



'Marietta'

News and Notes

Prince George's County
Historical Society



JANUARY, 1993

FOUNDED 1952 - OUR 41ST YEAR

VOL. XXI, NO. 1

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MARCH 13, 1993 MEETING

ST. MARY'S CITY AND THE COFFINS

Saturday, March 13, is the next general membership meeting of the Society. We are privileged to have Bert Kamerow, Director of the St. Mary's Historic City Commission, as our featured speaker. Mr. Kamerow will describe and discuss the recent events surrounding the lead coffins that were located in a pasture where the first Roman Catholic church in the English Colony of Maryland stood. This historic find has grabbed the attention of national institutions and was the subject of a piece on *Nightline*, hosted by St. Mary's resident, Ted Koppel. Having recently visited the historic site, I can assure the members of a fascinating talk. I look forward to seeing you there.

SPRING LECTURE SERIES PLANNED

The Historic College Park Airport is the venue for the first in our Spring Lecture Series, co-sponsored by the Society and Prince George's Community College. The lecturer will be Doris Rich, author of a recent book on Amelia Erhart and a forthcoming book on Betsy Coleman, an early Black aviatrix. As March is Women's History Month, this topic is highly appropriate. For further information on this lecture and others in the series, please contact the Society at 301-464-0590. A full schedule of the lectures will appear in next month's News and Notes.

IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

February 6, 1993 Board Planning Meeting, 10 AM.

There is no membership meeting in February.



Interested in the reminiscences of an old man? One who says:

"It is commonplace to say that men and women of great age recall the incidents of youth more clearly than the happenings of yesterday. Yet unlike many commonplace remarks, this one is true. Nor need one feel that such a fact is hard to understand. The zest a person has in life grows somewhat less if he is nearly ninety, and the incidents of yesterday are merely unimportant repetitions of events from which, long since, the juice has been extracted. The days tick by like seconds of a clock, the very sound of which no longer seems to reach the ear."

Who lived through years of massive change in the United States, from the Civil War through to the Great War:

"...we older ones have lived throughout a period of change, and the world in which we linger is not the one to which we came. We learned to live in other times than these -- in simpler times to which we are attuned. We never were exotic plants, I know, and yet we do not like so much transplanting."

Who at the age of nine, in 1855, became an abolitionist:

"My father, I know, had always held that slavery was justified. Everyone in the community excepting only George Hamlin, felt much as he did. Yet here among the crowd that had gathered there were many who had opposed that Negro's return to his Kentucky master. Why? I asked myself. Why? Why, if slavery was right, should he NOT go? And suddenly I knew. It was NOT right. Their arguments were faulty. The thing was wrong."

"I walked out into the dusty pike and stared after those two disappearing horsemen and at the shackled figure that still walked there between them. In that very moment, there on the Zanesville-Maysville Pike, I, at the age of nine, became an abolitionist."

Who before the age of sixteen lost a leg at Shiloh:

"I looked at my leg. It was shattered, I knew, beyond repair. My side hurt, too, and when I felt of it my hand came away red with blood. The tears burst forth, I could not keep them back. ... I lay on the battlefield of Shiloh from Sunday morning until hours after dark on Monday night. ... and fourteen days after I had gone with my company into that bloody hollow at Shiloh I was home."

Who for three years attended Ohio University at Athens and then heeded Horace Greeley's advice to "GO WEST."

Who taught school in Illinois for the "munificent salary" of sixty dollars a month and who, in December 1869, left for Omaha, Nebraska.

Who in 1881 took his seat in the Nebraska legislature with an agenda supportive of the growth of the railroads. That same year, he worked on his first railroad-building contract.

"I had obtained it, of course, because I had stopped some antirailroad legislation at Lincoln, and everyone knew that. The same sort of thing is being done in these days, but is glossed over and covered up by every sort of artifice."

"The work was simple enough, but even simple work like that requires constant care to see that the men don't waste their time. I was being paid fourteen cents a yard for all the cuts and fills, hauling the dirt one hundred feet free, and receiving two cents per yard for every additional hundred feet of haul. With the single exception of Petersen, all the ninety or one hundred men I had were farmers, to whom efficiency was a thing unknown."

Who taught himself to use a .44 in secret:

"It has often amused me in later years to see stage and motion-picture representations of the wild West of the days when I was building railroads. The uniformity with which gunmen of the screen wear chaps and swing their artillery in great holsters at their hips is laughable. But cowmen in chaps were always a very small minority in the West I know, while gunmen more often carried their guns hidden than exposed."

Who in the 1880s, while railroading in Idaho, was

confronted with the problem of transporting the twenty-thousand dollar a month payroll from Ogden through territory riddled with highwaymen.

Who in the depression of 1893 lost nearly half a million dollars:

"There are, I do not doubt, many men today who have been through similar experiences. How much I had lost I do not know. I never had the hardihood to figure it out. I know that the two hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of property I owned in Omaha, the value of which had of course fallen terribly, was mortgaged for every dollar I could get. My outfits in Colorado and in Ohio were gone. Every cent I had had was spent. All the securities I had owned and everything else that could be sold had long since gone."

Who after four years and the death of his wife, with the assistance of his two sons, rebuilt his outfit and reestablished his business to such an extent that he could retire in 1904:

"And finally, going east with my wife and very young daughter, I bought an old colonial home just outside the District of Columbia, within six miles of the White House. The old house appealed to me in part, perhaps, because the date high up one of its tall chimneys is 1746, which antedates my own arrival in this world by just one hundred years.

"Here, with seven acres of garden and orchard and lawn to interest me, I have stood aside for the past thirty years and let the world go by. Busying myself with bees and dogs, with chickens and with a horse or two, modernizing and reconstructing this old, old house of mine, I have played no part that could be felt so very far beyond the pillars at my gate."

He was James H. Kynner and his tale was told to Hawthorne Daniel in a book, entitled *END OF TRACK*. Published in 1937 by Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho, the book is available in the Library. The young daughter is Susanna Kynner Christofane and the colonial home is Bostwick. And the story is brilliantly told.

SHARON HOWE SWEETING

THE POPE'S CREEK LINE -- BALTIMORE & POTOMAC RAILROAD

Prior to the Civil War the planters of Southern Maryland were interested in establishing a railroad to link Baltimore with the Potomac River, thereby providing fast transportation of their products to market. Among the earliest advocates of this enterprise were Col. William D. Bowie, Robert Bowie of "Cedar Hill," Gen. T. F. Bowie and Walter W. W. Bowie. As a result of their efforts, a charter was secured from the General Assembly of Maryland for the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in 1853. Oden Bowie, son of Col. William D. Bowie, was elected as president of the new road.

The intervention of the Civil War meant that neither money nor men for construction were to be available until after cessation of hostilities in 1865. Then President Bowie approached the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to enlist their interest in the new road, but met with a cold reception. The alert Col. Thomas Scott, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, responded positively and railroad history would be made.

In 1835, the Baltimore and Ohio had opened their line from Baltimore to Washington and had enjoyed a monopoly on service from the North into the Nation's Capital. (In all fairness to the B & O, it must be stated that their relatively high passenger rates on this line were dictated by the General Assembly of Maryland.) As the Pennsylvania Railroad began to look southward for expansion, they eventually gained control of the Northern Central Railway Company, linking them with Baltimore. At this point their push for southern markets was blocked by the B & O. In both passenger and freight operations the B & O responded to the Pennsylvania RR with refusal of cooperation and exorbitant rates. It was for these reasons that the President of the Pennsylvania RR gave sympathetic ear to the request of President Oden Bowie of the fledgling Baltimore and Potomac Railroad.

Under the terms of the charter, the Baltimore and Potomac was empowered to build a line from Baltimore through or near Upper Marlboro and Port

Tobacco to a point on the Potomac River between Liverpool Point and Point Lookout. The matter of greatest interest to Col. Scott of the Pennsylvania was the provision that they could build branch lines up to 20 miles in length. The distance from present day Bowie, Maryland to Washington is 18 miles.

Construction was begun in 1868 on the seventy-three mile road to Pope's Creek, the selected terminus, as well as the 'branch' to Washington. On July 2, 1872, the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, with the exception of the tunnel in Baltimore, was placed in service to Washington. The following year the tunnel was completed and the main line to Pope's Creek was opened. The total construction cost was \$9,888,736. A little over half of the stock was purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad and they guaranteed the bonds issued by the B & P. At last the Pennsylvania was in a position to break the B & O monopoly on the Washington run. The old Baltimore and Potomac Station was formerly located on the present site of the National Gallery of Art. It was there that President James A. Garfield was assassinated in 1881.

The station at the Baltimore and Potomac's junction of the main line and the branch line was named after the family which was so instrumental in establishing the road--Bowie. Oden Bowie was to serve as President of the road until his death in 1894. On November 1, 1902, the Baltimore and Potomac was finally absorbed into the Pennsylvania system.

The "Pope's Creek Line", as it is properly called, was a profitable venture in its heyday. As many as six trains per day were run in both directions, carrying passengers and produce from Southern Maryland. Because of its reputation as a commercial center, Baltimore had closer ties through the railroad with the southern counties than did Washington. In recent years this was changed by the automobile. By the 1930s, service had dwindled to one combination passenger-freight per day. Following World War II,

in 1949, passenger service was dropped completely. Although large amounts of coal for the Potomac Electric Power Company are hauled on the Pope's Creek Branch, some wonder why the line is still maintained on a minimal basis with three freight trains weekly over the line to Bowie.

History tells the story, for this is the Pennsylvania "main line" south of Baltimore. Under the terms of the original franchise granted by the State of Maryland, the Pope's Creek Branch must operate in order for the Metroliners to continue service over the 'branch line' from Washington to Bowie, on their way to Philadelphia and New York.

For many of our citizens, the Pope's Creek Line occupies a very fond part of their memories. That trip to the city (Baltimore or Washington), or the holiday junket to visit relatives in the country meant getting on or off the "Pope's Creek" at Collington, Mullikin, Halls, Leeland, Hills, Upper Marlboro, Croome, Linden, Cheltenham, or Brandywine in Prince George's County; or at Mattawoman, Waldorf, White Plain, La Plata, Port Tobacco, Cox, Lothair or Pope's Creek in Charles County. One member of our Society who had regular business at the Court House in Upper Marlboro used to take the B & O from Laurel to Washington; thence by the Pennsylvania Railroad to Bowie, and then down the "Pope's Creek" to Upper Marlboro. The evening's return trip was just the reverse. Life wasn't as rushed and complicated in the twenties, thirties and forties!

Reference: Scott, Robert E. The History and Construction of the Pope's Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. An unpublished paper in the Maryland Room, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park: 1933, 24 pp.

The above article first appeared in this publication in the July 1973 issue, vol 1 number 5. It was written by Fred S. DeMarr.

MISCELLANY

Last month we asked what had happened to the 19th Century greek revival Buck House. As we are sure all of you know, the Buck House was a nineteenth century 'remodeling' of an older structure. When the County Parks and Planning specialists got under the skin, they found the bones of Darnall's Chance and decided to restore the building to its original appearance. We are the better for that decision as well.

We have the Prince George's County Geneological Society to thank for the following tidbit - from the Society's January 1993 Bulletin:

Marlboro Gazette and Prince George's County Advertiser Thursday, May 27, 1841, v. 5, no. 45, p.2

The following bon mot was written by a gentleman of this County, on the marriage of Mr. Richard Knott to Miss Christena Webster. We think the parties--can Knott take offence at their intention?

Happy be fair Christena's lot.

Once she was single--now she's Knott.

The Fates have fixed herdestiny,

She will Knott live, and will Knott die.

It is never too early to Plan! This month saw the kickoff for planning the 1993 County Fair and the Historic Society, together with other like-minded organizations in the County, will be heavily involved again this year. The overall theme is based on the runup to the 300th birthday of the County on St. George's Day in 1996. This year we will concentrate on 20th Century Prince George's County. One feature will be a review of the Scars and Roebuck Houses By Mail that dot the County. Anyone who has information on these houses, their early occu-

pants, known contractors or builders who used Sears houses, etc, should contact the Society. We would be especially interested in diaries showing the construction period, artifacts from the building, plans, catalogues, etc. Visual examples are so important to telling a story in a memorable way.

The Society can also use your help in making suggestions for future program topics, the names of possible speakers, loan of objects, books or other materials that would be of interest to our fellow members. Photographs, especially glass lantern slides, are also welcome. We promise to take special care with them and to return them promptly!

We hope you enjoyed the Inaugural Festivities and that 1993 continues to be historical in your life. Remember, President Clinton is younger than Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger, Elvis Presley, and all of the Beatles - the torch has been passed!

NEW MEMBERS

Irene Addicks

Sylvia T. Earl

Mavis McAvoy

John J. Petro

Stephen Marsh Pioso

Gerry Scheidhauer

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Katherine A. Lewis

Judge and Mrs. Ralph W. Powers

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Welcome back! We used the Holiday Season for a special trip - back to England after six years. While the weather prevented our paying a visit to Kiplin Hall, we were able to enjoy three weeks of London, Surrey and Hampshire, including an old-fashioned English Christmas dinner (turkey with all the trimmings); boxing day visiting with friends and a concert at the Barbican. We were also privileged to have a private tour of the Palace of Westminster and actually climbed St. Stephen's Tower to see Big Ben and hear it toll the noon hour.

As much of our time in England was spent in trains (which continue to be among the best in the world for visitors and residents alike), we have devoted part of this issue of News and Notes to train-things. Our erstwhile Librarian reports on a little known book about a railroad man with local connections, and we include a reprint of one of Fred DeMarr's earliest pieces - on the Pope's Creek Line.

While February is sparsely represented on the Calendar, be assured that the Spring is shaping up to be quite busy. The Spring Lecture Series being planned will delight everyone, beginning with the March 25 lecture on Women in Aviation. February is Black History Month and a number of events are planned around that celebration, some of which are listed on the Calendar. March is Women's History Month, and there is a Women's History Month Luncheon at Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt on March 4 at 11:30AM. Contact 301-952-4666 for further information on the

luncheon and other events.

Our membership drive is in full swing. You received your notices with the last issue and Treasurer Jack Bourne would like to thank those who have returned their check and renewal. We have added two new life members since December 1. Six new regular members have joined as well. I urge you to take a moment to renew your membership as soon as you can, and give strong consideration to an extra gift or a life membership - the help you give is immeasurable to the Society.

The March meeting, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, is going to be fascinating. For several months, I have provided minor references to the work being conducted in St. Mary's City as they resurrect the three lead coffins found there several years ago. Our March 6, 1993 meeting will feature Bert Kamerow, the man who is in charge of this effort, who will provide a fascinating glimpse into Seventeenth Century Maryland. I urge you to attend this meeting and can promise a memorable afternoon.

The ~~April~~^{June} meeting is dedicated to the Skarda Awards and will feature a lecture on the History of the Universe as seen by the folks at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration facility in Greenbelt. Stay tuned for more details.

Plans are also being laid for the annual St. George's Day Awards luncheon, about which we expect to have more details next month. But keep these events in mind in planning your Spring calendar.

Les Sweeting

The Editor would like to remind readers that submissions for the February Edition of News and Notes are due no later than

FEBRUARY 15, 1993

your submissions. letters, comments and advice are welcome!

Prince George's County Historical Society, Inc

Publications Order List

___ Prince George's County: A Pictorial History
by Alan Virta \$29.95 plus tax \$1.50 plus \$2.00
s&h

___ Calvert of Maryland \$6.95 (tax incl) plus
\$0.55 s&h.

___ Atlas of Prince George's County \$5.00 plus
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___ Chesapeake Bay of Yore \$25.00 plus tax
\$1.25 plus \$1.00 s&h

___ Lanham Centennial \$4.00 plus tax \$0.20 plus
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___ Berwyn Heights \$3.00 plus tax \$0.15 plus
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___ Gabriel Duvall Biography \$1.00 plus tax
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Prince George's County

Historical Society

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Business: _____

Please Indicate Whether This is a New Membership or a
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___ New ___ Renewal

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member | 200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | 50.00 |

☐ Additional Contribution \$ _____

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

I would also like to join the **Maryland Historical Society**.
I am enclosing \$25.00 for an individual membership or
\$35.00 for husband and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues and
contributions. All contributions are tax deductible.

We appreciate your support.

Make your check payable to PGCHS

Mail check and form to:

Prince George's County Historical Society

Post Office Box 14

Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

301/484-0590

Hours of Operation

Library: Saturdays 12-4 PM

Gift Shop: Saturdays 12-4 PM and
during Special Events Special Holiday
Hours Beginning November 14

Marietta Tours - Suspended During
Renovation

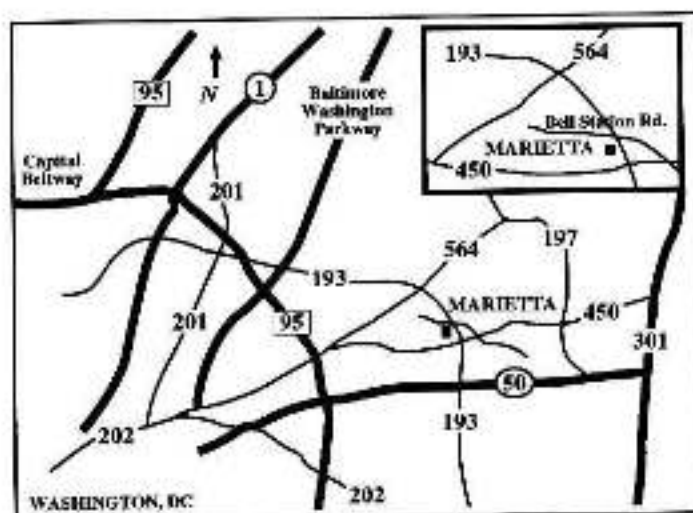
Information - (301) 464-0590

The Gift Shop

features a tasteful collection of handcrafted
items for homes and gift-giving, toys and
games for children, small antiques, Historical
Society publications and souvenirs of
historic Marietta.

Location of the Society

The Society is located at Marietta, 5825 Bell Station Road in
Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193 near Route 450. This is
a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and
Planning Commission.



Prince George's County Historical Society

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FOUNDED 1952 - OUR 41ST YEAR

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MARCH 13, 1993 MEETING

ST. MARY'S CITY AND THE COFFINS

As reported last month, the Society's March 13, 1993 general meeting, to be held at 2:00 PM in the Library, will feature Burton Kummerow, Director of Historic St. Mary's City Commission. Mr. Kummerow will speak on the discovery and examination of the 17th century lead coffins unearthed at the site of the original Roman Catholic Church. The lecture is free and open to the public. For Information, call the Society at 301-464-5291.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Society is looking for volunteers who are interested in learning to strip paint from Marietta's historic woodwork. Training will be held in March, on a weekend to be announced, lead by Erin Muths-Morgan. If you are interested, please call Susan Wolfe at 301-464-5291 for more information.

MARIETTA UPDATE

Restoration Progress - Restoration construction continues at Marietta by the contractor, Oak Grove Designs, Inc. Reinforcements have been added to the second story floor joists that were exposed by removing the ceiling in the first floor addition. Four original joists had to be removed due to damage or previous cutting made when the bath was installed upstairs. The second storey bathroom has been removed, as has the tub in the bath in the second story of the addition. In the main house, removal of the floor on the second floor allowed the contractor to add reinforcements to the floor joists. The pine subflooring is being remanufactured and will be laid in the second story bedrooms, the hall and the bath. It will also be used in the dining room. Where remilled flooring is insufficient to complete the project,

IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

March 13, 1993 Board Meeting, 10 AM.

March 13, 1993, General Membership Meeting 2 PM

March 20, 1993, Special Board Meeting - Saint George's Day Award Nominations 10 AM

All Meetings are at Marietta

new varied grain pine will be laid.

A single steel reinforcement beam has been installed under the floor of the parlor and dining room. Another beam will be added under the first story floor of the addition.

In the next few weeks, masonry repair and replacement of damaged support walls in the cellar will begin. Additional work in the upstairs area will include laying the remilled pine over plywood subflooring in the dining room and the second story areas. The floor in the main hall will be repaired and resanded and refinished. Where the air conditioning vents in the parlor were removed, new lumber will be used to patch the resulting holes. The ceiling in the first floor of the addition will be replaced. Target dates for completion of the interior restoration and repairs are not yet determined. Exterior brick repairs will begin late in the Spring - once the danger of frost has receded.

The Facility Manager, Susan Wolfe, has been recording the entire process on film. She will have prints of these pictures available for your perusal at the March 13, 1993 meeting. Dusty Rhoads is adding to our reference collection with respect to the Mansion by taking video tapes of the work as it progresses.

Other Activities at Marietta - While the Mansion has been closed for restoration, Susan Wolfe has been working with Susan Pearl of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission staff, to finalize the application for Marietta to be entered onto the National Register of Historic Places. Although the Mansion is protected under the Prince George's County Historic Sites and Districts Plan as amended, inclusion in the National Register is another important step in ensuring Marietta's historical integrity for posterity.

Volunteers Rita Sue Miller, Myrna Combs, Edith Bagot and Renate Ryan did an excellent job completing the tedious task of inventorying the Gift Shop and getting it ready to reopen for The

Historical Society meeting on March 13. It will remain open in Judge Duval's Law Office on Saturdays throughout the Spring.

The House Committee has decided not to sponsor any activity at the Mansion before Christmas of 1993, when the Christmas Candlelight Tours will again take place. Thus, the Mad Hatter's Tea Party will not be held this year. There will be things to do, however -- after the restoration is complete, the Mansion will need substantial redecorating and the furnishings will have to be brought back so we can be ready to again receive public visitors. If you are interested in helping with any of that work, please contact Dusty Rhoads or Susan Wolfe at 301-464-5291.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

Treasurer Jack Bourne notes that he will be mailing second requests for renewal membership to those members who have not responded by March 1. The Society's By Laws require that we drop from the Society's Membership Rolls any member whose dues are in arrears as of April 1. Your continued support through your membership dues is critical to our continued success in this the fifth decade of our existence. Please renew now and please give strong consideration to a Life Membership - which can be secured through a one-time contribution of \$200.

WELCOME

New Member

Joyce D. Messer

New Life Members

Lester and Sharon Sweeting

Margaret Marshall

WOMEN AND THE LAW IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

In light of the two recent nominations (and one near nomination) of a woman as Attorney General of the United States, it seems appropriate to recount the travails of a 'lady lawyer' who challenged the Prince George's County Court system 125 years ago. Belva Ann Lockwood was a lawyer who had gained admission to argue before the District of Columbia Supreme Court in 1872, but only after the intercession of President Ulysses S. Grant. Some years later, Ms. Lockwood decided to test the legal waters in near-by Prince George's County. A friend of Ms. Lockwood, Allen Clarke, recounted her adventure in an article appearing in volume 35-36 of the Records of the District of Columbia Historical Society in 1935.

Mr. Clarke remembered:

"It was in the fall of 1878 that Mrs. Lockwood went to Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland to hear the fate of an application made a week previously to practice in Maryland. I accompanied her. The court denied the application. He [Judge Magruder] said in his elaboration that in the statutes of the states the pronouns were masculine and never feminine; that her place was in the home to wait upon the husband and the children. The court made no allowance that there might not be either husband or children. Mrs. Lockwood requested the privilege of speaking in the court room during the noon recess. The court granted the request but had the entrance locked. As silly as was the decision so contemptible was this act. Upon the porch near the court room she addressed the curious crowd. She mentioned the non-employment of single women and that she was a widow who had survived two husbands, had reared two families. She illustrated by stating that in the state of New York following the Civil War were 10,000 additional widows and to her inquiry 'What are to become of them?' a man in a happy state of inebriation promptly exclaimed he could take three or four of them. . . ."

Mrs. Lockwood, undeterred by Judge Magruder's

declaration of a woman's place, went on in 1879 to become the first woman to win the right to argue before the United States Supreme Court. Allen Clarke owned a portion of "Beall's Pleasure," a tract near Landover, which he sold in 1884 to Amanda Best. Mrs. Best was also a friend of Belva Lockwood, and so it was that, in September 1884, Mrs. Lockwood rode by train to Wilson Station in Landover; with an entourage of followers and reporters, she walked up the hill to Mrs. Best's farm house and there announced her acceptance of the Equal Right's Party nomination for the office of President of the United States.

Prince George's Court records reveal that in the fall of 1978 Franklin Roberts, Frederick Sasscer, Jr., Joseph A. Wilson, John Johnson and Joshua Clark, Sr. applied for and were admitted to practice law in Prince George's County. Apparently in 1878 applications such as Mrs. Lockwood's were judged too frivolous to deserve entry into the records of Prince George's County.

Joyce McDonald



SPRING LECTURE SERIES

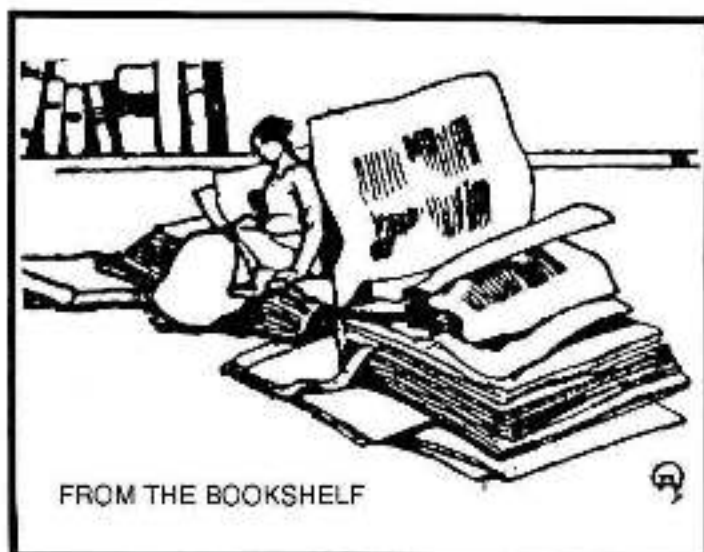
The Society, in conjunction with the Prince George's Community College, is pleased to announce its Spring Lecture Series. Four lectures, discussed individually below, will take place at various locations. The fee for each lecture is \$12 (\$10 for members of the Prince George's Historical Society). A series ticket may be purchased for \$36 (\$30 for members of the Society). To make a reservation or purchase a series ticket, please contact Susan Wolfe at the Society at 301-464-5291. The following lectures, each beginning at 6:30PM, will be presented:

March 25 - "Women of the Airways" - 6:30 PM at the College Park Airport Museum. Doris Rich is the author of *Amelia Earhart: A Biography*; a soon-to-be published book on Bessie Coleman, the first aviatrix of African-American descent; and is a member of the Authors Guild and the Society of Women Geographers. This lecture celebrates Women's History Month.

April 1 - "Restoring the Watersheds" - 6:30PM at Marietta Mansion in Glenn Dale. Robert Boone is the Executive Director of the Anacostia Watershed Society and is active in efforts to restore this important and historical body of water to its former splendor.

April 15 - "Addison Chapel: Its History and Involvement in the Community" - 6:30 PM at Addison Chapel, located on Addison Road and Grieg Street in Fairmont Heights/Seat Pleasant. Doris Hoover is the Chairman of the Addison Chapel Foundation, which is charged with the care and upkeep of the Chapel and cemetery. Druscilla Null is Chairman of the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust which owns the Chapel.

April 22 - "The Lincoln Conspiracy - A Never Ending Drama" - 6:30 PM at Marietta Mansion in Glenn Dale. Michael Kauffman has been gathering original source material since 1971 from families descended from the figures involved in or connected to the conspiracy and is currently indexing the documentation. The core is structured around the Suspects File consisting of 11,000 pages of material.



Research is Fun! Imagine this librarian's fluttering heart at being asked to sit the Society's Frederick S. DeMarr Library while Fred and Dusty Rhoads were otherwise engaged at the Society Board meeting. Four (4) glorious hours of quiet (nevermind the vacuum cleaner overhead), undisturbed poking around while working on various projects of personal interest. (Or, As Fred described me - 'happier than a pig in slop' - one of George Benedict Calvert's pigs I presume). Now, imagine my surprise when actual patrons started showing up - asking questions about telegraphy in Prince George's as compared to Calvert County; about the Digges family; various schools in Camp Springs; about Beltsville (looking at relatives in old yearbooks); and about education of black children in the County. Well, needless to say, these questions cut into my research time and the quality (or continuity) of both Fred and Dusty's participation in the Board Meeting!

My particular research project du jour was piqued by a course offered by the University of Maryland's Graduate Certificate Program in Historic Preservation. Courses on Documenting the Historic Environment begin with a semester of dealing with and developing architectural drawings of a property. The second semester teaches students the skills necessary to research and document a particular historic site or structure. These unique courses are supported by a grant from the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) of the National Park Service. Discussion of

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

EVENT

- 3rd Prince George's County Genealogical Society Meeting - Publishing Your Family History, Catherine M. Rhoads, lecturer, Greenbelt Public Library, 7:00 PM.
- 9 th Prince George's Genealogical Society Lecture Series begins - Hyattsville Public Library, 6530 Adelphi Road, 7-9PM. Call Diana Hale - 301-249-8640 for information and reservations.
- 13 th **PGCHS Board Meeting, Marietta, 10AM**
PGCHS Membership Meeting, DeMarr Library, Marietta, 2PM,
Burt Kummerow, St. Mary's City and The Coffins.
- 4th thru May 30 Murder at Ford's Theater (special exhibit related to the Lincoln assassination) Surratt House Museum, Clinton, Thurs - Fri, 11AM to 3PM; Sat - Sun, 12N to 4PM, admission, contact 301-868-1121.
- 20th **PGCHS Board Meeting - Saint George's Day Awards, 10 AM,**
Marietta
- 23 rd Peerless Rockville Program, "Toxic Archaeology: Cultural Resources and Hazardous Materials," Red Brick Courthouse, Rockville, 7:30 PM, contact 301-762-0096 for details.
- 25 th **PGCHS Spring Lecture Series begins - Doris Rich lectures on Women in Aviation. College Park Airport Museum, 6:30 PM,**
Contact Society at 301-464-0590 for details.
- 30 th University of Maryland Architecture Lecture Series: Jerry L. Rogers on "National Park Service: Future Directions in Historic Preservation" 2203 Art-Sociology Building, 7:30 PM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT

April

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1 st | PGCHS Spring Lecture Series - "Restoring Ancient Watersheds", by Robert Boone, 6:30 PM at Marietta. |
| 15 th | PGCHS Spring Lecture Series - "Addison Chapel: Its History and Involvement in the Community," At Addison Chapel, Addison Road at Grieg Street, Fairmont Heights, 6:30 PM. |
| 22 nd | PGCHS Spring Lecture Series: "The Lincoln Conspiracy - A Never Ending Drama," At Marietta, 6:30 PM. |
| 25 th | PGCHS Annual St. George's Day Awards Dinner, Marlboro Hunt Club, 1:30 PM, Contact Sarah Bourne at the Society. |

the course led to a search of the Holden-Sweeting Library (named for Louis J. Holden, a bookbinder, who built the house in 1897) for HABS/HAER's latest publication concerning documentation - Recording Historic Structures, John A. Burns, ed.; American Institute of Architects Press, Washington, 1989. Priced at \$19.95 and found in area bookstores, this is a bargain. This volume encourages this researcher to pursue information on the less-documented sites in the Hyattsville National Register Historic District as outlined initially in the "Preliminary Amendment to the Prince George's County Historic Sites and Districts Plan". (MNCP&PC, December 1990). One property listed in Appendix L, numbered 68-10-30, was referred to as "Wing Rest." What an interesting name - What is its derivation? I then consulted Hyattsville - Our Hometown, 1886 - 1986, published to celebrate "100 Years of Life, Growth and Service in Prince George's County, Maryland." On page 44 we find a chart of old street names - before August 11, 1941 (when MNCP&PC changed all of the street names in Hyattsville to conform with the surrounding area) - listing "Wingrest Avenue" (now Decatur Street). [The change of names for streets that had been laid out and named over 70 years before was described as follows: "On August 11, 1941, the county changed the street names. The old names would be remembered for many years. Even after the War, some residents would continue to call in a fire giving the old street name and house number."]

This information led me to early copies (1935 - 1945) of the Hyattsville Independent, which I found at the Society's Frederick S. DeMarr Library. What a joy to read and learn about early Hyattsvillans (such as C. C. Hyatt and Charles Welsh) in such eloquently presented vignettes. And, there on February 12th (a birthday shared by Lincoln and my husband), 1937, was an obituary for Sara B. Ralston, who was married to the celebrated international lawyer, Jackson Ralston. Jackson Ralston was the general counsel

for a number of years for the American Federation of Labor. Ralston personally represented Samuel Gompers "and others in famous contempt proceedings." "He played a prominent part in the early history of Hyattsville, having called a meeting in 1886 to frame a town charter . . . he was at one time president of the old First National Bank of Hyattsville" and he lived on Wingrest near Wine Avenue.

My research efforts seem to lead me in ever diminishing circles. It will probably be a long time before I am asked to library-sit again.

Sharon Howe Sweeting



First, let me again apologize for the errata in last month's News and Notes. We have established a potential means of better review of copy before it goes to print, and I hope that those errors will be fewer in future.

I was privileged to join the rest of the Board of Directors earlier this month to discuss various concerns relating to the current and future direction of the Society, and I can say to the Membership that you are indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated group of leaders. Among the topics discussed, beyond the normal review of finances and facilities, were the Society's need to attract additional docents for Marietta - when the restoration effort is completed and the public tours recommence, the training and recognition that docents and other volunteers should receive, the calendar of events for the next year, and the effort to bring to realization the

Heritage Center in time for the 1996 Tri-Centennial of the erection of Prince George's County. Other outreach efforts such as a possible reprinting of certain books (the 1898 Map and another children's book A British Spy in Bladensburg) were mentioned. Several developing projects were also discussed. The first is the "Trunks" project being coordinated by Jane Eagan and Joyce McDonald with assistance from Susan Wolfe and Florence and Stephen Riedesel. This is a school-based project whereby certain everyday items in use in residences in the County in the 18th Century would be collected and placed in travelling trunks for delivery to teachers of local and state history. Teachers would be able to conduct meaningful, hands-on classes for their students.

Speaking of students, as our "From the Bookshelf" contributor, Sharon Howe Sweeting, learned first hand while subbing for Fred DeMarr at the Library, the students of several schools are deeply involved in projects for the Skarda Awards. The Society's sponsorship of these activities is led by Jim Wolfe and Cheryl Adams. The Awards will be presented at the Society's meeting in June.

While we are on the subject, may I suggest that you mark your long term calendars now for the following Society events:

- March 13 Society General Meeting - St. Mary's City,
Speaker - Burt Kummerow.
- March 18 Last Day to submit recommendations for the
St. George's Day Awards.
- March 20 Board Meeting - Topic - St. George's Day
Award Decisions.
- March 25 Spring Lecture # 1, College Park Airport
- April 1 Spring Lecture # 2, Marietta
- April 15 Spring Lecture # 3, Addison Chapel
- April 22 Spring Lecture # 4, Marietta
- April 25 St. George's Day Awards Dinner
- May 9 Society General Meeting - "Early Petitions to
the Congress"
- May 20 Historic Preservation Reception - Venue to be
announced.
- June 12 Skarda Awards - Speaker from NASA on
History of the Universe - the COBE Project

Sept 6-12 Prince George's County Fair

Sept 18 or 25 Fall Fundraiser - Venue to be announced.

Oct 9 First Society Meeting of the Fall

Oct 21 Fall Lecture Series Begins

Nov 13 Society General Meeting & 41st Birthday
Celebration

Dec 11 Annual Christmas Party - Marietta

There will be no Spring Bus Tour. The Fall Bus Tour will be announced when arrangements are further along. The Candlelight Tours of Marietta will be held in December, as usual, and we expect to have other events after the reopening as well.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS NOMINATIONS BEING SOUGHT

The Society's Board of Directors would like to have input with respect to deserving citizens or institutions (groups, companies, or organizations) that should be considered for a St. George's Day Award. The nomination forms may be secured from the Society by calling 464-5291. Completed nominations are due no later than March 18. This is your chance to see that those you know are involved in the preservation and dissemination of our County's history are properly recognized for their efforts. Thank you for your suggestions. The awards will be presented at the St. George's Day dinner on April 25. Tickets for the dinner may also be ordered through the Society and we look forward to seeing you there.

The Editor would like to remind readers that submissions for the March Edition of News and Notes are due no later than

MARCH 15, 1993

your submissions, letters, comments and advice are welcome!

Prince George's County Historical Society, Inc

Publications Order List

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by Alan Virta \$29.95 plus tax \$1.50 plus \$2.00
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___ Calvert of Maryland \$6.95 (tax incl) plus
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___ Atlas of Prince George's County \$5.00 plus
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___ Chesapeake Bay of Yore \$25.00 plus tax
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___ Lanham Centennial \$4.00 plus tax \$0.20 plus
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___ Berwyn Heights \$3.00 plus tax \$0.15 plus
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Prince George's County Historical Society

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

I would also like to join the Maryland Historical Society.
I am enclosing \$25.00 for an individual membership or
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Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

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Hours Beginning November 14

Marietta Tours - Suspended During
Renovation

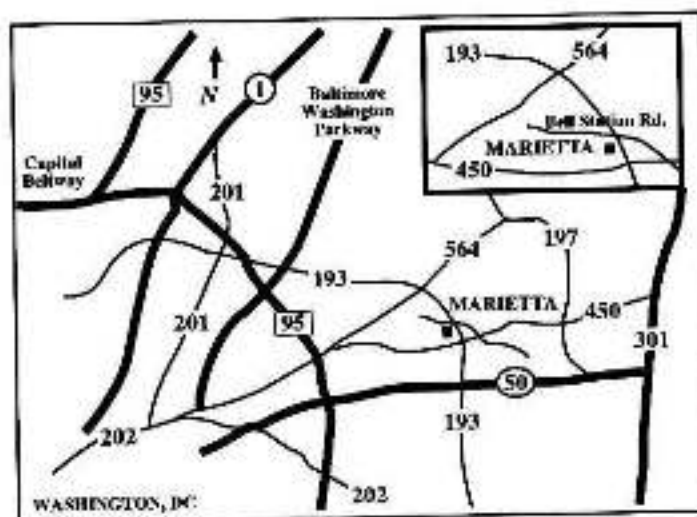
Information - (301) 464-0590

The Gift Shop

features a tasteful collection of handcrafted
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games for children, small antiques, Histori-
cal Society publications and souvenirs of
historic Marietta.

Location of the Society

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in
Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193 near Route 450. This is
a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and
Planning Commission.



Prince George's County Historical Society

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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH, 1993

FOUNDED 1952 - OUR 41ST YEAR

VOL. XXI, NO. 3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1993

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St. George's Day Awards - Twentieth Anniversary

The St. George's Day Awards will be made at the Society's St. George's Day Dinner on Sunday, April 25, 1993, at the Marlborough Hunt Club in Upper Marlboro. Invitations for the dinner have been mailed and you are encouraged to return your reservation to Sarah Bourne as soon as possible. Seating for this popular event is limited.

As this is the twentieth time the Awards will be presented, it is appropriate that we review the criteria for the Awards. The St. George's Day Awards were established by the Prince George's County Historical Society to honor individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution to the preservation of Prince George's County's heritage. Honorees:

1. Need not be a County resident or County-based organization.
2. Activity for which honored must pertain to Prince George's County.
3. Will not be repeated.
4. Will not be announced in advance of presentation.
5. Awards will be presented at the annual St. George's Day dinner held by the Society on the Sunday closest to April 23rd.
6. Awards will be determined by a committee composed of the Society's Board of Directors plus 3 Society members at large (elected or appointed by the Society President).

IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL

April 1, 1993 - Spring Lecture: Restoring Ancient Waterways, 6:30 PM at Marietta

April 15, 1993 - Spring Lecture: Addison Chapel History, 6:30 PM at Addison Chapel

April 17, 1993 - Board Meeting, 10:00 AM at Marietta

April 22, 1993 - Spring Lecture: "The Lincoln Conspiracy - A Never Ending Drama," 6:30 PM at Marietta

7. Specific activity means one that has occurred over a period of time. If a specific project is the basis for the Award, the activity must have been completed. (For example, an award based on a publication could be made only after publication of the item.)

8. There are a limited number of awards each year. An average of 7 awards have been given over the years (although more were made in the early years - to catch up on needed recognition.)

9. The Award recipient must be living, unless the Committee had voted on the award and death intervened before the presentation.

There are five specific categories in which an Award (or Awards) can be made. These are -- Preservation (generally given due to activities to preserve a specific historic site or area); Publications/Research; Friends of Preservation; Celebrations and Commemorations; and "Workers in the Vinyard." Please note that an award need not be made in each category.

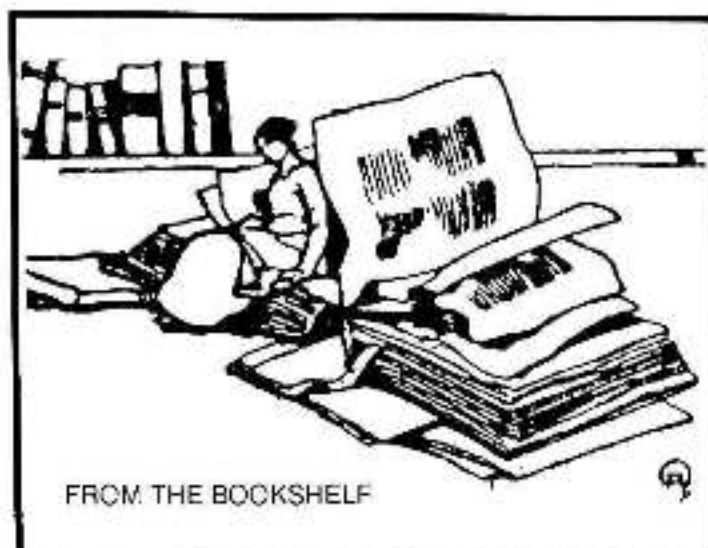
Each of these awards is highly prized by the recipients. We will provide information on the 1993 Honorees in the next edition of News and Notes.

URGENT - URGENT

Treasurer Jack Bourne has an urgent message for Members of the Society.

"Second Request" dues invoices were mailed to 88 members on March 20. Support your Society's goals and the volunteer efforts of your fellow members by paying delinquent dues NOW! Don't be on the list in next month's News and Notes - which will show those members who have been dropped from membership for non-payment of dues, in accordance with the by-laws of the Society.

YOUR EDITOR REMINDS THAT SUBMISSIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE APRIL 1993 NEWS AND NOTES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 15, 1993. YOU ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT THIS IS INCOME TAX DUE DAY. THANKS - LES SWEETING



Ever notice that when you become acquainted with a new word or phrase or concept, it suddenly appears everywhere? An introduction to two new courses in the University of Maryland's Preservation Program, served as just such an impetus. Sponsored by the Historic American Building Survey, the courses teach students the principles involved in the illustrative (measured drawings) and the written documentation (land records and title searches) of historic properties. As if on cue, and while still cogitating on the documentation and identification of not-so-historic properties, the Thursday, February 25, 1993, edition of the New York Times featured an article on reprints, many of them by Dover publications, of what are frequently called pattern books. Most of these titles, like Andrew Jackson Downing's (Victorian Cottage Residences, 1981, Dover) and Shoppell's (Turn-of-the-Century Houses, Cottages and Villas, 1983, Dover), feature homes of the late nineteenth century. And being a true bibliophile, I set about acquiring (in competition with our Hyattsville Historian Becky Livingston) these publications. Superb local

sources for this type of publication, in addition to the University of Maryland's Book Exchange, are the Washington, D.C. bookstores located at the National Building Museum, the National Gallery of Art and the National Museum of American History. In the frenzy of acquisition, I discovered still more reprints to assist the layman in identifying many blocks of 20th century bungalows and modest dwellings so well represented in the neighbourhoods of Prince George's County. To aid in the research and documentation of our local communities, I recommend the following:

Authentic Small Houses of the Twenties", 1987, Dover;

Classic Houses of the Twenties, 1992, Dover;

500 Small Houses of the Twenties, 1990 Dover;

Homes & Interiors of the 1920's, Morgan, 1987, and,

117 House Designs of the Twenties, Dover, 1992.

Happy searching!

Sharon H. Sweeting



Bladensburg Colonial Dance Classes

The Port of Bladensburg Heritage Dancers are hosting dance classes to be held every other Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the Bladensburg Town Hall. Classes began on March 17, 1993 under the aegis of the Living History Foundation. While the classes are free, membership in the Living History Foundation, at a cost of \$12 per year per household, is a prerequisite. Applications are available at the classes. Colonial dancing is 'very much like square dancing, only eloquent.' It is lots of fun and does not require much dancing skill. Beginners are encouraged to join. For further information, please contact Donna Godfrey at 301-864-4820.

Marietta - Facility Manager's Report

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, History Division, is sponsoring a five day Spring break camp beginning Wednesday, April 7. The fifteen students, under the direction of Valerie Smith, will spend most of each day out of doors.

On April 12, the Glenn Dale Recreation Council will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt at Marietta.

Susan Pearl and Susan Wolfe are finalizing the draft of the National Register Of Historic Places Nomination forms for Marietta, with a view to submission by April 1.

Don Craveling, History Division archaeologist, David Duvall (representing the Duvall

Society) and Susan Wolfe met on March 9 to discuss the plans for the completion of the Duvall cemetery project. The remains of those family members buried at Marietta will be relocated. Those remains that are not readily indentifiable will remain buried in current locations. The remains of Jane Duvall will be reinterred at the site. Application to the State's Attorneys office will be the next step in this process.

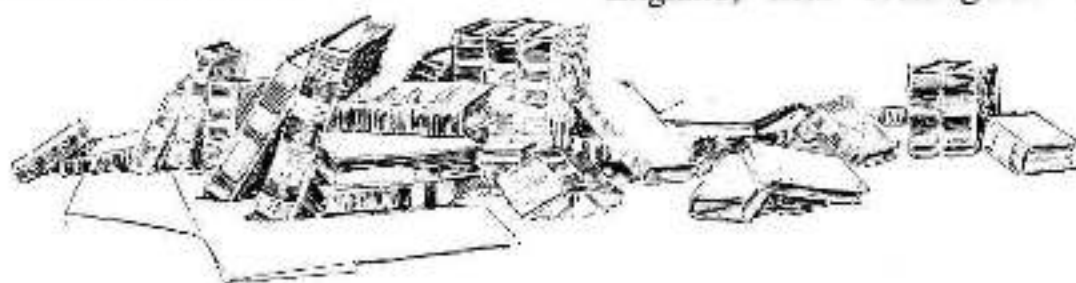
While the floors in the dining room and west bedroom have been completed, further work remains on the living room floor and on those in the second floor hall and the east bedroom. The last of the three steel beams has been installed in the basement ceiling of the addition. Support walls have been replaced. Subsurface drainage lines are now being dug.

The History Division is discussing proposals of a local Living History group that Marietta be used as a regular place for reenactments. These players encamp at several sites in Pennsylvania and Virginia and are interested in a Maryland site. If a trial is successful, Marietta might be one of the more permanent bases for these groups. To effect this, a formal site policy will be needed and one is being drafted. A two day initial event is being planned for the week end of July 17-18, 1993. Living History events of this nature could produce additional income for the benefit of the Marietta restoration fund.

Robey-Roby-Robie

The Robey-Roby-Robie family will meet in Charles County in August 1993. First cousins William G. "Bill" Robey and Joy Robey Klingaman never spent much time together growing up. In fact, they hardly saw each other except at family weddings or funerals before a year or so ago. Then, Bill, a semi-retired widower, had gotten interested in using one of his adult son's computer to develop a Robey family genealogy to mark the birth of his first grandchild. Bill remembered that his Aunt Eleanor (the late Eleanor G. Robey of White Plains, Maryland, who died in October 1989) and her daughter Joy had done considerable research on the clan. He got hold of a footlocker filled with Eleanor's notes and started spending a lot of time on the telephone with Joy. That led to the two cousins getting together to share information and to attend reunions held by scattered branches of the family, one near Clarksburg, West Virginia, and one at Bull Run Park, Fairfax, Virginia, in the summer and fall of 1992.

Now Bill and Joy plan to stage a large scale reunion for all Robeys, Robys, Robies (no matter how the name is spelled, all seem to be distantly related and apparently traceable to common early roots, most notably those in and around Castle Donington, Leicestershire, England, near Nottingham and Sherwood



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

Event

1 st	PGCHS Spring Lecture Series - "Restoring Ancient Watersheds", by Robert Boone, 6:30 PM at Marietta.
7 th	PGCGenealogical Society Meeting, Greenbelt Library, 7:00 PM
15 th	PGCHS Spring Lecture Series - "Addison Chapel: Its History and Involvement in the Community," Doris Hoover, At Addison Chapel, Addison Road and grieg Street, Fairmont Heights, 6:30 PM.
17 th	PGCHS Board Meeting, 10:00 AM at Marietta.
22 nd	PGCHS Spring Lecture Series, "The Lincoln Conspiracy--A Never Ending Drama," Michael Kauffman, 6:30 PM at Marietta.
24 th	"Christmas in April" Volunteer Day - various sites in Prince George's County, 301-868-0937
25 th	St. George's Day Awards Presentation and Dinner, Marlborough Hunt Club, Upper Marlboro, 1:30 PM - Contact Sarah Bourne at the Society.

May

2 nd	Takoma Park House and Garden Tour, 1:00 to 5:00 PM, contact 301-589-3685
5 th	PGCGenealogical Society Meeting, 7:00 PM, Greenbelt Library
12 th	Annual Preservation Reception, Newton White Mansion, 6:30 PM, Contact Sandy Cross at M-NCPPC Historic Preservation Office, Upper Marlboro.
15th	PGCHS Board Meeting, 10:00 AM at Marietta
15 th	PGCHS General Meeting, Mr. Smock, Historian of the House of Representatives, 2:00 PM at Marietta.
16 th	Historic Hyattsville House Tour, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, contact 301-927-4514

Forest) [ed note Was it, perhaps, Robey Hood?]. The reunion will be held in Charles County, where the immigrant John Robey is documented as a land owner in 1652.

Modern Robeys in West Virginia, Kentucky, New England and other parts of the Country have already expressed interest in attending this Robey Reunion, scheduled for August 10 through 12 in Waldorf, Charles County, Maryland. Anyone who would like to help with the organization of this event or who can provide information on the Robey, Roby, Robie family members or the history of the family is invited and encouraged to call Joy in Germantown. (301-540-8231) or Bill in Oxon Hill (301-567-0440). For those on Computers, Bill can also be reached through PRODIGY - ID DFHV 58 B, or through COMPUSERVE at 72400,463.

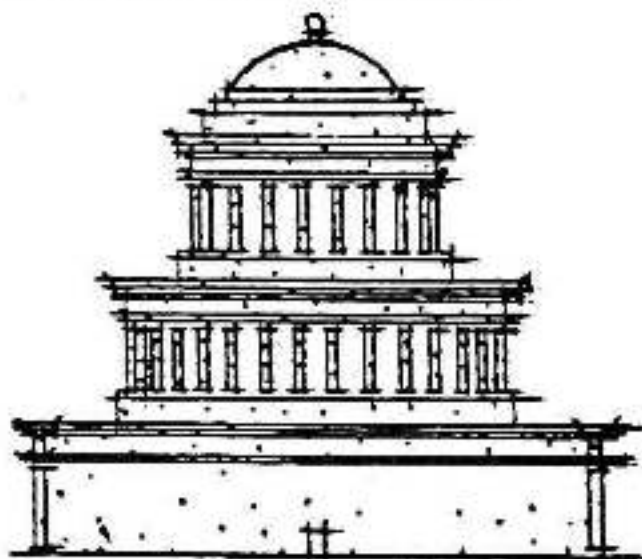
Tricentennial Planning Group

Your Society Board of Directors, at our March 20 (delayed) meeting agreed that the Prince George's Historical Society should take the lead in ensuring that a Tricentennial Commission is established and pledge resources to the Commission as soon as it is organized. At a meeting March 3, 1993, chaired by our Vice President, John Mitchell, several options were explored and it was decided that a separate charitable corporation should be formed for this purpose so that they could solicit contributions and ensure that the Tricentennial is celebrated in an appropriate and effective manner. If this effort is to be successful by 1996, the time for action is now and we will take the lead. While much has

been said about having a Heritage Center in place by the Tricentennial, and one of the options that remains viable is to do just that, the Celebration of our County's 300th Birthday deserves excellent citizen based planning and execution. We believe that this is a viable and effective approach. The next meeting will be on March 29, 1993 at 7:00 at Marietta. All interested parties, whether Society members or not, are cordially invited to get involved.

House Historian to Speak to Society

As you know, the St. George's Day Dinner replaces the regular Society meeting in April. The next Society General Meeting will be held at Marietta at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 15. Ray Smock, Historian of the United States House of Representatives, will be featured as the guest speaker. Ray will discuss the history of personal petitions to the Congress in the early days of the Republic. One tidbit - since the District of Columbia was not self-governing, a petition for divorce had to be handled by an Act of Congress, making the petition process one of political as well as social interest. Please join us for what promises to be a fascinating lecture.



The Bladensburg Heritage Dancers

~ Presents ~

INSTRUCTIONS in COLONIAL DANCE



Wednesday Evenings at 7:30 p.m.
(Bi-Weekly)

Bladensburg Town Hall

~ *Classes will begin on Wednesday, March 17th* ~

~ *No Tuition* ~

To join the class, you must be a member of the Living History Foundation. The membership fee is \$12.00 per year per household. Applications will be accepted at the Dance Classes.

~ *For Information Call Donna at 864-4820*

Prince George's County Historical Society

Publications Order List

___ Prince George's County: A Pictorial History, by Alan
Virta \$29.95 plus tax \$1.50 plus \$2.00 s&h

___ Calvert of Maryland \$6.95 (tax incl) plus \$0.55 s&h

___ Atlas of Prince George's County \$5.00 plus \$0.25
tax, plus \$0.50 s&h

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___ Benwyn Heights \$3.00 plus tax \$0.15 plus \$0.35
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___ Gabriel Duvall Biography \$1.00 plus tax \$0.05 plus
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Our operating support comes from your dues
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Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration

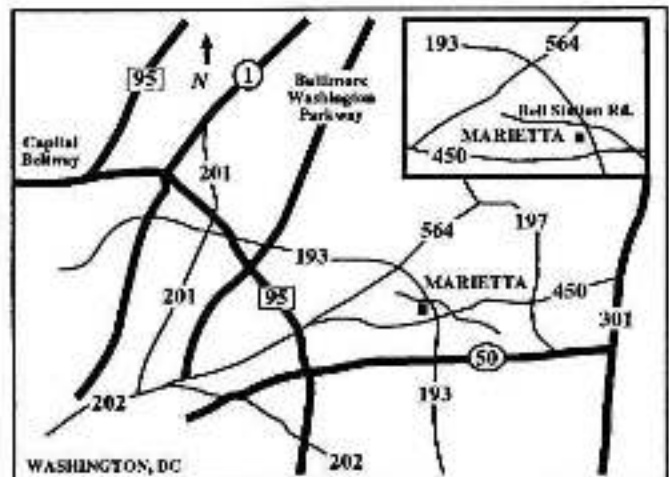
Information - (301) 484-0590

The Gift Shop

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

Location of the Society

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193 near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



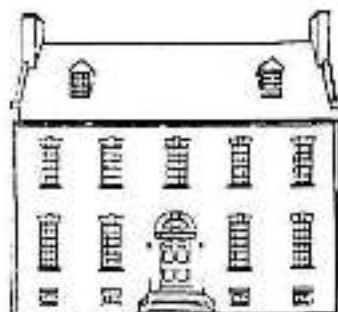
Prince George's County Historical Society

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"Marietta"

NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL, 1993

FOUNDED 1952 - OUR 41ST YEAR

VOL. XXI, NO. 4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1993

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St. George's Day Awards - Twentieth Anniversary

The St. George's Day Awards were made at the Society's St. George's Day Dinner on Sunday, April 25, 1993, at the Marlborough Hunt Club in Upper Marlboro. A capacity crowd attended to honor the award winners, who included the following:

Henry Contee Bowie Clagett of Weston
Michael and Deborah Franklin of Hyattsville
Doris Hoover and the Addison Chapel Foundation
Melinda Alter and Arthur Garroway of Mt. Ranier
The Town of Bladensburg
The Columbian Harmony Society of Washington
The Huntington Heritage Society of Bowie

URGENT - URGENT

Treasurer Jack Bourne has an urgent message for Dues Delinquent-Members of the Society. Support your Society's goals and the volunteer efforts of your fellow members by paying delinquent dues NOW! Look at the mailing label on this issue. If the year 92 is circled in red, your dues are in arrears and this is the final issue of News and Notes that you will receive. Please pay your dues today!

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY

May 8, 1993 - Board Meeting, 10:00 AM at Marietta
May 8, 1993 - Volunteer Meeting, 12:30 PM at Marietta, bring your calendars
May 8, 1993 - Society Meeting, Ray Smock, Historian House of Representatives, 2:00 PM at Marietta
May 12, 1993 - Historic Preservation Month Reception, Newton White Mansion, 5:00 PM

May 8 Meeting to Feature House of Representatives Historian

The monthly meeting of the Society will be held at 2:00PM on May 8 (not May 15 as reported in last month's *News and Notes* - will the Editor ever figure out when the second Saturday of the Month is? The lecturer will be Raymond Smock, Historian of the United States House of Representatives. Ray, a longtime resident of Prince George's County, will address early petitions to the United States Congress. This promises to be interesting and informative. Ray Smock was a fellow student in graduate school with Society President Joyce McDonald, and has been House Historian for a number of years.

An Opportunity Missed by Many

On Thursday, March 25th, at the College Park Airport, the Society's spring lecture series opened with a disappointingly small audience. The speaker for the evening was Doris Rich, a prolific writer and world traveller. Ms. Rich has published a biography of Amelia Earhart and is completing a new book about Bessie Coleman. Nearly everyone has heard of the exploits of Amelia Earhart and the important role that she played in the early years of aviation, but few recognize Bessie Coleman's name, much less her accomplishments in aviation. These two women made aviation history during the same period in our history -- Amelia as the first woman to travel across the Atlantic by air (although she was not at the controls) and Bessie as the first female person of color to be granted a license to pilot an airplane.



Ms. Rich, in an easy conversational style, paralleled the very different, yet remarkably similar lives of these two women as struggling aviation pioneers. It was an evening to be remembered with pleasure.

Sarah Bourne

Tricentennial Brainstorming Sessions

John Mitchell, Vice President of the Society, chaired two meetings of concerned Prince Georgians from a number of organizations to discuss how the County's 300th Birthday, coming up in 1996, might best be celebrated. The County Executive and the County Council have been asked to participate in this endeavor as well. Groups represented in the two preliminary meetings include the Society, the Genealogical Society, Prince George's Heritage, the Prince George's Hall of Fame, the Prince George's Historical and Cultural Trust, the History Division and the Historic Preservation Commission of the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, and a number of local groups.

Work has begun on completing the paperwork needed to form a corporation, with non-profit status, to coordinate the financial aspects of the celebration. Once the ideas arising from the preliminary sessions have been thoroughly discussed and developed, a widely circulated request for support and participation will likely be sent to all known clubs, civic groups, local governments, business leagues, key county-wide institutions (such as the Prince George's Community College) and state and federal institutions with large presence in the County.

A LOGO is being developed for use throughout the celebration, and on commemorative items to be licensed by the Tricentennial Commission. At



this time, it is contemplated that we would have a significant number of local events, and a few (perhaps as many as ten) county-wide events, including a "Birthday Bash" at a locale such as the Equestrian Center or the Capital Centre.

If any member of the Society (or anyone else) wishes to get involved in the planning and execution of these events, or has ideas, talents, or hands that can be used, please let us know by writing to the Society.

May is Historic Preservation Month

As you can see from the Calendar listings, May is a busy month for the preservation community in Prince George's County and elsewhere. Enclosed with this edition of News and Notes is an invitation to a reception to be held on May 12, 1993 from 5:30 PM until 8:00 PM at the Newton White Mansion, 2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville. While the event is free and open to the public, reservations are required. The Society is a co-sponsor of the event, and will have displays on view, including the finalist entries for the 1993 Skarda Awards.

An additional feature of the Reception will be the opportunity to purchase an autographed copy of Landmarks of Prince George's County, Architectural Photographs by Jack E. Boucher, which was just published by the Johns Hopkins Press in conjunction with the Historic American Buildings Survey. The books cost \$29.95, plus tax, and will be available at a number of bookstores, and at the Society's gift shop, shortly. Jack Boucher will attend the reception, however, and this is an opportunity to acquire a personally inscribed copy of this unique and important work.

Other significant events in May include the Takoma Park House Tour on May 2, the Capitol Hill Restoration Society House Tour on May 9, the Historic Hyattsville House Tour on Sunday, May 16; and the Spring Conference on Parks and Recreation, Volunteer II, at Montpelier Mansion on May 20.

Marietta - Facility Manager's Report

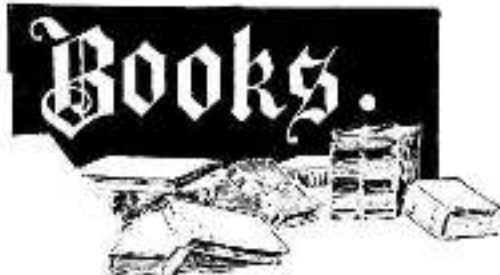
The security alarm system has been repaired and reprogrammed. The exhibit room exit/entrance door and exhibit room motion are now on the Library alarm. New individual code entry numbers will be assigned to Society officers and members requiring frequent access.

The restoration continues. No news on whether we are going to be able to proceed with additional work. Over 300 people turned out for the Glenn Dale Recreation Council Easter Egg Hunt held at Marietta on April 12. The event went very smoothly.

Cleanout of the bamboo grove is about to start. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Horticulture Department of Randall Farm will assist in removal and chipping of dead or damaged trees. Smaller 5 to 6 foot trees are to be potted and will be for sale in May - proceeds going to the Marietta Restoration Account. Fifty of the larger trees will be donated to the Bamboo Biotechnology Research, a non-profit group, to be used for tissue culture research. Noreide Ellis is supervising this activity.

There will be a luncheon and planning meeting for volunteers on Saturday, May 8 beginning at 12:30 PM. As this is a planning session, please bring your calendars. Please be prompt, as we are sandwiched between the Board Meeting and the General Meeting.

<p>YOUR EDITOR REMINDS THAT SUBMISSIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE MAY 1993 NEWS AND NOTES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 15, 1993. THANK YOU - LES SWEETING</p>
--



Searching for Your Ancestors?

Our readers know that your editor try to provide information from other groups that may be of interest to you. Meetings of the Genealogical Society are publicized each month. Karen D. Miles, a Society member and President of the Genealogical Society sent us this article, which may be of interest.

The National Genealogical Society, headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, is hosting its annual Conference in the States at the Baltimore Convention Center June 2 through 5, 1993. This Conference, A Chesapeake Homecoming, is also a celebration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the National Genealogical Society.

The Conference features day long sessions on various aspects of genealogy by nationally-known speakers. Computers, which have become such an important part of genealogical activities, will be highlighted in laboratories where software demonstrations will be available.

One need not be a member of the National Genealogical Society or of a local genealogical group to attend the Conference. Single day sessions can be attended, without registering for the full four days. Advance registration and a list of fees are available from the National Genealogical Society, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399, or phone 703-525-0050. Lest you think you might wait until next year, this is the last national convention for the Society to be held in the Washington area until 2003.



An Update on Project Lead Coffin - Part 1

(to be reprinted in toto in two or more parts from A Briefe Relation, A Newsletter Published by the Friends of St. Mary's City)

After nearly two years of planning, Project Lead Coffins began on 1 October, 1992. Under the sponsorship of Historic St. Mary's City, this unique archaeological investigation had two major goals: 1) Determine the identity of the individuals, and 2) Utilize this unique find to learn about life in the early Chesapeake. Co-Directors of the Project were Drs. Henry M. Miller and Timothy Riordan of the HSMC Research Department. The volunteer Technical Advisor for the Project was Mr. Mark Moore of the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute.

Before the three lead coffins could be lifted out of the ground and examined, three major steps had to be successfully completed.

1. Gammaray Imaging - to gain data regarding the construction and physical condition of the coffins, a new imaging technique using gamma radiation from a Cobalt 60 source was devised.

2. Air Sampling - Due to the remote possibility that one or more of the coffins could still contain original air from the 1600s, a system was designed to extract uncontaminated samples while causing no negative effect upon the coffins. Analysis of the air samples was conducted by NASA.

3. Fiberscope Inspection - To gain a preliminary glimpse of the coffin contents, the Olympus Corporation loaned a fibrescope and xenon light source. Special fittings were installed to prevent oxygen intrusion and video and photo documentation was conducted.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

Event

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 2 nd | Takoma Park House and Garden Tour, 1:00 to 5:00 PM, contact 301-589-3695 |
| 5 th | PGCGenealogical Society Meeting, 7:00 PM, Greenbelt Library |
| 8 th | PGCHS Board Meeting, 10:00 AM at Marietta |
| 8 th | PGCHS General Meeting, Mr. Smock, Historian of the House of Representatives, 2:00 PM at Marietta. |
| 12 th | Annual Preservation Reception, Newton White Mansion, 6:30 PM, Contact Sandy Cross at M-NCPPC Historic Preservation Office, Upper Marlboro. |
| 16 th | Historic Hyattsville House Tour, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, contact 301-927-4514 |
| 20th | Spring Conference on Parks and Recreation, Volunteer II, Montpelier Mansion, 5:50 to 9:00 PM |

June

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 2nd | National Genealogical Society Conference Opens, Baltimore Convention Center |
| 9 th | PGCGenealogical Society Meeting, 7:00 PM Greenbelt Library - Note date change to second Wednesday |
| 12 th | PGCHS Board Meeting, 10:00 AM, at Marietta |
| 12th | PGCHS General Meeting, Presentation of Skarda Awards, Lecture by Sarah Moseley on the COBE Project at NASA, 2:00 PM at Marietta |

The Small Coffin

Visual inspection and Gammaray imaging of this coffin revealed that it had suffered serious decay. Fiberscope inspection revealed a small skull, possibly that of a child, covered by debris. Preliminary geological data provided by Dr. Gerald Johnson of the College of William and Mary suggested that this coffin was buried later than the middle and large coffins.

The Middle Coffin

While this coffin had undergone some decay and collapse, it was hoped that it was still sealed. However, two small holes were discovered which were apparently attachment locations for a handle. Gammaray images revealed a skull lying on its side and the presence of wood still in place along the sides of the coffin. Fiberscope inspection confirmed the presence of the skull, with the face lying against the south wall of the coffin.

The Large Coffin

Visual inspection and Gammaray imaging through this coffin suggested that it had retained a seal. The gammagrams revealed the presence of wood and excellent data on the lead coffin's construction.

The fiberoptic scope entered a hollow space between the lead lid and a internal wood coffin lid. Due to the possibility of damaging the contents, we did not drill a second fiberscope hole into this wooden coffin. An air sample was drawn from the large coffin, and NASA scientists began the difficult process of determining whether the air was modern or 'ancient.'

After geology and pollen samples were gathered and non-destructive testing of the integrity of the lead coffins was conducted by a second team of NASA scientists, His Eminence Cardinal James Hickey offered prayers before the disinterment

of the human remains on November 4. Now, with the U.S. Army Reserve's medical tent and xray isolation pod in place, the Project was ready to move into the drama of its final phase.

During the week of November 9 through 14, the Project Lead Coffins team successfully lifted, opened and documented the contents of each of the coffins. There were two groups, a Technical Team responsible for lifting and opening the coffins, and a Scientific Team, responsible for the documentation and analysis of the remains. Each coffin had its own story--full of secrets and mysteries.

On Monday, November 9, a specially designed metal cradle was inserted under the small coffin using 30-ton aircraft jacks. With a gantry system provided by the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, the coffin and cradle were lifted from the burial pit, placed on a cart and rolled into the adjacent medical tent. The technical team, led by Mr. Mark Moore, opened the coffin and found decayed wood, soil and human remains.

Opening of this coffin revealed the remains of a small child. Forensic anthropologist Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution placed the age at 5 to 6 months; we also believe that the child was a girl. Soil under and on top of the skeletal remains presented a mystery. This would usually suggest that the individual was reburied but the fact that the bones had not been scattered led scientists to believe that only a short time could have passed between the first and second burials.

Initial inspection of the bones indicates that this child suffered from a variety of health problems. Flaring of the ribs suggests scurvy or rickets caused by a Vitamin C or D deficiency, and evidence of anemia was also present.

PRINCE GEORGE'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 14

RIVERDALE, MARYLAND 20738-0014

Mrs. Skarda has contributed a third "Log Cabin" quilt, which she made) as a prize, the proceeds of which will benefit the Donald D. Skarda Scholarship Fund. To be included in the drawing, to be held on June 11, 1994, please make a donation payable to the Prince George's Historical Society. Coupons below should also be filled in and returned to the Society at the above address. This drawing will be made in June 1994 at the regular meeting of the Society where the 1994 Awards will be presented. You need not be present to win. Donations in the amount of \$1 per coupon, or \$5 for SIX coupons are suggested.

SKARDA AWARDS 1993-1994

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

SKARDA AWARDS 1993-1994

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

SKARDA AWARDS 1993-1994

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SKARDA AWARDS 1993-1994

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ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____



*County Executive Parris N. Glendening
The Prince George's County Planning Board
The Historic Preservation Commission
The Historical and Cultural Trust
Prince George's Heritage
Prince George's County Historical Society
Prince George's Genealogical Society*

and

*The Historic American Buildings Survey
Johns Hopkins University Press*

*cordially invite you and your guest
to a*

*celebration of
Historic Preservation Week*

*and
the publication of*

Landmarks of Prince George's County



*Newton White Mansion
2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville
on*

*Wednesday, May 12, 1993
5:30 to 8 p.m.
6:15 p.m. - Program*

*Exhibits of Preservation Projects
Historic Site Plaque Presentations*

*Light Refreshments
Book Signing*

*R.S.V.P. (301) 952-3520
by May 5, 1993*

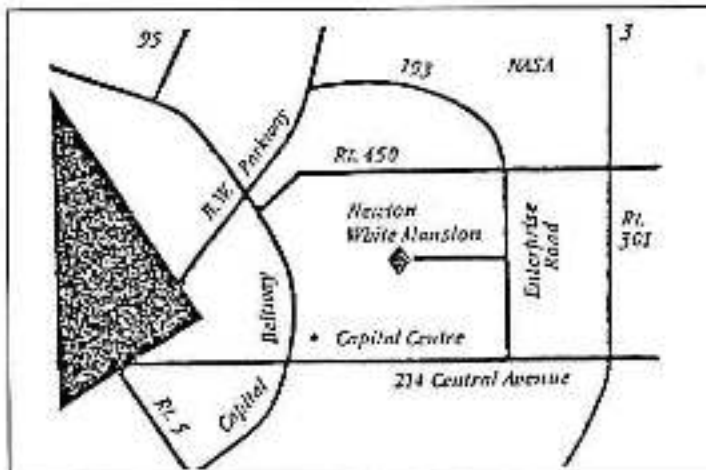
*Landmarks of Prince George's County
available for purchase at the reception*



Prince George's County Planning Department
Historic Preservation Commission
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
County Administration Building, 4th Floor
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



HISTORIC PRESERVATION RECEPTION



FROM BELTWAY

Exit 20A - Annapolis Road (450 East)
Move to left 2 lanes and travel approximately 4 miles to Enterprise Road (193 East). Turn right. Enterprise Road crosses under Rt. 50. The mansion is approximately 3 miles on your right. There is a sign that reads "Enterprise Golf Course - Newton White Mansion."

Exit 15A - Central Avenue (214 East)
Travel approximately 4-1/2 miles to Enterprise Road (193 West). Turn left and travel approximately 2-1/2 miles. The mansion will be on your left. There is a sign that reads "Enterprise Golf Course - Newton White Mansion."

Prince George's County Historical Society

Publications Order List

☐ Prince George's County: A Pictorial History, by Alan Virta \$29.95 plus tax \$1.50 plus \$2.00 s&h

☐ Calvert of Maryland \$6.95 (tax incl) plus \$0.55 s&h

☐ Atlas of Prince George's County \$5.00 plus \$0.25 tax, plus \$0.50 s&h

☐ Chesapeake Bay of Yore \$25.00 plus tax \$1.25 plus \$1.00 s&h

☐ Lanham Centennial \$4.00 plus tax \$0.20 plus \$0.55 s&h

☐ Berwyn Heights \$3.00 plus tax \$0.15 plus \$0.35 s&h

☐ Gabriel Duvall Biography \$1.00 plus tax \$0.05 plus \$0.35 s&h

☐ Fire Call \$5.00 plus tax \$0.25 plus \$1.00 s&h

☐ History of Beltsville \$4.00 plus tax \$0.20 plus \$0.55 s&h

Please forward the above checked publications. Full payment (Payable to PGCHS) enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____, State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime Tel. _____-_____-_____

The Society Thanks You For Your Order

Prince George's County Historical Society

Annual Membership Application

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____, State _____, Zip _____

Telephone - Home _____

Business _____

Please indicate whether this is a New Membership or a Renewal:

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Check below for Category You Wish

☐ Full Time Student \$10.00

☐ Member 20.00

☐ Life Member 200.00

☐ Sustaining 50.00

☐ Additional Contribution Enclosed \$ _____

☐ I am also interested in helping the

Our operating support comes from your dues and contributions. All contributions qualify for tax deduction. We appreciate your continued support.

Society as a volunteer. Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.

☐ I would also like to join the Maryland Historical Society. I am enclosing \$25.00 for an individual membership or \$35.00 for husband and wife.

Hours of Operation

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 P.M.

Gift Shop: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM and during Special Events.

Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration

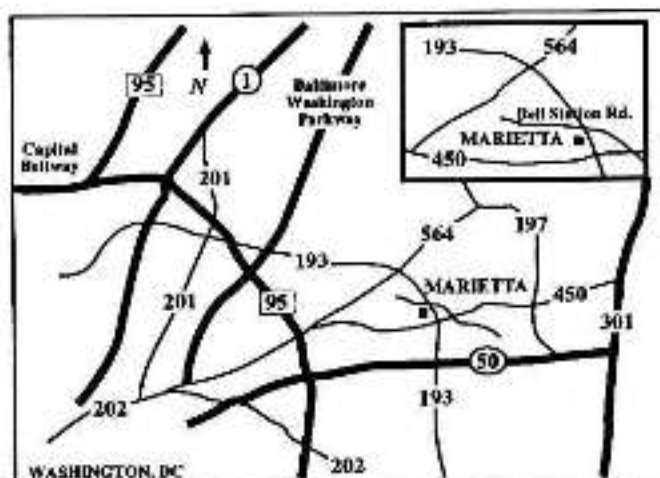
Information - (301) 464-0590

The Gift Shop

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY, 1993

FOUNDED 1952 - OUR 41ST YEAR

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Paul Lanham

Warren Rhoads

Bournes Honored on St. George's Day

Last month, we listed the winners of the St. George's Day Awards. With some malice aforethought, we omitted the names of two winners, because the Society Board wanted the award to be a surprise. Thanks to the dedication of each of the members of the Board, we were successful in bringing off the coup! Sarah and Richard Bourne were presented with their St. George's Day Award by Society President Joyce McDonald, and Sarah duly promised to properly inscribe the certificate. Although I have been an active member in the Society for only a short time, I have certainly become aware of the contribution Sarah makes to our success. Supported by her husband, Richard, Sarah, a public school teacher, has been the Society Secretary for some time. She is generally the one who sees to it that the Board meetings are productive. Her timely minutes are always complete and correct. Sarah's letters and control of the Society's activities keep each of us on track. Her humor and good cheer is welcome. She and Richard are getting ready to depart on their annual pilgrimage to England to assist David Fogle and his students at Kiplin Hall. It is a tough job and someone must do it. My spouse and I volunteered to sub for the Bournes, but were told: "That is alright, we'll muddle through!"

IMPORTANT DATES IN JUNE

June 12, 1993 - Board Meeting, 10:00 AM at Marietta

June 12, 1993 - Society Meeting, Sarah Moseley on the COBE Project, Presentation of Skarda Awards, 2:00 PM at Marietta

Your Editor and the rest of the Board are proud to have had a hand in this Award, proud to serve with Sarah (and to have Dick by her side in all of this) and ever grateful for their service to the Society. It is a sincere pleasure to know both of them.

Skarda Awards Ceremony

Saturday, June 12 is the date of the next Society general meeting. No meetings are held in July or August. The June meeting is devoted to the celebration of the Skarda Award recipients. These children have submitted noteworthy and superior exhibits about the histories of their schools. This year's submissions were quite varied in scope and medium and will be on display at Marietta during the meeting.

The 1993 winners, all from Bond Mill Elementary in Laurel, are Mary Winterbottom for her model of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School (first prize) and (tied for second prize) Diana Davis for her model of Bladensburg Junior High and Christy Watkins, who did a video and paper on Laurel High School. Congratulations!

A special lecture on the Cosmic Background Exploration Satellite (COBE) project being coordinated by NASA at the Goddard Space Flight Center, will be introduced by Sarah Moseley. Director of the Project, John Mather, will be joined by Harvey Moseley, who worked extensively on this effort. The meeting will take place at the regular time of 2:00 PM, in the Library.

Tricentennial Brainstorming Sessions

John Mitchell, Vice President of the Society, has now chaired three meetings of concerned Prince Georgians from a number of organizations to discuss how the County's 300th Birthday, coming up in 1996, might best be celebrated. The County Executive and the County Council have begun to participate in this endeavor as well. Groups represented in the preliminary meetings include the Society, the Genealogical Society, Prince George's Heritage, the Prince George's Hall of Fame, the Prince George's Historical and Cultural Trust, the History Division and the Historic Preservation Commission of the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, and a number of local groups.

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A LOGO is being developed for use throughout the celebration, and on commemorative items to be licensed by the Tricentennial Commission. If

any member of the Society (or anyone else) wishes to get involved in the planning and execution of these events, or has ideas, talents, or hands that can be used, please let us know by writing to the Society.



Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious may be nonsensical word but it describes a no-nonsense, essential addition to THE BOOKSHELF, entitled Landmarks of Prince George's County, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993. Sponsored by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), this volume showcases the architectural photographs of Jack E. Boucher.

Arranged chronologically, the volume progresses from the earliest Tidewater (1700-1800), Georgian (c.1710-1800), Federal (1780-1830), and Greek Revival (1820-60)

architectural styles to the more recent Queen Anne (1880-1910) built structures illustrating three hundred years of the changing landscape of Prince George's County. The variety of buildings further demonstrates the rich and diversified fabric of county life with examples of homes, churches, and businesses.

Gail C. Rothrock, Preservation Coordinator, M-NCPPC, begins with an essay entitled "A Heritage to Preserve" describing preservation efforts beginning with a 1936 HABS documentation project through the development and approval of the County historic preservation master plan in 1981. The County has also used legislation affecting land use and the empowerment of preservation groups to continue these efforts. This volume celebrates not only the successes, but includes properties lost or endangered, creating, I think, a realistic view.

Essays by historians Susan G. Pearl and Catherine C. Lavoie, entitled "Three Hundred Years of County History" and "Architecture: From Tidewater to Modern" respectively, are complimentary pieces setting the historical stage for the architectural development.

The final essay is entitled "Documenting A County's Legacy" by Robert J. Kapsch, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey,

YOUR EDITOR REMINDS THAT SUBMISSIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE JUNE 1993 NEWS AND NOTES MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 15, 1993. THANK YOU - LES SWEETING

National Park Service, and describes the beginnings of HABS and its documentation of national, historic treasures. When a regional documentation project was considered, Prince George's County met the following criteria: close to the Washington, D.C. office of HABS; an active, experienced historic preservation agency; and, a rich collection of historic structures. "Over the next three years HABS documented sixty-two historic structures in the county with 900 large-format (5 by 7 inches), archivally processed photographs taken by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher, a thirty-year staff member whose work has established exceptional standards for architectural photography nationwide."

All this verbiage brings us at last to the *raison d'être* for this splendid volume: the photographs. Where to begin and with what adjectives to describe the incredible quality, the absolute clarity, the attention to detail, the variety of techniques employed, the sense of tranquility portrayed, the brilliance of the photography and the skill of the photographer. The captions and descriptions by Susan Pearl and Catherine Lavoie further enhance the already superior quality of the graphic design.

Before this volume is placed UPON the bookshelf, it should be thoroughly read, studied and appreciated. The volume closes with a map, a list of designated County sites, a guide to architectural plans and styles, a bibliography and index, and a description by Jack E. Boucher of the photographic techni-

ques employed. In a word: supercalifragilisticexpialdocious.

Landmarks of Prince George's County is available by mail from The Johns Hopkins University Press (call toll-free 1-800-537-5487) for \$29.95 plus shipping and tax. It is also available from the National Building Museum Shop, Washington, D.C. and the University of Maryland Book Exchange, College Park, as well as selected area bookstores with discriminating taste.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ruth S. Bannister

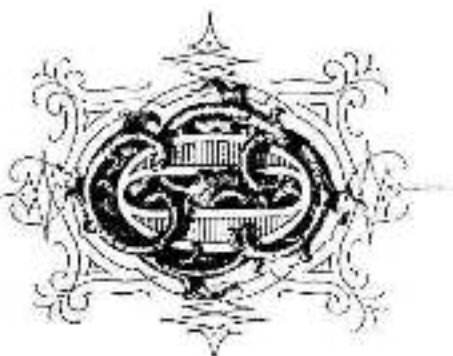
Edward L. Bauer

Barbara Benfield

Adelaide T. Binger

Linda M. Lacey

Ted L. Strosser



From the Gift Shop

The Gift Shop Committee is looking for the lady in the Green Suit who visited on October 12, 1992 and purchased a pulled thread linen towel. It seems that you forgot your purchase and we would like to correct the error. Please call the Society at 301-464-0590.

Volunteers Needed

The Society also needs volunteers to serve in connection with the Civil War Re-enactment to be held at Marietta during the Weekend of July 17-18, 1993. Please call the Society at 301-464-0590 for further details. Thank you

An Update on Project Lead Coffin - Part 11

During the week of November 9 through 14, the Project Lead Coffins team successfully lifted, opened, and documented the contents of each of the coffins. There were two groups, a Technical Team responsible for lifting and opening the coffins, and a Scientific Team responsible for the documentation and analysis of the remains. Each coffin had its own story -- full of secrets and mysteries.

On Monday, November 9, a specially designed metal cradle was inserted under the small coffin using 30-ton aircraft jacks. With a gantry system provided by the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, the coffin and cradle were lifted from the burial pit, placed on a cart and rolled into the adjacent medical tent. The technical team, led by Mr. Mark Moore, opened the coffin and found decayed wood, soil, and human remains.

Opening of this coffin revealed the remains of a small child. Forensic anthropologist Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution placed the age at 5 to 6 months; we also believe that the child was a girl. Soil under and on top of the skeletal remains presented a mystery. This would usually suggest that the individual was reburied but the fact that the bones had not been scattered led scientists to believe that only a short time could have passed between the first and second burials.

Initial inspection of the bones indicates that this child suffered from a variety of health problems. Flaring of the ribs suggests scurvy or rickets caused by a Vitamin C or D deficiency, and evidence of anemia was also present.

Recovery of the well preserved skeleton of such a young child is significant. Without the protective lead coffin, little if anything would have

survived archaeologically. It is the best preserved skeleton of a young child known from the 17th century English colonies. Burial of an infant in a lead coffin is very unusual. In Britain, even royal children were seldom treated so prestigiously. It is even more surprising that a female child would be buried in this way, for women were considered of lower status than males during the 17th Century.

The answer to this may lie in the identity of the child's parents. It is hoped that DNA can be obtained from the child's bones to permit study of any genetic links between her and the individuals in the other two coffins. In addition to the child's remains, several shroud pins, a small metal clothing eyelet, and traces of finely woven linen were found.

On Wednesday, November 11, the team raised the middle coffin and transported it into the Medical Tent with no harm to the coffin or its contents. Removal of the lead lid was accomplished with minimal difficulty. Inside the wooden coffin we found some very well preserved remains. Paul Sledzik of the Armed Forces Medical Museum and Douglas Owsley agreed that the bones were of an older woman, probably in her 50s. The bones were in excellent condition, prompting Owsley to label this the best preserved skeleton of a colonist known from 17th-century North America.

The lead coffin provided excellent preservation of more than the bones. She had been carefully buried in a shroud, with silk ribbons securing her wrists, knees and ankles. Scattered in the coffin were springs of the herb Rosemary which may have been placed in the coffin as part of a 17th-century funeral ritual.

Two notable finds were made on the woman's skeleton. First, her right leg had been broken

The Lead Coffins - cont'd

and poorly set. While it had healed, infection set in and a large pit was created in the bone. Second, Forensic Pathologist Richard Froede observed a substance on the interior of the woman's skull. Taking a tiny sample of this material, Froede placed it on a microscope slide and added a drop of distilled water. He was startled to see red blood cells. The substance was actually a blood clot.

This discovery of 300-year-old blood is important, allowing scientists to identify blood type, conduct immunoglobulin analysis, and, possibly, lead to the identification of malaria. Historians have long inferred that malaria was a major health problem in the Chesapeake but there has been no hard scientific evidence to prove this hypothesis.

Identification of the individual is not yet certain. However, one possibility is that this was Ann Wolsey, the first wife of Philip Calvert. She died in 1679 or 1680 at St. Mary's City.

The Technical Team used the entire day and evening of November 12 to prepare and install the lifting device for the large coffin. On Friday, November 13th, the team inserted the steel plate under the coffin and secured it for lifting. The coffin was raised from the burial pit at approximately 12:30p.m. and transported into the medical tent.

Lifting of the lead lid from the coffin was accomplished at 1:15. This coffin was expected to yield the best preservation. When the wooden lid was raised, however, a partially preserved skeleton was observed. The lower body was represented by solid bone, but many of the bones in the upper body and skull had been replaced by a mysterious white crystalline material.

Preliminary analysis suggest that it is some form of calcium carbonate. Why it is there and what chemical reaction caused it is still a mystery. The forensic scientists state that they had never before seen such a replacement of bone.

The skeleton was that of an older adult male. Precise age estimate is not yet available. Measurement of the remains by Dr. Owsley indicates that the man stood about 5 foot 3 inches tall. Found at his head were locks of reddish hair, eight inches in length. While this was initially thought to have been his natural hair, subsequent inspection by conservators Curtis Moyer (College of William and Mary) and Betty Seifert (Jefferson-Patterson Park and Museum) suggests that it is a wig.

Other evidence indicates that he was buried clothed in a garment partially constructed of leather. Most identifiable was a rectangular leather fastener with two parallel slits cut into it. It was found just below the neck, along with a section of ribbon. Ribbon was also recovered from the waist area and other textile fragments were found in the coffin. Research into period fashions is beginning in an attempt to identify the type of clothing.

It was uncommon for people to be buried clothed during this time. Inspection of the cloth fragments with a video microscope revealed the presence of many tiny insects, which will provide data on the season of death and yield insights into the 17th-century environment.

No initials or other identifying markings were found on the coffins. While Philip Calvert remains a strong possibility, there is not yet sufficient data to draw a conclusion. Actual

The Lead Coffins, cont'd

identification of these early settlers will depend upon piecing together a diversity of small clues. These range from the persons age and season of death to DNA relationships and the tree ring dates of the coffin wood. Laboratory studies to collect these facts are now underway.

On Friday evening (November 13, 1992), ABC's Nightline devoted an entire show to Project Lead Coffins. Viewers were treated to a live interview from the medical tent as the forensics team worked late into the night sorting and analyzing.

At a press conference on November 14, team members summarized their initial finds. Everyone was in agreement that Project Lead Coffins would have a lasting impact upon forensic science due to its broad approach and the range of specialists involved. Lessons learned will aid in contemporary efforts to resolve murder cases and identify the victims of political oppression. Dr. Gerald Kelso of the National Park Service, struck by the remarkable teamwork of the scientists involved, stated that the Project Lead Coffins "sets a new standard for archaeological research."

In the quieter days that followed, conservation of the wooden coffins, lead coffins, cloth remains, and other artifacts continued at Historic St. Mary's City. After stabilization, the human remains were transported to the Smithsonian Institution in a hearse provided by the Brinsfield Funeral Home.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

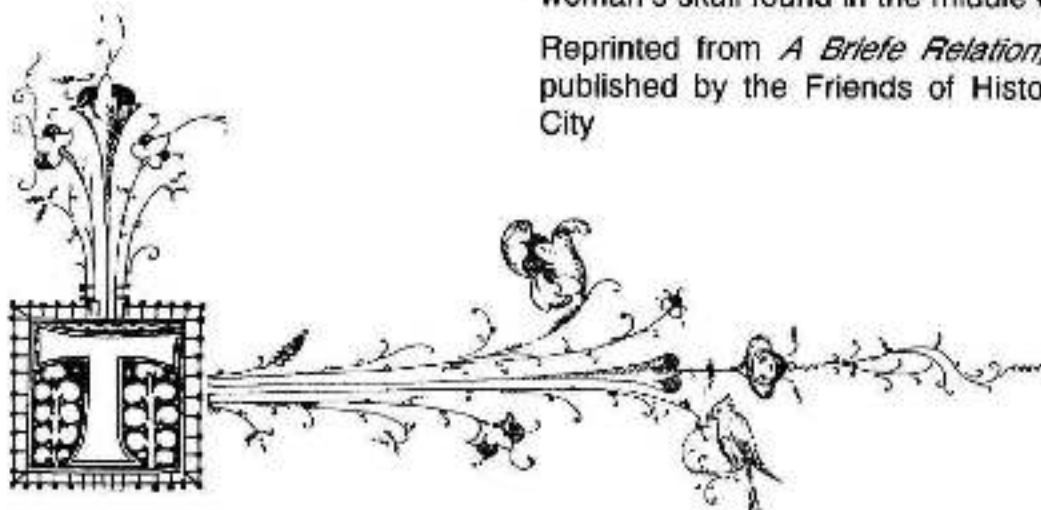
NASA scientists reported to HSMC on January 11 that the air extracted from the large lead coffin was contaminated by the presence of modern gases. They were finally able to decipher the complex gas sample and positively identified chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). CFCs are man-made compounds not produced before the 1940s. Widely distributed in the earth's atmosphere today, they serve as a marker gas signaling modern air.

The search for an air sample predated the Industrial Revolution is an important scientific goal and it continues. The air sampling system developed during Project Lead Coffins is an important tool in the ongoing search for "Ancient Air."

Analysis of other materials found inside the coffins also continues. Extraction and processing of the DNA from the remains is being conducted by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. The Smithsonian Institution is carefully studying the human bones.

Specialists at Penn State University are conducting neutron activation analysis of samples of lead from the coffins to determine their composition and possible origin. Scientists in Lowell, Massachusetts are beginning analysis of the pollen samples that will help us know in which season of the year the burials took place. The FBI is helping with a facial reconstruction on the woman's skull found in the middle coffin.

Reprinted from *A Briefe Relation*, a newsletter published by the Friends of Historic St. Mary's City



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

Event

2nd

National Genealogical Society Conference Opens, Baltimore Convention Center

9 th

PGCGenealogical Society Meeting, 7:00 PM Greenbelt Library - Note date change to second Wednesday

12 th

PGCHS Board Meeting, 10:00 AM, at Marietta

12 th

PGCHS General Meeting, Presentation of Skarda Awards, Lecture by Sarah Moseley on the COBE Project at NASA, 2:00 PM at Marietta.

18 th

Richard Moe, President, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, lectures at Trinity Episcopal Church, Upper Marlboro, 7:30 PM, call 301-627-1896.

Now Available

FROM JOHNS HOPKINS

Landmarks of Prince George's County

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

**Architectural Photographs by Jack E. Boucher
with a foreword by Parris N. Glendening,
County Executive**

From its founding nearly three centuries ago on the frontier of colonial Maryland to today's thriving suburban developments on the edge of the nation's capital, Prince George's County has often played a pivotal role in American history. Among the visible records of that history is the county's rich architectural legacy, including more than 250 sites designated as county landmarks and 60 listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Landmarks of Prince George's County brings together 125 photographs by Jack E. Boucher, chief photographer for the Interior Department's Historic American Buildings Survey, the nation's oldest federal preservation program and one long regarded as setting the national standard for architectural documentation. This book is an outgrowth of a unique cooperative project between the Historic American Buildings Survey and Prince George's County to document the county's historic resources. Featured are a wide range of buildings, from historic houses to churches, schools, and commercial and agricultural structures. The residences include the ruins of early 18th-century Want Water, the beautifully restored Federal-style Montpelier, and the exuberant Queen Anne suburban dwellings of the turn of this century. Here also is John Coffeen's store in rural Crofton, built in 1853 and virtually intact both inside and out, and Hyattsville Hardware, a typical late 19th century urban business. Among the many churches is the oldest surviving in the county, St. Paul's Episcopal in Baden, completed in 1735. Also shown are a pair of barns near Mitchellville, the Victorian B&O railroad station in Laurel, built in 1884, and Greenbelt Center Elementary School, a striking 1937 Art Deco structure.



Arranged chronologically, the photographs and captions offer a panoramic overview of the county's architectural and historical development. Also included are brief essays by Susan G. Pearl, on the history of Prince George's County; Catherine C. Lavoie, on its architecture; Gail C. Rothrock, on historic preservation in the county; and Robert J. Kapsch, on the work of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Jack E. Boucher is chief photographer, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. He has taken more than 50,000 photographs of 6,000 historic structures in every state but Alaska. His work has appeared in many exhibitions and publications, including *A Record in Detail: The Architectural Photographs of Jack E. Boucher*.

Available at local bookstores or from: The Johns Hopkins University Press

1993
8 1/2 x 11, 144 pp., 125 b&w photos
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THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS



*The Preservation Committee and the Altar Guild
of Trinity Episcopal Church
Upper Marlboro*

*request the pleasure of your company
at a lecture*

by Mr. Richard Moe, President

*The National Trust for Historic Preservation
to be held in the church
on Friday, the eighteenth of June
at seven-thirty.*

*The question and answer
period will be followed by a
reception in the Parish Hall.*

*Mr. Moe will autograph
guests' copies of his new book,
The Last Full Measure.*

*Donations will benefit
the restoration of the
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☐ I am also interested in helping the Society as a volunteer. Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.

☐ I would also like to join the Maryland Historical Society. I am enclosing \$25.00 for an individual membership or \$35.00 for husband and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues and contributions. All contributions qualify for tax deduction. We appreciate your continued support.

Make Checks Payable to PGCHS and Mail Check and Application Form to:

Prince George's County Historical Society

Post Office Box 14

Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

Hours of Operation

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 P.M.

Gift Shop: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM and during Special Events.

Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration

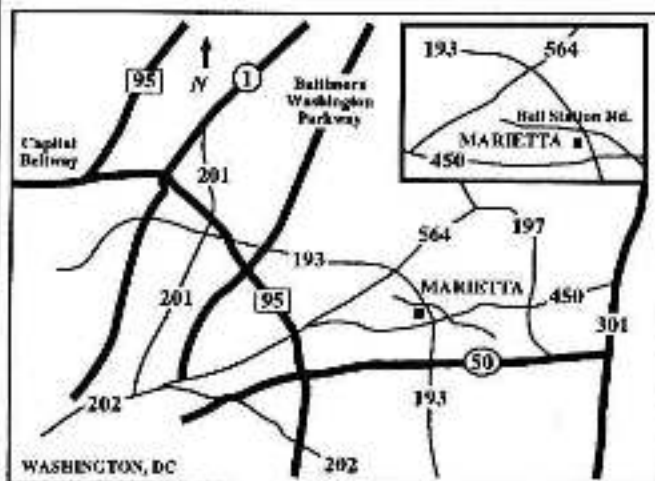
Information - (301) 464-0590

The Gift Shop

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

Location of the Society

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193 near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



Prince George's County Historical Society

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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE, 1993

FOUNDED 1952 - OUR 41ST YEAR

VOL. XXI, NO. 6

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OLDEST FRAME STRUCTURE IN COUNTY RELOCATED

By Dennis P. Dolan, Vice Chairman, Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

Very early on Saturday morning, April 24, 1993, the "Bacon Hall Overseer's House," a 250 year old piece of Prince George's County history, rolled out of Upper Marlboro proper from 5611 Old Crain Highway to its new location at 6701 South Osborne Road. The house is thought to be the oldest frame structure in Prince George's County. According to Real Estate Tax Assessment records, the house was built between 1749 and 1745. While its historically correct name may bring to mind a part of Prince George's past that many would like to forget; for 130 years of its 250 years, the house was home to African American tenant farmers. Many of those African American families who lived in the house over the years still have strong ties to Upper Marlboro and Prince George's County. A list of the descendants of those families would read like an Honor Roll of Prince George's County's most dedicated and distinguished citizens.

In attendance for the move were representatives from Expert House-movers, Inc.; the Maryland State Police; PEPCO; C & P Telephone; Metrovision Cable; The State Highway Administration; and the Prince George's County Police, Department of Public Works & Transportation, Park and Planning Commission, and the Historic Preservation Commission. Also in attendance were Lansdale and Ann Sasscer of Upper Marlboro, who have championed the preservation of the house for many years; Molly Sasscer Kanellos and her husband George, the young couple who are taking on the daunting task of restoring the house; and 7

IMPORTANT DATES IN JULY

July 12, 1993 - Tricentennial Committee, Bob Hall Warehouse, Upper Marlboro, 7:00 PM

July 17-18, 1993 - Marching Through Time Encampment at Marietta

July 24, 1993 - PGCHS Board Meeting, 10:00 AM at Marietta

year old Fraser Henderson, the Sasscer's grandson. It takes a lot of people to move 250 years of history!

The house has been sitting on a high hill overlooking the intersection of Old Crain Highway and Maryland Route 4, on property that has been owned by the Sasscer family since 1848. Molly Sasscer Kanellos is Lansdale and Ann Sasscer's youngest daughter. Her husband George is a master's degree candidate in historic preservation at Columbia University who has already restored several historic properties in and around Charleston, South Carolina.

The house was moved to a site on South Osborne Road next door to "Solitude," a County historic site built in 1840, that is occupied by Becky Sasscer Henderson, the Sasscer's eldest daughter, her husband Fraser and their family. "Solitude" was the Sasscer's home for many years after they lovingly restored it. The only reason they left "Solitude" was to move into a newer home, the "Digges-Sasscer House," another County historic site built in 1845. The "Digges-Sasscer House" is on Elm Street in the Town of Upper Marlboro and was, for many years, the home of Mr. Sasscer's mother. The Sasscer's obviously believe in keeping things in the family!

The actual moving of the house was done by Expert Housemovers, Inc. of Sharpetown, Maryland. Expert Housemovers, Inc. is a true family business of the Matyko Brothers, Jerry, John, Joe and Jim, that was handed down to them from their father. Expert Housemovers, Inc. and the Matyko boys are intimately familiar with several other Prince George's County Historic Sites. In 1983 they moved the "Grigsby Station

Log Cabin" built in the early 19th century, from Landover (where the J.B. Jenkins Funeral Home now stands) almost 8 miles to a site in Glendale. In 1992, they moved the "Bowie Railroad Buildings" out of harms way to a nearby Town of Bowie park site in Old Bowie. Also in 1992, Expert Housemovers Inc. were presented with a "National Preservation Honor Award" from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for their work on the "Third Haven Meeting House," which had stood in Easton, Maryland since 1682. The "Bacon Hall Overseer's House" was fortunate to receive such "Expert" care and attention.

Starting at 5 AM, the move itself took about 5 hours in a series of fits and starts. While it took almost 2 hours to get under the utility wires at Old Crain Highway and across the Maryland Route 4 bridge, it only took about half an hour to get from Old Crain Highway to South Osborne Road down William Beanes Drive. It then took only 10 minutes to get down South Osborne Road from William Beanes Drive to Farm Road. But it took almost an hour to make the turn at Farm Road for a detour around James and Gladys Duvall's home, to avoid some low utility lines. Unfortunately, the house no sooner got going again than it got stuck behind the Duvall home for almost an hour. It is a good thing the tax assessor did not come along during that hour or the Duvall's taxes would have gone up for having 2 houses on their property!

While the rest of the trip down South Osborne Road was relatively uneventful, except for those motorists who found their way blocked by a 250 year old house, its troubles were far from over for the day. In order to place the house in a setting similar to that from which it had come,

the Kanellos selected a beautiful grove of trees on a knoll some 350 feet off South Osborne Road. It took almost as long to get the house onto its final resting place as it had to come the 5 miles that day.

The effort, however, certainly appears to be worth it as the setting is striking. The Kanellos and Sasscer families have really got their work cut out for them. But, based on their past performance with historic houses, the "Bacon Hill Overseer's House" is in good hands. They deserve a tremendous amount of appreciation for their long and continuing efforts to preserve Prince George's County History!

(reprinted from the April 29, 1993 edition of the Enquirer-Gazette, page A-9, with thanks)

Reverend Conn Makes a Statement

On Sunday the 28th of June last, the Reverend Mr. Hugh Conn, a Presbyterian Minister, as he was preaching to a Congregation near Bladensburg in Prince George's County, dropp'd down dead in his Pulpit. The Subject he was upon gave him Occasion to mention "the certainty of Death, the Uncertainty of the Time when it might happen, the absolute Necessity of being continually prepared for it, the vast Danger of Delay to be constantly in such a State, or trusting to a Death Bed Repentance; for that altho' we may possibly live some Years, yet, we may be called away in a Month, or in a Week; or for aught any one could tell, Death might surprise us the next Moment;" which last part of his Discourse he was observed to deliver with some Elevation of Voice; but had scarce utter'd the Word Moment, when, without speaking any more (putting one Hand to his Head, and the other to his Side), he fell backward and expired; verifying in a most extraordinary Manner the Truth of his Doctrine.

(From the Maryland Gazette for Thursday, July 9, 1752, as reprinted in Prince George's Heritage at p. 100).

EXCELLENT SPEAKERS

by Vera Rollo

The March general membership meeting of the Society was a most interesting one; featuring Burton Kummerow, Director of the Historic St. Mary's City Commission. He was able to tell members of the amazing projects now underway in St. Mary's County.

In May the speaker was Dr. Raymond Smock, Historian of the United States House of Representatives. After his presentation, which was much enjoyed by those present, Dr. Smock donated a copy of the Biographical Directory of the Members of the United States House of Representatives to the Society. This book is published by his Office.

Looking forward to the Fall, in October we will have still another fascinating person to talk to - Gilbert Gude. Mr. Gude is a noted politician, a former Member of Congress, and an author and expert on the Potomac River. Watch for further details in September's News and Notes.

To our President and her directors for seeking out the really excellent speakers who have come to the Prince George's County Historical Society, many thanks.

A RARE DAY IN JUNE

by Vera Rollo

When the day for our monthly Saturday membership meeting rolls around, I sometimes think "Shall I just lounge about or shall I go along to the meeting?" And I am always glad when I go. Saturday, June 12, 1993, proves the point.

On arrival, I saw the Marietta mansion looming over green grass and seats set out in the shade of hugh trees. Old friends were there that I get to see all too seldom.

The Gift Shop was open and I browsed there for a bit. It is so attractive that I tend to rely on it more and more.

When the guest speaker was announced by Society President Joyce McDonald, I was surprised. Dr. John Mather is a NASA research scientist. Here in the sunlight of a perfect June day, at Marietta, was the man who originated and is the (internationally known) principal investigator of the Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) project!

Our own Sara Moseley briefly outlined the theme of the speaker's program and then gave the floor to her husband, a colleague of Dr. Mather at NASA and an astrophysicist, Dr. Harvey Moseley. Dr. Moseley, who designed instruments for the project, introduced Dr. Mather by telling those members in attendance about some of Dr. Mather's work.

When the tall young man took over the podium, he said that he would give us not just the history of our world since written history began, but the history of the origin of our universe! To myself, I thought "great idea, but can he do that?"

Yes he could, and did! It was a grand talk, using examples that non-scientists could understand. Dr. Mather explained the "Big Bang" theory of the origin of the universe, how waters formed, how life evolved slowly over 40 million years, and even explained how land masses drift across the face of the planet.

Dr. Mather gave us an idea of what he is investigating with his design and launch of the NASA rocket that measures outer space phenomena. "Each of us is made of recycled atoms, star dust!" His project measures several back-

ground fields.

He certainly spent much time and gave much thought in preparing this talk, for he had tailored it to historians and made complex ideas interesting and invested us, young and old, with his enthusiasm and sense of wonder. He ended his presentation to well deserved applause.

Then Alice Skarda, looking very attractive in grey, together with county schools' Area I Supervisor Lois Hobbs, presented the 1993 Skarda Awards for best history presentations by students in County schools. Jim Wolfe coordinated the awards this year. Judges were Barbara Martin, Jane Eagen and Lori Bartlett.

The Martin Luther King Middle School's social studies teacher, Deborah Hanka, represented the School. Gerald Bellow, a teacher at Bond Mill Elementary School was honored for his continuing support of the Skarda Awards project.

Bond Mill was well and truly represented as Mary Winterbottom won First Prize (\$50) and Diana Davis and Christie Watkins shared Second Prize (\$25 each). All entrants learned a great deal and were recognized for their efforts with certificates. Kim Malinowski and Tracie Jones were present to personally accept theirs. It was good to see so delightful many students at the session.

Over refreshments in the Frederick S. DeMarr Library, there was time to meet the distinguished scientists, teachers, young people and fellow Society members. Talking to Dr. Mather, we discovered that, as a youngster, he entered several projects in a school science fair. He was surprised to discover that he had won First, Second, Third and Fourth prizes!

What a grand way to spend an afternoon, was my thought as I drove home. I was very glad that I had attended the meeting. I hope to see you there in October!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July	Event
12 th	Prince George's County Tricentennial Committee, Bob Hall Warehouse, Upper Marlboro, 7:00 PM
17 & 18	"Marching Through Time" Encampment, Marietta - all day both days - call 301-464-5291
24th	PGCHS Board Meeting, 10:00 AM, at Marietta
September	
1st	PGCGenealogical Society Meeting, 7:00 PM Greenbelt Library
25 th	PGCHS Fundraiser, Delay, the Diggs-Sasscer Home, Upper Marlboro
October	
6 th	PGCGenealogical Society Meeting, 7:00 PM. Greenbelt Library
10 th	PGCHS Board Meeting, 10 AM, Marietta PGCHS General Meeting, with the Honorable Gilbert Gude, Marietta, 2:00 PM
21 st	PGCHS Lecture Series Begins
28 th	PGCHS Lecture Series # 2

From the Editor's (Messy) Desk

Summer has come and this is our opportunity to advise you of some of the upcoming events of the Fall as we prepare for our semi-annual hiatus between issues. While we have been very busy in the past year, be advised that we will be even busier and more in need of your support and participation in the year to come.

Example 1- Society events are critical to our purpose and we believe they are very well planned and executed. But sometimes the sparse attendance is discouraging. What we need, I am advised by those in the know, is a Volunteer Cheerleader - someone who will do the publicity for those events - who can reach out and touch someone to convince them to come out and enjoy the Society and its functions. Any interested person is asked to contact the Society or President Joyce McDonald.

Example 2- The Society Gift Shop, one of the mainstays of our operation, is in need of volunteers to staff from Noon to 4 PM on Saturdays. Volunteers are trained and assisted and are rewarded with a 10% discount on any merchandise they decide to buy! Great Deals Abound, but You Are Needed!

Example 3- I have it on the best authority (Warren "Dusty" Rhoads and Joyce McDonald) that the Fall Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, September 25, 1993 at "Delay", also known as the Digges-Sasscer House. This excellent example of Greek Revival town home has actually evolved from its earliest beginnings in the late 18th Century. Home to generations of attorneys who centered their practices on Upper Marlboro as the County Seat, this promises to be a wonderful locale for our annual fundraiser.

Look for your invitations shortly and send in your reservations early! Wallis Cain is coordinating the planning for this event.

Example 4- Dusty Rhoads also advises that he has begun the preparations for the Fall Bus Tour. Two properties chosen for the tour so far are Homewood and Evergreen, both in Baltimore. More details will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars for October 23. As usual, the bus will depart Marietta at 8:15 AM.

Example 5- On July 17 and 18, 1993, Marietta will be under siege - and the Library will be closed. Marietta will be the scene of "Marching Through Time," a Multi-Period Living History Encampment, where one might greet a Roman or Viking Warrior over his weaponry; discuss royal versus roundhead with a 17th century English Civil War participant; follow the rebels as they prepare to toss the Redcoats into the Sea circa 1780; discuss the Blue and the Grey with Civil War participants; or learn why you couldn't keep American doughboys on the farm after they'd seen Pate in 1918. Admission is a modest \$4 for adults and \$2 for students aged 5 to 12. Presented by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, proceeds will go to the Marietta Preservation and Restoration fund.

Example 6- The Prince George's County Tricentennial Celebration Trust having been duly incorporated, our citizens' effort to plan for 1996 proceeds. We now have a draft logo which is being finalized, have several identified county-wide events that we know of, and have identified a number of groups that promise to sponsor specific activities. Our next step is to issue a letter to 1200 organizations seeking their input and support of this effort. On the County

Government front, several members of the Council have named their representatives to the County Commission and those nominations have been (I am told) submitted to County Executive Parris Glendening for his action and for him to add his nominees. As one appointee, I hope that the Commission can get organized and begin its work by Fall. The next meeting of the citizens' group, so ably Chaired by Society Vice President John Mitchell, will be held at 7:00 PM on July 12 at the Bob Hall Warehouse, Upper Marlboro. Please join us.

Example 7- The Society will have its 1993 Fall Lecture Series beginning in October. While plans are not fully finalized, you may expect one lecture to center on Greenbelt and take place in the Greenbelt Museum. Another lecture will likely involve ghosts.

Your humble editor apologizes for two errors in the last edition. Having finally learned that Board Meetings take place, generally, on the Second Saturday, I erroneously reported that the June meeting would be Saturday, June 12. It was held on Thursday, June 10. And second, a personal apology to Wallis Cain, who has not been listed on the Board list on the front of News and Notes. I certainly regret the oversight. I would point out that there are portions of this monthly that I do not have to redo, and therefore seldom review - computers are both our slaves and our masters, I am afraid.

I am advised that our President has, on behalf of the Society, accepted and turned over to Treasurer Jack Bourne, a contribution of \$250 to further our cause. Thank you Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company for this gift.

Have a wonderful summer and think of Dick and Sarah Bourne as they take up summer residence at Kiplin Hall in Yorkshire!

WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Prince George's County Commission for Women and the Prince George's County Government are jointly sponsoring a special history book project, with a primary objective of developing a lasting written chronicle honoring generations of Women of Achievement in the County. The book, we are told, is scheduled for publication in March, 1994 (Women's History Month).

Where do we come in? Well, we can (and I hope will) nominate the ladies who will share in this honor. The CRITERIA states:

Women living and deceased are eligible to be nominated as "Women of Achievement". Accomplishments and contributions can be in such fields as the arts, business, civic activism, education, government, human rights, law, medicine, parenting, politics, religion, volunteerism, or some other field of significant personal or professional endeavor.

All nominees must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- * The Candidate must be

- *a native born Prince Georgian with a minimum of ten years residency in the County, OR

- *a County resident for a minimum of ten years, OR

- *if deceased, she must have lived in the County for a minimum of ten years.

- * The candidate's activities should reflect leadership abilities and a strong and demonstrative interest in her family, community and/or the County.

* The Candidate must demonstrate personal or professional progress in her chosen field of endeavor.

* The Candidate must be shown to have made exemplary contributions to her community and to Prince George's County.

Multiple nominations are permissible (I would encourage you to nominate more than one). The deadline is September 15, 1993. For further information and nomination forms, contact Therese Yewell, Project Coordinator, at 301-952-4813.

Reflections from the Revolution

Writing from Bladensburg to His Excellency, Governor Thomas Sim Lee, Esquire on April 17, 1781, Lieutenant Joshua Beall reported as follows:

It is with pleasure that I can assure (sic) your Excellency & Honors that the Militia of the County turned out not with spirit & alacrity (sic) - - - ; inclosed is a list of those brave men who attacked the enemy's boats under the muskets (sic) of the cannon of their shipping & secured one of their boats and crew out of three that landed- - - ,

Lt. Osborn Williams

Ensign J. Queen

Brigade Major (acting) John Oakley

Guide Henry Lyles

Joseph Cross (of Thomas) 'high worthy of the esteem of every brave man'

Privates: Isaac Duckett, Samuel Wheeler, Richard Burgess (volunteer), Zachariah Moore, Walter Williams, Thomas Sansbury, Henry Hilleary, Richard Hill, Thomas Holly, James Perry, Jun., James Buckman, Benjamin Sansbury, William Shaw, Benjamin Oden, Henry Onions,

Aaron Beall, James Wood, Waring Bell, William Turner, John Sansbury, James Wilson, John Magill, John Tyler, James Tate, Robert Lanham, Benjamin Fowler, Thomas Bennett, Joseph Gordon.

Lt. Beall would have undoubtedly been deeply concerned had he realized that a scant thirty-three years later some of these same "brave men" of the County Militia would be again confronting a British landing force; this time at the Battle of Bladensburg (August 14, 1814). He would be further concerned that such action would earn the shallow scorn of today's historians because that later effort was to end in defeat, inevitable as it was under the circumstances.

The lengthy report of this fascinating account from the Revolution details that the event occurred on the preceding Friday off Mr. Digges (sic) Point (vicinity of today's Fort Washington). It was the Lieutenant's stated opinion that the "want of some field pieces and persons who could have managed them well" was all that precluded the destruction of the English flotilla, which immediately withdrew after the incident.

It is conceivable that this opinion may have been a contributing factor to the later selection of that locale for the site of Fort Washington. It is also interesting to note that the British landing at Fort Washington in the subsequent War of 1812 was unopposed presumably because all available militia forces were being marshalled for the ill-fated stand at Bladensburg.

From News and Notes, July 1974, by Paul T. Lanham.

Prince George's County Historical Society

Publications Order List

___ Prince George's County: A Pictorial History, by Alan Virta \$29.95 plus tax \$1.50 plus \$2.00 s&h

___ Calvert of Maryland \$6.95 (tax incl) plus \$0.55 s&h

___ Atlas of Prince George's County \$5.00 plus \$0.25 tax, plus \$0.50 s&h

___ Chesapeake Bay of Yore \$25.00 plus tax \$1.25 plus \$1.00 s&h

___ Lanham Centennial \$4.00 plus tax \$0.20 plus \$0.55 s&h

___ Berwyn Heights \$3.00 plus tax \$0.15 plus \$0.35 s&h

___ Gabriel Duvall Biography \$1.00 plus tax \$0.05 plus \$0.35 s&h

___ Fire Call \$5.00 plus tax \$0.25 plus \$1.00 s&h

___ History of Beltsville \$4.00 plus tax \$0.20 plus \$0.55 s&h

Please forward the above checked publications. Full payment (Payable to PGCHS) enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____, State _____

ZIP _____

Daytime Tel. ____-____-____

The Society Thanks You For Your Order

Prince George's County Historical Society

Annual Membership Application

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone - Home _____

Business _____

Please indicate whether this is a New Membership or a Renewal:

___ New ___ Renewal

Check below for Category You Wish

___ Full Time Student \$10.00

___ Member 20.00

___ Life Member 200.00

___ Sustaining 50.00

___ Additional Contribution Enclosed \$ _____

___ I am also interested in helping the Society as a volunteer. Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.

___ I would also like to join the Maryland Historical Society. I am enclosing \$25.00 for an individual membership or \$35.00 for husband and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues and contributions. All contributions qualify for tax deduction. We appreciate your continued support.

Make Checks Payable to PGCHS and Mail Check and Application Form to:

Prince George's County Historical Society

Post Office Box 14

Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

Hours of Operation

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 P.M.

Gift Shop: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM and during Special Events.

Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration

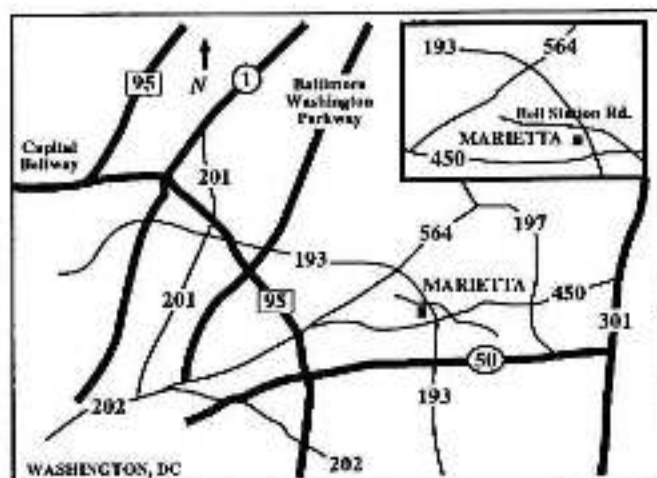
Information - (301) 464-0590

The Gift Shop

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

Location of the Society

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193 near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



Prince George's County Historical Society

Post Office Box 14

Riverdale, Maryland 20738-0014

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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 1993

FOUNDED 1952 - OUR 41ST YEAR

VOL XXI, NO. 7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1993

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SUSANNA KYNER CRISTOFANE

1903 - 1993

Our good friend and colleague Susanna K. Cristofane passed away on July 16, 1993, in her beloved home, Bostwick, where she had lived for all but a few months of her ninety years. From Lowndes Hill in Bladensburg she had not been a mere observer of the local scene, but rather was an actor on the Prince George's County stage for the bulk of the 20th century.

The Prince George's County Historical Society remembers Susanna as one of the 12 Founding Members in 1952 - serving as our first Historian and as a member of the Board of Directors over the years. At her death, she was still serving as a Director Emeritus, in honor of her work with the Society. Her interest in matters involving our heritage was evident in the Bladensburg Historical Society, which preceded the County Society by about two decades. Before Historic Preservation became a matter of public policy, Susanna and Felix Cristofane restored Bladensburg's Market Master's House, which was in danger of destruction. With the able leadership of her long-time friend, the late Sarah Walton, Susanna helped to enlist the aid of Millard Charlton and Associates in the restoration and reclamation of the Hilleary-Magruder House, also in Bladensburg. And her encouragement and guidance provided invaluable help to the Prince George's Jaycees on the George Washington House restoration.

IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 13, 1993 - TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, BOB HALL WAREHOUSE, UPPER MARLBORO, 7:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 11, 1993 - PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA, 10:00 AM

SEPTEMBER 25, 1993 - PGCHS FUNDRAISER, DELAY, UPPER MARLBORO, 2:00 PM

Susanna's service to the community was not limited to matters historical. She served for several years on the Bladensburg Town Council and was a two term mayor of Bladensburg. In addition, she assumed leadership roles in the Municipal Leagues at both the county and state levels.

In a sense, it is impossible to recall her many efforts in a brief remembrance such as this, because there were so many activities spread out over such a long period of time. Flood control -- the Washington Evening Star newspaper's cup for civic endeavor -- Bladensburg's Bicentennial in 1942 -- one of the first recipients of the St. George's Day Award in 1974 -- an original director of both Prince George's Heritage and the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust -- Beautification -- county tax rebates to towns for services rendered by them -- the Committee which drafted the original Historic Preservation Ordinance. And the list goes on.

All of these achievements were possible because of the personality of the individual -- a cheerful, friendly person who was genuinely interested in people and the community in which they lived. Glad-handing, a picture in the newspapers, higher office and economic gain were not part of Susanna's agenda. When a worthy goal was identified, she worked with everyone to achieve a desirable end. And, in reaching out, she touched the lives of so many of us -- for which we are thankful.

Although Susanna is gone from us, her spirit remains in the form of her good works and the many stories of her as a person, which are now part of our history.

AVE ET VALE!

Fred S. DeMarr

Editor's Note:

Susanna is survived by her daughter, Suzanne C. Yaman, who is following in her mother's footsteps, and son-in-law, Tim Yaman. The Society and Prince George's Heritage have established funds in memory of Susanna and contributions are welcome.

PISCATAWAY DAY - SEPT 25

The second annual Piscataway Day historic heritage celebration will be held on Saturday, September 25, from 10:00AM to 3:00PM in historic Piscataway at the intersection of Piscataway and Floral Park Roads, across from St. Mary's Church, in southern Prince George's County. The celebration will feature Piscataway and Prince George's County historic displays, colonial artisan demonstrations and crafts. Piscataway Day is sponsored by the Piscataway Citizen's Association and admission is free. For additional information call 301-292-1993. Go early so you can join the Society that afternoon at the Society's annual Fundraiser in Upper Marlboro.

FLEA MARKETS AT HISTORIC COLLEGE PARK AIRPORT

The College Park Airport Museum is hosting a series of flea markets to support the publication of the book Field of Firsts: A History of College Park Airport. The flea markets are held on the first and third Saturdays through October from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Airport, on Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, off Calvert Road (remember that you must enter Calvert Road from Kenilworth Ave. to reach the Airport). Vendor fee is \$10. Call 301-864-5844 for additional information.

The book, which is being published on behalf of the Museum, will illustrate the achievements of the nation's oldest continuously operating airport, which paid host to one of the Wright Brothers and a host of air pioneers. Sales of the book, when published, will help fund the new College Park Airport Aviation Museum, which is now in design and which will house exhibits portraying the aviation history of Prince George's County and Maryland, as well as highlighting the fascinating history of the Airport itself.

BOARD MEETING ACTIONS

At the July 24, 1993 meeting of the Board of the Prince George's Historical Society, the Board discussed several items of possible interest to our members.

Membership is down from prior year totals. Whether this is due to people moving away from the area or a declining interest in our events, we do not know. But, we are concerned that a 10 percent loss in overall membership negatively affects our ability to continue to meet the needs of the members and to continue to preserve the history of our great County. Each of us, as members, has a duty to ensure that we promote the Society and get others to join with us. As you know, membership brings with it the News and Notes, monthly meetings at which prominent speakers bring forth interesting topics, events such as the bus trips, the annual St. George's Day Awards, the Skarda Awards and Fall Fundraiser, the incomparable Fred S. DeMarr Library at Marietta, and the Gift Shop. Bring a new member to the Society, you will have made a major contribution to our well being and future success.

Work continues on Marietta and is on schedule, although there are some problems developing in matching the exterior brick work. The Marching Through Time historical encampment was very successful, both for the Park and Planning department and for the Gift Shop, which sold \$900 worth of items. The Board, after congratulating Facility Manager Susan Wolfe, voted that additional encampments are appropriate uses for Marietta.

The 1994 SKARDA Award Proposal was presented. Students will research and prepare a project either on an historic house of worship - existing or lost (church, temple or meetinghouse); or on an historic public building (courthouse, townhall, municipal building, firehouse, police station) in the County which predates 1940. The program

will receive wider attention this year since the Director of Instruction of the School system will be directly involved in getting word out to the teachers.

Jim Wolfe, who has coordinated the program for some time, has come up with a four year cycle of themes so that different themes would be presented as a child progresses from the 4th through the 7th grades. 1994 is as stated above. 1995 would concentrate on historic houses or business sites, 1996 would depart from the usual theme (the history of communities and public monuments, memorials, statues, and fraternal organization buildings) and concentrate on our 300th birthday celebration. 1997 would be, as 1993 was, about schools or the persons for whom a school is named. Topics would be repeated again beginning in 1998. The Board approved this proposal.

Funds for the restoration of the Root Cellar at Marietta have been approved by the M-NCPPC for 1994. Since there is a State Historic Easement on the Root Cellar, the Maryland Historical Trust will be involved in this project from the beginning.

The final draft of the National Register nomination is being submitted to the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission for its approval, before going to the State Historic Preservation Officer in October.

FALL EVENTS SET

Look closely at the Calendar in this issue. September, October and November have already become crowded.

First we have the County Fair - one of the oldest in the Nation, the Fair runs from Sunday, September 5 through Sunday, September 12.

On September 13, at 7:00 pm, at the Bob Hall Warehouse in Upper Marlboro, you should join us for the 300th Celebration Committee meeting.

Next is the Fall Fund Raiser, which will be at Delay, the Digges-Sasscer House in Upper Marlboro, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm on Saturday, September 25, 1993. Invitations are on the way, if you have not already received them.

In October, the Society's regular membership meetings begin again, with former Congressman, the Honorable Gilbert Gude speaking on his work in saving the Potomac River. The meeting is the second Saturday in October, the 9th, at 2:00 PM.

October 23 is the date for the 1993 Fall Bus Tour, leaving at 8:45 AM from Marietta. See separate article and coupon on which to register and select your luncheon choice.

November 13 will again be time for a Membership meeting, at which Robert Truax, a Society member, will reprise his speech to the Columbia Historical Society on Washington and Suburban Streetcars. Again, the meeting is at 2:00 PM on Saturday, November 13.

300 YEARS AT HOME IN HISTORY

The above is the theme concept for the Tricentennial celebration. The Society is funding the initial outreach activity, and has mailed nearly 1200 invitations to County groups, seeking input and development of a number of willing workers. The next meeting of the Tricentennial Committee will be September 13, 1993, at 7:00 PM at the Bob Hall Warehouse on Route 301 (behind the new Giant at the intersection with Route 4). Come and join the growing number of people who are participating. One item we are developing, under the careful eye of Mrs. Ivan Rainwater, is a County Cookbook. See the request for recipes



FROM THE BOOKSHELF

by Sharon Howe Sweeting

The dust jacket proclaims:

"At home with the Presidents is a book for lovers of historic architecture, for history buffs, and for anyone intrigued with 'presidential' style. Thoroughly researched and illustrated with more than one hundred photographs and drawings, At Home with the Presidents offers fascinating, richly detailed glimpses into the houses, and the households, of America's presidents."

This claim is not mere hyperbole for the historicity and pedigree are evident even in the preliminary pages. The Contents table, divided into Four parts is a mini-history lesson in itself. Part One is entitled "Lords of the Manor" and features The First Family of Washington; Fathers and Sons, the Adamses; The Architect of Democracy Jefferson; and, the Virginians Madison and Monroe. Part Two is called "Be it ever so Humble" and includes The Common Men, Jackson, Van Buren and Harrison; the Manifest Destinies of Tyler, Pierce and Buchanan; Lincoln's "Voice from the Wilderness"; and the Reconstruction of Johnson and Grant. Part Three represents "Main Street" or the Lost Americans Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur; the Gilded Age of

Cleveland and Harrison; the Front Porch and the Bully Pulpit of McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt; the Ivory Towers of Taft and Wilson; and, the Houses of Cards of Harding and Coolidge. Part Four highlights "Mobile Homes" or the Hard Times of Hoover and FDR; the Middle America of Truman and Eisenhower; the Great Expectations of Kennedy and LBJ; the Multiple Listings of Nixon and Ford; and finally, The Preacher and the Star or Carter and Reagan. Alas, the volume published in 1988 by The Overlook Press, does not include the last two itinerant Presidents, one with a collection of 'home' states and one with no home at all. It is said by some that the current occupant of the White House has a more realistic view of public housing than most - having lived solely in public housing for so long.

And now for its pedigree. The Foreword is written by the noted Curator of the White House (1968-1986), architectural historian and collector extraordinaire, Mr. Clement Conger. His enchanting essay reflects on his personal, fifty years acquaintance with the White House from an "extra man" in the 1930s, to advising Presidential daughter Margaret Truman with her novel Murder in the White House, to arranging tours for high-level dignitaries as Deputy Chief of Protocol. And yet this volume, authored by Bonnie Blodgett and D.J. Tice, reflects so much more than each President's brief White House stay. Indeed, Washington never lived there at all and several other President's lived there only briefly. This volume encompasses each President's early architectural esthetics, his White House tenure, and in most instances, his household after his service to the nation.

Blodgett, Bonnie and D.J. Tice. AT HOME WITH THE PRESIDENTS. Woodstock, New York: The Overlook Press, 1988. \$29.95 at local bookstores and libraries.



FROM THE EDITOR'S MESSY DESK

As many of you know, there is a tendency on the part of our elected officials to lump all who are committed to preserving the heritage of the County and, consequently, often write or address the Council in person on various issues into one 'convenient' label - "The Historical Society is at it again!" is one of the things we hear. Speaking as one who is often involved in this effort, I think it is incumbent upon me to try to set the record straight.

There are a number of groups, both local, state and county-wide, that are involved in the effort to educate the residents of Prince George's County and, especially, our elected officials, as to the importance of preserving the few remaining evidences of our glorious (and sometimes inglorious) past. I will, as time permits, bring to the fore a statement of past and purpose from those groups so that you, our readers, can delineate between the Historical Society and the other organizations whose members (many of whom are shared) try to carry on this noble work. This month, I would like to introduce you to Prince George's Heritage,

Inc. In ensuing months, I will discuss the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust; the Prince George's County Preservation Commission; the Maryland Historical Trust; Preservation Maryland; The Prince George's County Genealogical Society, Inc.; the Descendants of Marion DuVal; the History Division of the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission; and other local organizations. I should point out that I am a member of about half of the organizations and serve on the Boards of five local, county and state organizations. In any event, leave it that the Prince George's County Historical Society, while committed to the preservation of our County's heritage, is NOT the major force in the lobbying efforts that take place with respect to the County Council, the State Legislature and others. Now, for some background on Prince George's Heritage.

PRINCE GEORGE'S HERITAGE

Prince George's Heritage, Inc. (Heritage) is a non-profit corporation dedicated to historic preservation in all of its facets within historic Prince George's County. Originally established as the County representative of the State of Maryland's Historic Trust, the organization has continued in that role as it has been redesigned and evolved over the years. Beginning in the 1970s, Prince George's Heritage expanded its role and was incorporated. The restoration of the Magruder House, in Bladensburg, was a turning point in the group's history. Prince George's Heritage is a leader in preservation activities in the County and is recognized for its activism. Its programs include:

GRANTS: Under a charter from the State Historic Trust, Heritage is authorized to make small grants (not to exceed \$1,000). Grants have been given for specific restoration projects on historic resources, public (e.g. Calvert Mansion) and private (e.g. Shepherd-Sibley House) in the County. In addition, support for authors,

museums and local groups has enabled them to complete publications (e.g. Landmarks of Prince George's County) or conduct events of interest to historians and preservationists (e.g. Preservation Week and Prince George's County Fair activities). **ADVOCACY:** Through the direct efforts of its members and its participation in the County-wide Council of Preservation Organizations, Prince George's Heritage ensures that the importance of protecting our cultural heritage, especially as evidenced by the buildings protected under the County Historic Sites and Districts Plan, is communicated to all segments of society, and especially to the County's political leaders. As a founding member of the Maryland Heritage Alliance, Heritage also provides similar action at the State level. Heritage is also a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Forum. **PUBLIC OUTREACH:** In the past several years, Heritage has participated in, sponsored or co-sponsored the Riversdale Conference, and seminars on Alternative Sidings, Care of Historic Fabrics, Window Restoration and Weatherization and Structural Repair. Funding has also been provided to educate educators on the treasures of Prince George's County. **MARGARET COOK AWARD:** Margaret Cook was one of the founders of Prince George's Heritage and a moving force behind its activities for a number of years. Shortly after her untimely death in 1988, Heritage provided funding for a fellowship award at the University of Maryland in her memory. The annual award is made to a participant in the Graduate Certificate Program in Historic Preservation based on a juried paper. And, lastly, **HISTORIC PRESERVATION EASEMENTS:** There are fourteen properties in Prince George's County on which the Maryland Historic Trust holds perpetual easements based on the historical importance of the property. Heritage assists the State by conducting annual monitoring reviews at each of the properties where they do not have a direct interest, such as The Magruder House, which Heritage owns and which serves as its

headquarters.

MAGRUDER HOUSE - HOME OF PRINCE GEORGE'S HERITAGE, INC.

In 1743 William Hilleary purchased Lot 32 from the Bladensburg Town Commissioners. The Town Record Book in 1746 states that Hilleary in building his house had complied with the law which required a minimum of 400 square feet and a masonry chimney. In 1764, Hilleary sold the property to Richard Henderson who was a prominent merchant and land speculator and had served as a County Justice. George Washington, in his diary of May 9, 1787, stated that he dined at Richard Henderson's in Bladensburg. Henderson and David Ross were business partners in the Frederick Forge on Antietam Creek and also brothers-in-law, having married sisters, the daughters of John Brice, the Chief Justice of the Province.

Richard Henderson sold his property, consisting of Lots 32, 33, and 34, to his nephew, Dr. David Ross, Jr., in 1793 and he termed the dwelling on Lot 32 his "... mansion house..." David Ross was listed as both occupant and owner in the 1798 Federal District Tax record and the property is described in the particular List of Dwelling Houses as lots 32 and 33 in Bladensburg.

In August of 1814 the invading British troops passed this house on their way to the Battle of Bladensburg. Oral tradition, as yet unverified, maintains that the only American civilian resistance offered at Bladensburg came from this house. Later that day, after the battle, the house was used as a hospital for the wounded troops.

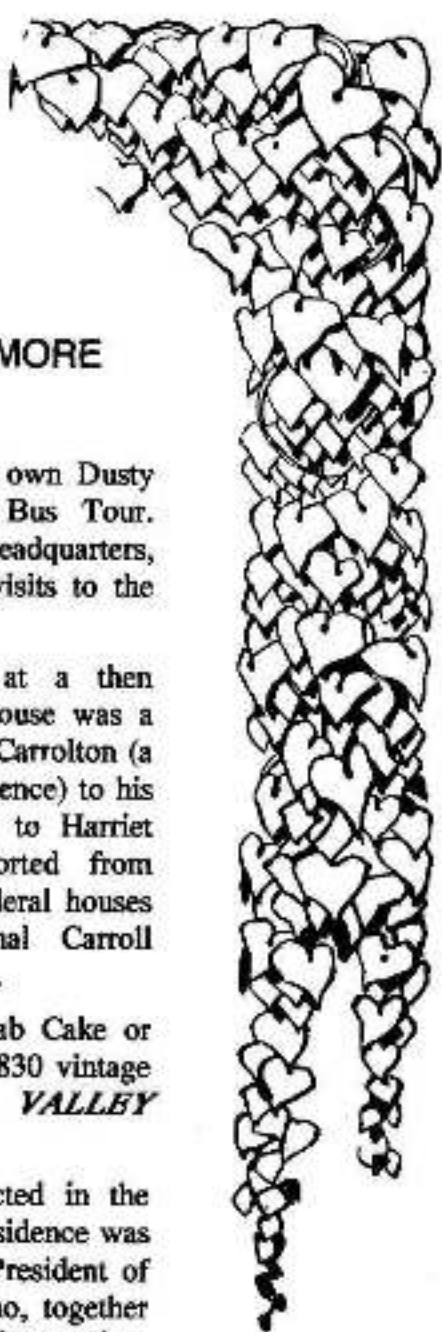

Owners or occupants during the nineteenth century included other prominent Prince Georgians: Dr. Alexander Mitchell, Leonard J. Deakins, Christopher C. Hyatt (Founder of Hyattsville), Dr. Benjamin Day (a renter during much of the nineteenth century), Dr. William Draine and Dr. Archibald Magruder.

The property was bought by the Maryland State Roads Commission in 1954 as part of the Route 201 project (Kenilworth Avenue), an elevated highway cut through the town of Bladensburg. The State Roads Commission, now the State Highway Administration, leased the steadily deteriorating property as an "antique" shop until 1979. In recognition of its historical and architectural significance the property was conveyed to Prince George's Heritage, Inc., by the State of Maryland in March of 1979.

Restoration and adaptation as offices occurred in 1982 with minimal changes to the historic fabric and character. The building is served with modern utilities, including heat and central air-conditioning, toilet facilities and on-site parking. The lower level opens onto a pleasant backyard and is accessible to the handicapped. The property, located at 4703 Annapolis Road, is on long-term lease to the certified public accounting firm of Millard T. Charlton and Associates.



Magruder House



enclosed herewith.

FALL BUS TOUR - BALTIMORE COUNTY SITES

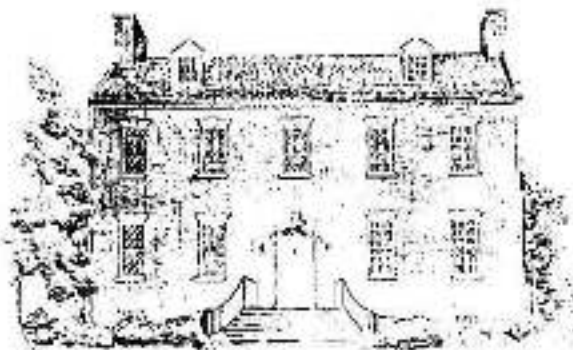
On October 23, 1993, the Society's own Dusty Rhoads will again lead the Fall Bus Tour. Leaving from Marietta, the Society Headquarters, at 8:45 AM, the Tour will feature visits to the following sites:

HOMEWOOD - Built in 1801 at a then astronomical cost of \$40,000, this house was a wedding gift from Charles Carroll of Carrollton (a Signer of the Declaration of Independence) to his son Charles, Jr. upon his marriage to Harriet Chew. Constructed of brick imported from England, this is one of the finest Federal houses in America. Many of the original Carroll furnishings may be found in the house.

Lunch, with a choice of Broiled Crab Cake or Chicken A La King, will be at the 1830 vintage Greystone building now called the ***VALLEY INN***.

EVERGREEN - Originally constructed in the 1850s as a twelve room house, this residence was purchased in 1878 by John Garrett, President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, who, together with his heirs, enlarged the house a bit at a time through the 1920s and today it stands as a 48 room mansion. You will see a collection of over 10,000 books, a theater, a carriage house and artifacts from Ambassador John Work Garrett's collection amassed during his and his wife, Alice's world travels.

This promises to be a delightful day out and we strongly suggest that you make your reservations as soon as possible. The deadline is October 16.



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland

Headquarters of the Prince George's County Historical Society

1993-FALL TOUR-1993

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23rd

A VISIT TO PAST ELEGANCE

Tour HOMEWOOD-Built in 1801 at a cost of \$40,000 by Charles Carroll of Carrollton (signer of the Declaration of Independence) as a wedding gift for his son Charles Jr. & Harriet Chew.

Constructed of brick brought from England, it is one of the finest Federal Houses in America and displays many of the Carroll family original furnishings.

Luncheon at the VALLEY INN (Greystone building of 1830 vintage)
SEE BELOW FOR FOOD SELECTION

Tour EVERGREEN-The 12 room house that grew into a 48 room mansion. Built in the 1850s by the Broadbent family, it was purchased in 1878 by John Garrett, president of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. Enlarged thru two generations of the Garrett family from the 1880s to the 1920s, it now houses over 10,000 volumes of rare books, a private theater, a carriage house and artifacts collected from around the world by Ambassador John Work Garrett & his wife Alice.

The price of \$32.50 per person includes all entrance fees, transportation and luncheon

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

LEAVE FROM "MARIETTA" SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS
5626 BELL STATION ROAD PROMPTLY AT 8:45

DEADLINE OCTOBER 16th

Luncheon selection and name/names

BROILED CRAB CAKE.....

CHICKEN A LA KING.....

Please make checks payable to: Prince Georges
County Historical Society

Mail to Warren Rhoads, 12501 Kemmerton Lane
Bowie, Maryland 20715

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER, 1993

1ST - PG COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY, 7:00 PM

11th - PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA, 10:00 AM

13TH - 300 TH CELEBRATION COMMITTEE MEETING, BOB HALL WAREHOUSE, UPPER MARLBORO, 7:00 PM

25TH - PGCHS FALL FUNDRAISER, 'DELAY' THE DIGGES-SASSCER HOME, UPPER MARLBORO, 2:00 TO 5:00 PM

OCTOBER, 1993

6TH - PGCGENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY, 7:00 PM

9TH - PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA, 10:00 AM

9TH - PGCHS GENERAL MEETING, WITH THE HONORABLE GILBERT GUDE, 2:00 PM AT MARIETTA

21ST - PGCHS FALL LECTURE SERIES - FIRST LECTURE

28TH - PGCHS LECTURE SERIES - SECOND LECTURE

NOVEMBER, 1993

13TH - PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA, 10:00 AM

13TH - PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING, ROBERT TRUAX ON WASHINGTON AND SUBURBAN STREETCARS, MARIETTA, 2:00 PM

DECEMBER, 1993

11TH - PGCHS CHRISTMAS GALA, RIVERSDALE

TRICENTENNIAL COOK BOOK

In 1996 Prince George's County will celebrate its Tricentennial. In honor of this celebration we are preparing a new cook book of favorite recipes of Prince Georgians and their friends. The book is to contain 250 to 300 recipes in the following categories: Appetizers, pickles, relishes; Soups, salads, dressings & sauces; Main dish, meat, fish, poultry; Main dish, eggs, cheese, pasta & casseroles; Vegetables; Breads, rolls, pies, pastries; Cakes, cookies, icings; Desserts; Candy, jelly, jam, preserves; Beverages and Miscellaneous. The books will be spiral bound. The full-color cover will carry the Tricentennial logo.

A form is provided for your convenience. Because all recipes are to be separated into categories, write legibly or type each on a separate sheet or on photocopies of this sheet.

Please mail or turn in to Mrs. H Ivan Rainwater, 2803 Liberty Place, Bowie, Maryland 20715-2348.

Category _____ Name of item _____

Measurement	Ingredients	Measurement	Ingredients
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Directions: _____

Submitted by: _____

PRINT exact name to be used in cook book

If recipe is continued, mark "over." Use separate sheet for additional recipes.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Sundays 12 - 4 PM and during Special Events

Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration

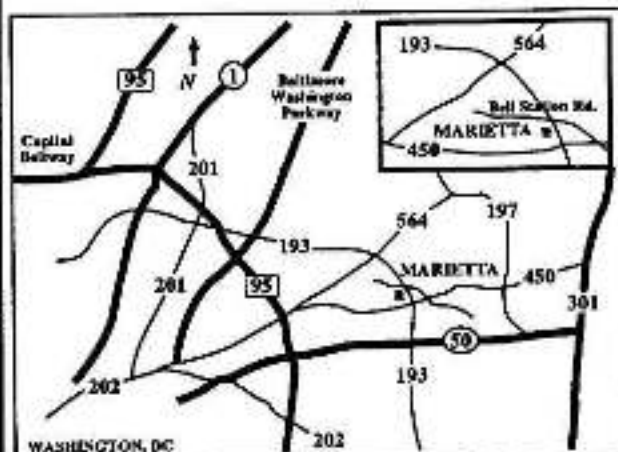
Information - (301) 464-0590

THE GIFT SHOP

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193, near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER, 1993

OUR 41ST YEAR

VOLUME XX/NUMBER 8

FALL LECTURE SERIES SCHEDULED

Society President Joyce McDonald announced the schedule for the Society's Fall 1993 Lecture Series, which is again co-sponsored by the Prince George's County Community College. The Series includes a lecture on Ornamental Plaster - The Italian Influence by Past President John Giannetti, to be held at his workshop in Brentwood; History Mysteries and Ghostly Tales by Joan Chaconas, Facility Aide at Surratt House and former President of the Surratt Society, to be held at Marietta; Mary Linstrom and Friends of the Greenbelt Museum will discuss Greenbelt, at the Greenbelt Public Library; and Chris Wagnon, M-NCPPC naturalist and stoneware collector, will lecture on Storing the Harvest - 19th Century American Stoneware Containers. With such a varied and interesting group of lectures, this promises to be a worthwhile series. Dates and times are shown on the calendar. Call 301-464-5290 to register in advance or just show up. The lectures are priced at \$12 each, \$10 for members of the Society. The entire series may be subscribed for at \$36 (\$30 for members). Light refreshments will be served.

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

OCTOBER 9 PGCHS BOARD MEETING, 10:00AM AT MARIETTA
OCTOBER 9 PGCHS REGULAR MEETING, 2:00PM AT MARIETTA
OCTOBER 21 FALL LECTURE SERIES, 6:30PM AT GIANNETTI STUDIOS,
OCTOBER 23 FALL BUS TOUR, LEAVES 8:45AM, FROM MARIETTA
OCTOBER 28, FALL LECTURE SERIES, 6:30PM AT MARIETTA

SOCIETY BOARD ELECTIONS

The November Meeting, to be held at the regular time of 2:00 PM, Saturday, November 13, 1993, at the DeMarr Library, Marietta, will, in addition to our speaker, Robert Truax, a Society member, who will speak on Washington and Suburban Streetcars, be devoted to our annual election of Officers and Directors. Three Directors, Jane Eagen, Edith Bagot and Anne Ferguson, are reaching the end of their current terms. Directors Wallis Cain and Eugene Roberts will continue to serve their terms until 1994. Director Cheryl Adams, another Director elected in 1992 to a two year term, has resigned and will be replaced by appointment of the Board of a person to fill that position for the remainder of Ms. Adams' term. The Board is pleased to announce that Florence Reidesel has accepted the appointment.

The Nominating Committee, headed by Secretary Sarah Bourne, would like member's input for consideration by the Board for any of the open officer positions and for the Board of Director vacancies. Please call Sarah at 301-277-5468.



Thank You

FROM FAIRFAX STATION TO POINT LOOKOUT

The Society begins the fall season on Saturday, October 9, 1993, with a journey down the Potomac River, with **The Honorable Gilbert Gude** as our guide.

Mr. Gude is known to most of us as a former Representative to Congress from Montgomery County. Since leaving that position, he has been the Executive Director of the Potomac River Basin Consortium, concerned not only with the environment, but also the history and peoples from West Virginia to the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Gude will lead us down the river from the headwaters at Fairfax Station, West Virginia, to Point Lookout where the river joins the Bay.

The meeting will be in the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History at Marietta at 2:00 PM.

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU!

At their last meeting, the Board of Directors reluctantly accepted the resignation of **Director Cheryl Adams**. As most of our readers know, Cheryl and Blaine moved into a lovely new waterfront home on the Patuxent River several years ago.

Cheryl continued her very active role in the Society and on the Society Board as she put down new roots in her new home. While we are sad to lose such a charming and capable woman, we know that Calvert County will happily enjoy Cheryl's talents for many years to come. Cheryl and Blaine have also made the move from the Prince George's School system to Calvert County Schools, further cementing their ties in our neighboring county to the south.

Cheryl has left a permanent mark on the Library of County History with her efforts to begin the cataloguing and computerization of Fred DeMarr's extensive collection of books and papers. We thank you Cheryl, for your hours of hard work and for your delightful company. Our very best wishes go with you and we hope to see both you and Blaine at a Society event very soon.

ANOTHER MILITARY ASSAULT ON MARIETTA

Susan Wolfe, Facility Manager, reports that the July "Marching Through Time" encampment was so successful for the participants that additional encampments are planned. The first will take place the weekend of October 2 and 3. **The 20th Legion, Soldiers of Ancient Rome**, who participated in the July event,

will return to Marietta and welcome visitors to view their camp and demonstrations of Roman Army life, drill and battle tactics. The small encampment is open for visitors from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on both Saturday and Sunday. There is no admission charge. Further details may be secured by calling 301-464-5291.

Society Membership Report

Treasurer Jack Bourne reports that the Society is pleased to welcome the following new members.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Susan Leonard Bayly
Marye D. Gannett
Dr. and Mrs. John T. Lynn

NEW MEMBERS

John W. Brown
Gladys B. (Mrs. Lansdale G.) Clagett
Katherine B. (Mrs. Hugh) Clagett
Josephine R. Herring
Mr. and Mrs. George J. Kanellos
D. Jane Klemmer
Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle J. Lancaster
Dr. and Mrs. John T. Lynn
Douglas McElrath
William F. and Nancy McDade
Kay and Walter Meinhardt

WELCOME ALL!



TRICENTENNIAL PLANNING CONTINUES

The Society continues very active participation in the planning for the 300th Birthday of Prince George's County. Our Vice President, John Mitchell, continues to chair meetings of a growing Committee, whose mailing list now exceeds 125 names. Each time we meet, new faces from new places provide additional impetus to our efforts. We are advised that the County Government will announce the Members of the Official County Commission at the festivities dedicating the historic wall paper in the Library at Riversdale to be held on November 13, 1993. While we are not at liberty to disclose the names, we are assured that they will represent a cross section of the County and will also be in a position to work very well with the citizens group we have formed.

At the last meeting, we learned of the following specific events being planned in honor of the 300th Birthday.

The **Forest Garden Club** will coordinate the 1996 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, which will be centered exclusively in Prince George's County. That will be sometime in April 1996.

The Prince George's Arts

Council is sponsoring a Poster Contest to take place in 1995, so the winning Poster can be used throughout 1996.

Planning for an anthology of literary efforts by authors in Prince George's County, a literary and poetry contest will be cosponsored by the **Arts Council and Scott Publications**, with a view to publication by June of 1996.

The Arts Council will also sponsor a Festival of the Arts, highlighting both visual and performing artists of the County.

The National History Day takes place at the University of Maryland each year. The County participants in the planning of the 1996 event will ensure that the history of our County is a primary focus of that event and will announce various events leading up to the 1996 History Day over the next two years.

The Oxon Hill Bike Club is considering sponsorship of a 300 mile ride in connection with the Tricentennial.

The Beggar's Opera was the first operatic performance accompanied by live orchestral music to be held in the American Colonies. This took place in 1740 in our own County Seat, Upper Marlboro. **The**

Maryland Opera Society is planning to reprise that performance during 1996.

If you have an event in mind, please let us know by writing to the Tricentennial Committee c/o the Society. We welcome your input.

Subcommittees of the Committee have begun to take over the day to day work of planning the celebration. Warren Rhoads' **Memorabilia Committee's** earliest efforts were highly visible at the County Fair at which a commemorative T Shirt was being sold. Please note, for you collectors of memorabilia, that this is limited edition T Shirt, and that future editions are likely to be significantly different. You may secure one (large or extra large only) by sending \$10 per shirt to the Tricentennial Committee in c/o of the Society, or by dropping into the gift shop at Marietta.

The **Finance Committee**, headed by Bob Crawley and Gordon Wells, has begun the process of determining budget needs and fund raising approaches.

We will continue to keep you updated as these plans develop.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

No, I have not been able to straighten the desk up much, but I feel that change, once in a while, is good. I also should note that the new look to News and Notes comes from my continued foray into the world of computing. I, of necessity, acquired a new printer (my laser died last month just as I was getting the News and Notes out), and I was unsure if it could be fixed, so opted for a color desk jet printer as a possible second printer for use in all of the production I do for various organizations. I

also acquired a new desk top publishing package and am trying it out this month. So, the 'look' of this publication will continue to evolve over the next few months.

Speaking of change, sometimes it is not for the better. I noted with dismay the decision of the County Council, sitting as a District Council, to adopt new zoning for property at Rte. 193 and Bell Station Road, within view of Historic Marietta Mansion (our headquarters) that will allow the development of commercial activities on the site. This matter has been discussed by the County Council since it was first proposed back in the early 1980s. Regardless of the fact that a Citizen's Advisory Commission, the local civic association, the zoning hearing examiner and most observers concluded that there was no change in the needs of the community for commercial establishments in the area (except that there are more now than can serve the population expected to arrive in the area throughout the next ten years) and in contravention of two very strongly worded decisions in the past, the current members of the Council voted to allow commercial zoning. I guess they do not care what the residents think, what the zoning experts feel is appropriate, or what is good

for the community. They seem to kowtow to developers at every turn. Perhaps it is time for the people to insist that zoning be removed from their power and given to a non-elected Zoning Board that cannot 'feather political campaign chests' as a result of their decisions. Certainly, the needs of the County and its residents are not served by planting Golden Arches in the driveway at Marietta.

The Society did take a position on this proposal before the County, as it has in the past. But this situation directly affects our headquarters site, Marietta Mansion, and we have a stake in the outcome. It is not, as one member of the Council so often says - "The Historical Society is at it again!"

I mentioned in the last issue that I feel it is beneficial to the readers of this publication to know more about the organizations in Prince George's County that are involved with the history of the County and the preservation of the extant evidences of our glorious and inglorious past. Last month I highlighted Prince George's Heritage and I have received a number of kind and positive comments about that piece. Therefore, I would now like to introduce you to another organization - the

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER	EVENT
2ND AND 3RD	ROMAN SOLDIERS CAMP AT MARIETTA, 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM EACH DAY
6TH	PGCGENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT PUBLIC LIBRARY 7:00 PM
9TH	PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA, 10:00 AM
9TH	MARIETTA GIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS MEET, MARIETTA, 1:15 PM
9TH	PGCHS GENERAL MEETING, GILBERT GUDE AND A GUIDE TO THE POTOMAC, MARIETTA, 2:00 PM
21ST	PGCHS FALL LECTURE SERIES BEGINS, JOHN GIANNETTI ON ORNAMENTAL PLASTER - THE ITALIAN INFLUENCE, GIANNETTI STUDIOS, BRENTWOOD, 6:30 PM
23RD	PGCHS FALL BUS TOUR, LEAVE MARIETTA, 8:30 AM
28TH	PGCHS FALL LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES, JOAN CHACONAS ON GHOST STORIES, MARIETTA, 6:30 PM
NOVEMBER	
8TH	PGCHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MARIETTA, 4:00 PM (NOTE CHANGE IN DATE AND TIME)
10TH	PGCHS FALL LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES, GREENBELT NEW TOWN, GREENBELT PUBLIC LIBRARY, 6:30 PM
12TH AND 13TH	ANNUAL STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE, LOEW'S ANNAPOLIS HOTEL, ANNAPOLIS, REGISTRATION AT 8:30 AM EACH DAY
13TH	RIVERSDALE DEDICATION OF HISTORIC WALL PAPER, ANNOUNCEMENT OF COUNTY TRICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, 10:00 AM, RIVERSDALE MANSION, RIVERDALE
13TH	PGCHS REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING, ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS, AND ROBERT TRUAX SPEAKS ON URBAN AND SUBURBAN STREETCARS, MARIETTA, 2:00 PM
18TH	PGCHS LECTURE SERIES FINALE, CHRIS WAGNON ON HISTORIC STONEWARE, MARIETTA, 6:30 PM
DECEMBER	
11TH	PGCHS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GALA, RIVERSDALE, 2:00 PM



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland

Headquarters of the Prince George's County Historical Society

1993 - FALL BUS TOUR - 1993

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1993

A VISIT TO PAST ELEGANCE

Tour **HOMEWOOD** - Built in 1801 at a cost of \$40,000 by Charles Carroll of Carrollton (signer of the Declaration of Independence) as a wedding gift for his son Charles Jr. and Harriet Chew, **HOMEWOOD** is constructed of brick brought from England. It is considered one of the finest Federal Period houses in America and displays many of the Carroll family original furnishings.

Luncheon at the **VALLEY INN** (Greystone building of 1830s vintage).

SEE BELOW FOR FOOD SELECTION

Tour **EVERGREEN** - The 12 room house that grew into a 48 room mansion. Built in the 1850s by the Broadbent family, **EVERGREEN** was purchased by John Garrett, President of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. Enlarged through two generations of the Garrett family from the 1880s to the 1920s, **EVERGREEN** now houses over 10,000 volumes of rare books, a private theater, a carriage house and artifacts collected from around the world by Ambassador John Work Garrett and his wife Alice.

The price of \$32.50 per person includes all entrance fees, transportation and luncheon.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

LEAVE FROM MARIETTA - SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS

5626 BELL STATION ROAD PROMPTLY AT 8:45 AM

DEADLINE OCTOBER 16TH

Luncheon selection and name/names

BROILED CRAB CAKE _____

CHICKEN A LA KING _____

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO PRINCE GEORGE'S
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Mail to Warren Rhoads, 12501 Kemmerton Lane
Bowie, MD 20715**

CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission.

THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission was created 11 years ago when the County adopted the Historic Sites and Districts Plan. This Plan, which is a zoning statute authorized promoted under State of Maryland statutes, established the initial list of Historic Sites in the County and provided both incentives and disincentives to protection of those properties by their owners. The Historic Preservation Commission (Commission) was formed to oversee the plan and to ensure that property owners are aware of their responsibilities and of the benefits accorded owners of sights designated as Historic under the Plan.

Commissioners are appointed by the County Executive from names submitted by a number of organizations that have a stake in the County. These include the Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, Historical and Cultural Trust, Suburban Maryland Building Industry Association, and the Board of Realtors. The Commission also is required to have a member of the architectural profession and a representative of

Municipal governments as members. Finally, public members, including one or more with specific background in Historic Preservation are mandated.

The current members of the Commission are: Robert Crawley, Chair, Druscilla Null (Historical and Cultural Trust), William Shipp (Building Industry), David Murray (Chamber), Frances Myers (Farm Bureau), Sigfried Ising (Architect), Nancy Jarvis (Realtor), Steve Rogers (Municipal), and Jane Eagen (who is also a member of our Board).

The Commission, whose members serve without remuneration, meets once per month and considers the following types of actions:

Designation of Historic Sites

The current Amended Plan (approved by the Council in March 1992) contains 541 listed historic sites and one historic district (Broad Creek). Sites may be designated as a result of a number of actions - request by the owner of the property to have the site listed; application for a building permit by the owner of one of the many properties designated in the property records as an historic resource; as part of the

approval process for an amendment to an area master plan, or at the initiation of the Commission itself. There are none potential criteria involved in consideration of designation. Not all properties are designated (8 of 10 considered in 1992 were designated). The property owner may appeal a decision to designate a property, and such appeals are heard by the County Council. Site designations are only considered in open public hearings and after the contiguous property owners are notified of the hearing and the property is posted. The wishes of the property owner are considered in the process and the owner is always accorded the right to present his or her case before the Commission and to be counseled by the staff before the hearing.

Historic Area Work Permits

Any property in the County that is listed as a 'historic resource' or is a designated site under the Plan, or is located within a locally designated Historic District; must acquire an Historic Area Work Permit before extensive work can be done on the exterior of any building on the property. The Commission authorizes staff signoff of some permits because they appear to require minimal disturbance of the property.

Where more extensive work is proposed, however, the full Commission will consider the matter in a public hearing at which the owner must specify the work to be done and how it qualifies under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Properties. Twenty six Historic Area Work Permits were granted in 1992.

PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS

While historic designation of a property has certain requirements and restrictions attached to it, there are some significant benefits of historic designation as well. One is the allowance of a credit against the County portion of the property tax for approved efforts to rehabilitate the property. This provision is not widely utilized, only two applications being acted upon in 1992, for a total of \$11,765.30. The owners again must submit their costs for rehabilitation activities and show how the work meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards before the credit will be approved.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS

Before the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer will consider a recommendation for listing of a property or a group of properties (such as a historic residential district)

in the National Register of Historic Places, the proposal is considered by the Commission and a recommendation of approval is made to the County Executive, who transmits the recommendation to the State. This happens from time to time.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION REFERRALS

Finally, the Commission considers, upon referral from other agencies, the effect of planned development of properties that are near historic properties. Based on that consideration, after full consultation with the developers and owners of the historic site and the public, the Commission makes recommendations to the planning approval authorities as to modifications or other aspects of the development plan. The Commission considered 55 of the 226 land use applications referred during 1992. The remainder were handled by staff.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Commission is a member of the County-Wide Heritage Organizations group and consults with other organizations on a frequent basis, including especially the Historical and Cultural Trust and Prince George's Heritage, both of which send observers to all Commission meetings. The

Commission is a member of the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions and the National association as well. Commission proceedings are covered in the quarterly publication Friends of Preservation, and outreach activities include a slide tape show and participation in county preservation events such as the Preservation Week reception in May and the County Fair. The Commission has also published a number of items on various aspects of the County and its work.

I recommend that you consider attending a meeting of the Commission so that you can see how effectively our Historic Preservation Plan is being administered. The Commission staff is the Historic Preservation Staff of the M-NCPPC Planning Department, headed by Gail Rothrock. Their phone number is 301-952-3520.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Society's Gift Shop at Marietta is in need of Volunteers to staff during opening hours on Saturdays and Sundays. With the advent of the Holiday Season just around the corner, we need your help more than ever. A meeting to train volunteers and schedule hours will be held at 1:15 PM October 9. Please come and join us!

TRICENTENNIAL COOK BOOK

IN 1996, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY WILL CELEBRATE ITS TRICENTENNIAL. IN HONOR OF THIS CELEBRATION, THE TRICENTENNIAL TRUST IS PREPARING A NEW COOK BOOK OF FAVORITE RECIPES OF PRINCE GEORGIANS AND THEIR FRIENDS. THE BOOK WILL CONTAIN 250 TO 300 RECIPES IN SEVERAL CATEGORIES: APPETISERS, PICKLES, RELISHES; SOUPS, SALADS, DRESSINGS AND SAUCES; MAIN DISH - MEAT, FISH, POULTRY; MAIN DISH - EGGS, CHEESE, PASTA AND CASSEROLES; VEGETABLES; BREADS, ROLLS, PIES, PASTRIES; CAKES, COOKIES, ICINGS; DESSERTS; CANDY, JAMS, JELLIES, PRESERVES; BEVERAGES; AND MISCELLANEOUS. THE BOOKS WILL BE SPIRAL BOUND AND THE FULL-COLOR COVER WILL FEATURE THE TRICENTENNIAL LOGO. WE PLAN TO PUBLISH THE BOOK LATE IN 1995. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A RECIPE CONSIDERED, COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW, PRINTING OR USING A TYPEWRITER, AND SEND IT TO MRS. IVAN RAINWATER, 2805 LIBERTY PLACE, BOWIE, MD 20715-2348. MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS, ON SEPARATE FORMS, WILL BE APPRECIATED.

CATEGORY _____ NAME OF ITEM _____

MEASUREMENT INGREDIENTS

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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MEASUREMENT INGREDIENTS

_____	_____
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_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

DIRECTIONS: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____ (PRINT NAME TO BE USED IN COOKBOOK) THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECIPES, WHICH BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE PUBLISHER.

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC
PUBLICATIONS ORDER LIST**

- PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY: A REGIONAL HISTORY** by Alan Virta. \$29.95 plus tax \$1.50, plus \$2.00 s&h
Calvert of Maryland \$6.95 (tax incl) plus \$0.55 s&h.
Atlas of Prince George's County \$5.00 plus \$0.25 tax plus \$0.50 s&h.
Indexes of Church Registers 2 vols. \$20.00 plus \$1.00 tax plus \$2.50 s&h.
Chesapeake Bay of Yore \$25.00 plus \$1.25 tax plus \$1.00 s&h.
Lanham Centennial \$4.00 plus \$0.20 tax plus \$0.55 s&h.
Berwyn Heights \$3.00 plus \$0.15 tax plus \$0.35 s&h.
Gabriel Davall Biography \$1.00 plus \$0.05 tax plus \$0.35 s&h.
Fire Call by Francis X. Geary, \$5.00 plus \$0.25 tax plus \$1.00 s&h.
History of Beltsville \$4.00 plus \$0.20 tax plus \$0.55 s&h.

Please forward the above checked publications. Full payment (Payable to PGCHS) enclosed.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____, State _____ ZIP _____
Daytime Telephone _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC**

Annual Membership Application

Date _____

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone - Home _____
Bus. _____

Please indicate whether this is a new membership or a renewal

____ new ____ renewal

CHECK BELOW THE CATEGORY YOU SELECT:

Full Time Student	\$ 10.00
Member	\$ 20.00
Life Member	\$200.00
Sustaining Member	\$ 50.00
Additional Contribution	_____

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

I would also like to join the Maryland Historical Society. I am enclosing \$25.00 for an individual membership or \$35.00 for husband and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues and contributions.

All contributions qualify for tax deduction.
We appreciate your continued support.

Make checks payable to PGCHS

Mail Check and Form to:
Prince George's County Historical Society
Post Office Box 14
Riverdale, MD 20738-0014
301-484-0590

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Sundays 12 - 4 PM and during Special Events

Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration

Information - (301) 464-0590

THE GIFT SHOP

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glen Dale, Maryland, off Route 193, near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER, 1993

OUR 41ST YEAR

VOLUME XX NUMBER 9

FALL LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES

The Society's Fall 1993 Lecture Series, which is again cosponsored by the Prince George's County Community College, continues this month with Mary Linstrom and Friends of the Greenbelt Museum discussing the history and development of Greenbelt, at the Greenbelt Public Library; and Chris Wagon, M-NCPPC naturalist and stoneware collector, speaking on Storing the Harvest - 19th Century American Stoneware Containers. Dates and times are shown on the calendar. Call 301-464-0590 to register in advance or just show up. The lectures are priced at \$12 each, \$10 for members of the Society. Light refreshments will be served.

STREETCARS OF WASHINGTON

THE SOCIETY'S NOVEMBER 13TH MEETING CELEBRATES THE CONCLUSION OF OUR 41ST YEAR. AS USUAL, AND AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE, THE BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR THE 1993-1994 YEAR.

IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 8 PGCHS BOARD MEETING, 4:00 P.M. AT MARIETTA
NOVEMBER 10 FALL LECTURE SERIES, GREENBELT LIBRARY, 6:30PM
NOVEMBER 13 RIVERSDALE ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 13 PGCHS REGULAR MEETING, 2:00PM AT MARIETTA
NOVEMBER 15 TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, BOB HALL WAREHOUSE, 7:00PM
NOVEMBER 18 FALL LECTURE SERIES CONCLUDES, MARIETTA, 6:30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 28 CHILDREN'S STORY SPECIAL, MARIETTA, 4:00 P.M.

AFTER THE BUSINESS MEETING, THE SOCIETY IS PLEASED TO HAVE ROBERT TRUAX, A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY AND AUTHOR OF A BOOK ON WASHINGTON STREETCARS PRESENT THE LECTURE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PRESENCE AT THIS IMPORTANT MEETING AT MARIETTA.

SOCIETY BOARD ELECTIONS

The November Meeting, to be held at the regular time of 2:00 P.M. Saturday, November 13, 1993, at the DeMarr Library, Marietta, will, in addition to our speaker, Robert Truax, a Society member, who will speak on Washington and Suburban Streetcars, be devoted to our annual election of Officers and Directors. Three Directors, Gene Roberts, Edith Bagot and Ann Ferguson, are reaching the end of their current terms. Edith and Ann, who have each served for a number of years, have decided not to stand for re-election. The Officers are also up for re-election. The Nominating Committee, headed by Secretary Sarah Bourne, has proposed the following slate for the consideration of the Members at the November Meeting --

President - Joyce McDonald
Vice President - John Mitchell
Treasurer - John Bourne
Secretary - Sarah Bourne
Historian - Frederick S. DeMarr
Editor - Lester H. Sweeting
Directors - 1994/1995
Eugene B. Roberts, Jr.
Julie Bright
Sarah Moseley

Directors for the term
1993/1994 will continue
to be --
Jane Eagen

Wallis Hall Cain
Florence Riedesel
(succeeded Cheryl Adams by
appointment of the Board).

As always, nominations from
the floor will be in order
during the annual meeting.

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

We are pleased to announce that our Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History has recently made the following acquisitions.

Through the generosity of R. S. Bayne Robertson and Robert Steed Robertson, a significant collection of papers of the Magruder/Lowe/Bayne /Steed/Robertson families, dating back to the early 18th century, has been placed on indefinite loan. Historian DeMarr has begun to go through these items, which include ledgers of the original Ship Chandlery the family managed in Newport News, and at least one parchment recording a land grant from the last of the Lords Baltimore, Frederick, to a Magruder. This last artifact was used as wrapping paper for a collection of mid-twentieth century records. We thank the Messrs. Robertson for this indefinite loan.

A second acquisition was made anonymously by a caller who stopped in to the Library one weekday and left her deceased brother's collection of over 1,000 photographs of structures in Maryland. According to the lady who dropped the photographs off, it was a tug of war in the family as to whether the Library or the landfill stood to receive this largess. We appreciate her decision and thank her for thinking of us.

TWO WOMEN OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Alan Virta submitted two nominations in the recent round for "Women of Distinction" and they are so interesting that we thought our readers might enjoy their stories.

MEHITABEL HOLLAND PIERPONT

In an age when women were denied the same economic rights as men, Mehitabel Holland Pierpont, Colonial Innholder, distinguished herself as an independent businesswoman. In an age when widows with children, as a rule, had to remarry in order to support their children, Mehitabel Holland Pierpont remained an independent single parent. Although Maryland genealogists remember her as the ancestor of the Revolutionary War hero Otho Holland Williams, and West Virginia genealogists remember her as the ancestor of John Pierpont, the Mountain State's first governor, Mehitabel Holland Pierpont's own accomplishments, apart from her distinguished progeny, merit recognition.

Mehitabel Holland Pierpont was born about 1667 in Anne Arundel County, the daughter of John Larkin. The name of her mother is not known with certainty. Her father was a well known figure in Colonial Maryland, a large landholder and a prominent innholder. The role of the innholder was an important one in Maryland's non-urban, agricultural colonial society, for the innholder-proprietor provided an important social and economic need, that of public accommodation (food, lodging, and meeting place) for travelers and locals alike. The county courts and provincial government strictly regulated innholding; proprietors regularly had to appear before the court for renewal of

business licenses. The innholder was well known to the public at large and to public officialdom. John Larkin was perhaps better known than most, for the General Assembly and the county courts, in those early days, met at his inns in Londontowne and Harwood.

About 1684, Mehitabel married Otho Holland, and they apparently took up the operation of the inn at Londontowne. They had six children, whose births are recorded in the register of All Hollow's Parish. Less than a year after the birth of their youngest child, however, Otho Holland died. Mehitabel married again, to John Pierpont, a carpenter. Like her first husband, Pierpont took over the operation of the inn at Londontowne. According to Anne Arundel County court records, however, he soon "removed from this province to foreign parts," leaving Mehitabel and her seven minor children (the youngest being his) "without having made any provision of reasonable maintenance."

Without a husband, yet legally still married, Mehitabel Holland Pierpont was in a difficult economic and legal situation. She supported herself and her family by continuing the inn at Londontowne and supplemented her income by working on behalf of the county court, caring for sick and indigent individuals. She had to go to court to win the right to sue to recover debts due to her business, for several of her debtors refused to pay on the grounds she had no power of attorney from her absent husband. The county court supported her petition, and she was granted the status of *femme sole*, enabling her to transact legal business without a husband's permission.

Mehitabel operated the inn at Londontowne until 1711, when she relocated to Prince George's County, where she was granted a license to operate an inn in the town of Queen Anne. Located on the main road from Annapolis to Upper Marlboro, Queen Anne, at the ferry crossing of the

Patuxent River, was an active tobacco port. Mehitabel operated the inn at Queen Anne until 1719, when she and one of her sons purchased a plantation in what is now south Bowie. She continued to supplement the family income by caring for the indigent sick for the Prince George's County court. The date of her death is not known, but her name appears in the legal records through the 1750s, when she was well into her eighties.

Mehitabel Holland Pierpont was an unusual figure in her time, an independent woman who supported herself and her children through her own business enterprise. She also filled an important role as a caregiver to the poor in an era before the public welfare system was established. Mehitabel Holland Pierpont, colonial innholder, was indeed a woman of achievement in colonial Prince George's County.

Reference: Stickney, A.R. "The American Ancestry of John Pierpont of (West) Virginia," in *The Virginia Genealogist*, April - June 1986. This article is footnoted with references to the legal records pertaining to Mehitabel Holland Pierpont cited above (chiefly AA and Prince George County court records).

ANN JOICE

The details of Ann Joice's life are obscured by the passage of time and the lack of contemporary biographical accounts. Nevertheless, from the incomplete and sometimes contradictory record that does survive, the general outline of her life can be reconstructed. Ann Joice was a slave in Prince George's County for more than half a century. She lived and worked at the Woodyard, a plantation near Clinton, on what is now Woodyard Road. Her owners were the Darnall family, friends, political allies and relatives by marriage of the Lords Baltimore. Despite her slave status, Ann Joice maintained that by rights she should be a free woman. She passed this legacy on to her children and grandchildren, and more than a century after she came to Maryland, one of her descendants, still in slavery,

petitioned for freedom. Thus ensued a court case that pitted the leaders of the Maryland legal profession against each other. It is in the testimony and depositions for that case that an account of Ann Joice's life has been preserved. Ann Joice's story, as recorded in the proceedings of Maryland's High Court of Appeals, is a remarkable testament to the power and endurance of the American dream of freedom, even in the most adverse of circumstances.¹

Ann Joice was born about 1660 in the West Indies, probably on the island of Barbados. She was, by most accounts, of mixed white and black ancestry. As a child, she was taken to England, but at age seventeen or eighteen was brought to Maryland by the Calverts, Maryland's proprietary family, as a cook and a waiting maid.² Sometime after her arrival in Maryland she became a servant to the Darnalls. Ann Joice maintained that she was an indentured servant, due her freedom after a term of four years service. The Darnalls did not recognize her claim and kept her in slavery the rest of her life.³ In 1791 one of her great-great grandsons, Charles Mahoney, slave to the Reverend John Ashton of White Marsh (Bowie), petitioned the court for his freedom on the grounds that he was descended from a free woman.⁴ Mahoney's team of lawyers included Gabriel Duvall, later a justice of the United States Supreme Court, and John Johnson, later attorney general of the State of Maryland. Arrayed against them on behalf of the Reverend Ashton was a battery of lawyers, including Philip Barton Key, later a U. S. Congressman, and Luther Martin, a member of the Continental Congress.

The lawyers from both sides interviewed individuals who knew Ann Joice's family. Because of the passage of so many years, most of the individuals had not known Ann Joice personally, but had heard of her situation from their elders. Mary Crawford, aged 87, deposed that "she has heard her

mother say there was a woman by the name of Joice came in with Lord Baltimore (and that she her mother dare say the same Ann Joyce or any of her children would be free if they made any stir to obtain their freedom).⁷⁵ Anne Hurdle, aged 74, said her mother-in-law, years before, had told her that Ann Joice's family should be free.⁷⁶ Henry Davis recalled that his uncle had told him that "it was the report of the neighborhood that if she had justice done her she (Ann Joice) ought to have been free."⁷⁷

One deponent who did know Ann Joice personally was her grandson Peter Harbard, 77 years old when his testimony was recorded in 1792. He stated that he was also born a slave to the Darnall family, but later purchased his freedom from Stephen West, a subsequent owner of the Darnall's Woodyard Plantation. He declared that "he well knew a mulatto woman by the name of Nanny Joice, that she was his grandmother and lived at the Woodyard in the family of Henry Darnall, that he hath frequently heard her say that she came into Maryland with one of the former proprietors of this state an indentured (sic) servant for four years, that she was sold by said proprietor to Henry Darnall as a cook and that when her term of servitude expired, Darnall burnt her indenture."⁷⁸ Eleanor Darnall Carroll, at age 86 the eldest representative of the Darnall family, also knew Ann Joice but countered that she always understood that she was a slave.⁷⁹

The case languished in court until May 1799 when finally a document was produced, a list of servants imported into Maryland in the year 1678. On the list was one "Mary Joice," and Charles Calvert was assigned headrights for transporting her (and due to those paying the passage of indentured servants). Whereas the testimony apparently had not convinced the court that Ann Joice should not have been kept as a slave, this document did. The court ruled, "Therefore it is adjudged by the court here that the aforesaid Charles Mahoney...be hence freed

and discharged of and from the service of the said Reverend John Ashton. . ." On appeal, however, the Reverend Ashton's lawyers successfully demonstrated errors in the trial proceedings. On June 21, 1802, the verdict of freedom was overturned. This researcher has not been able to determine if Charles Mahoney ever did attain the freedom to which his descent from Ann Joice entitled him.

The struggle of Charles Mahoney was one of the early skirmishes in the national struggle against slavery in the United States. Ann Joice's insistence that she should be free was the inspiration for Charles Mahoney's personal struggle. Ann Joice's legacy, the dream of freedom for herself and her descendants, thus became one of the many building blocks of the abolitionist movement that finally convinced most Americans that slavery in the land of freedom could not be sustained.

Reference: Proceedings of the High Court of Appeals, Liber BW (179 6900-00 beginning at folio 451. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

1. The Case is *Mahoney v. Ashton* and is recorded in the proceedings shown above.
2. See particularly the testimony of Henry Davis, ff. 460 and 461.
3. Testimony of Peter Harbard, f. 460.
4. f. 461.
5. f. 465.
6. f. 468.
7. f. 469.
8. f. 469.
9. f. 475.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The Society's Annual Christmas Gala is scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 1993, at Riversdale. Guided Tours of the Mansion will begin at 1:00 P.M. and the Party will take place from 2 to 4 P.M. Members are encouraged to bring guests. The price of admission, as in the past, is a plate of your favorite holiday sweet or savory.

Contributions should be ready to go on the table, please. We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate the Holiday Season.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As we mentioned last month, the Society has a continuing need for volunteers. There are a number of specific activities you and/or your friends and family can get involved in. The Gift Shop, open on Saturdays and Sundays, needs help in doing the inventory, as well as staffing when it is open. The Library needs volunteers to go through our extensive photo collection and organize it so that it can be catalogued. In addition, assisting in organizing the extensive collections of manuscripts into meaningful areas of interest will help us as we move to catalogue these items. Computer literate people can help in a number of ways both with the Library and the Gift Shop. We also need people to be responsible for refreshments for the meetings. Our several special events take a significant amount of planning and execution, and volunteers can be of immeasurable assistance as well. Call the Society today and get on the list. No experience is necessary, and you do not have to be a Society Member to help out. The Society has no employees. It

is an organization of volunteers, not a county funded agency. If we are to expand our services to the public at large, we need you!

FROM THE TREASURER

The Treasurer will mail 1994 dues invoices on December 1, 1993. Members are reminded that they may elect to pay 1994 Maryland Historical Society dues through the Prince George's Historical Society, at reduced rates, at the same time that they pay their PGCHS dues for 1994.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

SINCE JANUARY 1, 1993, THE SOCIETY HAS ATTRACTED 30 NEW MEMBERS. OUR LIST OF LIFE MEMBERS HAS ALSO CONTINUED TO GROW. WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS AND GIVE HEARTFELT THANKS TO THOSE LISTED AS LIFE MEMBERS!

NEW MEMBERS

Sylvia T. Earl
Gerry Scheidhauer
Stephen Marsh Pioso
Joyce D. Messer
Ruth S. Bannister
Barbara Benfield
Linda M. Lacey
Edward T. Bauer
Ted L. Strosser
Adelaide T. Binger
D. Jane Klemer
Maryc D. Gannett
Douglas Mc Elrath
Susan Leonard Bayly

NEW MEMBERS (CONT'D)

John W. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carter Hall
Gladys B. Clagett
Katherine B. Clagett
Josephine R. Herring
Mr. and Mrs. George J. Kancellos
Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle J. Lancaster
Dr. and Mrs. John T. Lynn
William F. and Nancy McDade
Kay and Walter Meinhardt
Paul D. and Kathi A. Cleaver
Del. Joanne C. Benson
Cissy Clagett
Dale F. and Karen M. Ewing
Mildred R. Gray
Marcia H. Hendricks
Henry Contee Bowie Clagett, Jr.
Mrs. J. Paul Bright, III

LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. Edith Bagot
Susan Leonard Bayly
John B. Bourne
Richard and Sarah Bourne
Oden Bowie
Albert H. Bowker
Elizabeth and Howard Bradley
Mrs. Anath Bright
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Chaney
Brice M. Clagett
Fred and Dorothy Clagett
Henry Contee Bowie Clagett, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Page B. Clagett
Charles Thomas Clagett, Jr.
Elaine and Willard Entwisle
Marye D. Gannett
Sarah J. Harvey

Phyllis Herndon
Forrest S. Holmes, Jr.
C. Harold Hutcheson
J. G. Jacobsen
Lt. Col. and Mrs. William K. Konze
Mrs. R. A. Kotria
Mr. and Mrs. Paul T. Lanham
Kathleen A. Lewis
Dr. and Mrs. John T. Lynn
Pauline W. Machen
Margaret M. Marshall
Maryland National Capital Park and
Planning Commission
Karen D. Miles
Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
John W. and Evalina S. Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. J. Spencer Overholser
Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Phillips
Miss Gertrude L. Poe
Judge and Mrs. Ralph W. Powers
Mrs. David R. Ray
Mr. and Mrs. Lester H. Sweeting
Patricia E. Tatspaugh
Charlotte J. Vaught
Mrs. R. R. Waller
Mrs. Jessie Ward
Timucin and Susanna C. Yatman

While on this subject, we would also like to note that we are sending this issue of News and Notes to a number of people whose memberships have lapsed over the past few years. We believe that a gentle reminder of this sort may encourage you to come back to the Society. You can identify yourself by the fact that your label is different - it is in color! We thank you for taking this opportunity to renew your membership. Life Membership is a valuable asset - you might consider that and never have to

worry about renewal again. Your Society continues to need you!

FUNDRAISER

The Fundraiser on September 25 was a resounding success, even with the slight rain experienced during the day. Events such as this are only successful due to the efforts of a lot of people and the Society wants to thank the organizers, especially Wallis Cain, for their efforts. We also must publicly acknowledge the Sasscer family for their graciousness in opening Delay to the Society and our guests. MNCPPC assisted in many ways - especially with the tables and chairs. Flourishes kindly donated floral displays for our use. For those who were there, and for those who are interested in seeing more of their unique and beautiful work, you are invited to a holiday open house at Mapleside, a gracious turn of the century home in Millersville, MD. See details in the Calendar. While the Board members, including our newest member, Florence Riedesel, were well represented at the event, tending bar, manning the book table, welcoming guests, etc. we would also like to acknowledge the following people who ably assisted in this effort: Susan and Jim Wolfe, Maxie Phillips, Rita Sue Miller, Marian and Tom Bond, Sharon Sweeting, Margaret Mitchell, Dick Bourne and Bob McDonald. Thank you all and we look forward to next year.

A QUOTE

We (Americans) suffer primarily not from our vices or our weaknesses, but from our illusions. We are haunted, not by reality, but by those images we have put in place of reality.

Daniel Boorstin



FROM THE BOOKSHELF

The acknowledgments of Hugh Howard's latest book, *The Preservation's Progress: Architectural Adventure's in Conserving Yesterday's Houses*, New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1991, conclude:

"A final word to acknowledgment must go to John Bunyan. The title of this book is, obviously, intended to echo that of his classic, *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

The Preservationist's Progress is not an allegory, nor is its subject religious faith, yet I believe there is a certain thematic affinity between Bunyan's work and this one. To borrow the words of Roger Sharrock (author of the standard Bunyan biography and editor of his *Works*) Bunyan attempted in his writing 'an examination of his past experience and a translation of it into a form which would provide a recognizable pattern of hope.'

I believe that description applies, too, to the preservationists I have met. It is my hope that their faith and confidence in the worth of the past is to be heard in these pages."

What follows is a series of essays with such intriguing titles as *The Admirable Craftsman*, *The Village Historian*, *The Epochal Carrier*, *The Victorian Merchant*, *The Artist's Collector*, *The Man Who Sells History*, *The Curator of Class* and *the Academic Provocateur*, each devoted to an exceptional historian/conservator/preservationist. Some names are familiar, others less so but each

represents a unique contribution to the field of preservation. Donald Carpentier, the Admirable Craftsman, is a restoration carpenter, collecting and restoring entire buildings in Eastfield Village, near Albany, New York. The Village Historian, John Obod Curtis, director of the curatorial department at Old Sturbridge Village, in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, describes in detail his dating and restoration work on the Bixby House. John Mesick, or the Epochal Carrier, describes his work at Jefferson's Academical Village, located in Charlottesville, and concludes with a discussion of how different restoration is today from when Stanford White "restored" Jefferson's Rotunda at the University of Virginia around the turn of the century. To this observer, the most familiar of those individuals represented here is the Victorian Merchant or Clem Labine, the creator of our beloved Old House Journal begun at his kitchen table with \$8,000 in savings. The Artist's Collector essay presents a fascinating point-counter-point of Frank Lloyd Wrightiana collector Thomas Monaghan. Christopher Gray, the Man Who Sells History, earns his living researching buildings in New York and working for the Landmarks Preservation Commission, among others. Another familiar name is that of the director of the Maryland Historical Society, Charles Lyle. This essay describes his work on the restoration of the Read House in New Castle, Delaware, focusing on selection of the period of restoration for a property which had an unusually long, important life. And lastly, The Academic Provocateur, Chester H. Liebs, who began the Historic Preservation Graduate Program at the University of Vermont in 1975, and suggests that "Now's the time to look at the later American suburbs. Historians are beginning to look at the 1920s and 1930s suburbs, but I think it's time to look at the 1950s suburbs." This is a point made no less eloquently by Gerald George, Executive Director of the National Archives, at a Preservation Week Reception several years ago. However, the penultimate essay, entitled "Four Private Possibilities" and describing four abandoned, neglected buildings returned to life by amateurs bent on adapting the properties for their own

use, was one of my favorites. "Preservation isn't merely today's answer to renovation problems. Rather preservation, unlike some easy answers that are abandoned almost as quickly as they are offered, must focus on the future to nearly the same degree it emphasizes the past."

SHARON L. SWEETING

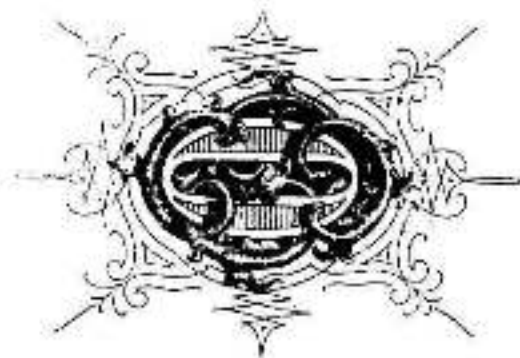
A JOURNEY WITH GILBERT GUDE

Saturday afternoon, October 9th began at Fairfax Stone, the beginning of the Potomac River, and ended with food and fellowship under the trees at Marietta.

During the afternoon, *Gilbert Gude* led us down the Potomac with a fascinating slide presentation of his journey down the Potomac River. Mr. Gude organized this expedition to explore the river from its source at the Maryland/West Virginia Border to the point where it empties into the Chesapeake Bay at Point Lookout in St. Mary's County. The journey involved hiking through river bank underbrush, balancing on the railroad ties of the old B&O Railroad, walking along the C&O Canal towpath and canoeing on the river. His talk included much of the history of the area as it related to boundary disputes and their resolutions, and the effects of transportation development of the C&O Canal and the B&O Railroad.

Mr. Gude is deeply concerned with the entire Potomac River Basin and devotes much time to programs to conserve this valuable natural resource. We thank him for sharing this experience with us.

Sarah Bourne



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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY: A HISTORICAL HISTORY by Alan Virta. \$29.95

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

I would also like to join the Maryland Historical Society. I am enclosing \$25.00 for an individual membership or \$35.00 for husband and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues and contributions.

All contributions qualify for tax deduction.
We appreciate your continued support.

Make checks payable to PGCHS

Mail Check and Form to:
Prince George's County Historical Society
Post Office Box 14
Riverdale, MD 20738-0014
301-464-0590

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER	EVENT
3RD	PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, 7:00 PM, GREENBELT PUBLIC LIBRARY
4TH AND 5TH	"A CHRISTMAS TEA", HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, MAPLESIDE, 1796 SEVERN CHAPEL ROAD, MILLERSVILLE, FRI. 4-7 PM; SAT. 11 AM TO 6 PM, CALL 410-721-4554 OR 410-551-0326
7TH	PANEL ON WOMEN HELICOPTER PILOTS, COLLEGE PARK AIRPORT MUSEUM, 2:00 PM, CALL 301-864-1530
8TH	PGCHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MARIETTA, 4:00 PM (NOTE CHANGE IN DATE AND TIME)
9TH	PGCGS WORKSHOP FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS - RECORDING AND DOCUMENTING YOUR WORK, 7:00 PM, GREENBELT PUBLIC LIBRARY
10TH	PGCHS FALL LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES, GREENBELT NEW TOWN, GREENBELT PUBLIC LIBRARY, 6:30 PM
12TH AND 13TH	ANNUAL STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE, LOEW'S ANNAPOLIS HOTEL, ANNAPOLIS, REGISTRATION AT 8:30 AM EACH DAY
13TH	RIVERSDALE DEDICATION OF HISTORIC WALL PAPER, ANNOUNCEMENT OF COUNTY TRICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, 10:00 AM, RIVERSDALE MANSION, RIVERDALE
13TH	PGCHS REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING, ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS, AND ROBERT TRUAX SPEAKS ON URBAN AND SUBURBAN STREETCARS IN WASHINGTON AND ITS SUBURBS, MARIETTA, 2:00 PM
13TH	PEERLESS ROCKVILLE'S VICTORIAN BALL, GRAND COURT ROOM AT THE RED BRICK COURT HOUSE, ROCKVILLE, 7:00 PM FOR LESSONS, 8:00 PM FOR BALL AND ELEGANT BUFFET, CALL 301-762-0096
18TH	PGCHS LECTURE SERIES FINALE, CHRIS WAGNON ON HISTORIC STONEWARE, MARIETTA, 6:30 PM
28TH	"GRANDFATHERS (AND GRANDMOTHERS) TALES FOR CHILDREN," MARIETTA, 4 PM
DECEMBER	
11TH	PGCHS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GALA, RIVERSDALE, 2:00 PM (GUIDED TOURS BEGIN AT 1:00 PM).

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM

and during Special Events

Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration

Information - (301) 464-0590

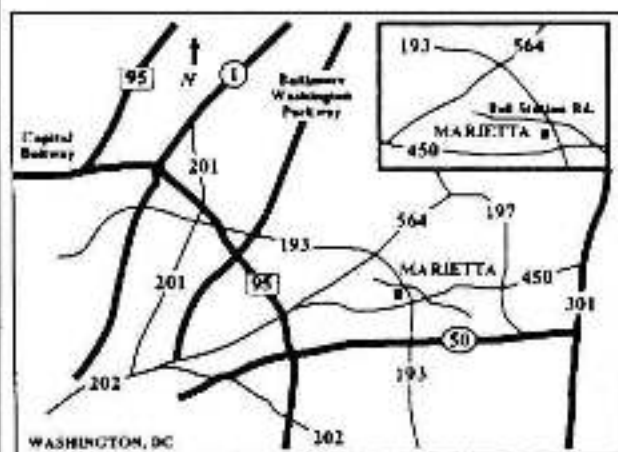
THE GIFT SHOP

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

The Gift Shop is open from 12 to 4 Saturdays and Sundays.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193, near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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TRICENTENNIAL COOK BOOK

IN 1996, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY WILL CELEBRATE ITS TRICENTENNIAL. IN HONOR OF THIS CELEBRATION, THE TRICENTENNIAL TRUST IS PREPARING A NEW COOK BOOK OF FAVORITE RECIPES OF PRINCE GEORGIANS AND THEIR FRIENDS. THE BOOK WILL CONTAIN 250 TO 300 RECIPES IN SEVERAL CATEGORIES: APPETISERS, PICKLES, RELISHES; SOUPS, SALADS, DRESSINGS AND SAUCES; MAIN DISH - MEAT, FISH, POULTRY; MAIN DISH - EGGS, CHEESE, PASTA AND CASSEROLES; VEGETABLES; BREADS, ROLLS, PIES, PASTRIES; CAKES, COOKIES, ICINGS; DESSERTS; CANDY, JAMS, JELLIES, PRESERVES; BEVERAGES; AND MISCELLANEOUS. THE BOOKS WILL BE SPIRAL BOUND AND THE FULL-COLOR COVER WILL FEATURE THE TRICENTENNIAL LOGO. WE PLAN TO PUBLISH THE BOOK LATE IN 1995. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A RECIPE CONSIDERED, COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW, PRINTING OR USING A TYPEWRITER, AND SEND IT TO MRS. IVAN RAINWATER, 2805 LIBERTY PLACE, BOWIE, MD 20715-2348. MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS, ON SEPARATE FORMS, WILL BE APPRECIATED.

CATEGORY _____ NAME OF ITEM _____

MEASUREMENT INGREDIENTS

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MEASUREMENT INGREDIENTS

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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER, 1993

OUR 41ST YEAR

VOLUME XX NUMBER 10

CHRISTMAS GALA AT RIVERSDALE

The Historical Society's Annual Christmas Gala will be held on Saturday, December 11, 1993, beginning at 2:00 PM at Riversdale, 4811 Riverdale Road. Tours of the newly restored facility will be given beginning at 1:00 PM. All Society friends and members are encouraged to come to the Gala and bring a friend. As usual, the price of admission is a plate of your special sweet or savory which may be enjoyed by your fellow guests. The Committee asks that you bring your contribution in a serving dish; that will make it easy to serve. You should also remember to mark the bottom of any serving dish clearly so that it will not get lost. We hope to see you there!

STREETCARS OF WASHINGTON

The November 13, 1993 meeting of the Society featured Washingtonian Robert Truax, who presented a fascinating slide lecture on the history of the streetcars of Washington, DC, including some views of the suburban lines and stations. A capacity crowd at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History included many members who have fond memories of those days when one could ride the streetcars all around the area. Special memories of the trip to town, and to the attractions around town, were brought forth by this excellently illustrated lecture. One member reminded us that it is still possible to see and experience those days by visiting the National Capital Trolley Museum on Bonifant Road in Silver Spring. This lecture concluded the regular meetings for the year.

IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER

December 7, 1993	Society Board Meets at Marietta, 4:00 PM
December 8, 1993	Official 300th Birthday Committee, 7:00 PM
December 11, 1993	Christmas Gala, Riversdale, 2:00 PM

SOCIETY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The November 13, 1993 meeting was the Society's 41st Annual Meeting, and was the venue for the annual election of officers and persons to fill expiring board positions. Led by Nominating Committee Chairperson, Sarah Bourne, the Society considered and adopted unanimously, the following slate:

President	Joyce McDonald
Vice President	John Mitchell
Secretary	Sarah Bourne
Treasurer	John Bourne
Historian	Fred DeMarr
Editor	Lester Sweeting

Directors 1994/1995

Eugene Roberts
Julie Bright
Sarah Moseley

These people will join the 1993/1994 Directors and Past Presidents in comprising the Board. They are as follows:

Directors 1993/1994

Jane Eagen
Wallis Hall Cain
Florence Riedesel

Past Presidents

W. C. (Bud) Dutton
John Giannetti
Paul Lanham
Warren (Dusty) Rhoads

Welcome to the new Board members and congratulations to the entire slate. Next year promises to be another banner year for the Society. We hope that all members will take part in our many activities.

LOOKING AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The election of the full slate of officers and three directors at the November 13 meeting begins another year of Society activities. With the appointment of Florence Riedesel to fill the term of Cheryl Adams, there are now three new faces on the Board.

In the next few months, we will introduce you to these people as well as telling you about some of the more familiar faces.

* * * * *

Florence Riedesel is a lifelong resident of Prince George's County. The Victorian house in Capitol Heights where she was raised is now home to her again. Florence and her husband, Steve, are sharing this residence with her mother, Blanche Ennis. You may have seen Mrs. Ennis accompanying her daughter at many Society activities.

Florence has retired from work in various health care facilities in the area and Steve recently retired as a special education teacher in the County. Very active in the Friends of Montpelier, Florence has served in many capacities with that organization, including a Board member and a Docent. She is also a Docent at Poplar Hill. Florence created the timeline for the elementary school curriculum celebration of the 250th Anniversary at Bladensburg, which was her home at that time.

Florence says "Spreading the word about the wonders of Prince George's County is a most rewarding way to give back to the community that nurtured me."

Welcome to the Board.

Sarah Bourne, Secretary

OFFICIAL TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UNVEILED

On a cold and rainy day in November, over 150 people visited Riversdale, one of the historic jewels in the crown of this Historic County, to meet the newly appointed members of the Prince George's County Tricentennial Committee, as they were announced by The Honorable Parris Gelndenning, County Executive. Mr. Glendenning was joined on the dais by "Prince George" (portrayed by Joe Merek), who led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance; Regina J. McNeill, of the Prince George's County Planning Board; The Honorable F. Kirwin Wineland, representing the County Council; and Joyce W. McDonald, President of the Society and Chairwoman of the Tricentennial Committee.

Mrs. McDonald then introduced the appointed and ex-officio members of the Committee, who include:

Appointed by the County Executive:

Gordon Wells of Riverdale
Patricia E. Hayes-Parker of Riverdale
Mildred R. Gray of Mitchellville
Eugene Roberts of Glenn Dale
John Giannetti of University Hills

Appointed by the County Council:

1st District	Connie Romanello of Beltsville
2nd District	Lester Sweeting of Hyattsville
3rd District	The Honorable Andrew C. Hanko, Mayor of New Carrollton
4th District	Dorothy Rainwater of Bowie
5th District	Helen Adams of Cheverly
6th District	Raymond Zimmerman, Jr. of Upper Marlboro
alternate	Shirley Mohr of District Heights
7th District	Clement Martin of Landover
8th District	Marty Carmichael of Temple Hills

9th District Henderson Brown of Upper Marlboro

Five Ex Officio members are:

Representing the County Executive
Karen Gooden

Representing the County Council
The Honorable Stephen DelGiudice, Vice Chair of the
Council and Second District Councilman

Representing the County School Board
Beverly Beander

Representing the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
Commission
Mary Godfrey

Representing the County Municipal Association
The Honorable Susanna Cristofane Yatman, Mayor of
Bladensburg.

The Committee will work very closely with the unofficial Tricentennial Committee over the next two years as we get ready to celebrate this historic year. Discussions are underway at this time to determine the exact relationship between the two bodies. The Official Committee will meet on December 8, 1993 at 6600 Kenilworth Avenue beginning at 7:30 PM.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Why, you might ask, does News and Notes look so different this month. Blame it on progress gone awry. The desk currently holds a very large, expensive electric paperweight that contains all of the data your's truly has dutifully entered over the past six months - but cannot get to due to a 'gremlin' of the 90s. Thus, so that this information can get to you in useful form and on time, I am forced to dispense with most of the cute tricks I use each month and literally paste and photocopy the newsletter. Hopefully this will be cured soon and, when we return after the Holidays, you will see our usual product.

We were advised on November 13 that retiring board member and long time Society activist, Edith Bagot, was in an auto mishap while returning from a short trip. After successful surgery, Edith is recuperating at her daughter's home. We know she would appreciate hearing from you, and will act as post man if you will write to her c/o the Society, Post Office Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014. Thank you, and best wishes to Edith for a speedy recovery.

Les Sweeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER	EVENT
1ST	PGCGS MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY, 7:00 PM
7TH	PGCHS BOARD MEETS, MARIETTA, 4:00 PM
8TH	PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY 300TH BIRTHDAY OFFICIAL COMMITTEE, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, 7:00 PM
11TH	PGCHS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GALA, RIVERSDALE, 2:00 PM (GUIDED TOURS BEGIN AT 1:00 PM).
1994	
JANUARY	
22ND	PGCHS BOARD PLANNING WORKSHOP, 10:00 AM, SWEETING RESIDENCE.
FEBRUARY	
20	PGCHS DANCE PARTY, BLADENSBURG COLONIAL DANCERS. DETAILS IN NEXT NEWS AND NOTES.
MARCH	
28	PGCHS SPRING LECTURE BEGINS, CALL 464-0590 FOR INFORMATION.
APRIL	
24	ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS DINNER. DETAILS FORTHCOMING.

TRICENTENNIAL COOK BOOK

IN 1996, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY WILL CELEBRATE ITS TRICENTENNIAL. IN HONOR OF THIS CELEBRATION, THE TRICENTENNIAL TRUST IS PREPARING A NEW COOK BOOK OF FAVORITE RECIPES OF PRINCE GEORGIANS AND THEIR FRIENDS. THE BOOK WILL CONTAIN 250 TO 300 RECIPES IN SEVERAL CATEGORIES: APPETISERS, PICKLES, RELISHES, SOUPS, SALADS, DRESSINGS AND SAUCES; MAIN DISH - MEAT, FISH, POULTRY; MAIN DISH - EGGS, CHEESE, PASTA AND CASSEROLES; VEGETABLES; BREADS, ROLLS, PIES, PASTRIES; CAKES, COOKIES, ICINGS; DESSERTS; CANDY, JAMS, JELLIES, PRESERVES; BEVERAGES; AND MISCELLANEOUS. THE BOOKS WILL BE SPIRAL BOUND AND THE FULL-COLOR COVER WILL FEATURE THE TRICENTENNIAL LOGO. WE PLAN TO PUBLISH THE BOOK LATE IN 1995. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A RECIPE CONSIDERED, COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW, PRINTING OR USING A TYPEWRITER, AND SEND IT TO MRS. IVAN RAINWATER, 2805 LIBERTY PLACE, BOWIE, MD 20715-2348. MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS, ON SEPARATE FORMS, WILL BE APPRECIATED.

CATEGORY _____ NAME OF ITEM _____

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC
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Please indicate whether this is a new membership
or a renewal

____ new _____ renewal

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Full Time Student	\$ 10.00
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Sustaining Member	\$ 50.00
Additional Contribution	_____

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

I would also like to join the Maryland Historical
Society. I am enclosing \$25.00 for an individual
membership or \$35.00 for husband and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues and
contributions.

All contributions qualify for tax deduction.
We appreciate your continued support.

Make checks payable to PGCHS

Mail Check and Form to:
Prince George's County Historical Society
Post Office Box 14
Riverdale, MD 20738-0014
301-464-0590

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM

and during Special Events

Marietta Tours - Suspended During Restoration

Information - (301) 464-0590

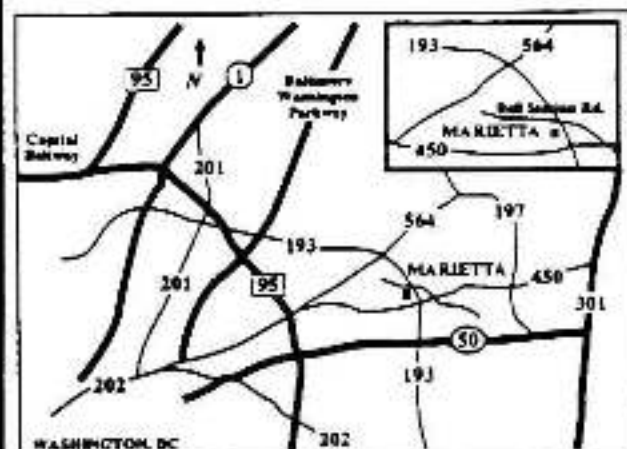
THE GIFT SHOP

Features a tasteful collection of handcrafted items for homes and gift-giving, toys and games for children, small antiques, Historical Society publications and souvenirs of Historic Marietta.

The Gift Shop is open from 12 to 4 Saturdays and Sundays.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5625 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland, off Route 193, near Route 450. This is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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