
2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



Mount Calvert, Society Headquarters



To Our Members and Sponsors:

Welcome to the Prince George's County Historical Society's 2011 annual report. This report is designed to provide a recap of the events and activities of the Society's 59th year as well as a look forward to plans for the future.

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 serves without compensation. The Society may accept gifts, bequests or endowments and solicit funds for its programs under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Board of Directors as of December 31, 2011

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

Directors (year term expires)

Kent Abraham (2014)
Beverly Addison (2014)
John Brunner (2013)
Jane Dodd (past President)
Elizabeth Dougherty (2013)
Christine Garcia (2013)
Elizabeth Lingg (2012)
Dan Louck (2014)

Nathania Branch Miles (2014)
Randie Reilly (2012)
Dusty Rhoads (past President)
Nancy Dixon Saxon (2012)
Edward Scott (2014)
Jane Taylor Thomas (2013)
J. Andrew Wallace (2012)
Sealani Weiner (2013)

The Society's 2011 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 G. Pearl, Historian, Sarah Bourne, Dusty Rhoads, and Diane Stultz, Genealogical Research Specialist. 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 at info@pghistory.org. Several library volunteers are 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.

Mount Calvert, the Society Headquarters, is located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The earthquake in August 2011 damaged Mount Calvert and we have been unable to have access to the building since then. The Society continues to have plans to create various displays in several of the rooms that will be available to the public whenever the house is re-opened.

Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures was released in December 2011. The book authored by George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles, and Donna L. Schneider explores the culture of who we are as Prince George's County residents past and present, how we work and play, and showcases many photographs from private collections of county residents. The book is a unique combination of our culture and the history of various businesses that make our county their home. There will be several book signings by the authors during 2012.

Membership and Sponsorship grew in 2011. As was instituted last year, each membership and sponsorship category will receive a membership card and the Prince George's County Historical Society's newsletter "News & Notes". Program discounts will periodically be offered to members. A current membership card must be shown to receive photocopy and book discounts at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library.

Preservation of the county's historic properties has always been an interest of ours. During 2011, we continued to monitor Fairmount Heights High School and Good Luck School. In December we became aware of the plans for the potential demolition of the Old Marlboro High School/ Elementary School in Upper Marlboro. We are working with the town of Upper Marlboro and other interested individuals in proposing an adaptive re-use instead.

Public Relations focused on the transformation our website, www.pghistory.org, which was overseen by board member Beverly Addison. The site is more informative and interactive and allows for sales of our publications and memberships on-line. We also have a Facebook page, so please "friend" us! Our newsletter, "News & Notes" continues to be our primary source to impart news and information to our members.

Programs and Activities:

Society member John Pearl organized two behind-the-scenes tours for members at Goddard Space Flight Center in March 2011. We learned about some of the history of the facility and the James Webb Space Telescope and had the opportunity to visit a huge centrifuge.

The annual St. George's Day awards and luncheon, arranged by board members Jack Thompson, Jr. and Donna Schneider, was held on April 10, 2011, at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in College Park. St. George's Awardees were: Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, CASA de Maryland, Hargrove, Inc., Mount Rainier, Paul E. Sluby, Sr., and Ann B. Wass and Michelle Webb Fandrich. Special recognition was given to Gail Rothrock and Christopher Wagon for their meritorious efforts in the preservation of Prince George's County heritage. Our ongoing partnership with the Prince George's County Hall of Fame continued as they unveiled the portrait of James R. Cousins, Jr.

Board member Nathania Branch Miles was the Society's liaison for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration held on May 1, 2011, at the Christian Community Presbyterian Church in Bowie. Dramatic productions, speakers, young musicians and dancers, and a fellowship dinner were part of the day's festivities.

Historical Society members Andrew and Sondra Wallace hosted the annual Historic Preservation Week reception on May 18, 2011, at their home, Mount Lubentia, in Upper Marlboro. This was the first time that the reception was held at a private, non-county owned property.

Board members Jack Thompson, Jr., and Donna Schneider, co-chaired the Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage on Sunday, May 22, 2011, along with assistance from board members Lynn Roberts, John Brunner, Elizabeth Dougherty, Elizabeth Lingg, Dan Louck, Nathania Branch Miles, Susan Pearl, Jane Taylor Thomas, and Andrew Wallace. The pilgrimage focused on homes along the Potomac River Corridor from Fort Washington to Accokeek. We received additional funds for our tour project, the erection of ghost structures at Mount Calvert.

Society representatives Jane Taylor Thomas and Nathania Branch Miles joined with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Prince George's County Chapter to host the annual Juneteenth Celebration at Watkins Park on June 18, 2011. The annual event commemorates the end of slavery. This year's observance had workshops, speakers, musical performances, living history demonstrations, games, exhibitors, and food.

Board member Kent Abraham arranged for Society members to tour the Franciscan Monastery in July. Afterwards, we went to nearby Colonel Brooks' Tavern for lunch and visited the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in the afternoon.

Due to the success of the August lecture series in 2010 at Marietta House Museum in Glenn Dale, past president Jane Dodd again coordinated a series of lectures concentrating on the Route 1 corridor. Attendees learned about College Park, Beltsville, Laurel and Savage.

Our annual Prince of a County fundraiser arranged by board member Jack Thompson, Jr., was held at the P.A. Bowen Farmstead in Aquasco on September 18, 2011. In addition to the historic house, built circa 1870, the property is a working farm and dairy where they make their own cheddar and blue cheeses, as well as an on-site farm store.

The last few years we have been plagued by thunderstorms for our annual summer event at Mount Calvert. In 2011 we decided to move the event to October when the weather would be nicer. Instead, we were a victim of the August earthquake and our "Music at Mount Calvert" evening was moved to the nearby historic home of board member Jack Thompson, Jr., on the Patuxent River, the Turton House in Nottingham. Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark and his band entertained us as we enjoyed good food and friends.

Board member Jack Thompson, Jr. suggested that the Society explore the county's Latin culture for our annual membership meeting in November. This resulted in a well-received dinner at the Alamo Restaurant in Riverdale Park. In addition to a delicious buffet, the daughter of the restaurant's manager told us about its history and we held our Board of Director elections.

On November 12, we hosted a Book and Author Event at the Greenbelt Library. Board member Elizabeth Lingg selected more than a dozen authors to be featured, who either live in or wrote about Prince George's County. Authors discussed well-illustrated children's books, equine mystery novels, patents, churches, cemeteries, and history. The Society also gave attendees a sneak peek of its new book, *Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures*.

We capped off the year with a potluck Holiday Party on December 12, 2011. The seasonally decorated Belair Mansion hosted us again this year thanks to arrangements by board member Elizabeth Lingg. We also had a birthday cake for our DeMarr Library benefactor, Louise Tatspaugh, in celebration of her 101st birthday. Board member Susan Pearl arranged for a preview of a new DVD showcasing the restoration of the County Courthouse in Upper Marlboro.

In looking forward to 2012, we will be celebrating our 60th anniversary. We kicked off our birthday year with a calendar coordinated by board member Donna Schneider that features drawings by former board member Wallis Cain and current board member Kent Abraham of historic homes where we have held our Prince of a County receptions over more than 20 years. A gala event in the fall is being planned and Chair Randie Reilly is open to any suggestions members may offer for other activities during our celebration year.

Activities being planned for 2012 include a tour of the renovated courthouse in Upper Marlboro, including seeing the Hall of Fame portraits and a tour at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, which celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2011. Several of the county's history and preservation groups have discussed ways of better working together for the historic and preservation interests in the county. The Society plans to host a forum for these organizations to meet and work together.

We will explore and pursue grant opportunities for several Society projects, including the erection of a series of ghost structures at Mount Calvert, the establishment of displays and exhibits in our headquarters at Mount Calvert and library projects at the DeMarr Library.

We continue to discuss 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 volunteers, members and sponsors for their support and participation. Your continued interest in our programs and activities is greatly appreciated. We could not continue to operate without your involvement.

Monthly Board of Director Meetings

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

Profit and Loss Report – FY11 and FY10

	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>
Income		
Library Income	\$ 2,588.98	\$ 1,771.85
Rosenwald Grant Received	\$ -	\$ 4,400.00
Book Sales	\$ 1,642.15	\$ 1,902.21
PGCHS Dues Received	\$ 5,535.00	\$ 4,350.00
MDHS Dues Received	\$ 2,720.00	\$ 2,120.00
Sponsorships Received	\$ 3,295.00	\$ 2,400.00
Donations Received	\$ 2,152.00	\$ 1,562.00
Program/Activity Income	\$ 9,417.84	\$ 10,636.00
Historic Prince Georges Royalties	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 3,100.00
Interest Income	\$ 119.53	\$ 138.99
Total Income	\$ 28,485.50	\$ 32,381.05
Expenses		
Dues & Subscriptions Paid	\$ 170.00	\$ 405.00
Donations & Gifts Paid	\$ 360.90	\$ 400.00
News & Notes Expenses	\$ 1,867.25	\$ 1,982.57
Historic Prince Georges Expenses	\$ 1,506.91	\$ 513.89
Membership Expenses	\$ 799.02	\$ 977.71
Insurance Paid	\$ 1,347.00	\$ 1,338.00
Book Sales Postage/Taxes/Fees	\$ 89.60	\$ 64.05
Library Expenses	\$ 2,107.66	\$ 847.55
General Operations Expenses	\$ 2,768.95	\$ 2,549.00
Program/Activity Expenses	\$ 9,920.00	\$ 12,981.85
MDHS Dues Paid	\$ 2,355.00	\$ 1,785.00
Rosenwald Grant Paid	\$ -	\$ 4,426.90
Total Expenses	\$ 23,292.29	\$ 28,271.52
Profit/(Loss)	\$ 5,193.21	\$ 4,109.53

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2011

Checking	\$ 11,387.73
Savings	\$ 14,580.80
Fixed Assets	\$ 10,137.57
Total Assets	\$ 36,106.10