
2010

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



Mount Calvert, Society Headquarters



Welcome to the Prince George's County Historical Society's 2010 annual report. This report is designed to provide a recap of the events and activities the Society was involved in during the past year as well as a look forward to plans for the future.

Since 2008, we have placed emphasis on the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History by moving the library to its new home at the Greenbelt Public Library and making it a pleasant experience for all those who visit us. We continue to respond to inquiries from people locally as well as from around the country and enjoy investigating the various topics people ask us to research.

Now that the library is up and running, it is time that we turn to our next project – the re-establishment of our headquarters. Over the years, the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission has been very generous in allowing the Society to utilize space in several of its historic sites. In 2009, the Society was offered the use of the top floor of Mount Calvert located in Croom, MD. As one of the most historic and beautiful locations in Prince George's County, we decided that it was too good an opportunity to refuse. Of the five rooms available for our use, one room will be used for office space and we plan to utilize the other four rooms for display purposes. Once the displays are installed, these rooms will be open for viewing by anyone who visits Mount Calvert.

Also in 2011, the Society is sponsoring the Prince George's County house and garden tour as part of the 74th annual Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. The tour will showcase homes located along the Potomac River corridor from Fort Washington to Accokeek. Proceeds from the tour will be used to support the DeMarr library as well as the creation of ghost structures at Mount Calvert to aid in telling its story.

The completion of our new book, *Historic Prince George's: A Confluence of Cultures*, will be finished in 2011 too. The authors are busily sorting through photographs and finalizing the text, with an expected publication date during summer 2011.

The celebration of our 60th anniversary in 2012 will be commemorated with activities and events to mark that milestone. One project we have been discussing for awhile is the creation of an endowment fund, which we expect to establish in 2012. In these uncertain economic times, having a permanent source of income to fund the Society's operations is a fiscally responsible act for the organization to undertake.

As always, we would like to thank our members and sponsors for their support and participation. Your continued interest in our programs and activities is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John J. Petro
President

Annual Report of the Prince George's County Historical Society, Inc.

January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010

To Our Members and Sponsors:

This report encompasses the activities of the 58th year of the Prince George's County Historical Society, Inc. ("the Society"). The Society was founded by a group of interested county residents in 1952.

The objectives of the Society are:

- ❖ To foster an understanding and appreciation of the history and heritage of Prince George's County.
- ❖ The collection, recording, organization, restoration and preservation of historical data, artifacts and all associated materials relative to Prince George's County and the state of Maryland.
- ❖ To promote and encourage research into all aspects of Prince George's County history and heritage.
- ❖ To acquaint and make available to members and the general public historical data and all associated materials relating to Prince George's County through programs and publications arranged or sponsored by the Society.
- ❖ To encourage and participate in the protection and preservation of historic sites and structures in Prince George's County.

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

Society Activities

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

The Library is staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers including Susan Pearl, Historian, Sarah Bourne, Dusty Rhoads, and Diane Stultz, Genealogical Research Specialist. Specific questions concerning aspects of the history of Prince George's County may be directed by telephone to 301-220-0330, on the web message board, or by email to the Society at info@pghistory.org. Several library volunteers are currently engaged in cataloging the collections of written materials, maps, obituaries and ephemera. Materials do not circulate, but may be used at the Library. Copies of non-copyrighted materials may be secured for a modest copying fee or may be scanned onto a CD.

Due to renovation work at the Greenbelt Library, the DeMarr Library was closed starting in May and re-opened to the public on December 4, 2010.

Fred DeMarr's sister, Louise Tatspaugh, celebrated her 100th birthday in December. As part of Louise's birthday celebrations, the library was opened for her friends and family to visit and see what the family's dedication to and support of the library has created.

Mount Calvert, the Society Headquarters, is located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. In 2009, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) offered the Society the use of the upper level of this historic home for use as our headquarters. Mount Calvert is located at what was originally known as Charles Town and became the county seat when Prince George's County was organized in 1696 up until the county seat moved to Upper Marlboro in 1721. The Society has plans to create various displays in several of the rooms that will be open to the public whenever the house is open.

Historic Prince George's: A Confluence of Cultures is the coffee table book being written by George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles and Donna Schneider on behalf of the Society. The book will illustrate the variety of cultures and all its connotations that call Prince George's County home. Expected publication date is late spring 2011.

Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage will come to Prince George's County on Sunday, May 22, 2011. Co-chairs Jack Thompson, Jr. and Donna Schneider started working during the summer of 2010 to select the houses that will be on the tour. The pilgrimage will focus on homes along the Potomac River Corridor from Fort Washington to Accokeek, Maryland. There is still plenty to do in the run-up to the tour date and we welcome volunteers. Please contact Lynn Roberts at 301-627-8622 or antiquelynn@hotmail.com if you would like to participate.

Maryland Rosenwald Schools Project was a two-year study undertaken by Society Historian Susan Pearl; the study was sponsored by the Society, and funded by the Maryland Historical Trust. The study has produced a report and Multiple Property Documentation on those schools that were built for Maryland's African-American students between 1918 and 1932, with the financial assistance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Of the 156 schools built in Maryland with Rosenwald assistance, 53 are still standing, just over one third of those originally built. *The Rosenwald Schools of Maryland* will be available for reading at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library and electronically (upon request to pgchslibrary@aol.com).

Preservation of the county's historic properties has always been an interest of ours. During 2010, we have facilitated discussions with the owners of Wilmer's Park and Good Luck School, M-NCPPC and other interested parties to preserve these sites of county history. Wilmer's Park was a legendary concert venue that started with shows from historically black entertainers ranging from Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Stevie Wonder, Pattie La Belle, and Ray Charles, just to name a few. In later years, the park hosted rock bands, gospel, zydeco and go-go music. Negro League baseball games were also played at the park. The Good Luck School was built in 1899 for the African American farming community of Brookland in Glenn Dale.

Programs and Activities offered to our members and their guests were wide-ranging throughout the year. Most are annual events, but in 2010 we added dinosaurs, a farm and a musical into the mix.

The annual St. George's Day awards and luncheon was held on April 25, 2010, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro. In addition to celebrating the county's 314th birthday, we also celebrated the church's 200th anniversary. St. George's Awardees for 2010 are: Anacostia Watershed Society, Edward Day, Anna Holmes, the Lakeland Community Heritage Project, Nathania Branch Miles and Jane Taylor Thomas, Anne M. Sasscer, and Trinity Episcopal Church. Our ongoing partnership with the Prince George's County Hall of Fame continued as they unveiled the portraits of Theresa Douglas Banks and Lansdale G. Sasscer, Sr.

After being plagued by inclement weather in January's past, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration was moved to April 25, 2010. The month of April revealed historic significance in the growth of the

freedom movement and was thought to be an appropriate alternative. The commemoration was held at the Christian Community Presbyterian Church in Bowie.

On May 23, 2010, the Society partnered with the Alice Ferguson Foundation to host an afternoon at Hard Bargain Farm. Guests were able to walk the grounds, enjoy the gardens and listen to a bit of the history about the Fergusons and the farm.

Darnall's Chance House Museum in Upper Marlboro hosted the annual Historic Preservation Week reception on May 27, 2010. Individuals interested in Prince George's County heritage and historic preservation gathered to review the county's preservation efforts and to look toward the future.

The Society joined with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Prince George's County Chapter and the Church of the Latter-Day Saints Suitland Ward to host the 5th annual Juneteenth Celebration at Watkins Park on June 19, 2010. The annual event commemorates the end of slavery. This year's observance began with workshops and continued with musical performances, living history demonstrations, games, exhibitors and much more.

We explored the county's prehistoric past in conjunction with the Laurel Historical Society. On July 17, 2010, families met at the Dinosaur Park in Laurel for a tour by the park's paleontologist and then had an opportunity to dig for fossils.

During the month of August, the Society hosted a series of lectures at Marietta House Museum in Glenn Dale. Attendees learned about the county's port towns, Riverdale Park, Hyattsville and the Anacostia watershed. Since the lectures were so well-received by both members and the public, we have plans to do it again in 2011.

The threat of thunderstorms didn't derail our *Hot Time on the Patuxent* on August 12, 2010. The Society hosted its annual open house at Mount Calvert for members and their guests. The potential bad weather did cause us to cancel the pontoon boat rides on the Patuxent, but we had Anthony Swampdog Clark and his band to keep us entertained along with Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman to educate us about the river.

Our annual Prince of a County fundraiser was held at *Locust Grove* in Mitchellville on September 19, 2010. This restored Victorian home (circa 1880) is related to *Melford*, where the Society held its 2009 Prince of a County reception, through the Slingluff family.

This year's annual meeting took a dramatic turn. On November 5, 2010, we offered a bit of theater with our annual dinner, elections and by-law changes. Goddard's Music and Drama (MAD) group graciously allowed us time before the doors opened to the public to host our business meeting and after dinner performed *The Sound of Music*.

We capped off the year with a potluck Holiday Party on December 13, 2010. The seasonally decorated Belair Mansion hosted us again this year and has already been booked for 2011.

Public Relations encompasses many aspects ranging from word-of-mouth, our newsletter, mailings, website and Facebook. Our bi-monthly newsletter, *News & Notes*, is our main method of communication to our members. In 2011, the *News & Notes* will celebrate 40 years of imparting history and news to our readers. During 2010 we embarked on transforming our website, www.pghistory.org, to be more informative and interactive. We plan to debut the new site in early 2011. We also jumped into social networking and have a Facebook page. Please go on-line and "friend" us!

Society Membership has changed beginning in 2011. The Board decided to raise the dues amounts for a few membership levels and create the Family category in response to increasing costs of its activities and programs. In addition, we have also established various benefits for each membership category as illustrated below. Each membership and sponsorship category will receive a membership card and will be acknowledged annually in the Prince George's County Historical Society's newsletter "News & Notes". A current membership card must be shown to receive photocopy and book discounts at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library.

- Student - \$10** For full-time students only
Subscription to the Society's newsletter "News & Notes"
Notification to educational and informational lectures and programs
Invitation to receptions and special events
All but \$5 is tax deductible
- Individual - \$30** Subscription to the Society's newsletter "News & Notes"
Family - \$45 Notification to educational and informational lectures and programs
Corporate - \$75 Invitation to receptions and special events
Discounts to select PGCHS-sponsored events
10¢/photocopy for Frederick S. DeMarr Library research
Reduced rate for Maryland Historical Society membership
All but \$5 is tax deductible
- Life - \$500** Same benefits as Individual/Family/Corporate, plus
10% off purchase of PGCHS books, except "Landmarks of Prince George's County"
All but \$100 is tax deductible
- Bronze - \$100** Complimentary one-year Individual/Family/Corporate membership
Your name included in all PGCHS publications as a Sponsor
One complimentary ticket to our annual event at Mt. Calvert
All but \$45 is tax deductible
- Silver - \$250** Complimentary one-year Individual/Family/Corporate membership
Your name included in all PGCHS publications as a Sponsor
One complimentary advertising opportunity in "News & Notes"
Two complimentary tickets to our annual event at Mt. Calvert
All but \$85 is tax deductible
- Gold - \$500** Complimentary one-year Individual/Family/Corporate membership
Your name included in all PGCHS publications as a Sponsor
One complimentary advertising opportunity in "News & Notes"
10% off purchase of PGCHS books, except "Landmarks of Prince George's County"
Four complimentary tickets to our annual event at Mt. Calvert
All but \$165 is tax deductible
- Platinum - \$1,000+** Complimentary one-year Individual/Family/Corporate membership
Your name included in all PGCHS publications as a Sponsor
Two complimentary advertising opportunities in "News & Notes"
10% off purchase of all PGCHS books, except "Landmarks of Prince George's County"
One complimentary copy of "Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures"
Six complimentary tickets to our annual event at Mt. Calvert
All but \$300 is tax deductible

Society By-laws were amended during our Annual Meeting on November 5, 2010, to bring them more in-line as to how the Society actually functions. The Society has changed from when the by-laws were originally written in 1954 and we updated the by-laws to reflect our current practices. Following are the updated by-laws:

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED BY-LAWS

Article I-Name

This non-profit corporation shall be known as the "Prince George's County Historical Society, Incorporated" hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Society".

Article II-Objectives

- Section 1.** To foster an understanding and appreciation of the history and heritage of Prince George's County, Maryland.
- Section 2.** The collection, recording, organization, restoration and preservation of historical data, artifacts and all associated materials relative to Prince George's County history and heritage.
- Section 3.** To promote and encourage research into all aspects of Prince George's County history and heritage.
- Section 4.** To acquaint and make available to members and the general public historical data and all associated materials relating to Prince George's County through programs and publications arranged or sponsored by the Society.
- Section 5.** To encourage and participate in the protection and preservation of historic sites and structures in Prince George's County.

Article III-Membership/Sponsorship/Dues

- Section 1.** Membership shall be open to anyone interested in promoting the objectives of the Society. An application shall be made in writing and filed with the membership committee.
- Section 2.** Membership shall be classified as, Individual, Family, Student, Life, Corporate, Newsletter and Honorary.
- Section 3.** Individual, Family, Student, and Corporate shall pay annual dues as determined by the Board of Directors. Life members shall make a one time payment for life membership. Newsletter membership is for complimentary exchange with organizations or individuals which have been deemed to be friends of the Society. Honorary membership may be conferred for life by two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board of Directors in recognition of outstanding contribution to the objective of the Society. Honorary members are exempt from further payment of dues.
- Section 4.** Sponsorship shall be classified as Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Each sponsorship level shall pay an annual amount determined by the Board of Directors. Sponsorship grants all membership privileges.
- Section 5.** Dues and sponsorships are payable by January first of the calendar year. Dues and sponsorships not paid by April first will result in the member being dropped from membership. New members or sponsors paying initial dues after September first shall be considered paid for the remainder of that year and the following year.

Article IV-Officers

- Section 1.** The officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian who shall be elected on an annual basis.
- Section 2.** There shall be at least fifteen (15) and no more than eighteen (18) directors elected for three (3) year terms; these shall be elected on a staggered basis. The officers together with the directors shall constitute the Board of Directors and shall be elected at the November general meeting of each year for the following calendar year. A slate of candidates for these offices shall be presented to the membership in the issue of the Society newsletter published prior to November general meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the November general meeting. In the event of there being more than one nominee for any office, election shall be by ballot.
- Section 3.** The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined and a single officer may be elected as the Secretary-Treasurer.
- Section 4.** In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the Board shall appoint a member of the Society to fill the vacancy until the end of the term vacated.
- Section 5.** All past presidents shall be members of the Board with voting privileges.

Article V-Duties of Officers and Directors

- Section 1.** The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Society, shall preside at meetings and shall appoint Committee Chairpersons.
- Section 2.** The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the president in the absence of or upon the incapacity or resignation of the President.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors, shall handle the general correspondence of the Society, and shall maintain a file of the Society's proceedings and correspondence.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of the Society funds and for maintaining a financial record in accordance with accepted accounting practices. The Treasurer shall deposit all funds received in the name of the Society. Monies shall be paid out by best method for all Society activities. The Treasurer shall present a financial report at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall handle the same duties as the individual positions of Secretary and Treasurer as listed in Article V, Sections 3 and 4.

Section 6. The Historian shall be the custodian of the archives of the Society and shall make same available to Society members, researchers, and the general public.

Section 7. Each Officer and Director shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 8. All Directors of the Society shall have such other responsibilities and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

Section 9. No compensation shall be paid to the Board of Directors for their services as such, but they may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred by them in performing official duties on behalf of the Society and at the direction of the Board of Directors.

Article VI-Meetings/Quorums

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of three times a year and at the call of the President.

Section 2. There shall be a minimum of one general membership meeting a year.

Section 3. A quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors shall consist of eight (8) Board members.

Section 4. Officers and Directors are expected to attend a minimum of 75% of the Board of Director meetings held per year.

Section 5. A quorum for membership meetings shall consist of twenty-five (25) members.

Section 6. All interested members may attend Board meetings.

Article VII-Committees

Section 1. The Society shall have standing committees for: Preservation, Membership, Newsletter, Library, Programs, Finance, Headquarters and Public Relations.

Section 2. Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President from the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Committee Chairperson shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Special committees may be established for specific tasks and may be terminated at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Article VIII-Amendments to the By-laws

These By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present at any general membership meeting provided that the Board of Directors has reviewed the proposed change and the membership has been notified of said change not less than (30) days prior to the meeting.

No by-law changes shall be made that are contrary to the intent of the original Articles of Incorporation signed on December 8th, 1954.

/s/ _____
Secretary

Approved November 6, 2000

Amended and Approved November 5, 2010

Profit and Loss Report – FY10 and FY09

	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Library Income	\$ 1,771.85	\$ 3,917.45
Rosenwald Grant Received	\$ 4,400.00	\$ -
Book Sales	\$ 1,902.21	\$ 369.68
PGCHS Dues Received	\$ 4,350.00	\$ 4,035.00
MDHS Dues Received	\$ 2,120.00	\$ 1,500.00
Sponsorships Received	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
Donations Received	\$ 1,562.00	\$ 3,102.00
Program/Activity Income	\$ 10,636.00	\$ 7,200.00
Historic Prince Georges Royalties	\$ 3,100.00	\$ -
Interest Income	\$ 138.99	\$ 505.15
Total Income	\$ 32,381.05	\$ 22,029.28
<u>Expenses</u>		
Dues & Subscriptions Paid	\$ 405.00	\$ 270.00
Donations & Gifts Paid	\$ 400.00	\$ 211.99
News & Notes Expenses	\$ 1,778.13	\$ 1,785.71
Historic Prince Georges Expenses	\$ 513.89	\$ 60.00
Membership Expenses	\$ 977.71	\$ 3,388.81
Insurance Paid	\$ 1,338.00	\$ 2,684.00
Book Sales Postage & Taxes	\$ 64.05	\$ 51.27
Library Expenses	\$ 847.55	\$ 1,951.65
General Operations Expenses	\$ 2,549.00	\$ 1,010.26
Program/Activity Expenses	\$ 12,881.85	\$ 12,087.83
MDHS Dues Paid	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 1,420.00
Rosenwald Grant Paid	\$ 4,426.90	\$ 2,173.10
Total Expenses	\$ 27,967.08	\$ 27,094.62
Profit/(Loss)	\$ 4,413.97	\$ (5,065.34)

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2010

Checking	\$ 6,880.75
Savings	\$ 14,461.27
Fixed Assets	\$ 9,875.31
Total Assets	\$ 31,217.33

Board of Directors as of December 31, 2010

President: John J. Petro
Vice President: Lynn Springer Roberts
Secretary/Treasurer: Donna Schneider
Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Directors (year term expires)

Kent Abraham (2011)	Randie Reilly (2012)
Beverly Addison (2011)	Dusty Rhoads (past President)
John Brunner (2013)	Nancy Dixon Saxon (2012)
Jane Dodd (past President)	Jane Taylor Thomas (2013)
Elizabeth Dougherty (2013)	Jack Thompson, Jr. (2012)
Elizabeth Lingg (2012)	J. Andrew Wallace (2012)
Dan Louck (2011)	Sealani Weiner (2013)
Nathania Branch Miles (2011)	

Monthly Board of Director Meetings

The Society normally holds monthly meetings that rotate locations within the County, day and time. All members and sponsors of the Society are welcome to attend the board meetings. To find out where our monthly meeting is being held, please call 301-249-9000 or visit the calendar on our website at www.pghistory.org.

Upcoming 2011 Activities

April 10, 2011 – St. George's Day awards and luncheon at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in College Park
May 1, 2011 – Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at the Christian Community Presbyterian Church in Bowie
May 18, 2011 – Historic Preservation Month reception at Mt. Lubentia in Upper Marlboro
May 22, 2011 – Prince George's County tour of the Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage between Fort Washington and Accokeek
June 18, 2011 – Juneteenth celebration
Summer 2011 – Lecture Series
September 2011 – Prince of a County reception
October 2011 – Autumnal Gathering at Mt. Calvert in Croom
December 2011 – Holiday Party at Belair Mansion in Bowie

We will be celebrating our 60th anniversary in 2012. If you have any ideas of events or programs you would like the Society to sponsor, please let us know by emailing us at PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com, calling and leaving a message at 301-220-0330 or writing to us at PO Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014. Thanks!