal tax rolls of that year, was one Rachel Turner. Her house was described as a “framed dwelling house with hip roof.” Today, we’d call it a gambrel roof, but the terms hip and gambrel were used interchangeably in that day. It was the only house on the Three Sisters tract described with a roof of that type.

Rachel Williams Turner (so called in the probate records to distinguish her from another Rachel Turner) was a Williams both by marriage and descent. Her father was Richard Duckett, Jr.; her mother was Eleanor Williams. Baruch Duckett, builder of Fairview (later the home of Governor Oden Bowie) was one of her brothers. Rachel married twice, first to her cousin Colonel Thomas Williams (1739-1784), the father of her children, and secondly to Philip Turner, who died in 1796. Twice widowed, she soldiered on at the plantation for another twenty-one years. She is listed as the head of household in the 1800 and 1810 censuses.

The 1798 tax rolls reveal that Rachel Williams Turner managed quite an agricultural complex on her portion of the Three Sisters. Besides the house, there was a separate kitchen, a meat house, a milk house, a corn house, two tobacco houses, a lumber house, and a poultry house. Slaves toiled on her plantation; the tax rolls also record a “negro house.” All of which, the assessor noted, were “out of repair.” Nevertheless, the inventories of the estates of her two husbands reveal that her family seemed to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle, at least in terms of material possessions. They owned quite a bit of furniture, several sets of dinnerware, much kitchenware, books, and maps, and they were assessed for silver plate. One of the specific bequests Rachel Williams Turner made in her will was a “mahogany sugar dish bound with silver,” probably the same item listed as a “mahogany sugar dish tipt with silver” on her husbands’ inventories.

Given the current estimate that the house dates from the mid to late 18th century, we may wonder if Rachel Williams Turner was the builder of the house. That would place it very late in the 18th century. But since the house was already described as “out of repair” in 1798, it could be older. The land on which it was built had been in her first husband’s family since 1741, when Colonel Thomas Williams’ grandfather, also named Thomas Williams (1693-1749), acquired that part of the Three Sisters tract from Mary Neale, the daughter of Major Walter Smith, the previous owner. Two years later, Thomas Williams sold the property to his son Thomas Williams, Junior (1717-1770), father of Rachel’s husband Colonel Thomas Williams. Any one of them could have been the builder, perhaps replacing an older house with the one that survives to this day. Unless and until more precise dating is determined, we may never be sure which one of them actually built the house.

It would be nice, however, to think that the house was built by a Revolutionary patriot. Colonel Thomas Williams’ service as an officer with the Upper Battalion of Prince George’s County militia during the early years of the Revolution is traced in Louise Joyner Hinton’s *Prince George’s Heritage*. While most of his unit’s service was in Maryland, the battalion was also present at the battles of Germantown and Brandywine in Pennsylvania in 1777. Colonel Williams also served as a justice of the Prince George’s County Court and was elected sheriff of the county in 1779.

While the name “Colonel Thomas Williams house” has a good ring to it, so does the name “Rachel Williams Turner house,” recognizing her long tenure as the twice-widowed mistress of the plantation. Either name would fix the place of that house in Prince George’s County’s history with more precision than the less specific name of “Three Sisters,” and remind us it was built for a family by the name Williams, not Hilleary. But as was so common in 17th and 18th century Prince George’s County, the Williams and Hilleary families intermarried with their neighbors and their cousins repeatedly over the generations. In addition to sharing a Williams grandfather, both Rachel Williams Turner and her husband Colonel Thomas Williams were great-great-grandchildren of Thomas Hilleary, the original patentee of the Three Sisters. He may thus still be given some credit for the house after all, if only genealogically.

Postscript: The ancient survey line that divided the Three Sisters tract between the Williams family and the Hillearys is quite evident from the air and easily viewed online on Google maps. First drawn more than 300 years ago, in 1708, it is the absolutely straight line that begins on Lottsford Vista Road and runs West by North (78 degrees and 45 minutes West of due North) all the way to Bald Hill branch. It now divides the Willow Grove subdivision (Williams) on the north from the Villa Rosa nursing home (Hilleary) on the south. The long tree-lined entry lane leading into the Villa Rosa grounds off of Lottsford Vista Road follows its track. On Google maps, search for 3800 Lottsford Vista Road, the Villa Rosa address.

-Alan Virta

IT IS ALL ABOUT JOAN



I recently learned about Joan Elizabeth Christian's (1933-2015) transition and was deeply touched by the passing of such a great lady. What a loss to the community! Joan was born, raised and educated in New York City, New York. Joan is the type of person who cannot be replaced and she will be dearly missed by all who knew her. As I remembered one of my elder aunts who always reminded me of "what a Lady was, did and did not do," I am reminded that she was talking about someone like Joan. Joan had followed Emily Post to the letter. According to Emily Post, **"Nothing is less important than which fork you use. Etiquette is the science of living. It embraces everything. It is ethics. It is honor." This was Joan!** Always well spoken, well dressed, ladylike and polite. Joan was a gracious hostess, had great hors d'oeuvres, drinks and always had a story to tell to get you in the mood for the meeting of the day. This lady had charisma – I would have followed her anywhere. She was a great pi-

ano teacher and had wonderful recitals at the Bowie Performing Arts Center.

I met Joan for the first time in 2011 on a cold and rainy Saturday morning at her home as a representative for the Prince George's County Historical Society for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee at its first meeting. I was very impressed with this vivacious woman who was very passionate about the City of Bowie recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr.'s contributions to humanity through his sacrifices to his family and the world. Joan believed in giving back to the community and worked well with many civic and community organizations, but she especially loved her AKAs. Every year she worked hard to get the community involved in this recognition of a great man through participation of students from the community, guest speakers, authors and a committee who also believed in her mission. Joan was a ball of energy, laughing, smiling, always moving, encouraging and inviting you to participate in this worthwhile cause. Even though we were a generation apart, Joan and I hit it off because we were fellow "die-hard New Yorkers" and that was our bond. She loved to talk about the "good ole days" in Harlem and Brooklyn (though I grew up in Queens), where she was a concert pianist and had a beautiful black and white photograph of herself on the wall. She was a community activist, piano teacher, organizer and writer. She contributed often to the *Bowie Blade* and as the passionate person she was she would sound off on many issues of discrimination, disenfranchisement and race relations.

Joan enjoyed life and lived it to the fullest in everything she did and said. She leaves to cherish her memory her son, Taj Johnson and daughter Donna Christian-Bruce, and her grandson Elijah Bruce, daughter-in-law Jeannie Johnson, and son-in-law Fr. Christian Bruce and a host of family and friends. A Celebration of Life was held in her memory on Saturday, September 12th, 2015, at the Christian Community Presbyterian Church of Bowie in Bowie, MD.

-Nathania A. Branch Miles

A NEW HISTORY PUBLICATION

A new publication about the history of an established Prince George's County institution will become available to the public in September. Our PGCHS Historian, Susan Pearl, has just completed *"Prince George's Philharmonic, 1965-2015, A History,"* recounting the history of our County's symphony orchestra as it begins its 50th season. Illustrated with both historic and recent photographs, this new publication traces the history of the orchestra through the many phases of its development, introducing the reader to special individuals, and to some of the problems and joys of maintaining a regional orchestra.

The Philharmonic history will be available (at \$10 per copy) at all 50th-anniversary concerts, beginning on October 10, 2015, at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, and also through the Philharmonic website (www.pgphilharmonic.org). For information, contact Susan at 301-262-3367, or call the Philharmonic office at 301-446-3245.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Your library staff is celebrating, because right now we have an especially great group of volunteers! Of our four newest “interns,” three are students at the University of Maryland, working on Masters in Library Science (MLS) degrees, and the fourth already has his MLS. The three students volunteered because they wanted to get some hands-on experience working in a local library, and the fourth is currently working at a non-library job, and misses the library experience. We consider ourselves VERY fortunate!

Nathan Avant was the first to start with us. He is more computer savvy than your regular staff, and has been able to help us out of a number of digital quagmires. He was just the right person to have when we succeeded in getting a grant to digitize (from our microfilm) the late-19th century *Prince George's Enquirer*, the weekly newspaper printed in Upper Marlborough. He has been working away at it faithfully, and managed to get a new lens for the microfilm reader which greatly improves the conversion process.

Sarah Jones has been scanning all of the issues of *News and Notes* that had not already been scanned by Lester Sweeting years ago. (We still miss Lester so much!) All of these issues are being added to the list of issues that are accessible through our website. Now Sarah is indexing (by subject) all of the articles, so that soon you can simply go to our website, and find articles on any subject that we've covered over the last 40 years. Sarah also joined me at this spring's March 28th “Kids Passport to History” at the Bowie Library – this event was much more popular and crowded than anyone had expected, and I would not have survived without Sarah!

Sarah told one of her classmates, Katie Piano, about her Saturday volunteer work, and Katie said “I want to do that too,” which made us even happier! Katie has been converting our VHS tapes to DVDs, and both she and Sarah are up on the digital aspects of library work, and have been helpful in lots of different ways.

Kurt Flick jointed us more recently – he has already been very helpful in sorting through newly acquired collections, and will soon start on the three file cabinets full of materials that we just got from the Bowie Library. And of course, like our other three interns, he has been able to help with our all-too-frequent computer glitches.

So things at the library are going very well! Come and visit!

-Susan G. Pearl

THE NATIONAL/MARYLAND HISTORY DAY - 2015

The following students attending a Prince George's County school won top honors in the 2015 Maryland History Day contest and moved on to compete in the National History Day competition held at the University of Maryland.

Student: Lydia Waring	School: Accokeek Academy
Category: Individual Documentary	Teacher: Nina Huff
Title: "'Mother' Mary Jones, The Most Dangerous Woman in America"	

Students: Aaliyah Beckles & Maya McAfee	School: Accokeek Academy
Category: Group Exhibit	Teacher: Nina Huff
Title: Helen Keller	

The Prince George's County Historical Society has partnered with "National History Day" to encourage young people to learn more about history. "National History Day" began in 1974 when the professors in the history department of Case Western Reserve University in Ohio developed the idea for a history contest to make learning and teaching history a fun and exciting experience. The first contest was held in 1980 at Georgetown University, and, in 1981, the contest moved to the University of Maryland - College Park and has been held there ever since.

-John Brunner

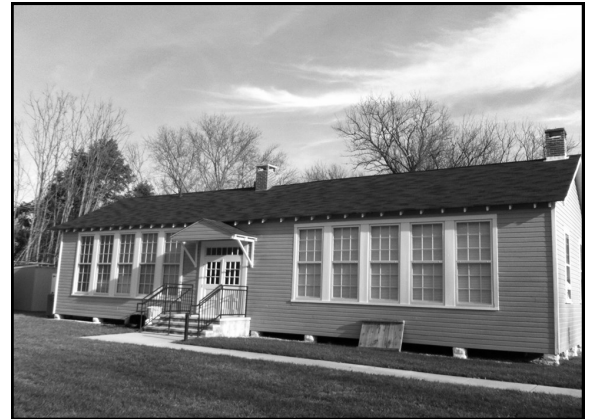
MORE LECTURES PLANNED

Please stay-tuned for more lecture series presented by Marietta House Museum and the Prince George's County Historical Society: on January 26 at 7 PM at Marietta Mansion, Susan Pearl and Lynn Roberts discussion and presentation of the acquisition of the ***Burroughs Diaries and the Secretary Desk***. Those diaries cover the early years of the Civil War. In March, ***The USDA Plant Introduction Station in Glenn Dale....***

ROSENWALD SCHOOL TOUR

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold its 2015 annual conference in Washington, D.C. The conference will be held November 3 through 6, 2015, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street, in the Woodley Park neighborhood. There will be learning labs and lecture sessions held at the Omni, as well as field studies away from the conference location. One of these field studies will be an all-day (9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.) bus tour of Rosenwald schools in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties, led by PGCHS historian Susan Pearl. We will visit Highland Park, Ridgeley, Collington, and Lincoln Schools in Prince George's, and Galesville, Shadyside, and Churchton Schools in Anne Arundel County, with a full lunch served at the Galesville School.

If you are interested in the Rosenwald school bus tour, send an e-mail to conference@savingplaces.org and you will be directly contacted if spaces on the tour become available.



Galesville School

WHEN HISTORY MEETS SCIENCE: GREEN HISTORY ON THE NATIONAL COLONIAL FARM

Have you ever wondered what you'd get when history meets science? At the National Colonial Farm you get **Green History**! Under the direction of Andrea Jones, the Accokeek Foundation's director of programs and visitor engagement, interpretation at the National Colonial Farm has taken on a new shape. Typically, when visitors tour living history sites they are immersed in a time long ago, surrounded by costumed interpreters ready to show them how things were done in a time long ago. The same is true of the National Colonial Farm, but with a twist.

By integrating environmental science with historical interpretation, the Accokeek Foundation raises awareness of modern day environmental issues in a new engaging interpretive experience called **Green History**. The Accokeek Foundation piloted this new format of interpretation earlier this year with an interactive demonstration of how people's use of the land over time has resulted in severely poor soil health today. Visitors were immersed in a new exhibit, Underspace, where they could compare through black lights and illustration the microorganisms found in healthy versus unhealthy soil. They were then given seeds and encouraged to go "back in time" to the farm where Mr. Bolton lived and help him to plant the seeds and help regenerate soil health. This *Green History* interpretation has covered different themes throughout the year including water conservation, labor and sustainability, and coming up this fall, food waste and energy conservation. Beyond illuminating these issues, museum interpreters make connections to the past and show how together we can make a difference today to improve the future health of our environment through time.

Call 301-283-2113 or visit www.accokeekfoundation.org to plan your visit.

THE RHODE ISLAND TROLLEY CAR LINE - YESTERDAY & TODAY

The 82 Line Streetcar was the original link that allowed strong communities to develop along the Route 1 Corridor in Prince George's County and linked them to downtown Washington, DC, up until the mid-twentieth century. While the Metro Green Line exists today to serve the now transitioning suburban area, the streetcar's removal had a big impact on the communities it served. Watch the Prince George's County Historical Society's first episode of Yesterday & Today at: <http://pghistory.org/main/the-rhode-island-trolley-car-line-yesterday-today-video-history-link/>

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

COMMEMORATING VETERANS' DAY

Those who fought long and hard for the restoration of the traditional date of November 11 for the commemoration of Veterans' Day are undoubtedly pleased with the federal government's decision to abandon the "Monday holiday" observance and revert to the original date. Although the reversion cannot take effect for at least three years, veterans' groups and other interested individuals can certainly view with satisfaction the success of their efforts.

Veterans' Day was originally Armistice Day, a celebration of the anniversary of the ending of World War I and an honoring of the war's veterans. After World War II, the name of the holiday was changed to Veterans' Day, and veterans of all wars were honored. Only in the late 1960s was the date of the observance changed from the traditional November 11.

Prince George's County's first official celebration of the end of hostilities was held in October 1919, with a welcome home ceremony for the returning soldiers. A parade was held in Upper Marlboro, the cornerstone for a commemorative fountain was laid, and a tablet listing the war dead was dedicated.

-News & Notes, October 1975

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE

The Christmas season was always the happiest in colonial Maryland, for all found time to put aside their normal routines to visit with friends and celebrate the most joyous of holidays. The joy the colonist felt at the coming of the Christmas season is reflected in the following poem which was published in the Virginia Almanack in the eighteenth century.

Christmas is come, hang on the pot,
Let spits turn round, and ovens be hot
Beef, pork, and poultry, now provide
To feast thy neighbours at this tide
Then wash all down with good wine and beer
And so with mirth conclude the YEAR

-News & Notes, December 1975

SHARE YOUR LOVE OF HISTORY

The holidays are the perfect time to share your love of history! Celebrate by giving a Prince George's County Historical Society membership, making a donation to the Frederick DeMarr Library in honor or memory of a loved one, or gift a book. If you place a book order by mail only (not applicable to orders through our website) you will receive FREE shipping, no matter how many books ordered. It is our gift to you!

SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

Have you visited www.pghistory.org lately? Not only has it been recently redesigned, we have a blog, we've launched a Yesterday & Today video series and we have added a list of Special Collections. We have more additions in the works. Visit today to see what we have and come back often!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2015

- 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month** - Dinosaur Park in Laurel has a program with paleontologists and volunteers to interpret fossil deposits; 12-4 PM, free
- 1st Fridays of the month thru October** - Montpelier Mansion has stories, activities, tours and games; 11 AM-4 PM; free
- October-December 2015** - the National Capital Radio and Television Museum will feature "vintage" broadcasts" every Friday-Sunday at 2 PM; check www.ncrtv.org or call 301-390-1020 for a program schedule; free, but donations welcome
- October-Fall 2015** - "A Tale of Three Coffins: Living and Dying in 17th Century St. Mary's City" at Maryland Historical Society. The coffins held members of the Calvert family and will be reinterred beneath the Jesuit Chapel in St. Mary's City after the exhibit
- October-December 13, 2015** - The Full Story: Maryland, the Surratts, and the Crime of the Century at Surratt House Museum; exhibit commemorates the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War and the death of Lincoln by reflecting the role of Maryland in the conflict, the choices made by the Surratt family and the after effects on them and the nation; part of house tour
- October-December 2015** - Ripped from the Headlines: Laurel in the News exhibit at Laurel Historical Society
- Ongoing** - Beyond the Battle: Bladensburg Rediscovered exhibit at Hornbake Library, University of Maryland
- October 1** - Covert Catholicism in Colonial Portraiture: Justus Engelhardt Kuhn's Eleanor Darnall, c. 1710 at Maryland Historical Society, 6:30 PM; lecture by Elisabeth Roark, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Art, Chatham University; \$50/person
- October 3** - Slavery and Emancipation in Maryland Walking Tour with Baltimore Heritage at Maryland Historical Society, 10 AM; walking tour around the Mount Vernon neighborhood; \$15/member, \$25/non-member
- October 8** - Vaccine Nation: Flu, Measles and the Battle Over Vaccination at Laurel Pool Room, 7 PM; lecture by medical historian Alexandra Lord, PhD; free
- October 11** - "How Art Keeps Hope Alive: Frida Kahlo and Franz Kafka," see front page for details
- October 14** - Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Mason-Dixon Survey and the Restoration of the Bird Transit Instrument at Maryland Historical Society, 6:30 PM; \$20/member, \$30/non-member
- October 17** - Cemetery Arts and Sites Tour at Marietta House Museum, 9 AM-5 PM; Jennifer Stabler will lead a van tour of local area historic cemeteries and explore cemetery art; \$15/person, call 301-464-5291 to make a reservation
- October 17** - Patuxent Wildlife Festival at National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10 AM-3:00 PM; live animals, children's crafts, tram tours, scientific demonstrations and behind-the-scenes tours; free
- October 17** - Kids in the Kitchen at Riversdale House Museum, 1:30 PM; harvest produce, prepare and eat it; ages 6 & up, accompanied by an adult, \$12/resident, \$15/non-resident, reservations required by calling 301-864-0420
- October 17** - The History of Beer at Montpelier Mansion, 3 PM; Nick Nichols will tell the story of 9,000 years of beer production, beer tastings; free, but reservations required, 301-377-7817
- October 18** - Riversdale Chamber Music Society at Riversdale House Museum, 2:30 PM; free for details call 301-864-0420
- October 22** - The Manor, a book talk with author Mac Griswold at Maryland Historical Society, 6:30 PM; \$25/member, \$35/non-member
- October 23** - Tales from the Dearly Departed at Montpelier Mansion, 6-9 PM; stories from "Ghosts of the Revolutionary War", tour, tarot card readings, refreshments; \$5/FofM; \$10/residents, \$15 non-residents, space limited, call 301-377-7817
- October 24** (raindate October 25 at 6 PM) - The Great Jack O'Lantern Campfire at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 7-8:30 PM; \$4/person (cash only), children under 4 are free
- October 25** - A Classical Afternoon at Riversdale House Museum, noon; celebrate ancient Rome as you meet Roman Legion XX; tour fee applies
- October 30** - A Gothick Evening: Seven Deadly Sins at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM; hear tales of 19th c. sinners on a lantern-lit outdoor tour; ages 12 & up, \$15/resident, \$18/non-resident, reservations required by calling 301-864-0420
- October 31** - Greenmount Cemetery Tour at Maryland Historical Society, 10:30 AM; \$35/members, \$45/non-members
- November 1-29, closed Wed. & Thanksgiving** - Needleart 2015 Exhibit at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM-4 PM; 20th annual stitched art and juried show; \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$3/children
- November 5** - The Mourning After: Grieving in Style in the Victorian Era at Maryland Historical Society, 6:30 PM; Karin Bohleke, Ph.D., presents; \$50/person
- November 5** - "Prince George's County, Living on the Border" at Marietta House Museum, 7:30 PM; Nathania Branch Miles will discuss her book; \$5/person
- November 7** - Family History Festival at Maryland Archives; visit msa.maryland.gov for more details
- November 7** - Hollywood and the Civil War - "Andersonville" at Surratt House Museum, 6 PM; free
- November 8** - Hidden Spaces Tour at Montpelier Mansion, 3:30 PM; tour goes to seldom open areas and focuses on the building of the house and changes over its 230 year history; \$15/person, reservations required by calling 301-377-7817, space is limited
- November 11** - Hands-on History at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; step back into the 1850s with crafts, activities, cooking and more; ages 8-12, \$18/resident, \$21/non-resident, reservations required by calling 301-864-0420
- November 12** - Edgar Allan Poe's Baltimore, a book talk with author David F. Gaylin at Maryland Historical Society, 6:30 PM; \$15/member, \$25/non-member
- November 21** - Maryland Legacy Day, 1:30-3:30 PM; see front page for details
- November 22** - Riversdale Chamber Music Society at Riversdale House Museum, 2:30 PM; free for details call 301-864-0420
- November 27-29, December 4-6, 11-13** - 16th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 12-5 PM; \$1/person (cash only), children under 4 are free
- December 2-13** - 'Tis The Season - And We Are All Dolled Up at Surratt House Museum; enjoy mid-19th century America with holiday decorations, antique dolls and toys, cider and cookies; part of regular house tour
- December 5** - Breakfast with Sint Niklaas at Riversdale House Museum, 9 & 11 AM; Belgian-inspired breakfast, visit and gift; ages 3-10 only, no walk-ins, fee, call 301-864-0420 for reservations
- December 6** - Winter's Eve at National Colonial Farm, 4-7 PM; experience the holidays 18th c. farm style; free
- December 8-31, closed Wed. and Dec. 25** - Holiday Tours at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM-3 PM; self-guided tour through holiday decorated rooms; regular tour fees apply
- December 11** - Holiday Candlelight Tours at Montpelier Mansion, 6-9 PM; tour through holiday decorated rooms, local musicians perform, light refreshments; regular tour fees apply
- December 12** - Mend and Make Do (textile workshop) at National Colonial Farm, 11 AM- 1 PM; free, but registration required at <http://accokeekfoundation.org/event/mend-and-make-do/>
- December 12** - Laurel Historical Society House Tour, 2-6 PM; \$15 tickets in advance, \$18 day of tour
- December 16** - Holiday Mixer at Belair Mansion, see page 3
- December 30** - Riversdale by Candlelight at Riversdale House Museum, 6 PM; tours, live music, children's activities, refreshments; \$5/adult, children under 12, free
- January 9** - Twelfth Night Ball at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM; Regency-style ball and supper; \$40/resident, \$48/non-resident, capacity limited, reservations required at 301-864-0420

For details and additional events, visit: www.accokeek.org, history.pgparks.com, www.marylandmilestones.org/events, www.cityofbowie.org, www.greenbeltmuseum.org, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, www.mdhs.org, www.nps.gov/fowa/index.htm, <http://pgcm.aahgs.org>, www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/ntedu.html, www.radiohistory.org, www.surrattmuseum.org, and, www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs/index.htm

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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
- 9. 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
- 10. 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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