

NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 1995

OUR 43RD YEAR

VOLUME XXII NUMBER 1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1995

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SOCIETY PLANS FOR 1995 DECIDED

On Saturday, January 14, 1995, Society President Jane "Delegate" Eagen hosted the Society Board annual planning meeting. In addition to the Board, members were invited to provide input and assist in execution of the Society's busy calendar for 1995 and several of the projects which were agreed to by the Board.

So that no one will miss out on these events, and given a newly upgraded and well working computer and new software, I am attaching the Calendar for 1995. Keep this in a handy place, and mark your schedules now.

I will continue to include a bi-monthly calendar as well, but that one lists events of the Society and other groups as well.

The names of the new officers and Board members are shown in the box at the left. I have asked that Sarah Bourne provide more in her series on the members of the Board and will share those as they come in.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to 1995, and the new era in Washington. As one involved daily in the comings and goings on Capitol Hill, let me say only that I find this fascinating and that it keeps me off the streets and busy until the wee small hours.

1994 was a very good year for the Society, one in which we accomplished quite a bit. But, sadly, it was also a year of loss. I have included a remembrance of **Ivan Rainwater**, a longtime friend of the Society, who passed away in December. We will miss Ivan.

We in Hyattsville and Prince George's County will also miss our late Congressman from the 5th District of Maryland, **The Honorable Hervey G. Machen**, who passed away late in November. Some 14 years ago, I was privileged to spend an evening with Mr. Machen and a tape recorder, while he reminisced about growing up in Hyattsville. Since that time, Sharon and I became quite close to Mike (Hervey's son) and Judy Amanda (his youngest daughter) and spent some lovely days with the family at Broome's Island. We will also miss Hervey.

As I said, 1994 was a good year, and 1995 promises to be even better as we continue to prepare for the 300th birthday of this Prince of a County in 1996. The Society, ably led by our new officers and Board, has preliminarily developed specific Tricentennial activities - mainly in the publishing field. As these become more clarified, I will share them with the members in News and Notes.

The Tricentennial groups are forging ahead as well - planning for the Heritage Center continues with the report of our consultant, Charles Lyle (jointly sponsored by the Tricentennial Committee and the Society) delving into the riches of the County and providing preliminary advice as to where a Center might best be located and what it might contain.

Last issue contained a questionnaire, and some replies have come in. This, in the next issue I shall present the first round results of that effort. I urge members and other readers to review the questionnaire and send me your responses - your input is important!

I have reviewed the News and Notes in my personal file and find that this is about the 25th I have done. While some members, most notably **Paul Lanham, Fred DeMarr and other members of the Board** have been very helpful to me in generating material, let me make this plea - I need your help in continuing to provide the kind of information, especially historical anecdotes, vignettes, etc. that you would like to see. It is your newsletter, and you can contribute to it. Just drop a line to the Society post office box or leave copy at Marietta or give it to any Board member you see.

Thanks, and a prosperous 1995 to all of you.

Lester H. Sweeting

IN MEMORIAM

H. IVAN RAINWATER

"As best I can determine, Dorothy and Ivan Rainwater joined the (Genealogical) Society in the late 1970s. In 1980 Dorothy became the Chairman of the Education Committee, and whether voluntarily or at Dorothy's suggestion, Ivan began the task of establishing the (Genealogical) Society's Library.

"He collected the few books the Society owned, tracked down lost and missing books and catalogued them. President Kay Mayhew and Ivan then negotiated with the City of Bowie for use of three rooms in the Belair Mansion.

"Ivan and a team of members scraped, patched, plastered and painted what was to become our home for the next ten years. Ivan bought lumber and supplies and he and Bill Taylor built bookcases to conform to the space. Much of the furniture and furnishings for the Library came from the Rainwater's home.

"As a handful of people in this room today know, managing the Library was not a 1 day a week job. Ivan spent untold hours every week for 11 years building that Library.

"In 1990 it was necessary for the Library to move from the Mansion to allow for renovation of the historic site. After a year in storage, Ivan negotiated with the City of Bowie and again we had a home for the Library. This time in the Belair Stable Museum.

"During Ivan's 11 years as Archivist, the Library grew from a handful of books to the nucleus of the collection we have today.

Ivan began projects like the periodical collection and the publication of accession lists. He saw the need for special series, such as Filby's Passenger and Immigration Lists.

"I'm not taking anything away from Ivan's successors by telling you that without Ivan's efforts we may not have the fine Library we do today.

"Ivan's dedication to the Society and its Library has been manifested in ways too numerous to mention here. His long years of service were first formally recognized in 1986 when he was chosen as the 3rd recipient of the Jane Roush McCafferty C.G. Award of Excellence.

"Due to health considerations, Ivan resigned his position as Archivist on April 3, 1991.

"In May 1991, the Library was jointly named in honor of Ivan and a Society Librarian. Today the Library is officially known as the Rainwater-Miles Research Center of the Prince George's County Genealogical Society.

"As is most often the case, funeral and memorial services are sad occasions. We attend them to say goodbye to loved ones, family members, spouses, friends, co-workers or companions. Ivan is all of these to us.

"Ivan suffered a great deal this past year. And I think that as we acknowledge his death, we should be happy that he is in a better place and bid him a fond farewell."

Karen D. Miles

Ed. Note: The Miles mentioned above is Karen Duffy Miles whose lovely eulogy for Ivan Rainwater, this is

I would also like to point out that the Historical Society benefitted from the life of Ivan Rainwater and his surviving widow Dorothy. The Rainwater's, long time members of the Historical Society, were honored with the St. George's Day Award in 1992 for their work on the Belair Mansion and with the Genealogical Society. Dorothy and Ivan were also very active in the early months of the Tricentennial Citizen's Committee effort and Dorothy has served on the Tricentennial Citizens Committee and the Tricentennial Celebration Trust Board.

Our condolences to Dorothy Rainwater.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Society Board will meet at 12:30 PM, March 18, in closed session to select the 1995 honorees for this prestigious award. This year, we are asking the membership specifically to make nominations for the Board to consider. Therefore, 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).
7. Specific activity means one that has accrued 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 Vineyard." Please note that an award need not be made in each category.

If you have a nominee for us to consider, please write to the Society to the attention of Sarah Bourne, Secretary. Please provide a short statement as to why you feel the award is merited. Remember, the award can be to a person, jointly shared between two people, or to a group. Thank you for your suggestions.

Each of these awards is highly prized by the recipients. So that you will know if your nominee has received the award in the past, a listing of those awards to date follows.

1974

Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission
Alice Ferguson Foundation
Louise J. Heintz
Helen W. Brown
James Wilfong, Jr.
Forrest D. Bowie
Susanna K. Cristofane

1975

Rhoda Christmas (Mrs. John Bowling)
William Henry Duvall
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Walton, Sr.
First Baptist Church of Riverdale
White Marsh Restoration Society
Margaret Cook
James H. Shreve
John Brennan
Pauline R. Seidenspinner

1976

John A. Giannetti, Prince George's Jaycees
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Scherer
Prince George's County Library System
Prince George's Chamber of Commerce
Vera F. Rollo
Frank F. White, Jr.
Paul Lanham
Frederick S. DeMarr
Mrs. Henry Bowle, Laurel Horizons Society

1977

Vestry of Queen Anne's Parish
City of Bowie
R. Lee and Elizabeth P. Van Horn
Edith Bagot
John M. Walton, Jr.
Orva Heissenbuttal
Surratt Society
Society of the Pilgrims of St. Mary's

1978

Theodore Bissell
William Cook
Alan Virta
Francis X. Geary
William Aleshire
Friends of Montpelier, Jean Speicher
Prince George's County Bicentennial Committee

1979

Dr. and Mrs. Bryan Warren
Shirley Baltz
Frederick Tilp
Donald Skarda
Prince George's Genealogical Society
Gertrude Poe
Laurie Verge and Joan Chaconas
Louis Goldstein

1980

American Clan Gregor Society
Marlborough Hunt Club
Mrs. Christine Wilcox
National Colonial Farm
Constance Ackerson
Sister Catherine Wright
Robert Crawley

1981

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Couser
Ivy Hill Association
James G. Boas
Eugene B. Roberts, Sr.
Senator Thomas V. (Mike) Miller, Jr.
Delegate Charles Blumenthal
Hall of Fame of Prince George's County

1982

Vestry of King George's Parish
Prince George's Heritage, Inc.
Millard Charlton Associates
Citizens Advisory Committee for the
Prince George's County Historic
Sites and Districts Plan
Raleigh Donley, Jr.
Dr. Phyllis Sparks
Town of Riverdale

1983

Mr. and Mrs. Jess J. Smith
Hyattsville Preservation Association,
Inc.
Mildred Gray
Society of Maren Duvall Descendants
Susan Pearl
Ann Ferguson
Joyce McDonald

1984

National Quilting Association
Oxon Hill Manor Foundation
Prince George's Magazine
Tanta Cove Garden Club

1985

Gail Rothrock
Riversdale Historical Society
Jean Sargent
Queen Anne School
John Hanson Savings and Loan, Inc.
Joyce Rumburg
Glenn Largent
Prince George's Heritage Committee

1986

Mr. and Mrs. Courtland Lee
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kulla
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nicolai
David Shikles
William George and the City of Mt.
Rainier

1987

Rev. John Baldwin
Francis and Linda O'Brien
Angela Bell
Emmanuel United Methodist Church
Town of Landover Hills
Raymond Bellamy, Jr.

1988

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown
Friends of the College Park Airport
W. C. Dutton, Jr.
Irene Robb
David D. Duvall
Parris N. Glendenning
City of Greenbelt

1989

The Surratt House Committee

Francis McClellan for Claggett,
Haskell & Zimmerman Bldg.
Robert Ware Strauss
Jane Eagen
Sandra Cross
Warren and Julie Rhoads
City of Hyattsville

1990

Marietta House Committee
Jim Maher
Elizabeth Claggett Clark
Kenneth Hodges
Ellen and Rogers Naylor, Debra and
Peter Boundy for Coffren House
Anne and Lansdale Sasscer, Digges
Sasscer House
Frank Calhoun and Carlton Huhn for
Harmony Hall

1991

Marsha Brown
Margaret Law Callcott
Ed Bosanko
Abraham Hall Restoration Committee
Glenn Dale Methodist Church
Elaine and Willard Entwisle
Prince George's Community Television
Laurel Historic District Commission
Sacred Heart Parish

1992

Andrew Wallace
Helen Haas
St. Paul's Methodist Church
Sharon and Lester Sweeting
Ivan and Dorothy Rainwater
Friends of the Greenbelt Museum
John W. Mitchell
Lt. Dennis Campbell

1993

Michael and Deborah Franklin
Henry Contee Bowie Claggett
Doris Hoover, Addison Chapel
Foundation
Melinda Alter and Arthur Garroway
Town of Bladensburg
Columbian Harmony Society
Huntington Heritage Society

1994

Elizabeth Allen
A. Pierce Middleton
St. John's Episcopal Church,
Beltsville
Richard and Carol Cissel
St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Brandywine
Port of Bladensburg Heritage Dancers
David P. Fogle
Jean Hahn

Although Pogue's St. Mary's History is long out of date, his more recent pictorial history is available from the St. Mary's Historical Society.

Submitted by Paul Ianham, Past President, who is now a resident of the rebuilt Huntingtown, Calvert County, which was destroyed by the British in early October, 1814.

The Barney Letters - Completed

In the last issue, I tantalized some readers by printing a letter from a Society member dated nearly a quarter century ago, concerning a nascent effort to return Commodore Barney to Prince George's County from Pittsburgh, where he is buried. It was only because Barney was in Pittsburgh on his way to his estate in Kentucky when he took ill and died that his body was interred there. In any event, last issue, I shared a letter from a Society member, John C. Brennan, to the Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh. Here is the reply and a note to the file from Historian Fred DeMarr.

September 14, 1971

*Mr. John C. Brennan
Laurel, Maryland*

Dear Mr. Brennan:

Thank you very much for your letter of Sept. 7th, and the articles on Commodore Joshua Barney. We will file these away for future reference. This will give us much more information to pass on to interested parties about notables buried [sic] at Allegheny.

Allegheny Cemetery will give much thought to your suggestion on the removal. As you know there is considerable work involved in finding the heirs and getting their permission to make this step. If in the future the next of kin gives consent and the necessary funds are raised, please contact us.

If we can be of further service to the Prince George County Historical Society [sic], please write.

Very truly yours

ALLEGHENY CEMETERY

*George E. Campbell
Superintendent*

October 26, 1971

Dear Paul,

The question was raised at our meeting last Friday as to why Commodore Barney was buried in Pittsburgh.

Enclosed for your information is a xerox copy of the Barney entry in the Dictionary of American Biography. Also enclosed is a copy of the last four pages of Hulbert Footner's 1940 biography entitled Sailor of Fortune.

Barney was a first generation American born in Baltimore County. At the time of the War of 1812 and thereafter he lived in Elkridge. Having been a Revolutionary veteran, he apparently received a gift of western lands for his military service. Following the War of 1812 he went out to Kentucky to inspect these lands and was royally received by the Kentuckians. He apparently decided after this visit to go West with his family (second wife and children). On the way he became ill and died in Pittsburgh. The excerpts from Sailor of Fortune give the details as to the burial and his monument. This monument apparently commemorates another officer as well.

Perhaps the best way to track down relatives would be to contact the DAR or SAR since some of them are probably members of said organizations.

The toast given by Barney at the banquet given after he was honored by the Kentucky legislature is one which should curl the hair of some of our local historians. It certainly was not well received at the time, however historian Footner is rather benevolent in his treatment of the incident.

Regards
Fred [DeMarr]

FROM THE TREASURER

Treasurer John B. Bourne reports that the Society is blessed with the following new member:

Rosemary Tantalo

and the following new LIFE Members:

Barbara Benfield
Melinda Alter and Art Garroway
Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle J. Lancaster
Frank A. and Shirley A. Nicolai

Welcome all!!

A Book of Interest

There are few historians who report some of our country's more interesting early activities in the manner that the late **Robert Pogue** does in his Yesterday in Old St. Mary's County, privately printed in 1973.

Pogue estimates the southern Maryland Indian population at 1300 persons at the beginning of the 17th Century. Despite Leonard Calvert's enlightened policies with respect to the Indians, in less than one hundred years, Pogue's research indicates a decrease to less than 90 adult Native Americans! (Page 115). Governor Nicholson, at a later date, even endorsed the principle of an Indian enclave near Great Falls, to occasion a greater quantity of tobacco to be made, and also to advance and encourage the New County (Prince George's) (page 124).

Turning to the War of 1812, Pogue reports (page 158) 556 British ships captured by privateers sailing from Baltimore alone, including Capt. Joshua Barney's Rosie. As a consequence, the capture of Baltimore was a

number-one priority of the British. Barney later commanded the American flotilla and, after being forced to destroy that fleet at Pig's Point (site of today's Marlboro Hunt Club) orchestrated a heroic but futile American stand at the Battle of Bladensburg.

The furious British retaliations were predominately directed against those unfortunate Marylanders whose homes were in reach of the powerful British fleet headquartered at St. George's Island. As a result, 300 families were forced to leave St. Mary's County, moving mostly 800 miles to the Kentucky frontier. Pogue (page 160) cites a population decrease from the mother country of nearly 3,000 inhabitants between 1790 and 1820 (from 15,544 to 12,974) as a direct result.

Pogue's coverage of what he chooses to call "The War of Northern Invasion" (page 162) is worded strictly from a Maryland viewpoint - that it was a war based on the economics of a secure Northern business depression to be mitigated by discriminatory tariffs against a Southern boom made possible in part by slave labor (page 169).

A comment by Pogue that Raphael Semmes (born and raised in Charles County) held in his lifetime both the General and Admiral's rank is interesting. As Captain of the Confederate raider Alabama, Semmes is credited with the destruction of 58 Union ships (page 167).

In a closing note Pogue personally relates that his grandfather, Elbert Harper Pogue, manufactured 'roll-your-own' cigarettes known as "Sitting Bull Durham", later just "Bull Durham" possible the ancestor of today's Camels.

1995

Yearly Planner

January						
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January

- 14** 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM PGCHS BOARD ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

February

- 11** 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA

February						
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March

- 11** 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- 18** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD ST. GEORGE'S NOMINATIONS, MARIETTA

March						
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April

- 8** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA

- 23** 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER

May

- 10** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM TENTATIVE DATE - PRESERVATION MONTH RECEPTION, LOCATION TBA

- 13** 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MARIETTA

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June

- 10** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MARIETTA

May						
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September

- 4** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO
5 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO

June						
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September

- 6** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO

- 7** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO

- 8** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO

- 9** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO

- 10** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO

- 23** 2:00 PM TENTATIVE DATE - PRINCE OF A COUNTY RECEPTION, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

October

- 14** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MARIETTA

November

- 11** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION, MARIETTA

December

- 9** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS HOLIDAY GALA, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

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August						
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30	31					

November						
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December						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Marietta Tours - Suspended Until
Further Notice - Information 301-464-
0590

THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a Tasteful Collection of
Handcrafted Items for Home and Gift-
giving, Toys and Games for Children,
small antiques, Historical Society
Publications and souvenirs of Historic
Marietta.

Call 301-464-0590 for Gift Shop Hours.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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RIVERDALE, MARYLAND 20738-0014

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RIVERDALE, MD
PERMIT NO. 1948

DATED MATERIAL

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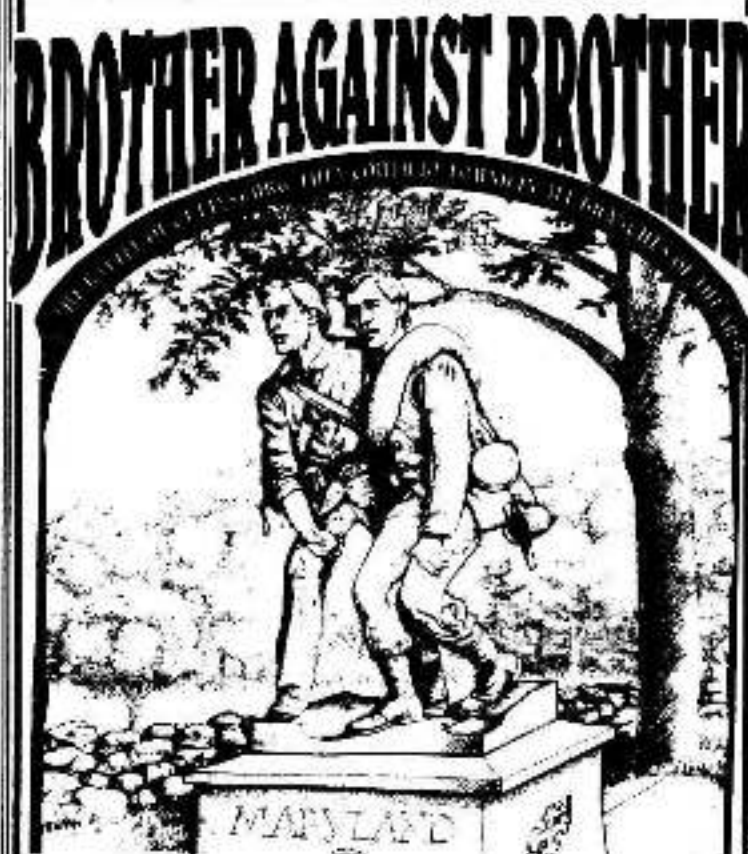
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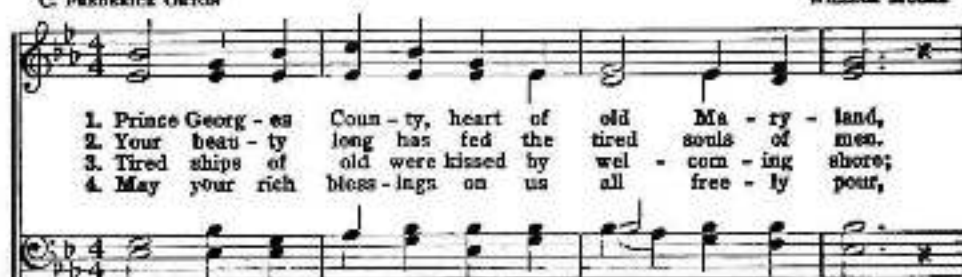
More than 5,000 Marylanders served on both sides of the Battle of Gettysburg. They could be found in all branches of the Army from private to Major General on all parts of the battlefield. Brother against Brother would be their legacy. Copyright Grannies Attic Shurt Haus, Gettysburg.

Hail Prince Georges

Official Song of Prince Georges County, Maryland

Words by
C. FREDERICK ORTON

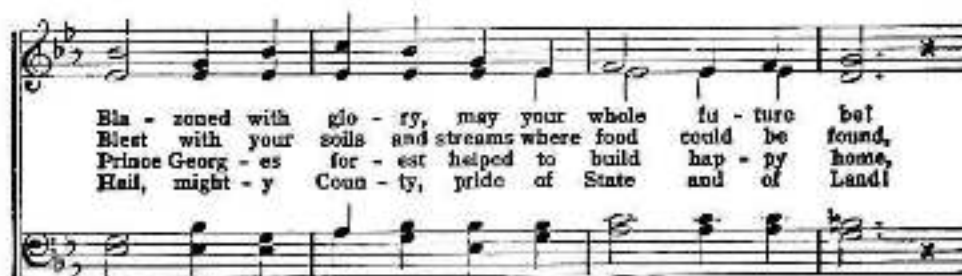
Music by
WILLIAM MOORE



1. Prince Georg - es Coun - ty, heart of old Ma - ry - land,
2. Your beau - ty long has fed the tired souls of men.
3. Tired ships of old were kissed by wel - com - ing shore;
4. May your rich bless - ings on us all free - ly pour,



Child of the Free State, long u - nit - ed both stand,
They have found rest in wood - ed hill and green glen.
Lead - ers of men came through your wide o - pen door.
On rich and poor a - like till time is no more!



Bla - zoned with glo - ry, may your whole fu - ture be
Blest with your soils and streams where food could be found,
Prince Georg - es for - est helped to build hap - py home,
Hail, might - y Coun - ty, pride of State and of Land!



But - wark of Tol - er - ance, and true Lib - er - ty.
All that men need - ed in your - self did a - bound.
Shel - tered in safe - ty 'neath the blue, star - ry dome,
Prince Georg - es Coun - ty, heart of old Ma - ry - land.

Copyright 1932, by Prince Georges Chamber of Commerce

FRONTIER PROBLEMS

The Washington Post of February 2, 1995, under the heading "Negro Mountain Keeps Name" related the origin of that name to one "Nemesis", an African American who served in the years just before our Revolution with Indian fighter Colonel Thomas Cresap on the Maryland Frontier in what was once Prince George's County and is now Garrett County.

The article goes on to state that "a massacre" of Indians that led to a general border uprising was "erroneously" attributed to Cresap!

While the passage of time may preclude a full resolution of this controversy, the following quotes from the research files of our late Society colleague, Judge Robert E. Lee van Horn, casts some doubt on the innocence of Cresap and those under his command with respect to the particular 'massacre' of Indians to which the article refers.

The following are quotes from van Horn's Out of the Past (published in 1976 by the Society), attributed to the Maryland Gazette, one of the leading newspapers of the day. (Page numbers refer to van Horn's book)

Page 106. 12/4/1775 - *'sixty men from Prince George's County, at their own expense, went to Western Maryland in October 1775 to aid the settlers of that region.'*

Page 108. 4/29/1776 - *Daniel and Thomas Cresap went out three weeks since with sixty persons dressed and passed as Indians to kill the women and children in the*

Indian towns and scalp them while their warriors were committing like destruction on our friends.

The Washington Post article references Hubert Footner's Maryland Main and the Eastern Shore, published in 1942, which contains references to Cresap's Indian campaigns. On page 151 of that reference there is an indication that Indian uprisings had been put down in 1758, but flared up again in 1763 in a major way. The Lord Proprietary originally refused to pay for a defense of the Province despite Indian boasts of a fifty to one killing ratio. The area involved had been part of Prince George's County and originally settled by Prince Georgians, so any Indian problems occurring there were of great concern of the County and its families.

Colonel Cresap's career covered the Indian wars, the Revolutionary War and an intense boundary dispute with Pennsylvania's Quakers. After taking a second wife at the age of 80, Cresap moved to Nova Scotia, where he died at the age of 106.

Paul Lanham

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

MARYLANDERS AT GETTYSBURG

This new book by Daniel Carroll Toomey, published late in 1994, is a recent addition to the Society's Library. Its public release was timed to include coverage of the November 13, 1994 unveiling of the only State memorial dedicated to those men who served on both sides of the conflict at Gettysburg. It is hard to believe that it has taken over 130 years to

achieve a suitable memorial to the Sons of Maryland who fought and died in that great battle.

An interesting sidelight of that delay is that 5 Union memorials dedicated in 1888 cost a total of \$5,500, while a Confederate memorial placed in 1886 cost only \$1,000; and the Maryland Memorial cost \$300,000 in 1994! Inflation!!

Toomey, in a relative few pages (100), has produced a comprehensive coverage of virtually every aspect of Marylanders' participation at Gettysburg, both Union and Confederate. Profusely illustrated with photographs of personages and monuments, and augmented with maps, casualty lists, reunion memorabilia, histories of participating units, etc., this volume is well worth reading by all Civil War buffs.

Company C of the 1st Maryland (later 2nd Maryland) regiment, CSA, included most of the participants from Prince George's County. A quick perusal of the casualty lists discloses the following familiar local family names:

Anderson, Barber, Clough, Clagett, Cushing, Davis, Dawson, Dulaney, Duvall, Edelin, Edgar, Hamilton, Hammond, Hardesty, Kenney, Lanham, Lawson, McCann, McWilliams, Mulliken, Nash, Nichols, O'Bryan, Payne, Probest, Schultz, Skinner, Shipley, Steele, Storm, Tingle, Tolson, Welch and White.

Paul Lanham

THE MARYLAND MONUMENT AT GETTYSBURG

Your editor has a very close friend who

lives in England, who is a devotee of 'militaria', an Ameriphile (if there is such a word), and one with an abiding interest in our Civil War period. TB visits us fairly frequently and has, as part of those excursions, traveled to quite a number of Civil War battlefields. I still remember sweltering in 95 degree heat on July 4, 1993 at Gettysburg while watching a reenactment of Pickett's Charge. TB was here in November, and, of course, we returned to Gettysburg to ensure that he'd get 'authentic' militaria and Confederate battle standards. While there, we were able to see the newly dedicated Maryland statue. We were quite impressed by the memorial, which captures in our mind both the pain of the sons of Maryland as they fought against each other (sometimes brother against brother) as well as the healing that took place in the decades after the battle. The fact that it took a century or more to agree on a suitable memorial for Maryland is an indication of the depth of feeling. That it was achieved is, in itself, an appropriate memorial to those who fought and died in that battle.

The newspapers, of course, covered the dedication, and excerpts from one or more of those stories follow.

May we recommend that you take the short drive to Gettysburg and view the monument. It is a nice day's outing and Gettysburg has a large variety of restaurants, shops, and tourist sites to visit.

Les Sweeting

March 1995 - February 1996

Yearly Planner

March 95						
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March

- 11** 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- 18** 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS BOARD ST. GEORGE'S NOMINATIONS, MARIETTA

April 95						
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April

- 8** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
- 23** 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER

May

- 10** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM TENTATIVE DATE - PRESERVATION MONTH RECEPTION, LOCATION TBA
- 13** 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MARIETTA

May 95						
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June

- 10** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MARIETTA

July 95						
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September

- 4** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO
- 5** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO
- 6** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO
- 7** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO
- 8** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO
- 9** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA

August 95						
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September

- 9** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO
- 10** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR, UPPER MARLBORO
- 23** 2:00 PM TENTATIVE DATE - PRINCE OF A COUNTY RECEPTION, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

October

- 14** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MARIETTA

- 21** 8:00 AM PGCHS BUS TOUR - ALL DAY

November

- 11** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING, MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION, MARIETTA

December

- 9** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS HOLIDAY GALA, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

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THE RAMBLER

ED. NOTE *during the second decade of this century, the Washington Sunday Star featured a writer known as The Rambler. J. Harry Shannon, who wrote about Washington area history through walks around the area. We came across a volume of reprints of those articles dealing with Beltsville, and thought our readers might enjoy a portion of one article in particular.*

The Rambler Writes of
Prince George's County
August 17, 1919

Prince George's County is a name that spells home for a great number of Washington people. It is very easy to pronounce "Prince George's" in a way to indicate that one holds the old county in affectionate regard and remembrance. It is very probably true that a greater number of the inhabitants of Washington were born in Prince George's county than in any other county in the United States, and a very large percentage of native-born Washingtonians are descended from Prince George's county families. A considerable portion of Washington's industrial population sleeps in Prince George's county, and a large part of the food which sustains Washington is produced in that county.

Nearly everybody in Washington who came from Prince George's county, or whose father or mother, grandfather or grandmother came from that old and historic county, feels a strong sense of attachment to it. The Rambler is glad to admit that for these and other endearing reasons does Prince George's hold a happy and sunny place in his thoughts.

He knows just as well as you that the people of Montgomery, Howard, Frederick, Calvert, Anne Arundel, Charles and St. Mary's, Loudoun, Fairfax, Alexandria, Prince William, King George, Stafford, Westmoreland and Northumberland love their old home counties and feel as proud of them as Prince George's people feel of theirs. Such a sentiment is natural with people of good heart and feeling. The scenes of one's youth take on a poetic glamour and radiance that glow brighter the longer and farther our separation from them.

* * * * *

When we lived among the hills, the woods and fields they seemed to us to be very ordinary bits of landscape, but as we look back at those places after a lapse of years they come before the mind's eye as the most beautiful in the world. When we lived there many of the people seemed to us very commonplace, but as we look back to those old folk of other times we know that, though they may have been plain and humble, they were among the best of people. When we think of their graves in the quiet little churchyard or the old fashioned, tangles and neglected family burying ground we feel a sense of deep regret that we did not appreciate them at the full measure of their worth. And there is a lesson in this. It is that we should be kinder, more tolerant and more gentle toward the people with whom we find fault now.

A long time ago, and so long ago, that everybody has forgotten it now, the Rambler wrote a series of historic and statistical stories on the neighbor counties of Washington, and he described the geographical lines of Prince George's. Many Washingtonians know very little about that county. The northern and

eastern boundary of Prince George's is the Patuxent river. The county line follows the windings of that river from a point three miles northwest of Laurel to the point where Swanson creek is half a mile wide, and if you measure from Chalk point on the north side to Point Judith on the south side it is a mile. The county adjoining Prince George's on the north is Howard.

The adjoining county on the east is Anne Arundel, and on the southeast is Calvert county. The south boundary of the county extends in an irregular course from the Patuxent to the Potomac and the approximate length of that line is thirty five miles. Beginning in the middle of the Patuxent river off the mouth of Swanson creek, it follows the creek westerly for four miles, turns north for four miles, then travels westwardly in a line for about six miles to the head of Mattawoman creek and follows that creek westwardly for about twelve miles and then, leaving the creek at a point two miles northwest of Benville Corners, it strikes north with an inclination toward the west and reaches the Potomac river a trifle over half a mile below the government fish hatchery station at Bryans point, which is between Fort Washington and Marshall Hall.

This line crosses the Potomac river, there about a mile wide, and ends on the Virginia shore close to Mount Vernon or about midway between the landing there and Little Hunting creek. The county line then follows the west shore of the Potomac to Jones point below Alexandria, or a distance of about eight miles. The county adjoining Prince George's on the south is Charles, the parent county of Prince George's and the parent county of

the District of Columbia. Many grants of land now within the District of Columbia and the limits of Washington dated prior to 1695, describe these tracts as 'lying in the county of Charles.'

The northwest boundary of Prince George's county runs in a line from the District of Columbia near Takoma to the upper Patuxent river, a distance of about thirteen miles, and the county on the other side of the line is Montgomery. The approximate land area of Prince George's county is about 482 square miles. The water area of the county the Rambler cannot compute except very roughly. It is considerable.

* * * * *

The county seat is Upper Marlboro, fourteen miles southeast of the Capitol building in an air line, but about four miles further by road. The principal towns and settlements in the county are Laurel, Hyattsville, Riverdale, Mount Rainier, College Park, Berwyn, Branchville, Beltsville, Lakeland, Muirkirk, Tuxedo, Magruder, Landover, Ardwick, Seabrook, Glendale, Springfield, Sunnyside, Vansville, Ammendale, Contee, Oakcrest, Mistletoe Springs, Bowie, Brentwood, Bladensburg, Collington, Mullikin, Hall, Leeland, Croom, Nottingham, Aquasco, Horsehead, Cedarville, Baden, Brandywine, Cheltenham, Chillum, Hynesboro, Brightseat, Woodmore, Forestville, Talbert, Rosaryville, Suitland, Silver Hill, Camp Springs, Clinton, T.B. Westphalia, Hardesty, Largo, Meadows, Woodyard, Tippet, Sharperville, Oxon Hill, New Glatz, Friendly, Trueman Point, Chesapeake Junction and Seat Pleasant. So satisfactory is the growth and development of the county that new subdivisions and settlements come into

existence each year. There lies before the Rambler a booklet entitled "Gazetteer of the State of Maryland," compiled by Dr. R.S. Fisher and published at New York in 1952. All that it contains about Prince George's county follows:

The great thoroughfare of Prince George's county is the Washington Branch railroad, which traverses the northwest part and besides this there are several good post roads. Its extensive river borders affords outlets for its products seaward. Upper Marlboro is the county seat of justice and the following are the villages and post offices: Aquasco, Beltsville, Bladensburg, Brandywine, Buena Vista, Fort Washington, Good Luck, Horse Head, Laurel Factory, Long Oldfields, Nottingham, Piscataway, and Queen Anne.

FROM THE TREASURER

Welcome to New Members

William G. Wilson
Mr. Lauren R. Brown

AND
New Life Member

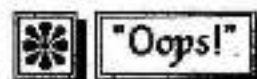
Mildred Ridgely-Gray

Dues Notices

Second Request member dues invoices for 1995 will soon be mailed to those members now delinquent. Please respond promptly and renew your membership. Thank you.

John. B. Bourne

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



First, let me apologize for a couple of errors in the last News and Notes, specifically in the page layout - because I failed to advise the printer which page was which. Also, there were errors and possibly omissions in the Calendar, which we hope have been corrected. This new program for the calendar is good, but the rule with respect to computers is still "GIGO" (garbage in - garbage out) as it has been since UNIVAC made the scene in the 1950s.

The lecturers for Society meetings promise to be quite interesting this year, beginning with Don Creveling's discussion of the Laurel lead coffins and other archaeological items on March 11.

April is, of course, reserved for the St. George's Day Dinner, held this year (as in the past) at the Marlborough Hunt Club on April 23, 1995 (a pleasant Sunday afternoon), and the venue for our annual St. George's Day Awards and the unveiling of the Hall of Fame selection for 1995.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Marietta Tours - Suspended Until
Further Notice - Information 301-464-
0590

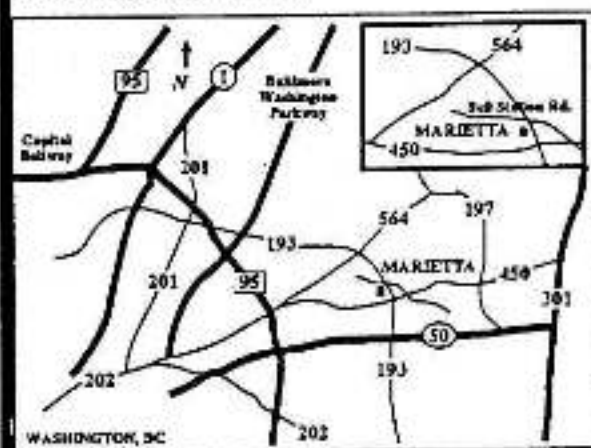
THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a Tasteful Collection of
Handcrafted Items for Home and Gift-
giving, Toys and Games for Children,
small antiques, Historical Society
Publications and souvenirs of Historic
Marietta.

Call 301-464-0590 for Gift Shop Hours.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.



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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 1995

OUR 43RD YEAR

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1995

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Vice President - Eugene Roberts
Secretary - Sarah Bourne
Treasurer - John B. Bourne
Historian - Frederick S. DeMarr
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Directors - 1995/1996

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Wallis Hall Cain
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John Giannetti
Paul Lanham
Warren (Dusty) Rhoads
Joyce McDonald

PRINCE GEORGE'S 299TH BIRTHDAY

On April 23, 1995, Prince George's County celebrates its 299th birthday. As we have done for a number of years, the Society will celebrate at an afternoon dinner at the Marlboro Hunt Club, and we will enjoy the conviviality of seeing old friends, making new friends and sharing in the celebration of the history of this Prince of a County.

The Prince George's County Hall of Fame will unveil its latest inductee - always a significant lesson in our past.

And, last, but certainly not least, there will be the announcement of the St. George's Day awards for 1995. As one of the past awardees, I know how special those awards are to the recipients.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Banquet. Invitations are in the mail, so please respond promptly!





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Things are rolling right along. I have found being president of the Society a very challenging job. It has been interesting, fun, lots of work, and has kept my telephone very busy. Our plans for the year are in place and serve as the road map for our year's journey. The plans for the next three months programs are confirmed. See the calendar notes for details.

Our March program was to hear Don Creveling, archaeologist, discuss the find of lead coffins at Laurel, and other related topics. However, several days before the meeting, he was hospitalized for severe back problems. We wish Don a speedy recovery. We were fortunate to have Jack Hoyert fill in on short notice. His discussion of the history and culture of tobacco, while mayhaps not, as they say these days "P.C." was instructive. He has been a researcher and Director of the University of Maryland Experimental Farm for some time. You could have heard a tobacco seed drop during this slide presentation - the audience was so interested.

One of the joys we share is the reassignment of our own Susan Wolfe to manage Marietta. When we met to discuss matters, her husband, Jim, was upstairs putting together her desk and office equipment. We welcomed her back with open arms! The Wolfes will also be the tenants in the

apartment later this year. Welcome home Jim and Susan.

We are sending a letter to County Executive Wayne Curry acknowledging our understanding that budget priorities require that the grant we have been used to receiving will not be available this year; and expressing the fervent hope that it will be restored in future years.

After much discussion and gathering of cost estimates, pricing, etc., it was decided that the Society should table the issuing of a reprint of Lost A Brother, a young reader's story of the Battle of Bladensburg by the Knipes. We realize that this is a disappointment to some, but we do not feel that we can tie up the amount of resources needed to have the volume printed at this time.

The Society did make a modest investment to support the conference fees for the Small Museums Conference in Ocean City last month. Stella and Bill Uber, Florence Riedesel, Mildred Ridgeley Gray, and yours truly were very enthused and learned a lot in the three days of an excellent program.

As a Society, we had committed to supporting a modest bond bill for the next phase of restoration at Marietta before the Legislature. Freely admitting that I knew absolutely nothing about how to go about doing this, I called Leo Green who advised me that it was the very last day to file such a bill, but he would be pleased to sponsor it for us. A flurry of paper ensued, and thanks to the fax machine, it was on his desk in time. My Irish lick came through, let's hope it continues. Delegates Mary Conroy and Joan Pitkin co-sponsored HB 1279, requesting \$375,000 of state funds to be used for the final phase of the restoration of the Manor.

The matching funds are in the MNCPPC proposed budget for FY 1997. Orlando Ridout IV (a member of the Society of Maren Duvall Descendants), Bowie City Councilman Bill Aleshire, and I testified at a March 11 hearing on behalf of the House bill. Its companion bill, SB775, sponsored by State Senator Leo Green, was the subject of a hearing on March 20, and Mr. Ridout and I will testify again. Several members of the political community have made calls in support of our efforts. Many thanks to each of those supporters. By the time you receive this, we expect final action on the bill. We hope to celebrate this achievement at the Hunt Club on April 23, along with our birthday party and the St. George's Day Awards. See You There!!!!



President Jane Eagen



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

1995 continues to be a very busy year for our Society, getting even busier as we look ahead to 1996. Within the next month we will celebrate the 299th birthday of Prince George's County, and many, many members of the Society are very active in that effort. We are almost to the point where a preliminary calendar of events County-wide, can be issued. I will endeavor to bring that to you as it is developed.

In honor of our 299th Birthday on Sunday April 23, 1995, of course, we will have our annual St. George's Day dinner, the presentation of the Prince George's County Hall of Fame selection for 1995, and the annual announcement of our St. George's Day Awards. So as to ensure the suspense continues to build, I will hold off on announcing the winners until the next edition of News and Notes.

Our May 13, 1995 membership meeting will feature a newcomer to Maryland, but a person who is of great importance to the future course of the Maryland Historical Society and our partnerships with that body.

Dennis A. Fiori was named Director of the Maryland Historical Society effective March 14, 1995. His prior experience as Director of the Concord Museum (Concord, Mass.), Assistant Director of the Maine Arts

Commission, and Deputy Director of Programs at the Institute of Museum Services are indicative of Mr. Fiori's outstanding qualifications for this important post. We look forward to his insights on museum management, fund raising, and planned growth. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Fiori to Prince George's County.

As many of our readers know, your editor shares a long standing relationship with a Librarian, who, besides being my anchor and the light of my life these past 29 years, also sees that I take the time to explain myself when disparate actions seem to indicate lack of planning. So, let me explain this issue of News and Notes. We began with President Eagen's message - which deserves, we believe, pride of place. Then come my meanderings, because I own the printer.

We then turn to articles by my favorite, and most prolific contributor - Past President Paul Lanham. His first article - about the Walker Colt, brings the history of a weapon probably seldom seen in the County into focus because of the person for whom it was named - Col. Walker of Toaping Castle, Prince George's County.

His second article on the earliest days of our area, before the founding of the County, in fact, came to his mind when he read of the recent acquisition of a piece of Prince George's real estate that has possibly the greatest historical significance of all - for it was the site of our first county seat - Charles Town, now occupied by the mansion known as Mount Calvert. It must be noted that this is a different place than the Calvert Mansion - Riversdale, which has come into such prominence with its recent restoration, but they certainly share a common history, since it was to Mount Calvert that Rosalie Steir, daughter of the builder of Riversdale and

later Mistress of Riversdale herself, traveled as the teen aged bride of George Calvert in the early part of the last century.

I have asked Mrs. Sweeting, my aforementioned partner in life, to pen an article on Mount Calvert to follow up on this item in a later edition.

Society Secretary Sarah Bourne has provided a short perspective on our new President.

Finally, note that the calendar pages are becoming more and more numerous - with one for the month, and two for the year - as I said at the beginning, we are getting busier and busier. Enjoy all of this wonderful activity. You will also see notice of the tours of Historic St. Thomas' Church in Croome, given the first Saturday of each month through December in honor of their 250th anniversary.

Les Sweeting



FIREARMS HISTORY - THE WALKER COLT

On a recent tour of the Far West, Doris and I visited the Lost Dutchman Museum on Superstition Mountain, Apache Junction, Arizona 85217.

Quite unexpectedly, a vintage 44 caliber handgun, a "Walker Colt", production 240, was noted in a display of weapons of the West, far from Prince George's County,

which has a role in its history. (The National Rifle Association Museum in Washington, DC proudly displays another example of this valuable antique firearm.)

While a member of the famed Texas Rangers, Samuel Hamilton Walker was charged with responsibility for procuring 'a standard sidearm' for that unit. The "Walker Colt", incorporating his design changes was the end product of that effort. Captain (later Colonel) Walker served with distinction during the Seminole War and was killed in the War with Mexico on October 9, 1847. He was born on February 24, 1819 at the family home, Toaping Castle, on Bear Creek in what is now Greenbelt. The house, after which the Daughters of the American Revolution chapter takes its name, stood at what would now be the northwest corner of the intersection of Greenbelt Road and the Capitol Beltway, on property now occupied by an automotive agency. The family's title dated back to a land grant of February 5, 1754. After the last bear for which the creek was named was dispatched, the origin of the name lapsed into obscurity. A Walker family burial ground still exists in the area.¹

Colonel Walker is buried in San Antonio, Texas, although there is a current effort being made to relocate his remains to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame in Waco.

The Walker clan is still an active one, as evidenced by their family reunions.² Further information on the family, and specifically on

Colonel Walker's distinguished career, may be secured through the Society's Frederick DeMarr Library.³

A picture of Toaping Castle as it existed in 1952, and in ruinous condition in 1967, were shown in an article in the Prince George's Post, by the late James W. Wilfong, January 12, 1967, available at the Columbia Historical Society.

With respect to the Walker Colt, two observers might be consulted. It is stated that the early "Whitneyville-Walker Dragoon" model was limited to 240 guns, of which 15 can be located.⁴ Wilson also notes that there were 180 models of the earlier "Walker Workman" model preserved. Out of a total of 1100 Walker Colts, only 100 were produced strictly as civilian (rather than peace officer) items.

Paul Lanham

"Times Have Changed! In 1770, English law stated that all women, regardless of rank (maids or virgins) who seduced and betrayed into matrimony any man by use of scents, paints, heeled shoes, bolstered hips, artificial teeth or hair, iron stays, hoops, cosmetic washes, etc. would be convicted of witchcraft and the marriage declared null and void." *South west Louisiana Genealogical Society, V 18-4, 1994 (quoted in PGCGS Bulletin April 1995 p 174, v 26 no 8.*

¹ Stones and Bones, Prince George's County Genealogical Society, 1984, p. 603.

² Prince George's County Genealogical Society Bulletin, Vol 26, No. 3, 3/11/94, page 52.

³ Across the Years in Prince George's County, Effie Gwynne Bowie, 1947; and The Walkers of Toaping Castle, Maryland, Samuel H. Walker, 1883.

⁴ The Colt Heritage, R. L. Wilson, 1939, Simon and Shuster, p. 296.



THE WITCHES OF MOUNT CALVERT

We noted the announcement in the February 2, 1995 edition of the Washington Post that the State of Maryland's Maryland Historic Trust had acquired an historic 75-acre property on the banks of the Patuxent River that was the site of the first seat of government for Prince George's County at its creation on April 23, 1696.

According to local tradition, the plantation house that sits on the property incorporates a 17th century building that served as the County's first courthouse. However, historians and researchers have been able to trace the origins of the structure only to the 1780s. Still, there is general agreement that today's mansion called Mount Calvert is the only remaining extant building left on what was once Charles Town (named for King Charles the I?) The county seat from 1696 until the relocation of government to Upper Marlboro in 1721. (Note that Upper Marlboro, although named for the ducal seat of the hero of the Battle of Blenheim under Queen Anne, was called 'upper' so as to distinguish it from Lower Marlboro, situated some 12 miles downstream, in the adjoining Calvert County).

Early history in the Charles Town area, as it existed prior to the founding of Prince George's County is obscured by the passage of time, but the records of the Maryland Provincial Court are interesting in that they document two prosecutions in Mount

Calvert Hundred for the crime of witchcraft. Calvert County, from which our County was formed, must claim the blame for an execution in the one case and an acquittal in the other.

The Biblical injunction that "thou shalt not suffer a witch to live" was a powerful admonition of which our ancestors were completely aware and supportive. It is amazing, in light of other reports, that historical documents only disclose these two instances as taking place in what is now Prince George's County.

Case number One - Rebecca Fowler, spinster of the late John Fowler, in the year 1685, is recorded as follows:

"That being led by the instigation of the Divell (sic) she did wickedly, divelishly (sic) and feloniously at Mount Calvert Hundred practice and exercise in upon and against one Francis Sandsbury and several others in that him and there bodies were very much the worst, consumed, pined and lamed.

The case was heard on October 3, 1685 by the Court, and a guilty verdict rendered, and sentence of death by hanging was carried out on October 9. Expedition justice indeed!

Case number two was that of Hannah Edwards, spinster of the late Richard Edwards, in the year 1686, declared as follows:

"That she the said Hannah Edwards did practice and exercise certain evil and diabollicall (sic) arts called witchcraft, enchantments, charmes (sic) and sorceries (sic) upon and against one Ruth Hutchinson and

others upon their bodies. . . were very much consumed, pined and wasted against the peace and form of the State in this case."

Tried by a jury, according to the records, the defendant was acquitted. The veniremen in the case were Richard Smith, Andrew Abington, Walter Lane, James Neale, John Atley, Thomas Truxton, John Allen, John Woodward, Moses James, Robert Benson, Thomas Price and Thomas Cooke.

A complete report of known cases of Witchcraft in Maryland is contained in an article of that title by Frances Neal Parke in the Maryland Historical Society Magazine of December 1936, beginning on page 271. The article alludes to executions at sea in 1654 and 1658, aboard vessels bound for the colony. The Society's library has this magazine in its collection.

Paul Lanham

FROM THE TREASURER

Welcome to New Members!

Deborah A. Greenberg
Jeri A. Hallaway
Robert J. Hallaway

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!!

UNPAID 1995 MEMBER DUES

If the label attached to this issue of News and Notes reflects "94" circled in red, your 1995 dues payment has not been received by the Treasurer. PGCHS Bylaws provide that your name must be dropped from membership rolls -- **Please renew your membership today!!!!** Thank you.

John B. Bourne, Treasurer

MEET THE BOARD

Jane Eagen declares that she had little interest in either history or heritage until the Social Studies unit on Maryland arose in the county curriculum for her fourth grade class. As is typical of her style, Jane did not settle for the materials the county provided and sought to educate herself on the subject. A two semester course at the University of Maryland under Dr. Verne Chatelaine was the spark that has driven a life time of passion for Maryland and local history. A large collection of books about the Free State found their way into the Eagen personal library and into Jane's life. During the 350th anniversary of the founding of Maryland, Jane was one of the county teachers who had the opportunity to participate in the Maryland History Experience, where she found many like-minded souls. A direct result of that experience is Our Maryland, an elementary level text that Jane co-authored and that is widely used in the schools across the State today. In researching the book, Jane discovered many exciting heritage locations and is an avid tour guide and promoter of local history.

One of her fourth grade classes piloted a research project at *Partnership* on the grounds of Adventure World, one that has been a model for other student research efforts. She takes great pride in the fact that one of those students will graduate this year with a degree in architecture, another is 'in process' and several others have become history students in college.

As a life-long county resident, educated in county schools, and as an elementary

teacher, Jane feels strongly that too many of our children do not acquire a sense of *home* or *roots*. A desire to help overcome this deficiency has led Jane to accept the awesome task as President of the Society and a leadership role in planning for the County's Tricentennial. The Society recognized a good thing when they tapped her to serve on the Board of Directors a month before her retirement from teaching became official. The citizens of Prince George's County, particularly the children, are richer for the all-consuming dedication of this extremely dedicated and talented lady.

Sarah Bourne, Secretary

FROM PLANTER'S ADVOCATE
4 SEPTEMBER 1861

GOOD COFFEE - SOMETHING NEW

This you can always have by using Herman's celebrated COFFEE ROASTER, Patented January 18, 1859. Just such an apparatus as this has long been needed in every family to stop the men from grumbling at their wives for making bad coffee, and to keep the women in a good humor with the grocery men. This Roaster is so constructed that the coffee is shifted from one end of the cylinder to the other twice during each revolution - by this means all the coffee is exposed to the same heat, and every grain roasted alike. In the end is placed a small glass window. Through which the coffee can be inspected at any time without opening the door - thus obviating the all danger of burning it too much, and preventing the escape of the aroma. In order to have a rich, fragrant cup of coffee, it must be roasted regularly, and the aroma retained; if this is lost in roasting, the coffee becomes bitter, or flat and insipid. This cannot be done in an open vessel, for if you keep the vessel open and stir it

constantly in order to roast the coffee regularly it loses much of its strength and flavor, and if you cover it, the coffee at the bottom will burn, and by the time it is done, some of it is burnt black, which imparts a bitter flavor to the whole; neither can it be done by any other roaster, as they have to be stopped frequently to inspect the coffee, and while standing still the coffee is burning at the bottom, and every time the door is opened the aroma passes off.

For sale by **James A. Medley**, Marlboro House, Upper Marlboro, MD.

Ed. Note - James Medely operated the hotel in the Marlboro Tavern, and one can imagine that, as the local seller of this newfangled device, he used it to roast coffee in the mornings and his overnight visitors waking to this delightful aroma would awake "in good humor with" the host. Thanks to Susan Pearl for this gem.





April 1995

Monthly Planner

April

- 5 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 8 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMB-
ERSHIP MEETING
NO MEETING DUE TO ST. GEORGE'S DAY
- 23 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM ST.
GEORGE'S DAY
DINNER, MARLBORO
HUNT CLUB

April 1995 - March 1996

Yearly Planner

April 95						
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30						

April

5 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

8 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD

23 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM ST. GEORGE'S
DAY DINNER, MARLBORO
HUNT CLUB

May

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

13 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
PGCHS MEMBER-
SHIP MEETING

17 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM PRESER-
VATION WEEK RECEPTION,
ANDREWS AIRFORCE BASE
CLUB

June

7 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

10 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
PGCHS MEMBER-
SHIP MEETING

July

5 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

8 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD

August

2 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

August

12 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD

September

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

9 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD

23 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS PRINCE
OF A COUNTY RECEPTION,
PLEASANT PROSPECT

October

4 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

14 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
PGCHS MEMBER-
SHIP MEETING

November

1 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

11 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
PGCHS MEMBER-
SHIP MEETING

December

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

9 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM POTTS HOLI-
DAY GALA, RIVERSDALE

January

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
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ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

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Guided Tours of Historic St. Thomas' Church Croome, Maryland

In observance of the 250th Anniversary of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, free guided tours will be offered the first Saturday of each month from April to December beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Established by Act of the Maryland General Assembly in 1732, which taxed parishioners for as much tobacco needed to build St. Thomas', one of our county's six 18th Century churches.

Parish church of Thomas John Claggett, first Episcopal Bishop consecrated in America, whose epitaph, composed by Francis Scott Key, is inscribed on a brass tablet on the front wall.

Members of the Calvert family, proprietary Lords of Maryland, are buried in the cemetery. Benedict Leonard Calvert of Mt. Airy Plantation, son of the fifth Lord Baltimore, and his daughter, Eleanor Calvert Custis Stewart, step daughter in law of George Washington, lie buried beneath the church's floor.

***For tour arrangements, call Marion Freeman,
St. Thomas' Parish House. (301) 627-8469***

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Marietta Tours - Suspended Until
Further Notice - Information 301-464-
0590

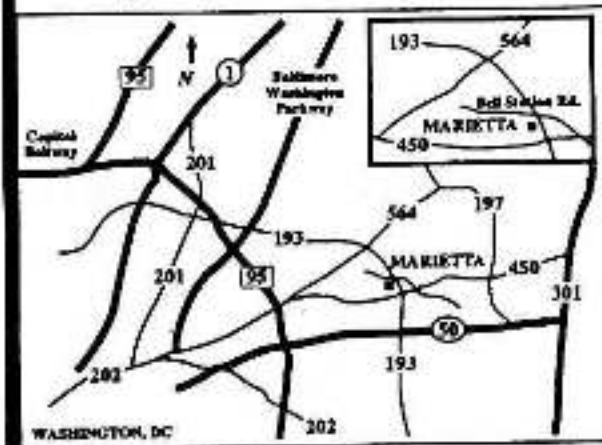
THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a Tasteful Collection of
Handcrafted Items for Home and Gift-
giving, Toys and Games for Children,
small antiques, Historical Society
Publications and souvenirs of Historic
Marietta.

Call 301-464-0590 for Gift Shop Hours.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 1995

OUR 43RD YEAR

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1995

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John Gannetti
Paul Lanham
Warren (Dusty) Rhoads
Joyce McDonald

WELCOME BACK FOR AN OLD FRIEND

Mark your calendars for May 21, 1995 - when the County finally welcomes back into the fold of historic sites available for visits and celebration.

Built in the 1740s -- Belair Mansion is a 2-story brick Georgian Mansion with hip-on-hip roof; architecturally compatible flanking hypens and wings were added in the early twentieth century. On the grounds is a small family graveyard. The main block of the mansion was built for Samuel Ogle, provincial governor of Maryland, and was the country home of his son, Benjamin Ogle, Governor from 1798 until 1801. During the first half of this century, Belair was the country estate of prominent horse-breeder, William Woodward. It is now the centerpiece of Bowie.

Come and join in Bowie Heritage Day, Sunday, May 21, 1995, 1 PM to 5 PM. Special events to be held at the Belair Stable Museum and the Mansion, including military re-enactments, the Bladensburg Heritage Colonial Dancers, crafts people, horses, etc. Margaret Brent Tells Stories, Cooking from the Colonial Table, and Music from Harpsichords!

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

First - a correction - Jeri A. Holloway and Robert J. Holloway were listed as *Halloway* last month. We regret the error. Welcome to new member **Dorothy Ball**.

This is the last issue of *News and Notes* that will be mailed to those members who have not renewed membership (based on Society records) for 1995. Mailing labels reflect "94" if you are on this list. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MAY MEETING - SPEAKER CHANGE

Because of an unforeseen conflict in his schedule, Dennis Fiori, Director of the Maryland Historical Society, will not be able to speak to the Society at our May 13, 1995 membership meeting. We are advised that Mr. Fiori will try to arrange to address us at a future date.

We are fortunate, however, to have an equally gifted substitute, Stephen F. Patrick, who is the Executive Director, Hammond-Harwood House Association, Annapolis. Mr. Patrick will talk about the Maryland planter gentry (and especially those in Prince George's County), their maritime trade connections, and their influence on the society of the time. This illustrated lecture promises to be most informative.

A native Marylander, Mr. Patrick holds an honors degree in American Studies and Russian from the University of Delaware, and a master of arts degree from the College of William and Mary. He has also trained at the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum, the Attingham Summer School on the English Country House at Oxford University, and the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, University of North Carolina. His museum experience ranges from Annapolis, to Alexandria (The George Washington Museum at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial); to Philadelphia - The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. He has authored several scholarly articles, including one entitled "Marylanders in the Nascent Russo-American Trade" in the current issue of *Maryland Historical Magazine*.



ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS PRESENTED

April 23, 1995 was the date - the 299th Birthday of Prince George's County - and the Marlborough Hunt Club on the banks of the Patuxent was our venue for celebrating this momentous and happy occasion. Our revelry was somewhat overshadowed by thoughts of the families of the victims of the terrible bombing in Oklahoma City, and we observed a moment of silence in honor of those who gave that last full measure, and their loved ones.

President Jane Eagen read the formal act ordering the erection of Prince George's County, passed by the colonial legislature in 1695. She also acted as Mistress of Ceremonies for the presentation of St. George's Day Awards to six of the eight recipients for 1995. These are:

Victoria and Todd Davison of Riverdale for their loving restoration and preservation of the Smith House in Riverdale.

Kevin Phillips of Croom for his significant service as a member of the Prince George's Historical and Cultural Trust, Prince George's Heritage, and most especially, his management of "The Newell Post", the Prince George's County Historic Artifact Salvage Depot, under the aegis of the Trust.

Covington and Monique Stanwick of Aquasco for their restoration and preservation of "Sunnydale" in Aquasco, site of the 1994 Fall Fund Raiser.

Rebecca Livingston of Hyattsville/University Park, for her dedicated work with the Hyattsville Preservation Association and on the University Park Historic District Survey.

W. Dickerson Charlton of Adelphi for his long years of service to the County as a member of Prince George's Heritage, the County Representative to the Maryland Historical Trust, and other groups.

Dick and Betty Compton of Laurel for their leadership and service to the Laurel Historical Society.

Unable to attend were two other recipients:

Karen Duffy Miles of Dunkirk for her long service as a volunteer with the Prince George's County Genealogical Society and its library, and other organizations.

Helen Clark of Bowie in honor of her participation in the restoration of the Bel Air Mansion.

Finally, Past President Warren "Dusty" Rhoads, on behalf of the Society noted special recognition to two publications - Women of Achievement, a book published last year detailing the accomplishments of a diverse group of daughters of Prince George's throughout the past three centuries; and "Passport to the Past", the quarterly publication of the MNCPPC's History Division under the direction of John Walton, Jr.

Our congratulations to all of the very deserving winners of this most prestigious award.



DEAN ADELE STAMP HONORED BY HALL OF FAME

One highlight of our annual St. George's Day celebration is the announcement of a new inductee into the Prince George's County Hall of Fame. This year was no exception. For the first time, the honoree was a woman, and (only for the second time) a person who was known to many of our audience.

Ms. Adele Stamp, much loved and respected Dean of Women at the University of Maryland for 38 years - from 1922 until 1960, was the 1995 inductee. The Hall of Fame Committee of Prince George's County, Inc. Presented a portrait of the late Dean Stamp by Win Warren, a widely known Prince George's artist. The painting will join those of the other members of the Hall of Fame in the County Courthouse in Upper Marlboro.

Those who knew Dean Stamp. Which includes many of the Society members who attended the University of Maryland, especially those who were "her girls" as Ms. Stamp referred to her charges, felt that Mr. Warren had done a superb job of capturing both Ms. Stamp's likeness and her personality as he labored on this work - self described as one of his most satisfying.

Adele Stamp was born about 1890 in Maryland and after securing her degree, was selected as the first Dean of Women for the University of Maryland in 1922. Accepting the position for one year - she set about establishing a place for the less than 100 female enrollees of the University - always ensuring that "Her Girls" were accorded proper treatment as "Ladies" and deserved that treatment. A model of decorum, there are a number of her "Girls" still active in

Prince George's County who consider themselves both fortunate and special because they were Dean Stamp's "Girls".

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As those who have perused these pages over the past few years know, your Editor is not without fault - and not without the wherewithal to admit same. So, when we goof up, we are pleased to be set right by the experts (perhaps we goof up solely to ensure that the experts are reading this missive!).

April 1 1995

Dear Lester--

In your March 1995 column I believe you are confusing Mount Calvert and Mount Albion in relation to Rosalie Calvert. It was Mount Albion on the Patuxent, the property owned by George Calvert, to which Rosalie went after her 1799 marriage and where she spent the first several years of her married life. Mount Albion is near the now-dead town of Queen Anne -- further up the river than Mount Calvert, which is near Croom. My Landmarks of Prince George's County (p. 66) says that Mount Calvert was built in the 18th Century by John Brown, who seems to have lived there until his death in 1809.

Mount Albion still exists - in private hands - It was expanded in the 1930s and 1840s by Rosalie's daughter Eugenia and became known as "Goodwood". Eugenia's additions to the house later burned, but the original Mount Albion dwelling survived - a drastic method of restoration!

Sincerely Peggy Callcott.

TRICENTENNIAL UPDATE

It has been some time since we have reported on the Tricentennial effort, which is

now less than a year away - in fact events will begin in only 6 months from the time you receive this newsletter, and other evidence of the celebration may be around even earlier.

As many of you know, for personal reasons Society Past President Joyce McDonald resigned as Chair of the official Tricentennial Celebration Committee. County Executive Wayne Curry named Tim Maloney to replace Joyce, and Tim is working hard to carry on the work that Joyce and the rest of her volunteer army had started. For many reasons, it was decided that a full-time Director was needed (a need Joyce and others identified very early on) and we are pleased to report that Anita Pesses (currently M-NCPPC public affairs officer) has been detailed to the office for the duration. To better effect the many parts of her role as Director, Anita has been provided with an office at Riversdale, and the phone there is 301-322-1996.

As many of you know, there were three separate groups operating - in harmony but, at times, under different rules. While the Tricentennial Celebration Trust, Inc (the charitable corporation that will likely remain in existence after 1996 and that acts as financial controller for the effort) has not changed, the Tricentennial Celebration Committee (the appointed committee) and the Tricentennial Celebration Citizens Committee (which was amorphous in size and duties) have been merged. There remains a larger and reconstituted (or soon to be such) official committee that will be the coordinating force for all activities.

And, speaking of activities - boy has the calendar become crowded - and some very special things are planned. I am unable to list them all in this month's edition, but

would highlight the most important for you -

Prince George's County is going to be on Television! Maryland Public Television has agreed to produce a 60 to 90 minute documentary in celebration of the Tricentennial, to be aired (we hope) in April of next year. We also hope that other PBS stations around the country will show this film. We do know that it will air on all of MPT's outlets across the state. We also hope to have copies of the video for purchase as a souvenir.

MVA Administrator Marshall Rickert has approved the official Tricentennial Commemorative License Tags, and these will be available shortly, at a price of \$30. We hope that everyone who loves this County will sport one of these unique reminders of where we live.

Dorothy Rainwater's Tricentennial Cookbook will be available for sale in the very near future. Over 290 recipes celebrating the history and diversity of Prince George's County will be found in this \$10 soft color cookbook - a must have for all those cooks who want to know what Prince Georgians have eaten over the past 300 years.

The Tricentennial celebrates 300 years of history - but in the manner of the 1990s. Through the good offices of the University of Maryland, the Prince George's County Tricentennial will be available on the Internet, as soon as arrangements can be made. Address information is forthcoming.

If you want to include any notices on this bulletin board, contact Anita Pesses at the Tricentennial office.

The first item that will be available on our Internet point will be the 100+ page Bibliography produced by Bud Dutton and his subcommittee.

More to come in the next few issues.

Lester Sweeting

HELP IS NEEDED

The Newsletter of Living History, called *Holidays 1994* contained the following advertisement recently:

Prince George's County Planters Guard reenactment group being formed. We are seeking information about the uniforms, weapons, traditions, etc. of this ante-bellum (circa late 1850s) Maryland militia unit. If you have information or are interested in joining, please call Gary Jones at (301) 262-3084.

Paul Lanham writes:

The flag of the Prince George's County Planter's Guards can be viewed in its glass case at the Historical Society's DeMarr Library at Marietta. In addition, there is reportedly extensive coverage in the Inquirer - Gazette news item of the day reporting its presentation to the Society.

As a matter of interest, the Prince George's County Planter's Guard joined the list of pre-Civil War citizen's militias of the day - which included the Vansville Rangers, the Buena Vista Grays, and the Piscataway Rifles. Records at Annapolis show that these latter three organizations actually drew weapons and accessories from the Federal government - items which these units happily carried South as hostilities commenced!

Information on these and similar groups is meager. Any knowledge our readers can supply on the subject would be greatly appreciated. Please copy such to the Editor.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

It was the Washington Post's Prince George's Weekly (February 2, 1995) which originally piqued my interest. The headline read "State Buying Site of Old P.G. County Seat: After 3 Years of Negotiations, Md. Acquiring Mount Calvert." Weekly Staff Writer Eugene L. Meyer went on to describe "a historic 75-acre property on the banks of the Patuxent River that was the site of the first county seat of Prince George's. According to local tradition, the plantation house there incorporates a 17th century building that served as the county's first courthouse. Historians, however, have been able to trace the building only to the 1780s. Still, there is agreement that the mansion called **Mount Calvert** is the only building left on what was once Charles Town, the county seat from 1696 until 1721."

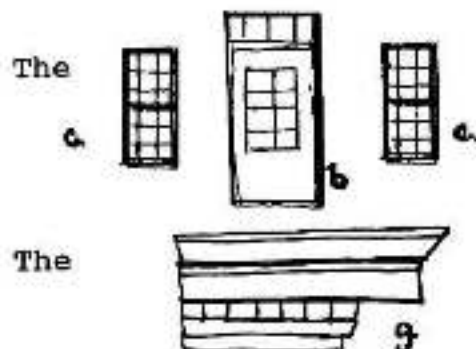
But alas, for the visually obsessed, there was no photograph. Two pictorial favorites from the Holden-Sweeting library shelves, including many Historic American Buildings Survey photographs of County sites, were quickly located. Alan Virta's Prince George's County: A Pictorial History features the northern (away from the river facade and the western facade dominated by the elaborate chimneys (page 43). Our second visual extravaganza, Jack E. Boucher's Landmarks of Prince George's County also included a photograph of the unique chimney facade. I then consulted the 1974 description of Mount Calvert prepared by Christopher Owens, National Park Service Historian. This somewhat dense description follows but is softened by an architectural rebus illustrating some of the unusual features of this site.

"The house is two story,





, (I know about

Flemish bond because on a recent tour of Marietta, Dusty Rhoads, distributed a handout illustrating it), brick structure with a three bay (north) facade.



The second floor windows are



Over the openings, the jack arches are one  and one  tall.

The

has a fretwork frieze and boxed cornice.

The window frames are heavy timbers, pegged rather than mitered at the corners, with a wide bead on the inside edge. The door frames are beaded on the inside edge, with an



molding on the outside edge.

The State of Maryland



Governor of the State of Maryland, to

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, **Greeting:**

Be it Known: That on behalf of the citizens of this State,
in recognition of the significant contribution that your distinguished members have made to preserve the rich heritage of Prince George's County and the great State of Maryland ... in honor of the occasion of the 299th anniversary celebration of the founding of Prince George's County; and as an expression of our admiration, gratitude and great respect as you commemorate this historic day,

we are pleased to confer upon you this

Governor's Citation



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 23rd day of April
One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-five

Parviz N. Ghemle
Governor

John J. Willis
Secretary of State

May 1995 - April 1996

Yearly Planner

May 95						
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May

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

13 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

17 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM PRESERVATION WEEK RECEPTION, ANDREW'S AIRFORCE BASE CLUB

29 ROBIN HOOD FAYRE, MARIETTA MANSION
CALL FOR DETAILS - 464-0590

June

7 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

10 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

July

5 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

8 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

August

2 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

12 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

September

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

September

9 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

23 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS PRINCE OF A COUNTY RECEPTION, PLEASANT PROSPECT

October

4 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

14 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MARKLAND MEDIEVAL SOCIETY - ANNUAL HASTINGS FAIRE AT MARIETTA (SOCIETY MEETING MOVED TO GLENDALE COMMUNITY CENTER)

November

1 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

11 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

9 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM PGCHS HOLIDAY GALA, RIVERSDALE

January

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

13 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

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The south facade is identical to the north facade in detailing. The doorway, however, is in the east bay. There are two dormers with 6/6 double hung sash windows.

The west gable end has a



The weatherings taper in at the second floor."

Key to the rebus: a. Flemish bond; b. Central doorway, with four light transom, flanked by; c. 9/9 double hung sash windows; d. 6/6 double hung sash windows; e. header; f. stretcher; g. entablature; h. ovolo; i. double exterior chimney with one story pent.

Rebus sources:

Classic Old House Plans: Three centuries of American Domestic Architecture by Lawrence Grow, N.Y., 1978.

A Guide to Old American Houses, 1700-1900 by Henry Lionel Williams, N.Y., 1977.

More Classic Old house Plans: Authentic Designs for Colonial & Victorian Homes, by Lawrence Grow, N.Y., 1986.

Old House Measured and Scaled Detail Drawings for Builders and Carpenters, Dover reprints, 1983.

Can you visualize Mount Calvert, as pictured?



Frustrated Architectural
Historian Bibliophile
SHARON HOWE SWEETING

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Marietta Tours - Suspended Until
Further Notice - Information 301-464-
0590

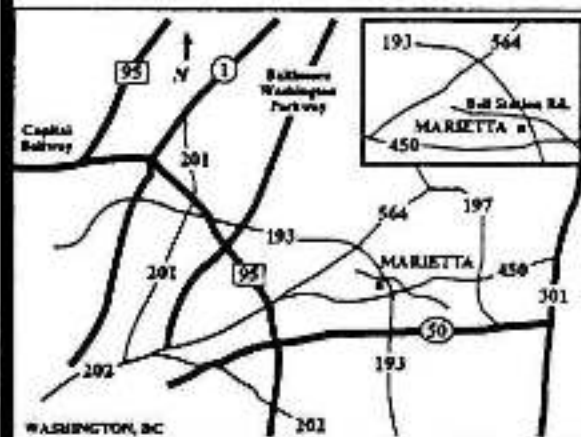
THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a Tasteful Collection of
Handcrafted Items for Home and Gift-
giving, Toys and Games for Children,
small antiques, Historical Society
Publications and souvenirs of Historic
Marietta.

Call 301-464-0590 for Gift Shop Hours.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 1995

OUR 43RD YEAR

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 5

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1995

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Vice President - Eugene Roberts
Secretary - Sarah Bourne
Treasurer - John B. Bourne
Historian - Frederick S DeMarr
Editor - Lester H.
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Paul Lanham
Warren (Dusty) Rhoads
Joyce McDonald

KEEP HISTORIC SITES FREE

From the New York Times - May 9, 1995, Editorial Page

At a time of constricted budgets, Bernadette Castro, the new (NY) State Parks Commissioner, is understandably looking for ways to generate more income from the users of the thousands of campsites, nature centers, beaches and golf courses enjoyed by tourists and New Yorkers alike. The heir to the Castro Convertibles fortune and onetime Republican candidate for the Senate says she wants park managers to become more "entrepreneurial," often by charging fees for visiting these public facilities.

For parks and recreation areas, her approach makes sense. But Ms. Castro should rule out one possibility she has raised, the idea of extending the fees to places that have traditionally been free because of their educational and cultural value. The state operates 35 historic sites, ranging from Walt Whitman's Birthplace to George Washington's headquarters and Hudson River mansions from the Gilded Age. These places draw students and others who might well be discouraged if even a nominal fee were imposed.

For now, Ms. Castro says she wants to impose parking or access fees for cars rather than admission fees, but a charge is a charge no matter how you look at it. True, user fees could help some of these historic sites pay for needed repairs at a time of diminished resources, and could provide money for brochures or tour guides that might help draw even more visitors.

But the Commissioner ought to explore other ways of paying for these benefits, including corporate sponsorship. The principle that should be enshrined is unfettered access to history.

©New York Times Co.

Ed. Note - I ran across the above editorial and thought I'd include it just because it points out what the Society most values - an unfettered access to our history is a benefit without price that should be open to all. LHS

GEORGE WASHINGTON SLEPT HERE -- AND HERE -- AND HERE

The above eye-catching title heads an article by Carleton Jones which appeared in the Baltimore Sun Magazine Section of December 1, 1974.

Mr. Jones indicates that our first and well-traveled president may have spent 750 nights on Maryland turf many of which were en route to Baltimore and Annapolis. Specifically mentioned are Prince George's County visits to Mount Lubentia (Castle Magruder) near the P.G. Community College (and where Maryland's state records, deposited for safeguarding in Upper Marlboro in the War of 1812, were hastily stored when the British appeared at our county seat). Also mentioned are visits to Mount Airy (Dower House) in Rosaryville, southwest of Upper Marlboro;

Warburton Manor, sited at today's Fort Washington; Melwood, the Ignatius Digges house; and the magnificent Snowden estate, Montpelier, near Laurel. The now vanished Spurrier's Tavern at route 1 and route 175, also near Laurel, hosted the General twenty-five times whereas his diary related on June 18, 1795, "my sick horse died." The venerable St. Barnabas's church, at Leeland near Upper Marlboro, and St. John's Church, Broad Creek, both still in use today, record his attendance at Anglican services.

Mr. Jones has done an excellent job in documenting an aspect of the life of our first President which is of universal interest. It is assumed Mr. Jones is aware of the occasion of March 27, 1791, when the President's diary reports "Bathed at Queen Ann" [on the Patuxent just south of Central Avenue] and "Lodged at Bladensburg" [possibly the George Washington House] departing at 6:30am the following day for George Town. Also involved was an October 31, 1791(?) stop en route to Philadelphia from Mount Vernon at Upper Marlboro with breakfast at Queen Anne the following morning. A further reference relates to a crossing from Mt. Vernon to Mr. Digges at sunrise on May 9, 1787, dining at Mr. Richard Henderson's in Bladensburg and lodging at Maj. Snowden's (Montpelier) where "feeling very severely a violent headache and sick stomachy, I went to bed early." The General's diary of Sept. 21, 1787, refers to "dining at the Widow Ball's (formerly Spurrier's) and lodged at Major Snowden's who was not at home "and on the following day Breakfasted at Bladensburg." Further, on March 13, 1797, the General and Mrs. Washington "breakfasted at Spurrier's where the lodging is good, the eating tolerable" and then journeyed on to Bladensburg for dinner and lodging at the sign of the Indian Queen "a good house kept by one Ross." (NOTE: References in this

paragraph abstracted from letter dated Feb. 1, 1972 and enclosures thereto from Mr. John A. Castellari, Librarian, Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union to Mrs. Felix Cristofane, a member of the P.G. Historical Society. Her Honor, the Mayor of Bladensburg, graciously provided the undersigned with a complete copy of the correspondence at that time. Interpretation of the various enclosures are solely those of the undersigned and due to their fragmentary extraction from basic references without continuity should be verified against the source documents before quoting. Because of their reference value to county history students, they are documented below:

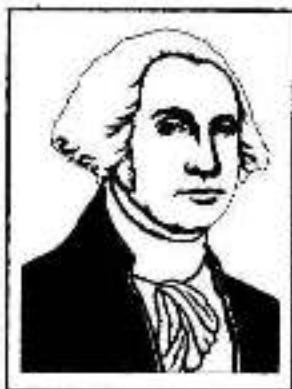
Published Diaries of General Washington.

Vol. II, p. 125; vol. ?, p. 162; vol. III p.214-5; vol. IV, p. 152; and vol. ? p. 238.

George Washington by Douglas Freeman, Vol. 7, p. 446.

One very minor discrepancy (possibly major to some readers) in Mr. Jones' well written article is his reference to Montpelier as "state property" whereas actually the historically conscious Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission holds title, a matter in which the Prince George's County Historical Society played a significant role.

SUBMITTED BY PAUL LANHAM



The Last Path-finding Pioneer*

Jane August Burch,
Hitching Post Hill.
1973

Midshipman Edward Fitzgerald Beale, U.S. Navy, was a hero in the Battle of San Pasquale in the war for California in 1845. Why was he, a 23 year old Naval officer, fighting with the U.S. Army forces? Because Beale volunteered in this expedition, just as he was to do many times throughout his colorful career, until he earned the title General. Beale has been slighted by most historians but he has been called by writers of early Western history, "The Last Path-finder" and "A Pioneer in the Path of Empire."

*The Battle of San Pasquale was the bloodiest fight in the winning of California and the U.S. Army lost this battle to the Mexican forces. On a rainy December day in 1846 the United States lost 3 officers and 18 dragoons and Captain Andres Pico's Mexican forces won. There is a monument now standing on the battleground in the peaceful Southern California valley. This monument honors the American men who fought under General Stephen W. Kearny, Captain Abraham R. Johnston, Captain Benjamin Moore, Edward F. Beale, U.S.N., and Kit Carson, the legendary scout.

Edward F. Beale was born in Washington, D.C. about a mile north of the White House on February 4, 1822. As he entered his teens he planned to enter the Navy because his father and grandfather had been heroes in Naval battles. His maternal grandfather, Thomas Truxton, had received a gold medal from Congress for his capture, in the ship, "Constellation," of two French frigates, both his superiors in guns and men. Beale's father had received a silver medal from Congress for

his service in the victory on Lake Champlain over a British ship of superior forces on September 11, 1814.

By the time he was fifteen years of age he was ready to enter Naval school but Andrew Jackson was President in a democratic era that frowned upon prescriptive rights to enter the Navy. Beale had these rights because of his family background. According to the Beale family history, the incident of a fist fight gave him the naval appointment he wanted. One afternoon after leaving school in Georgetown, young Ned and a friend named Evans argued about President Jackson. Ned spoke for Jackson while the other boy upheld the rival Adamites. A fist fight followed and while rolling on the ground, the two boys looked up to see a tall man beside them. He demanded to know the reason for the fight and then he said, "I am Jackson. I never forget the men and boys who are willing to fight for me, but, of course, I do not wish for them to do it all the time. Now, put on your coats."

Later, when Ned and his widowed mother went to the White House to request his naval appointment, Beale spoke up and reminded the President of the fight. Without a word, Jackson immediately wrote to the Secretary of the Navy to ask for Beale's immediate warrant. Young Beale's Naval career was begun by Old Hickory himself.

*"Edward Fitzgerald Beale," by Stephen Bonsal, 1912.

In February, 1837, he reported to the Naval School aboard the receiving ship, "The Independence," which was serving as the School. He arrived wearing a fancy coat that his mother had ordered a seamstress to make along nautical lines with his Grandfather Truxton's large gold buttons. These buttons were historical but the young men on board

the ship soon removed them from his coat. Meanwhile, Beale had many fights with his shipmates and he made life-long friends at this time regardless of his nature to settle arguments with his fists.

He was warranted in 1839 at the age of 17 and ordered to the West Indies Squadron where he served one year. Then he was sent back to the Naval School at Philadelphia and in 1842 at age 20, he graduated and was commissioned Passed-Midshipman with a commendation for his tests, in seamanship and his excellent English. His next duty was on board "The Porpoise" and then he was sent to the frigate "Congress," which carried him to California. He was a tall, brown-eyed twenty-three year old naval officer when he arrived in San Diego in time to fight in the Battle of San Pasquale.

War with Mexico had just broken out, and fighting had already begun when the frigate, "Congress" arrived in Monterey, California on July 20. Two weeks earlier California had been annexed to the United States by the Navy. Commodore Robert F. Stockton was in command of the "Congress," and bringing in reinforcements.

The war between the U.S. forces and the Mexican forces was still unsettled. Kit Carson was on his way overland to Washington, D.C., with the news that California was under the Stars and Stripes. But after Carson had left, fighting began again and Los Angeles had to be evacuated. Commodore Stockton took the retreating U.S. men on board his ship, "The Congress," and then proceeded to San Diego with the intention of re-grouping and re-supplying.

After his ship, "Congress," arrived in San Diego, Stockton raised the stars and Stripes above the sprawling pueblo on its shores. Commodore Stockton now made plans for a

push northward to re-take Los Angeles, and then he received news unexpectedly that General Stephen W. Kearney and his ragged remnant of the U.S. Army of the West had arrived at Warner's Hot Springs from Santa Fe, New Mexico and needed communication with the Naval forces. Commodore Stockton sent as volunteers, Marine Captain Archibald H. Gillespie, Midshipman Beale, Midshipman Duncan and a party of bluejackets to meet Kearney and his Army forces.

General Kearney had word from Kit Carson on his way East, that all was peaceful in California. Kearney then returned most of his Army to Santa Fe and marched on to California with a small party, thinking that the state was under U.S. control. But he found that he and his men were barred by a hostile band of Californians (Mexicans) about 60 miles from his destination, San Diego.

Kearney decided to meet the Mexicans head-on without the necessary men and equipment, against the advice of the Navy men who had just met him. The Navy wanted General Kearney to take a fairly safe route back to San Diego, through El Cajon.

The Battle of San Pasquale began and Major Emory, one of the army officers, later wrote that "it was one of the most tattered and ill-fed detachment of men that ever the U.S. mustered under its colors." Many of Kearney's cavalry had to use mules to make their charges. Kearney had underestimated the ability of the native Californians (Mexicans) as horsemen and fighters as they were defending their homeland. Two hours after the Battle had begun, the U.S. had lost 3 officers and 18 dragoons, and many men, including Kearney himself, had been seriously wounded by Mexican lances which were bedecked with red, white and green streamers, the colors of the Mexican flag. Midshipman

Beale had a slight face wound but the Californians had no fatalities and only a few injuries.

After the Battle, the Kearney detachment buried their dead and limped down the valley for several miles. The Californians were close behind and pinned the Americans down on a boulder-studded rise, later named "Mule Hill." Kearney and his men camped there after the fighting and they were forced to eat their mounts or starve. They were trapped there with neither water or supplies and circumstances were desperate. Midshipman Beale, Kit Carson, who had turned back from his trip East to join the U.S. forces, and a now-nameless Indian volunteered to try to get through the Mexican lines.

Later, Senator Thomas Hart Benton gave a commendatory speech before Congress about the three volunteers and he described the Army camp scene in these words: "The brief preparations for the forlorn hope were soon made; tho brief they were. A rifle each, a blanket, a revolver, a sharp knife and no food, there was none in the camp. General Kearney invited Beale to come and sup with him. It was not the company of Anthony and Cleopatra, for when the General asked Beale what provisions he had to travel on, the answer was nothing. The General called his servant to inquire what his tent afforded; a handful of flour, was the answer. The General ordered it to be baked into a loaf and given to Beale. When the loaf was brought, the servant said that was the last, not the bread only but everything, that he had nothing left for the General's breakfast. Beale directed the servant to carry back the loaf, saying he could provide for himself. He did provide for himself, and how? By going to the smouldering fire, where the baggage had been burned in the morning, and scraping from the ashes and embers the half-burned peas and

were founded), has been invited to travel to America to see the County for which her ancestor is named. We await Her Majesty's pleasure with anticipation.

Sheriff James Aliusi is the latest in a line of officials whose office dates to the founding of Prince George's County. Though the office has different duties, and a smaller territory (remember - we covered Maryland entirely to the West until well into the 18th century), theirs is a proud tradition and one to be celebrated on April 22, 1996 at Martin's Crosswinds - a Sheriff's Deputies Dinner and Reunion.

The Bladensburg Races Return. On August 10, 1996, Bladensburg will help celebrate one of their most important events in our three centuries with a re-enactment of the Battle of Bladensburg. While not known as 'their finest hour' we are pleased that Bladensburg will use this event to teach our children (and adults) what happened that day. This is but one of the events Bladensburgers anticipate next year.

The Kick Off Event - A Festival of Lights showing the way across three hundred years. Each November, in honor of the Holiday Season, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission turns Watkins Regional Park into a fairyland of lights and tableaux. Well, beginning in November 1995 - and heralding our Tricentennial Year, the Festival of Lights will contain a new display and will be the place to get your Tricentennial Calendar (the first of many places).

The Birthday Book - What promises to be one of the biggest 'reach out' events of the year is being coordinated by Margaret Hayes of Iverson Mall and Bonnie Walters of Prince George's Plaza. Working with other shopping centers in the County, they will set up Kiosks with historic displays, calendars and project

promotional materials. In addition, visitors will be given a sheet with pre-printed questions for completion and inclusion in a County Birthday Book. Accumulating this kind of record could stand as an incredible monument to who we are and a significant resource for the future. Portions of the book may be published in bound form.



PISCATAWAY INDIANS AND GENEALOGY

The Prince George's County Genealogical Society Meeting on Wednesday, June 7 will feature a discussion by Mrs. Marvin Savoy of the Governor's Commission on Indian Affairs. Her talk is on Piscataway Indians and Genealogy, at the Greenbelt Public Library, 11 Crescent Road, beginning at 7:00 PM.

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTFUL RAMBLINGS

I was delighted with the attendance at our St. George's Day Celebration. We regret that we had to turn people away and will arrange to accommodate more celebrating people next year - after all - it is the big one! John Mitchell, Wallis Cain and Dusty Rhoads are doing the advance planning for us. Kudos to Wallis and Dusty for doing their usual wonderful things for us this year. We really do appreciate their efforts and do not take them for granted. How fortunate we are to have a pair who work so well together. Dusty was our representative to the Preservation Week Celebration Task Force. Thanks again

Dusty.

The plan for Marietta is to have the windows repaired by September and (with hope) we will open the house at that time. It will remain open throughout 1996 for the Tricentennial events. Funding for the balance of the restoration is in the M-NCPPC budget for FY 1997. If we can get matching funding through a bond bill in the next legislative session, it will lessen the chance of restoration being postponed for another year. This is a must for the rest of the plans being made.

This year is rolling along very quickly and many things are happening and many more are (hopefully) going to happen. One of the goals I have is to have many of you - the Society members - be participants in the programs of the Society. It may mean making cookies and tea sandwiches, pouring tea, helping hostesses, washing dishes, making telephone calls, filing, helping put packets together, helping register guests, helping in the Gift Shop, or telling how your family did things together in the past, explaining and demonstrating canning, quilting, shelling walnuts, or any one of a myriad of things - but being actively involved in passing our heritage to a new generation.

The Fall is going to be crammed full of opportunities for volunteers - with teas, receptions and general activity. The walls of Marietta will think the Duvals are on a social merry-go-round. The Board of Directors has approved a series of teas for teachers and a reception for legislators and members of the County Council. After a very successful meeting with the Board of Education staff regarding the Tricentennial Celebration and explaining our outreach efforts to help teachers prepare for the great 300th, I find that we will probably have to **double** the number of teas originally planned. If we invite each principal and the teacher designated to be

the "Tricentennial Person" for each school, we will have to hold ten (10) teas--yes, **t-e-n teas!** Sharon Sweeting has kindly volunteered to head up the planning for these events, and coordinate the effort - but she will expect and need your help!!! This is an ambitious plan - if you would like to be a part of it, please call me at 249-6409 or Sharon at 927-4514 so that we can appoint team captains for each tea and put teams together. We will have to spell Octtttttttober a little differently after this! The one credit class for teachers which we have jointly sponsored with the History Division of M-NCPPC for several years was approved for the coming school year with the consideration that it is supported by the Board of Education and publicized to the teachers. They are endorsing the idea and we have an excellent opportunity to enlist teachers at the October teas. The class could begin in February if all goes as planned.

In November we will receive the legislators and council members. This will be an opportunity for us to become better acquainted. The entire history and preservation communities need to be more visible and vocal in order to be recognized by the people who make the decisions about regulations and funding. Educating them is our job!

Susan Wolfe, Marietta's site manager, is planning, with us, to hold one event each month throughout 1996 in celebration of the Tricentennial of Prince George's County. As these plans firm up, we will let you know - and again seek your involvement and help. Meanwhile, you might be practicing your croquet game, reviewing how to make a yo-yo or a kite, a pillow or a quilt, reading up on bamboo, or looking around to see which of your circle might be celebrating a golden wedding anniversary. All plans are not definite - but it sounds like we are in for a year

packed with fun and frolic.

June 10, our last meeting date until October, is when we honor the student recipient of the Skarda Award. I hope to see you there!!

JUNE MEETING

The final meeting before the summer hiatus will take place on June 10. The Donald Skarda Award will be presented, and we shall also recognize the work of all students who participated in the County History Day program. The students and their families will be invited guests. If nice weather prevails, we hope to be outside on the lawn. The theme for History Day was *At Home in History*, the Tricentennial theme. The student with the most historically significant project will receive the Skarda Award. Society Board Member, Mildred Ridgely Gray, was Chair of History Day, which was sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust. We encourage the study of history, especially County history, and this is but one way of bringing it to the attention of others while applauding the efforts of young students.

Alan Gephardt and Sonia Sacha are historical re-enactors who portray Mr. and Mrs. Francis Scott Key. They will be present at the June 10 reception and are anxious to meet each of you and tell you of themselves and their families and the great events leading to the writing of *The Star Spangled Banner*. One of our county's citizens played a central role in that story. Both Mr. Gephardt and Ms. Socha have thoroughly researched their the lives and families of the persons they are portraying and have made many appearances at museums and events. Following their presentation, they will mix with our members and guests. Don't miss this wonderful afternoon planned by Julie Bright. It promises to be a delight. This is a

suitable closing to our series of spring meetings.

AN INVITATION

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Scott Key

**Present Their Compliments and
Request the Honor of Your
Presence at an Afternoon of
Reminiscences and
Conversation in Honor of
The Upcoming 220th
Birthday of the United States
Of America**

and

**The One-Hundred Eighty First
Anniversary of the
Writing of Our National Anthem**

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

**TWO O'CLOCK P M
SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1995**

**MARIETTA MANSION
GLENDALE, MARYLAND**



June 1995 - May 1996

Yearly Planner

June 95						
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June

7 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

10 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
PGCHS MEMBER-
SHIP MEETING

July

5 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

8 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD

August

2 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

12 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD

September

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

9 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD

23 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS PRINCE
OF A COUNTY RECEPTION,
PLEASANT PROSPECT

October

4 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

14 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD
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PGCHS MEMBER-
SHIP MEETING
MARKLAND MEDIEVAL SOCI-
ETY - ANNUAL HASTINGS
FAIRE AT MARIETTA

October

14 (SOCIETY MEETING MOVED
TO GLENDALE COMMU-
NITY CENTER

November

1 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
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ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

11 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD
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PGCHS MEMBER-
SHIP MEETING

December

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

9 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM PGCHS HOLI-
DAY GALA, RIVERSDALE

January

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
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ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

13 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD

February

7 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
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ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

10 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD
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PGCHS MEMBER-
SHIP MEETING

March

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
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June 1995 - May 1996

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March

9 PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

April

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

13 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

28 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER, MARLBORO HUNT CLUB

May

1 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

11 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

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HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Marietta Tours - Suspended Until
Further Notice - Information 301-464-
0590

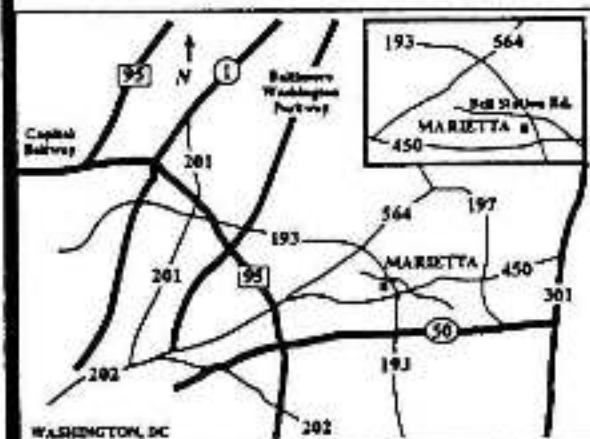
THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a Tasteful Collection of
Handcrafted Items for Home and Gift-
giving, Toys and Games for Children,
small antiques, Historical Society
Publications and souvenirs of Historic
Marietta.

Call 301-464-0590 for Gift Shop Hours.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National 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

JUNE/JULY 1995

OUR 43RD YEAR

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 6

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1995

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John Giannetti
Paul Lanham
Warren (Dusty) Rhoads
Joyce McDonald

SOCIETY ESTABLISHES CALENDAR FOR TRICENTENNIAL EVENTS AT MARIETTA

At the Board meeting in May, we discussed the Tricentennial, our role therein, and what is planned for the year by Susan Wolfe, Facility Manager of the MNCPPC Owned Historic Site. Final selection of the events has now been made and we can both announce the schedule and advertise for your help in bringing these plans to fruition. Maybe your help will be planning and coordinating a tea party. Maybe it could be putting on a costume and demonstrating how women made apple butter or canned runner beans. And, maybe it will involve celebrating with us the fact that you and your spouse have been married for fifty years or more.

All of those things and more will take place - and there is plenty of work to go around. As usual the pay in monetary terms is lousy, but the intangible benefits are incalculable.

Inside you will find more data on each month's plans, and specifics as to how you can help - please sign up now. The Society needs you!!!!

The Last Path-finding Pioneer

Jane Augusta Burch

Hitching Post Hill

1973

Continued--

Beale was then selected to carry the dispatches to Washington, D.C. reporting the happenings in California. He left for the Capitol two months after the Battle of San Pasquale, still suffering from the injuries of his first experience. On his trip East, Beale had a company of 12 soldiers and his friend Kit Carson. It was a dangerous overland trip, through Indian territory, but they arrived in Washington in May 1847 with the news that California had been won as part of the United States. Beale and Carson were very popular with the citizens of the East Coast. Beale was reassigned to the Pacific squadron and in 1848 he was summoned by Commodore Thomas Catesby Jones to take the first official news of the gold discoveries and a bag of the precious metal to Washington. He was ordered to try to get there before the Army courier, who was making the trip by boat. Beale decided to go overland through Mexico, the quickest but most hazardous way. Beale dressed as a Mexican in frontier clothes and [since] he had a browned skin and could speak Spanish, he attracted no attention. He sailed from Vera Cruz to Mobile, Alabama, boarded a stagecoach there and reached Washington in the record breaking time of 47 days. The Army courier arrived two months later. Beale's heroism at San Pasquale and this winning of the gold dust derby made him more popular everywhere.

P. T. Barnum offered to buy the gold dust for an exhibition, but Beale turned it over to

the United States Patent Office. He was allowed to keep enough to have a wedding ring made for his fiancée, Mary E. Edwards, of Chester, Pennsylvania. Beale made four more overland trips from California to Washington. In 1849 he married Mary Edwards, and he decided to resign from the Navy because he wanted to settle in California with his wife. His son Truston was born in San Francisco in 1851. Beale knew the large opportunity of the territory and within a year of his Naval resignation, he owned a transportation company carrying equipment to the gold miners at \$1.00 a pound. He operated his business from Sacramento and Marysville to the American Fork. He then became co-owner with two business associates, his old commander, Commodore Stockton and William H. Aspinwall, promoter of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company and the Panama Railroad. Beale's first year of operation netted the three men \$100,000, Beale's share being \$13,000 and this amount became the foundation of his fortune.

Beale, having deep respect for the Indians and recognizing the barbarous and inhumane way white settlers were treating Indians, Beale spoke to his friends in Washington about the possibility of Federal supervision of the tribes. Much to his own amazement, his ideas and arguments were repeated at the White House, and, in 1852, President Millard Fillmore appointed him the first Superintendent of Indian Affairs in California and Nevada. Congress appropriated \$250,000 to start Beale's ideas for better protection, aid and reservations for the Indians. At this time, he surveyed land and a detailed journal, "Beale Expedition of Central Route to Pacific, Expedition of 1853" was kept and later published by

Gwinn Harris Heap, one of the twelve member party. The manuscript is in the Library of Congress.

As Superintendent, Beale was understanding of the Indians and he was a pioneer in his kind treatment of them. The Indians trusted him and hundreds of them asked to be placed under his protection to live and work in his ward, which already had 70,000 Indians. Beale carried out his Indian work with his usual energy and good ideas, and he was given powers that were described as "vice-regal in breadth, scope and finality." During his term, he established reservations and won the friendship of the Indians, but the hatred of corrupt Indian agents, who did not want Beale's supervision. These dishonest agents sent a report to Washington saying that Beale had used his position to line his own pockets. Due to Beale's excellent accounting, he was exonerated of the charge and his accusers were removed from office. Later, when Beale met one of his accusers in a Hotel lobby, true to his character, Beale punched him in the nose.

In 1856, Beale retired from his position as Superintendent, and the Governor of California appointed him a Brigadier-General of the militia. This gave him the rank to talk effectively with the Indian chiefs, who were beginning to rebel because of the conduct of the white settlers. Beale soon calmed the Indians and they returned to their reservations and another war was prevented.

In 1857, President James Buchanan appointed Beale as Superintendent of the Wagon Road Expedition from Fort Defiance in the New Mexico territory to the Colorado River on the California Border. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis gave his permission for

Beale to use a camel corps for transport across the western wastelands. In his report to the Secretary of War on May 12, 1858, Beale wrote of the trial walk of the camels: "My admiration for the camels increased daily with my experience of them. The harder the test they are put to the more fully they seem to justify all that can be said of them. They pack water for others four days under a hot sun and never get a drop; they pack heavy burdens of corn and oats for months and never get a grain; and on the bitter greasewood and other worthless shrubs not only subsist but keep fat; withal, they are so perfectly docile and so admirably contented with whatever befalls them. No one could do justice to their merits or value in expeditions of this kind, and I look forward to the day when every mail route across the continent will be conducted and worked altogether with this economical and noble beast."

Seventy-seven camels were purchased in the Mediterranean countries and brought back to Texas. The expedition started with a plan to survey a road along the 35th parallel and it was to be a 40-day trip. The caravan consisted of 56 men, 350 sheep, 8 mule-drawn covered wagons, 2 small box-type ambulances and the camels. Beale later described the caravan in these words: "the loose animals, the wagons and teams, and then old Mahomet, with the long line of his grave and patient followers." All the camels wore bells and one of the camel drivers was a Syrian named Jadji-Ali (or Hi-Jolly). He was a pleasant man whose fame spread throughout Arizona and has been a legend for over a century. All along the 35th parallel in 1858, Beale's expedition was a fascinating sight.

Later, Army-trained mule drivers could not teach the camels and some of them disappeared in the desert and others were killed by Indians who liked camel hump more than buffalo meat. An Army board reviewed the camel experiment and ended their use. Some were sold at auction and Beale purchased a few for his ranch, Tejan Rancho, near the present city of Bakersfield.

Beale's wagon roads were among the first of the 1850s. Army posts were established after Beale's expeditions had opened the roads. Fort Mojave was one and was situated near Beale Crossing on the Colorado River, seven miles south of the town of Hardyville. There is a Beale monument in Kingman, Arizona which commemorates the camel expedition of 1858.

In the winter of 1858, Beale led another exploratory party and his plan was to prove that winter was not a barrier to overland travel in the West. Crossing the plains from Fort Smith, Arkansas to the Colorado River, he found that exposure to weather caused no illnesses and that the route was plentifully supplied "with the three great requisites for overland road - wood, grass and water." In his report he estimated the cost of a railroad constructed from Fort Smith to San Felipe, New Mexico - \$21,391,000. Beale foresaw the replacement of wagon roads with railroads.

President Buchanan placed Beale in charge of wagon road construction for the Central Plains during 1859 and 1860 because the need for better traveling between East and West was very important.

After President Lincoln was inaugurated in

1861, he began to appoint officials who could be depended upon to rally the States of the Union. One of the first men Lincoln appointed was Beale, as Surveyor General of California and Nevada. Beale volunteered for active service and wrote Lincoln of his wishes. Lincoln denied Beale's request because he thought that Beale would be more useful in California by keeping the West joined with the Union. So General Beale saw no active service in the Civil War, as Scribner's Magazine of October, 1911, expressed it "because the providential President knew Beale's presence in that debatable state (California) would preserve it for the Union." Beale accepted the duty assigned him, but wrote a letter to President Lincoln that tells the type of person he was:

"San Francisco, California.
July 24, 1861.

His Excellency President Lincoln:

A short time ago you did me the honor to appoint me to a most important and responsible position for which I beg you to accept my grateful acknowledgment. Under any other condition of public affairs you have left me nothing to be desired; but to the flag under which I have received honorable wounds, under which my father and grandfather fought for the honor and glory of the country, I think I owe something more, in this hour of trial, than a mere performance of duty in a position of ease and quiet. To the government I owe early education and support, for I entered its service almost as a child and feel toward it a filial affection and gratitude. All that I have, even my life, I owe to it, and it is a debt I am willing greatly and cheerfully to discharge.

"From fourteen to twenty-five, my life was passed at sea, and for the past fifteen years principally on the Great Plains and in the

Rocky Mountains. I served during the Mexican War, and at its close, I resigned and have been engaged in many expeditions of some importance since. I know that I am resolute, patient and active and if I had not courage, my love of country would supply the lack of it in such a time as this. Devoted to my country, and owing it everything I have in the world, I write to offer my services to you in any capacity you may wish to use them, until the present rebellion is crushed out of the land. You cannot add to a distinction you have already conferred upon me by any appointment, for there is none within your gift more distinguished or more honorable; nor do I desire any change except that I may more efficiently serve the United States. In a word, I wish simply to offer my life for the flag.

"With great respect, your obedient servant,
E. F. Beale."

Beale resigned his position as Surveyor General because he was not satisfied with the government's mining policy, which he thought was unfair to the miners. Beale stated his policies, and then said "I never desire again a place in public affairs." He then retired to his estate, Tejan Rancho.

After the Civil War, Beale purchased Decatur House in Washington, DC for his wife and family. The Beales had three children - Truxton, Mary and Emily. Decatur House is on Lafayette Square, across from the White House, and is the oldest house remaining on the square today. The house was designed by Benjamin LaTrobe for Stephen Decatur, the hero of the Algerian War. Beale divided his time between his California ranch and his Washington home. He made many speeches

to emancipated slaves and would drive many miles to encourage and talk with former slaves about their new freedom.

When Ulysses S. Grant became President in 1869, he appointed Beale - whom he had known during the Mexican War - Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Austria-Hungary. The Austrians remembered Beale as the man who had sympathized with Benito Juarez, the man who had Emperor Maximilian executed. Maximilian was, of course, the younger brother of Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph. The Emperor accepted Beale's appointment because he was already in Vienna, but was not friendly to the new diplomat. With the assistance of Count Gyula Andrassy, foreign officer of Austria-Hungary, the rift was healed and Beale and the Emperor became friendly. In Vienna, it was said that Beale "would travel a thousand miles to avoid an idle function and twice that distance to visit an interesting naval installation or a horse stud." Beale resigned his post after one year and returned to Washington.

In 1870, Beale bought a horse farm "Ash Hill", in Prince George's County, and he and President Grant shared a hobby of raising trotting horses. Grant would leave the White House and go out with Beale to his country house for visits. Grant's Arabian horses, "Lappard" and "Linden", which had been presented to him by the Sultan of Turkey while Grant was on a world tour, were shipped to "Ash Hill" for safe keeping.

...

{Beale and Grant shared a close friendship and correspondence during the latter's retirement. Beale continued to be active in

Washington and California, and was seriously considered for the post of Secretary of the Navy under President Chester Alan Arthur.

{E. F. Beale died, apparently of jaundice of the liver, on April 22, 1893. His large but simple funeral, held at Decatur House, included a procession led by honorary pallbearers - Vice President Levi P. Morton, Supreme Court Justice Field, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Judge Bancroft Davis and Admiral Daniel Ammen. Beale was, according to his wishes, buried in Chester, Pennsylvania.}

Beale started his career in the Navy but his achievements were made on the land, and his title General was not an Army title, but from his political appointments. Beale was an outstanding American, whose deeds were unusual and heroic - a pioneer in the path of empire and the last of the continental pathfinders uniting the States from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Jane Augusta Burch
1973

Ed. Note:

"Ash Hill", sometimes known as "Hitching Post Hill" is now the home of Past President of the Society John Giannetti and his family.

TRICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK RELEASED

We are happy to announce the availability of the a significant memento of our County Tricentennial Celebration. - The Prince George's County Tricentennial Cookbook. Edited by Dorothy Rainwater, this interesting and useful guide to historic and

tasty recipes of Prince George's County is a must have. Two hundred and ninety six recipes are included along with a capsule history of the County.

To order your copies of the Tricentennial Cookbook at \$10 each, write to Tricentennial Celebration Office, 6005 48th Avenue, Riverdale, MD 20737. Checks should be made payable to the Tricentennial Trust. All proceeds will be used for Tricentennial projects.

The editor would like to thank Dorothy and her team for their very hard work in collecting the recipes, editing the book and getting it out in a timely fashion.

Reflections From the Revolution

Perhaps one of the most exhilarating of all events ever to occur in Prince George's County took place between July 19 and 25, 1782. A countryside still wildly exuberant over the news of the combined French/American victory at Yorktown the previous October, was treated to the spectacular march northward of the French Army.

Under the command of Marshal Jean Baptiste Donatien De Vimeur Rochambeau, the army had been proceeding northward since June 28 at a rate of 10 miles per day. It arrived at Bladensburg from Georgetown (then in Maryland) on July 19, 1782 after breaking its sixteenth camp in the vicinity of the P Street Bridge in Rock Creek Park. The Bladensburg area was well known to the French engineers as its wagon train had passed through that town almost a year before on September 23, 1781 en route Southward from Annapolis to the eventual

encounter at Yorktown.

Two days rest was permitted in Bladensburg and local tradition attributes this in part to the enthusiastic reception of the patriotic townspeople. This may be debatable as one chronicler (Chastellux (4) II 615) had earlier reported (July 18 at Alexandria) that many of the soldiers participating in the dancing had disengaged themselves of their clothes, retaining "not an article of dress except their shirts, which in general were neither extremely long, nor in the best condition, nor did this occasion the least embarrassment to the ladies, many of whom were of highly polished manners, and the most exquisite delicacy." In retrospect, it is not improbable that the army was truly fatigued and that a rest interval amid the serenity of Bladensburg was highly beneficial if not a vital necessity.

The eighteenth camp was recorded at Snowden's Iron Works on the Patuxent on July 22, eighteen and one-half miles away. The journal of one of the marchers, Blanchard by name, notes that he was well lodged on July 25 in the house of a wealthy Major, Thomas Snowden, where he had excellent ham for dinner and again for supper, in the company of Major Snowden's attractive wife and daughter. (The locale, of course, is Montpelier, located on Route 197 just east of Laurel).

History records that, despite the diverse hazards of such long trips under such conditions, the French army did return home safely, in due course embarking from the Port of Boston in September. Original maps, many in color, prepared by the Army's engineers at each encampment are filed in the Map Division of the Library of Congress. These show the assigned bivouac areas of

the various Army units and a wealth of historical detail with respect to landmarks of that period at each campsite.

Paul T. Lanham

Source: *American Campaign of Rochambeau's Army*, translated by Rice & Brown, 1972

ON THE ROAD WITH DUSTY RHOADS

Mark Saturday October 21 on the calendar now, because Dusty Rhoads is busy setting up another stellar bus tour in Maryland. This time he is heading east - across the Bay. Details will be in the next edition.

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

Summer is upon us! You cannot help but wonder how uncomfortable our fore fathers must have been in their heavy clothing and no air-conditioning. Some had large tree shaded homes with cross ventilation, but not everyone shared in that amenity. One of the more memorable songs in the musical *1776* was about John Adams and the closing and opening of a window.

I wonder if it was always done with such good humor? There are many questions about "*the good old days*". Modern medicine, transportation, sanitation, and communication can make you think twice. Crowding, crime, lack of privacy are on the other side of the ledger.

Our June meeting was a delightful gathering on the lawn at Marietta Manor. Our guests of honor, Oliver Butler, the Skarda Award winner, and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Scott Key.

were welcomed by everyone and joined in the pleasantries of the afternoon. Oliver's family members were with him and were pleased to discover Marietta and that it was so close to their home. Unfortunately, we did not have the video of the slave site that Oliver researched. Mildred Gray will arrange to get a copy for the Society. Oliver is a student at the nearby Woodmore Elementary School. His teacher, Mrs. Jill Walker was unable to attend but sent her greetings. Yes, she is a member of the Walker family on Woodmore Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Key felt right at home at Marietta since Justice Duvall was a contemporary. They told us of their families and their eleven children. Mrs. Key preferred living in Georgetown to living in Frederick. The circumstances of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner were related to us in a very friendly manner. It seems that one time when Mrs. Key was cleaning up she threw out the original copy of the poem, but it was retrieved by her husband. After the meeting they told us they were quite impressed with the DeMarr Library and would like to come there for research. Mr. Key said "It's a book about me!" when he opened the gift we had given them. Fortunately, I had found this book in a used book shop months before. It was one they did not have except in a Xeroxed copy they had made at Enoch Pratt Library. They answered many, many questions and remained as guests of the reception until everyone left. Julie Bright and her capable assistant, prepared a beautiful table of sweets and fruits that all enjoyed. A fine time was had by all on a beautiful spring afternoon.

At the June board meeting in the morning we spent time discussing the gift shop, its future, and the plans for the opening of the house in

the fall. Susan Wolfe will have an intern, Miss Kim Dillon from the University of South Carolina, working with her on the interpretive and furnishings plan for Marietta. At the July meeting Susan shared some exciting news with us. Next year each house will have 32 hours per week of interpretive assistance. Probably the house will be able to be open Thursday through Sunday on a schedule similar to the one of Surratt House. This could mean a lot to the Society: more people coming through, coming to our shop, learning about us, and our library. We do want to put our best foot forward.

It is now time for us to make sure that at Marietta we are ready for the Tricentennial. The two areas that are important to us and our exclusive responsibility are the gift shop and the library.

A meeting was held with all interested parties regarding the gift shop with the following results. Joyce Mc Donald related to us the history of the shop and how it has functioned. Her input and many talents and abilities have been one of its greatest assets. The different tasks were listed and plans made for a fall opening. Stella and Bill Uber will work with the purchasing; Renate Ryan and Myrna Collins the inventory; I will find a computer program for the bookkeeping. You will see opportunities in the classified ads. The shop will be in the glass room on ground level. It is going to take some careful planning, arranging, and lots of hard work to complete the job. I am confident it will be done with the result of an attractive shop that we can once again view (and shop in) with pride. Our goods for sale will be a bit more varied to appeal to the additional groups that we anticipate coming to Marietta. With less space and the house

being open more it behooves us to manage it well to make it profitable.

At the present time the library has so many things in it that it cannot be used effectively. The stacks of things and boxes are in the way and Fred is moving them constantly to get to something else. This has to be very frustrating to him. The table in the center is used for Board of Directors' Meetings. **The room is used for the general meetings 5 times a year for about 3 hours each time, a total of fifteen hours.** I have asked Fred to come up with a plan for the library by our next board meeting so this matter can be explored even further. He was smiling and has ideas in mind already. Perhaps our general meetings could be held at the nearby Glendale Community Center in one of their expandable meeting rooms. October, November, March, May, and June are the months we now meet at Marietta. The room is often crowded and there has to be a great deal of shifting and moving around before the meeting can be held. Our September fall fund raiser and April St. George's Day events are held at other larger sites. The Christmas Party can be at Marietta because people are circulating. The board meetings and committee meetings could be held upstairs at Marietta.

These are ideas swirling around in our heads. I would appreciate hearing your reactions and suggestions so they can be considered also. Drop a note to me at Marietta or call me at my home, (301) 249-6409. I will welcome your input.

Our fall fund raiser will be at Pleasant Prospect on September 23. (Mark it on your calendar right now.) The hosts, the Ambassador and Mrs. Raymond L. Garthoff, who have been members of the Society for a

number of years, are very gracious and Wallis Cain, the chairman, is quite excited about it. I hope to see all of you there.

Classified Ads Volunteer Help Wanted

Computer operator/Bookkeeper for gift shop. PGCHS computer at Marietta and program will be provided. Needed to keep inventory current, record sales, and prepare monthly report for Board of Dir. Please call 249-6409.

Gift shop salespeople and workers. Usually weekend afternoon hours when the house is open. 10% discount offered on purchases. Pleasant surroundings. No computer in the shop, only receipt books. 249-6409

Scheduler for gift shop, keep track of house opening dates and call volunteers to staff gift shop. Some names will be provided. This could be done from your home. 249-6409

Painters to paint small room to be used for gift shop, date to be announce soon, but will be in August or early September. A one time opportunity to be of service to the Society. 249-6409

Gift shop coordinator. To work with others to keep things running smoothly and to report to the Board of Directors each month. Computer report available.

July 1995 - June 1996

Yearly Planner

July 95						
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July

- 5** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 8** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

August

- 2** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 12** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

September

- 6** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 9** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
- 23** 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS PRINCE OF A COUNTY RECEPTION, PLEASANT PROSPECT

October

- 4** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 14** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING
MARYLAND MEDIEVAL SOCIETY - ANNUAL HASTINGS FAIRE AT MARIETTA (SOCIETY MEETING MOVED TO GLENDALE COMMUNITY CENTER)

- 21** 8:00 AM - 6:45 PM PGCHS FALL HIST TRIP

November

- 1** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

November

- 11** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

December

- 6** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 9** 1:00 AM - 5:00 AM PGCHS HOLIDAY GALA, MARIETTA

January

- 3** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 13** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
- 20** WINTER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA
- 21** WINTER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

February

- 7** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 10** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING
- 18** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM LOVES OF A LIFETIME - GOLDEN MEMORIES AT MARIETTA

March

- 1** HOW THE BETTER HALF LIVED - AN EXHIBIT

- 6** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

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July 1995 - June 1996

Yearly Planner

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March

- 9** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
PGCHS MEMBER-
SHIP MEETING

June

- 8** SHIP MEETING
GLENN DALE FESTIVAL AT
MARIETTA AND GLENN
DALE COMMUNITY
CENTER

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- 31** HOW THE BETTER HALF
LIVED - AN EXHIBIT

April

- 3** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

- 8** GLENN DALE COMMUNITY
EASTER EGG HUNT AT
MARIETTA

- 13** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
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11:00 AM - 4:00 PM MARCH-
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- 14** 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM MARCH-
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May

- 1** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

- 11** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
PGCHS MEMBER-
SHIP MEETING

- 18** SPRING, MAY POLES AND
CHILDREN'S GAMES ON
THE LAWN AT MARIETTA

June

- 5** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCI-
ETY MEETING, GREENBELT
LIBRARY

- 8** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
PGCHS MEMBER-

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HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Marietta Tours - Suspended Until
Further Notice - Information 301-464-
0590

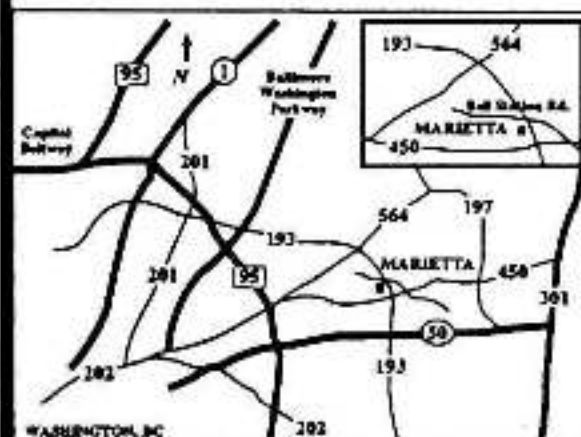
THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a Tasteful Collection of
Handcrafted Items for Home and Gift-
giving, Toys and Games for Children,
small antiques, Historical Society
Publications and souvenirs of Historic
Marietta.

Call 301-464-0590 for Gift Shop Hours.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 1995

OUR 43RD YEAR

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1995

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Vice President - Eugene Roberts
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Treasurer - John B. Bourne
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Warren (Dusty) Rhoads
Joyce McDonald

WOODWARD & LONGING

By Paul Lanham

With some awe, I note the Washington Post has covered every aspect of the lamentable demise of a local institution, Woodward & Lothrop's Department Store, in articles dated 1/18 & 1/30/1994 and 6/23, 6/25, 6/29 and 7/1/95. Such coverage is more than justified considering the respected status of this "grand dame" in the minds of those of us who for years equated "shopping" as synonymous with a trip to Downtown Washington, DC!

A fascinating look at the history of Woodies is to be found in the hard cover, 215 page From Founders to Grandsons, published in 1955 to commemorate the firm's 75th anniversary. This book, available in the Frederick S. DeMarr Library at Marietta, faithfully recounts the image of the grand mezzanine, the marble display cases, the tea room, the spectacular holiday window displays and a host of other remembrances for those of us who were privileged as to have been exposed to them.

The store's passing not only signals the end of an institution, but also the end of an era which may be gone, but is not yet, nor should it be, forgotten.

SECRETS OF THE LATE REBELLION

As the days of the Civil War passed by, Southern Maryland and particularly Prince George's County, came under increasingly intense surveillance by the Union War Department's "Detective Bureau." The infamous General Lafayette C. Baker (head of the organization which ultimately became today's Secret Service) was only too aware of the clandestine Confederate travels to and from Richmond and the active Confederate activities in Canada. Those efforts required continual courier activity, not only to coordinate European purchases to evade the Northern naval blockade but also to organize guerilla operations from Canada into Union territory to entice Union retaliation, the significant goal being to induce indirect British responses against the Union. (The Confederate raid on St. Albans, Vermont, being one of the most visible such operations.)¹

Random raids by the Union Detectives into Prince George's County narrowly missed apprehending Southern couriers Wat Bowie, John H. Surratt, and even John Wilkes Booth. An efficient network of "safe houses" across the County miraculously held up, despite the obvious dangers of such activities.²

¹Hanchett, William; The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies, University of Illinois, 1983.

²Freese, Dr. ?, Secrets of the Late Rebellion Cronbargan & Co., 1882; Thomas A. Jones, John Wilkes Booth, Laird & Lee, 1893, both contain interesting and illuminating details of this activity.

The close-knit community surrounding the venerable Holy Trinity Church (dating back to 1704) like many other Southern Maryland communities, guarded the dangerous secret of its local safe house with fanatic devotion even well after war tensions had diminished. In fact, the Holy Trinity Church History of 1964, states (in its sole reference thereto), referring to the beloved Reverend Harvey Stanley, the Church's rector from January 1852 until his passing in January, 1885:

*The Rev. Mr. Stanley was rector during the Civil War years when famine, death, pestilence and war were riding up and down the valleys and over the hills of Southern Maryland.*³

However, it was left to a later writing⁴ to boldly note that "it is significant that not one word is mentioned in Vestry records about any war, yet this war was notably crucial."⁵

Ackerson also notes that Rev. Stanley's annual salary was increased from \$400 in 1851 to \$800 in 1857, both as a testimonial to his devotion to his parish and to his documented concern over support of a wife and five children on such a meager salary.⁶

³Livesey, Howard, Chair, and Committee, Holy Trinity Church - Collington, Privately published, 1964.

⁴Ackerson, Constance Pelzer, Holy Trinity - Collington - Her People and Their Church, 1978.

⁵Ackerson, page 160.

⁶Ackerson, page 182.

Relying on the recollections of Annie Stanley, Ackerson reports significantly that "*Dr. Stanley ran a rest station of some kind in the basement (of the Rectory) for Confederates passing through the area.*"⁷

Annie also noted "*herself as standing on the hill, throwing things at the Federal or Union soldiers as they went by!*"

The parishioners of Holy Trinity Church must truly have been horrified to learn that testimony at the trial of the Lincoln assassination conspirators brought out into Court (and public) view the fact that Rev. Stanley did actually operate a Confederate safe house during the War. This assertion was contained in a manuscript written in 1863 by Oscar Heinrichs, a former Confederate officer on the staff of CSA General Edward Johnson, who named both Rev. Stanley and John H. Surratt as running safe houses early in the War.

Of course, at that time, the Federal Prosecutors were intent on proving a Confederate plot to assassinate Lincoln. Accordingly, Rev. Stanley's clandestine activities were to slide into welcome obscurity, until briefly resurrected by Ms. Ackerson.⁸

Paul T. Lanham - 7/24/95

THE NEWPORT "ACADEMY"

It may come as a surprise to some to learn

⁷Ackerson, page 161.

⁸Hall, James D. (Highly renowned scholar of the Lincoln Assassination), letter dated 10/10/82 to Paul Lanham.

that, for a brief period during the War Between the States, the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis (which celebrates a birthday this year) was temporarily transferred to Newport, Rhode Island. On April 24, 1861, the USS R.R. Cuyler towed the frigate USS Constitution out of Annapolis Harbor, transporting the entire complement of Midshipmen from the Academy to Newport, where they remained for the duration of the War. See: Toomey, Daniel Carroll, The Civil War in Maryland, Toomey Press, Baltimore, 1983, page 15.

Paul T. Lanham

Paul also writes that the July 1995 Catalogue, #140, of Heritage Books, Bowie, Md. notes the publication of a new work by Society Member Shirley V. Baltz and her late husband, George E. Baltz. Prince George's County, Maryland, Marriages and Deaths in Nineteenth Century Newspapers, Volume I, A through J, 321 pages. \$25. We are told:

These accounts of marriages and death make not only interesting reading, they also act as a social commentary on life in rural 19th-century Prince George's County. There are stories of duels, murders, lynchings, railroad accidents, fires, falls from horses, drownings, etc. The extraordinary numbers of deaths of babies, children and young people give some insight into Victorian affinity with death. What is striking is the lack of sensationalism. A copy of G.M. Hopkins' 1878 map of the County shows the locations and names of political districts.

We congratulate Mrs. Baltz on the publication of this work. She is a long-time

member of the Society, a recipient of the prestigious St. George's Day award, a past Chair of Prince George's Heritage, and the author of other works on Maryland personages and history, copies of which are on file in the Society's Frederick S. DeMarr Library.



PLEASANT PROSPECT

September 23, 1995 Fundraiser

The Society's annual Prince of a County Fundraiser Reception will be held on Saturday, September 23 at Pleasant Prospect, the home of Society members, the Honorable and Mrs. Raymond Garthoff.

A map to this lovely home is provided herewith.

Built in 1798 for Dr. Isaac Duckett, described as one of the most opulent planters of the state, Pleasant Prospect was constructed on land originally patented in 1698 as Spriggs Request. Later the home of his daughter and son-in-law, John and Eliza Contee, it remained in their family until after the Civil War when it was sold to

Jonathan T. Walker in 1868. Pleasant Prospect remained in the Walker family for over a century.

Recently restored by Ambassador and Mrs. Garthoff, Pleasant Prospect is a fine late-Georgian plantation house, elegantly understated, with graceful moldings and plasterwork ornamentation such as garlands, swags and urns, applied to interior doorways and mantels. Its lovely Adamesque front doorway opens into a Georgian floor plan, with a center hall and two rooms to either side. The current stairway was added in the third quarter of the nineteenth century and replaced an enclosed stairway originally in the rear of the house. A hyphen and kitchen wing on the south end are typical of the late eighteenth and nineteenth century architecture in Southern Maryland. Pleasant Prospect is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition, **Pleasant Prospect** is one of fourteen properties in Prince George's County on which the Maryland Historic Trust holds an historic easement, which ensures that the building will continue to offer insights to our history and our roots for years to come. Having met our host and hostess, your Editor is sure that this is an event you will not want to miss. See you there.

TREASURER NOTES

Society Treasurer Jack Bourne advises that we have new members to welcome:

**Ruth and Win Warren
Barbara B. Fellows**

EASTERN SHORE BECKONS OCTOBER 21 BUS TOUR

Past President Warren (Dusty) Rhoads has maps in hand and is ready to lead Society members and guests on yet another excellent tour of Maryland's historic buildings. This time, we are advised, promises to equal past tours - with a visit to the Eastern Shore. Travelers will leave Marietta at 8:30 AM and will visit:

MEREDITH HOUSE- Home of the Nield Museum, this house was originally constructed in 1760 and enlarged and remodeled over the years. The House stands as a tribute to Eastern Shore life in the 1850s. Headquarters of the Dorchester County Historical Society, the adjoining Museum of local artifacts is well worth the trip.

LUNCHEON will be at the Exchange Pub. Please see the reservation form for menu choices. Then it is off to:

POPLAR HILL--A Georgian style mansion dating from 1805, this house has many colonial details, including hand carved cornices and chair rails, and features the original pine floors, and early paint colors. This is truly the showplace of the Salisbury Historic District.

Finally, but not least, we have a visit to **PEMBERTON HALL**. One of the earliest dated (1741) Gambrel-roofed houses in Maryland, **Pemberton Hall** is home to the Wicomico Historical Society. The house is designed to simulate an 18th century barn. Truly an interesting location.

Please sign up early and thanks to Dusty for

all of his hard work on this annual event.

TRICENTENNIAL PLANS CONTINUE

Some may be unaware that Prince George's County is having a momentous birthday on April 23, 1996 - 300 years young and still growing, glowing and getting better all the time!

We have provided information about proposed and scheduled events in celebration of this anniversary. But repetition does not detract from the importance of the event.

The Society, in concert with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission and others is working to ensure that our members are aware of events and are able to participate to the fullest extent in honoring our past, our present and our future.

One way of doing so has already taken place - and the fruits of those labors are yours for a small price. We speak of the wonderful Prince George's County Tricentennial Cookbook, edited by Dorothy Rainwater of Bowie. With 300 recipes from all times in our history, all parts of our County, and all manner of our diverse population, this is a must keepsake - and one which has uses that will be demonstrated every day in the kitchens of the gourmet cooks throughout Prince George's County. These books, priced at \$10, would make wonderful stocking stuffers for the holidays. Order yours now from the Society or from the Tricentennial Celebration Office at 301-322-1996.

Many of you have received notice that now is the time to make a bold statement about

your support of prince George's and our Tricentennial Celebration by acquiring a unique and lasting memento - a Tricentennial license plate for your car. Again, reasonably priced at \$30 (higher for lower numbers) these are a surefire conversation item. Again, order from the Tricentennial Celebration Office.

Finally, and most long-lasting - we Prince Georgians have an opportunity to leave our mark in brick for future generations. Through the good work of Bob Crawley and his excellent team, and as a major fund-raising effort for our Heritage Center, Bob has developed the Walk of History. To be located at the County Seat - Upper Marlboro, it consists of individual bricks on which you can have engraved up to three lines of message. Again, pricing is reasonable and you will receive appropriate recognition to share with friends and family. Call Bob at 301-423-4168 or the Tricentennial Celebration Office.

Perhaps one of the more exciting programs planned for 1996 was developed by the prince George's County Shopping Center Marketing Group - the **Birthday Book**. Located in kiosks in each of the major shopping malls and centers in the County, these will be a place where County residents and visitors can complete (at one's leisure) a Birthday Book Page, where you can tell about yourself and your family - who you are, who you were, and what your hopes for the future are. It is said that a book will be published from these pages - lets all make this a tome without end - a true snapshot of the 700,000 Prince Georgians in 1996!!

**SIXTY SEVEN FAITHS - SIX
HUNDRED HOUSES OF WORSHIP -**

WE ARE A DIVERSE AND A BELIEVING POPULACE. And, through the indefatigable leadership of Society Board Member Mildred Ridgely Gray and her stalwart band of volunteers, the entire religious community of Prince George's County is being energized for our birthday celebration. Our youth are a central focus of this effort - with plans for exhibitions of drama, oration, art and technology, and a massive youth worship service. All houses of worship, regardless of how young or old, how large or small, are asked to submit a history of their organization. With the help of sponsors, we hope to produce a book detailing this information for now and for future generations.

The oldest County Office (predating the erection of the County by one day) is the Office of Sheriff. And our good friend Sheriff Jimmy Aluisi and his deputies, officers, and retirees, will have a reunion and dinner at Martin's Crosswinds on April 22, 1996 to celebrate their founding.

Not surprising, I would guess, is that, while we needed a Sheriff, before we were founded, it was not for several weeks that an attorney was needed. Jack Johnson, State's Attorney for Prince George's County, traced his office back to June 23, 1696. He and his stalwart prosecutorial staff are working on a suitable celebration for that anniversary as well.

Sports has played a part in the history of the County since the time that Henry Clagett the First settled at Weston. So, we hope to see reenactments of racing at Upper Marlboro, and an Old-timer's baseball game at the new Prince George's Stadium, home of the Baysox, and a lot of other events as well.

PLEASANT PROSPECT
12806 WOODMORE ROAD
MITCHELLVILLE

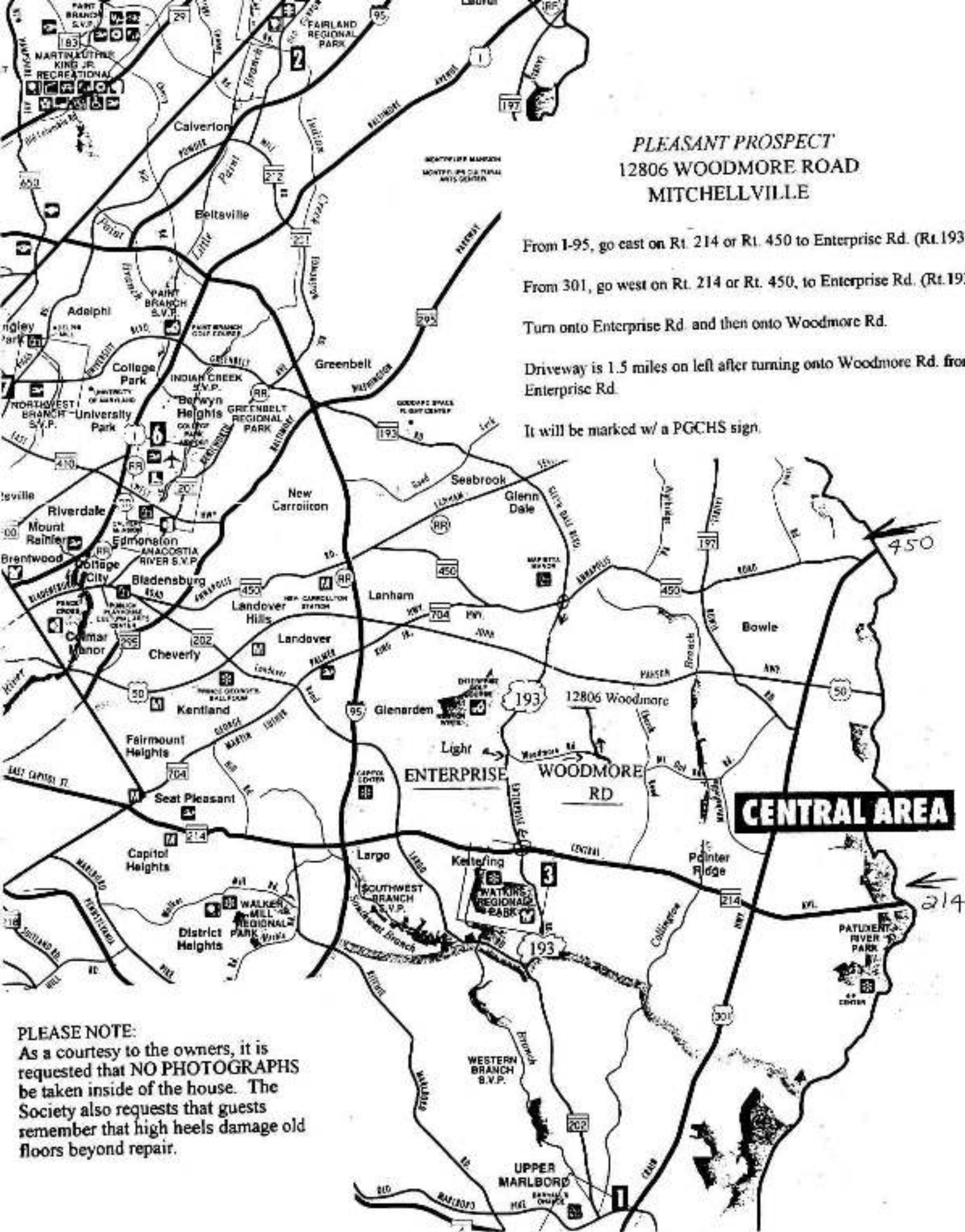
From I-95, go east on Rt. 214 or Rt. 450 to Enterprise Rd. (Rt. 193).

From 301, go west on Rt. 214 or Rt. 450, to Enterprise Rd. (Rt. 193).

Turn onto Enterprise Rd. and then onto Woodmore Rd.

Driveway is 1.5 miles on left after turning onto Woodmore Rd. from Enterprise Rd.

It will be marked w/ a PGCHS sign.



PLEASE NOTE:
 As a courtesy to the owners, it is requested that **NO PHOTOGRAPHS** be taken inside of the house. The Society also requests that guests remember that high heels damage old floors beyond repair.

May 1995 - April 1996

Yearly Planner

May 95						
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September

- 6** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 9** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM DEFENDERS' DAY CELEBRATION, FORT HOWARD PARK, EDGEMOOR, MD

- 23** 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS PRINCE OF A COUNTY RECEPTION, PLEASANT PROSPECT

October

- 4** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 14** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING
MARYLAND MEDIEVAL SOCIETY - ANNUAL HASTINGS FAIRE AT MARIETTA (SOCIETY MEETING MOVED TO GLENDALE COMMUNITY CENTER)

- 21** 8:00 AM - 6:45 PM PGCHS FALL BUS TRIP

November

- 1** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 11** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

December

- 6** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

December

- 9** 1:00 AM - 5:00 AM PGCHS HOLIDAY GALA, MARIETTA

January

- 3** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 13** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

- 20** WINTER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

- 21** WINTER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

February

- 7** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 10** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

- 18** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM LOVES OF A LIFETIME - GOLDEN MEMORIES AT MARIETTA

March

- 1** HOW THE BETTER HALF LIVED - AN EXHIBIT

- 6** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 9** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

- 31** HOW THE BETTER HALF LIVED - AN EXHIBIT

April

- 3** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

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April 96						
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The Prince George's County Historical Society

1995-FALL TOUR-1995
MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
Saturday October 21st

MEREDITH HOUSE/NIELD MUSEUM-Originally built in 1760, enlarged and remodeled over the years, the house now stands as a tribute to the 1850's. This and the adjoining museum of local artifacts are the Headquarters of the Dorchester County Historical Society

Luncheon at the Exchange Pub--SEE BELOW FOR FOOD CHOICE

POPLAR HILL-This Georgian style mansion, dating from 1805, has many colonial details including hand carved cornices and chair rails. Along with the original pine floors, early paint colors, it is the showpiece of the Salisbury Historic District.

PEMBERTON HALL-One of the earliest dated (1741) brick gambrel roofed houses in Maryland-and-HERITAGE CENTRE, designed to simulate an 18th century barn, this interesting location is the home of the Wicomico Historical Society.

The price of \$32.00 per person includes all
entrance fees, transportation and luncheon.
GUESTS ARE WELCOME

LEAVE FROM "MARIETTA" SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS
5626 BELL STATION ROAD PROMPTLY AT 8:30 A.M.

DEADLINE OCTOBER 14th--NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE

LUNCHEON SELECTIONS AND NAME/NAMES

CRAB CAKE.....

BAKED CHICKEN.....

Please make checks payable to: Prince
Georges County Historical Society
Mail to Warren Rhoads, 12501 Kemmerton Lane
Bowie, Maryland 20715

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

ERECTED ON ST. GEORGE'S DAY, APRIL 23, 1696

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Marietta Tours - Suspended Until
Further Notice - Information 301-464-
0590

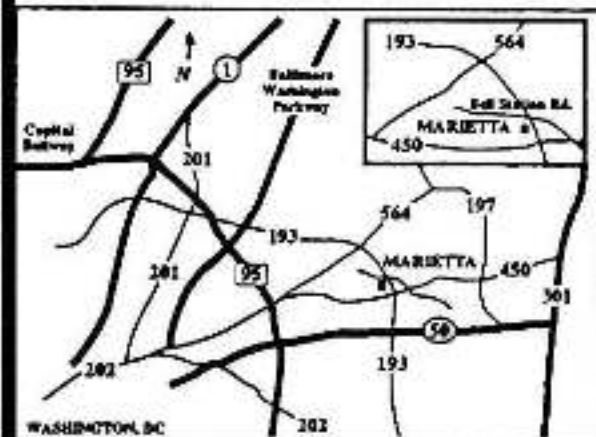
THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a Tasteful Collection of
Handcrafted Items for Home and Gift-
giving, Toys and Games for Children,
small antiques, Historical Society
Publications and souvenirs of Historic
Marietta.

Call 301-464-0590 for Gift Shop Hours.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 14

RIVERDALE, MARYLAND 20738-0014

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
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RIVERDALE, MD
PERMIT NO. 1948

DATED MATERIAL

NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1995

OUR 43RD YEAR

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 8

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1995

President - Jane Eagen
Vice President - Eugene Roberts, Jr.
Secretary - Sarah Bourne
Treasurer - John B. Bourne
Historian - Frederick S. DeMarr
Editor - Lester H. Sweeting

Directors - 1994/1995

John Mitchell
Julie Bright
Sarah Moseley

Directors - 1995/1996

Mildred Ridgeley Gray
Wallis Hall Cain
James Rea

Past Presidents

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

SOCIETY KICKS OFF FALL SEASON

As you know, our Fall season kicks off with our "Prince of a County" fundraiser reception on September 23, 1995, which will have been held by the time you read this. But the Fall is rapidly filling up with Society events and meetings, and other activities, as we work up to the Tricentennial next year.

As our President observed, October will have many more "T"s in it than usual, as the Society hosts at least 400 of the County's educators at Tea and Tricentennial events spread over 10 days in October. Any Society member who wishes to assist in this effort, by pouring, or by providing cake, cookies or other tea related items will be more than welcome. Contact either Jane Eagen or Sharon Sweeting (301-927-4514) to sign up.

Our October meeting involves a change of venue. Because of the weekend-long Marching Through Time encampment at Marietta, we have agreed to meet at the Glendale Community Center, which is just north of Marietta on the left side of Route 193 as you head toward Greenbelt. The speaker at that meeting will be Anne Palumbo, Executive Director, Prince George's County Arts Council/Arts in Public Places Program. Her topic promises to be most interesting -- "Prince George's County Artists and Arts Patrons in Colonial Times." See you there!!

Restoration of the windows at the mansion may necessitate closing for November and part of December - watch this space for further details.

Now, let us turn to one of Hyattsville's noted sons - Jackson Ralston. Two items are presented, and we must say that the first was a typescript without attribution, while the second relates Mr. Ralston's primary victory in a race for Congress. I should note that he was unsuccessful in his bid to unseat Sydney E. Mudd in the 5th district race. The Mudd seat was safe for a quarter of a century.

JACKSON H. RALSTON, ESQ. HYATTSVILLE LUMINARY

Jackson H. Ralston was born in Sacramento, California, and lived as a young man in Quincy, Illinois, and in other Western cities. His father, Judge James H. Ralston, died on the desert in Nevada. The Indians discovered his remains which consisted of bones and a watch. That part of the desert was later named the Ralston Desert in his memory.

Judge Ralston (the elder) was a prominent attorney who served in the Illinois Legislature with Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.

Jackson Ralston obtained his law degree from Georgetown University in 1876. He opened his office with a Mr. Siddons, and the firm was known as Ralston and Siddons. Later Mr. Richardson became a member of the firm, and his name was added.

Mr. Ralston moved to Hyattsville (Prince George's County) in 1882. He became interested in International Law. He was chosen as umpire in several controversies between countries. He was an accomplished

linguist; and on occasion, conducted entire arguments in a foreign tongue. At times he took William Guista, distinguished translator of the U.S. State Department, abroad with him. Mr. Guista lived on the corner of Spencer and Avon (now 42nd Place and Gallatin Street, in Hyattsville).

Mrs. Harriet Ralston purchased Lot 26 from C. C. Hyatt on April 8, 1882. On July 26, 1882, she purchased Lots 1, 2, and 3 of the Whiteside Sub of Lots 27 and 28 of the Hyatt Addition to Hyattsville.

In 1882, Mr. Ralston and Mr. Littlefield were responsible for Messrs. Wine and Johnson purchasing the Ravenswood tract which at that time consisted of 190 acres. Until the purchase and development of this tract, Hyattsville's expansion had been slow.

Mr. Ralston built his first home on Wingrest Place, not 4200 Decatur St., next to the home erected by his mother, Mrs. Harriet N. Ralston, which borders on 42nd Ave. (4206 Decatur St.) This house was later purchased by the Howard M. Rice family. The original house on the first site was moved to 42nd Ave. And later became the Naylor home.

In 1886, Mr. Ralston called a meeting of the interested parties in incorporating the Town. Jackson Ralston, J. Rogers, and William C. Lewin drew up the incorporation papers and presented them to the Legislature.

His first definite steps in the field of international relations were taken in 1889 when he acted as Counsel for Felipe Angocillo, representative of the Abortive Republic of the Philippines.

Mr. Ralston was a noted advocate of the single tax and was the author of many

splendid publications on this subject. In 1892, as President of the Hyattsville Board of Commissioners, with the aid of Charles H. Long and George S. Britt, he procured the adoption of the abolishment of the improvement tax. In 1890 he was instrumental in abolishing the personal property tax. This was the first time any town in the United States had put such a law on its books. However, the State Court of Appeal declared the measure unconstitutional. Later, Hyattsville adopted a modified form of the single tax, and Mr. Ralston was responsible for the enactment of a State constitutional provision that permitted towns wishing to do so to use the single tax system. Capitol Heights and Perryville instituted the plan.

Mr. Ralston was also co-author of the *Best Referendum Provision in the United States*.

In 1902, Mr. Ralston was the agent in charge of the Pious Fundse in which the United States and Mexico were the litigants. This was the case to open the Hague Permanent Court of Arbitration. The government published Mr. Ralston's report as its agent. In 1903, he was the Umpire of the Italian-Venezuelan Mixed Claims Commission and shortly after edited *Venezuelan Arbitration of 1903 and Report of the French-Venezuelan Mixed Claims Commission under Protocol of 1902*. He authored *International Arbitration from Athens to Locarno* and many other legal publications.

As an attorney for the American Federation of labor, Mr. Ralston defended Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell, and Frank Morrison in the famed Buck's Stove and Range litigation in which Gompers, Mitchell, and Morrison were in danger of getting jail terms.

While serving as an attorney for the Union, he obtained Supreme Court decisions that made certain the right of trial by jury in police court and established contempt of court as a criminal proceeding.

Mr. Ralston served Hyattsville well. He served on the first school board with James B. Burnside and Henry A. Drury. They were responsible for the building of the first school building in Hyattsville at Ravenswood and Johnson Aves. (43rd and Farragut St.) He made arrangements for the First National Bank of Marlboro to establish offices in Hyattsville and was one of the organizers of the Hyattsville Building Association.

In 1897 he was awarded a Doctor of Laws Degree from the National University of Washington.

After moving back to Palo Alto, California, he wrote several more books and gave lectures at Stanford University.

The Palo Alto Press described him "as not only a distinguished man but a rare soul, widely beloved. He was learned, lovable, tolerant, kindly, eminently human and humane, and gifted with a delightful sense of humor."

His last residence in Hyattsville was on the site where the Hyattsville Theater stood which is now the car lot adjacent to Lustine's Oldsmobile Car Company.

Jackson H. Ralston died on October 13, 1945.

Ed. Note: We came across the above typescript but are not aware of its provenance. In any event, we find it interesting and hope our readers will also. In addition, we offer the following reprint of an article from the Washington Times, Tuesday, May 16, 1916. (This is not the current paper by that

Each time I was reminded of the subject, I enquired of the Commission as to the status of the fence; each time I was assured "just be patient"; but Mrs. Marshall, bless her heart, vigorously kept me aware of her concern and the importance of the matter. And, so, I kept up the pressure!

Finally, one evening after I had again telephoned and 'harassed' the Commission on the matter and was again advised "please be patient," I received a personal call at home.

"Pail" the caller said "I was in the front office today and overheard what you were told. Off the record, it's time you understand the problem." The caller then related his concern over the fencing and the care he had taken to protect it, as the ground restorations proceeded. To his horror, when the time came to reinstall the fencing, only one piece remained. The balance had been irretrievably used as reinforcing rods in the mansion's concrete walls!!

"However" the caller continued "we have used the remaining piece as a guide and had facsimile pieces reproduced. As soon as I can properly 'antique' these new pieces with appropriate nicks, scratches, etc., I will rebuild the fencing, and twenty-five years from now only you and I will know the true story."

Needless to say, Margaret was delighted with her reinstalled fence, and until her very recent passing, remained a close friend indeed. Our friendship bonds cemented together in our "successful Waring Cemetery endeavor."

It was some years later that I checked the cemetery project. On my first visit, I could not find it, but was successful at a later visit.

To my chagrin, a boundary planting of ornamental hedge has now completely obscured the iron fencing! But look closely, it is there and Margaret and I both felt it looks very nice. Although, I must say, she was amazed at "how well it had weathered the passage of time. Real craftsmen they had in those days!"

President's Ramblings

I am so delighted with your responses to the requests for help and services in the classified ads and last month's Ramblings. It has been wonderful to have such support and help to get things moving. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

The invitations to the Tricentennial Teas are out and the replies are coming in fast. It appears we will have many people at each tea. There are still some openings for helpers to clean up, set up, and greet our guests. Now, if you would like to bake some goodies, they would be appreciated also. Call Sharon Sweeting, 927-4514.

By the time you receive this we will have had our fall fund-raiser at Pleasant Prospect. Wallis and Dusty have done such a great job in the planning that it was a great success. A special thanks to both of them. It seemed to me that everyone was friendly and chatty, despite the verrrry cool weather. The Garthoffs were very hospitable hosts.

The gift shop is really coming along. We found some base cabinets on sale and Tim Yatman is doing the carpentry work! Now if that isn't a stroke of good fortune . . . We will be indebted to you for a thousand years, Tim and friend. I saw it today and got quite excited. Stella and Bill Uber are working hard to get things together. Several members

and friends have volunteered to work in the shop and a decorative artist has offered her services. Opening day has not been decided yet, but you will know as soon as we can get it all together. *We need volunteers to work in the shop when the house is open. Call me at 249-6409 and I will direct you to the signer upper or sign you up on the spot.*

In the middle of all of the Tricentennial Teas we are inviting two people from each Friends of groups in the county to have brunch at Marietta and get to know each other. There won't be an agenda, but we can become acquainted and decide if we would like to do this once or twice a year. It is hoped that we can coordinate calendars so we won't be competing with each other. Think how nice it would be to have events offered on many days rather than so many on the same days.

With the help of everyone on the Board of Directors and advice from delegates we have formulated a plan to try to get a bond bill through the legislature for funds from the state to match funds from MNCPPC for Phase II or completion of the restoration of Marietta. Phase I of the restoration, the repair of external and structural features, has been completed. It included replacing and pointing up some of the external brickwork. Some drainage and internal support work was done also. Phase II will include more internal work, air conditioning, heating, sewer and water hook up, plaster repair and detail work. The windows are scheduled to be done this fall. It is difficult to have the house open until the windows are done, thus our limited schedule of events until 1996. The house will be open through 1996, Tricentennial Year, then.....hopefully, the Phase II can become a reality.

Fred DeMarr is working on a plan for the library that will allow more of the collection be available without moving boxes, stacks, etc. *The October and November meetings will be at the Glenn Dale Community Center. We are trying it out to see how it works.*

A nominating committee has been appointed to fill the vacancies for next year and the next class of directors. There was also a motion presented to raise the lifetime membership dues to \$400. It was tabled to allow members to respond and to join at the old rate of \$200 until January, 1996.

The Board of Education has requested that we sponsor a class for teachers in the spring semester. We will use the same format used in the past. Each class will be held at a different historical site with two or three speakers. The teachers participating will be required to submit lesson plans using some of the information presented and in turn will receive one credit for certification renewal. *One of the attraction of the class is the snacks served at each class. We try to keep them appropriate to the theme of the evening and on the last meeting we go all out and serve a buffet. Florence Reidesel took care of the refreshments last year, unfortunately for us, she has moved to Hagerstown and we need another volunteer. We can supply recipes and ideas and reimburse you for expenses. It is fun and the classes are very interesting. This is a wonderful opportunity for those of you who love to cook but don't always have the occasions or partakers.*

At the County Fair we gave out many brochures and enjoyed chatting with many people who had never heard of us. Wouldn't

Newman.

The Washington-Hyattsville candidate for Congress makes a hobby of civic reforms. Less than a month ago he was among the sponsors who went to Congress urging the report of the Community forum's bill to permit the use of Washington school houses for public discussions.

Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of the President, was chief sponsor for this measure now pending before a House committee. Elimination of alleys, the eradication of the loan shark's evil, city hygiene and sanitation, simplification of judicial procedure, and other municipal and general reforms are among the things which Mr. Ralston has supported.

Familiar Figure In Courts

For a number of years Mr. Ralston was associated with Frederick L. Siddons, now a justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, in the practice of law. The tall, vigorous, fighting Ralston is a familiar figure within every courtroom in the District. Mr. Ralston's activities, however, have not been confined solely to his position as general counsel for the American Federation of labor and a practicing attorney for other clients.

As early as 1878, he was a delegate to the International Typographical Union of North America. In 1883 he was counsel in Washington for Felipe Agoneille, representing the Filipino republic before the war broke out; he was American agent and counsel in the case of the Pious Fund of the California Against Mexico, the first dispute submitted to the permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague under the peace convention of 1899; he was also named by the United States in 1903 as umpire for the Italian claims against Venezuela before the mixed tribunal at Caracas.

Mr. Ralston is author of "International

Arbitration Law and Procedure."

He was born in Sacramento on February 6, 1857, educated in the San Francisco high school, and graduated in law from Georgetown University, in this city, in 1876.

The Washington Times Tuesday, May 2, 1916, page One.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

by Paul Lanham

Members attending the September 23, 1995, reception at the lovely home of Ambassador and Mrs. Raymond Garthoff, **Pleasant Prospect**, were saddened to learn of the passing of a beloved Charter Member of the Society, **Margaret Mullikin Marshall**.

For many years, I have been knowledgeable of a past event which would have been of great interest to this gracious lady, but one for which my silence, I believe, was the 'better part of valor.' The story goes as follows-- In the early 1970s, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, having acquired the historical Captain Newton White estate on Enterprise Road, was busily engaged in restoring the mansion and constructing a community golf course on the site.

Mrs. Marshall had an intensive interest in that part of the property designated as "The Waring Family Cemetery." She was delighted as this hallowed ground was brought back to life from the tangle of briars, fallen trees, etc., accumulated over the decades. However, with growing concern, she noted that the ancient iron fencing had not been reinstalled and, so, she enlisted my assistance (as I was President of the Historical Society in those days) for corrective action.



The Prince George's County Historical Society

1995-FALL TOUR-1995
MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
Saturday October 21st

MEREDITH HOUSE/NIELD MUSEUM-Originally built in 1760, enlarged and remodeled over the years, the house now stands as a tribute to the 1850's. This and the adjoining museum of local artifacts are the Headquarters of the Dorchester County Historical Society

Luncheon at the Exchange Pub--SEE BELOW FOR FOOD CHOICE

POPLAR HILL-This Georgian style mansion, dating from 1805, has many colonial details including hand carved cornices and chair rails. Along with the original pine floors, early paint colors, it is the showpiece of the Salisbury Historic District.

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5626 BELL STATION ROAD PROMPTLY AT 8:30 A.M.

DEADLINE OCTOBER 14th--NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE

LUNCHEON SELECTIONS AND NAME/NAMES

CRAB CAKE.....

BAKED CHICKEN.....

Please make checks payable to: Prince
Georges County Historical Society
Mail to Warren Rhoads, 12501 Kemmerton Lane
Bowie, Maryland 20715

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

ERECTED ON ST. GEORGE'S DAY, APRIL 23, 1696

October 1995 - September 1996

Yearly Planner

October 95						
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April

14 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM MARCHING THRU TIME ENCAMPMENT AT MARIETTA

21 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

23 **HAPPY 300TH BIRTHDAY TO US!!!**

May

1 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

11 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

18 SPRING, MAY POLES AND CHILDREN'S GAMES ON THE LAWN AT MARIETTA

June

5 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

8 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
GLENN DALE FESTIVAL AT MARIETTA AND GLENN DALE COMMUNITY CENTER

July

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

13 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

July

21 SUMMER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

August

7 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

10 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

September

4 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

14 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

22 DEMONSTRATION OF SCHOOL DAYS AT MARIETTA

April 96						
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Each time I was reminded of the subject, I enquired of the Commission as to the status of the fence; each time I was assured "just be patient"; but Mrs. Marshall, bless her heart, vigorously kept me aware of her concern and the importance of the matter. And, so, I kept up the pressure!

Finally, one evening after I had again telephoned and 'harassed' the Commission on the matter and was again advised "please be patient," I received a personal call at home.

"Pail" the caller said "I was in the front office today and overheard what you were told. Off the record, it's time you understand the problem." The caller then related his concern over the fencing and the care he had taken to protect it, as the ground restorations proceeded. To his horror, when the time came to reinstall the fencing, only one piece remained. The balance had been irretrievably used as reinforcing rods in the mansion's concrete walls!!

"However" the caller continued "we have used the remaining piece as a guide and had facsimile pieces reproduced. As soon as I can properly 'antique' these new pieces with appropriate nicks, scratches, etc., I will rebuild the fencing, and twenty-five years from now only you and I will know the true story."

Needless to say, Margaret was delighted with her reinstalled fence, and until her very recent passing, remained a close friend indeed. Our friendship bonds cemented together in our "successful Waring Cemetery endeavor."

It was some years later that I checked the cemetery project. On my first visit, I could not find it; but was successful at a later visit.

To my chagrin, a boundary planting of ornamental hedge has now completely obscured the iron fencing! But look closely, it is there and Margaret and I both felt it looks very nice. Although, I must say, she was amazed at "how well it had weathered the passage of time. Real craftsmen they had in those days!"

President's Ramblings

I am so delighted with your responses to the requests for help and services in the classified ads and last month's Ramblings. It has been wonderful to have such support and help to get things moving. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

The invitations to the Tricentennial Teas are out and the replies are coming in fast. It appears we will have many people at each tea. There are still some openings for helpers to clean up, set up, and greet our guests. Now, if you would like to bake some goodies, they would be appreciated also. Call Sharon Sweeting, 927-4514.

By the time you receive this we will have had our fall fund-raiser at Pleasant Prospect. Wallis and Dusty have done such a great job in the planning that it was a great success. A special thanks to both of them. It seemed to me that everyone was friendly and chatty, despite the verrry cool weather. The Garthoffs were very hospitable hosts.

The gift shop is really coming along. We found some base cabinets on sale and Tim Yatman is doing the carpentry work! Now if that isn't a stroke of good fortune We will be indebted to you for a thousand years, Tim and friend. I saw it today and got quite excited. Stella and Bill Uber are working hard to get things together. Several members

and friends have volunteered to work in the shop and a decorative artist has offered her services. Opening day has not been decided yet, but you will know as soon as we can get it all together. *We need volunteers to work in the shop when the house is open. Call me at 249-6409 and I will direct you to the signer upper or sign you up on the spot.*

In the middle of all of the Tricentennial Teas we are inviting two people from each Friends of groups in the county to have brunch at Marietta and get to know each other. There won't be an agenda, but we can become acquainted and decide if we would like to do this once or twice a year. It is hoped that we can coordinate calendars so we won't be competing with each other. Think how nice it would be to have events offered on many days rather than so many on the same days.

With the help of everyone on the Board of Directors and advise from delegates we have formulated a plan to try to get a bond bill through the legislature for funds from the state to match funds from MNCPPC for Phase II or completion of the restoration of Marietta. Phase I of the restoration, the repair of external and structural features, has been completed. It included replacing and pointing up some of the external brickwork. Some drainage and internal support work was done also. Phase II will include more internal work, air conditioning, heating, sewer and water hook up, plaster repair and detail work. The windows are scheduled to be done this fall. It is difficult to have the house open until the windows are done, thus our limited schedule of events until 1996. The house will be open through 1996, Tricentennial Year, then.....hopefully, the Phase II can become a reality.

Fred DeMarr is working on a plan for the library that will allow more of the collection be available without moving boxes, stacks, etc. *The October and November meetings will be at the Glenn Dale Community Center. We are trying it out to see how it works.*

A nominating committee has been appointed to fill the vacancies for next year and the next class of directors. There was also a motion presented to raise the lifetime membership dues to \$400. It was tabled to allow members to respond and to join at the old rate of \$200 until January, 1996.

The Board of Education has requested that we sponsor a class for teachers in the spring semester. We will use the same format used in the past. Each class will be held at a different historical site with two or three speakers. The teachers participating will be required to submit lesson plans using some of the information presented and in turn will receive one credit for certification renewal. *One of the attraction of the class is the snacks served at each class. We try to keep them appropriate to the theme of the evening and on the last meeting we go all out and serve a buffet. Florence Reidesel took care of the refreshments last year, unfortunately for us, she has moved to Hagerstown and we need another volunteer. We can supply recipes and ideas and reimburse you for expenses. It is fun and the classes are very interesting. This is a wonderful opportunity for those of you who love to cook but don't always have the occasions or partakers.*

At the County Fair we gave out many brochures and enjoyed chatting with many people who had never heard of us. Wouldn't

it be wonderful if our membership grew and we had more people involved with the history of Prince George's County. Let's make it happen!

IN SEARCH OF OLDFANGLED OBJECTS

In celebration of the 300th Anniversary of Prince George's County, the Arts and Cultural Heritage Division of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission seeks obsolete objects from Prince George's County residents. Outdated kitchen gadgets, antique toys and games, oldfangled appliances, vintage clothing and garden tools are some of the items sought for an exhibit in April, 1996. Objects for display must be at least 50 years old.

The exhibit "Oldfangled: Obsolete Objects from the Attics and Closets of Prince George's County," opens free to the public at the Gallery, Harmony Hall Regional Center, Fort Washington, Maryland, from April 1 through April 30, 1996. A grand reception is planned for Saturday, April 27, 1996.

Interested residents should call (301)454-1450, TTY (301)454-1472 for further information and to receive an entry form. Deadline for entries is February 16, 1996.

The "Oldfangled" exhibit is a program of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, Arts and Cultural Heritage Division.

For Sale by Sealed Bid: Antique (c. 1840) round extension dining table with two leaves. The Wood is mahogany, with mahogany veneer. The cylindrical pedestal splits in half to support the leaves. The pedestal rests on

platform supports with paw feet. The table is in very good condition.

The above item is a Commission surplus item. The minimum bid accepted is \$2,000. All bids must be in writing and mailed to:

Pat O'Malley
M-NCPPC Executive Office Building
Purchasing, Suite 300
6611 Kenilworth Avenue
Riverdale, MD 20737

The bid deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, November 17, 1995. Please include your name, address, telephone and bid amount. Mark the lower left hand of the envelope "Reference" Marietta Table."

AN INVITATION HIKERS/BIKERS/HORSEMEN

NEW TRAIL CELEBRATION

WB&A Trail Open House to celebrate the acquisition of the entire six mile railroad right of way in Prince George's County.

10 am October 21 (rain or shine)
Glenn Dale Recreation Center
Rte. 193 between Rte 564 and Rte 458.
Glenn Dale, Maryland

10AM - Free Irish Donuts, coffee and opportunity to socialize and view trail displays.
Speeches from 10:30 to 11:00 AM

11 AM Ride/Hike trail and adjoining country road to Glenn Dale Pond of Marietta Mansion - PGCHS Society Headquarters - a MNCPPC Property

Bikers - Wear Your Helmets!

For more information, call Morris Warren, WB&A Recreational/Commuter Trail Association - 301-459-7090.

October 1995 - September 1996

Yearly Planner

October 95						
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November 95						
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January 96						
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October

4 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

14 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING
MARYLAND MEDIEVAL SOCIETY - ANNUAL HASTINGS FAIRE AT MARIETTA (SOCIETY MEETING MOVED TO GLENDALE COMMUNITY CENTER)

21 8:00 AM - 6:45 PM PGCHS FALL BUS TRIP

November

1 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

11 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

21 6:00 PM - 10:15 PM TRICENTENNIAL KICKOFF - WATKINS REGIONAL PARK

December

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

9 1:00 AM - 5:00 AM PGCHS HOLIDAY GALA, SITE TO BE ANNOUNCED

January

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

13 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

January

20 WINTER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

21 WINTER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

February

7 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

10 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

18 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM LOVES OF A LIFETIME - GOLDEN MEMORIES AT MARIETTA

March

1 HOW THE BETTER HALF LIVED - AN EXHIBIT

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

9 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

31 HOW THE BETTER HALF LIVED - AN EXHIBIT

April

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

8 GLENN DALE COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT AT MARIETTA

13 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM MARCHING THRU TIME ENCAMPMENT AT MARIETTA

April 96						
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**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM**

Return to PGCHS

Post Office box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

Virta, Allen, Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Price 29.95, plus tax of \$1.50 and p/h of \$2.00 - total \$33.45.

Calvert of Maryland. by James Otis. Hard Cover, 166 pp. PGCHS exclusive reprint of this 1910 original, complete with lithographed illustrations. Delightful story of the settling of Maryland. A great holiday gift for a child with an interest in history. \$6.95 incl tax.

Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1878. Hopkins/White, Soft Cover, 50 pp. Published by PGCHS in 1975, this 2nd edition was printed in 1990. The maps are organized by then-existing election districts, show primary roads, major landmarks and lists property owners in 1878. A must for the home historian. \$5.00 plus \$.25 tax and \$1.00 s&h.

Souvenir Book/Lanham Centennial - 1872 to 1972. by Paul Lanham, et. al. Soft Cover, 112 pp. 1972. The history of the Lanham area, including interesting illustrations. Discusses early personalities and the influence of railroads on the development of Lanham. \$4.00 plus \$.20 tax, \$1.00 s&h.

Berwyn Heights: History of a Small Maryland Town. Donald Skarda. Soft Cover, 54 pp. 1976. Well written story of a turn-of-the-century suburban town. Gives background history of the area. \$3.00 plus \$.60 tax and \$.50 S&H.

Gabriel Duvall, A Short Biography. by Shirley Baltz. Soft Cover, 5 pp. 1985. Brief synopsis of the life of Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall, builder of Marietta. Proceeds benefit Marietta restoration. \$1.00 plus \$.05 tax, \$.50 S&H.

A History of Beltsville. Soft Cover, 96 pp. 1976. Draws on the writings of the late historians Ethel Woodward and Susie Beall. \$4.00 plus \$.20 tax and \$.50 S&H.

Taussig, Betty, Windfall of Inherited Treasures. \$10.00, Tax \$1.00 s&h, \$2.00.

Journey Through Time: A history of the Prince George's County Police. 29.95 plus tax \$1.50 plus s&h \$2.00

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE AND ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER NEW OR
RENEWAL

CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORY

<u>FULL TIME STUDENT</u>	\$10.00
<u>MEMBER</u>	\$20.00
<u>LIFE MEMBER</u>	\$200.00
<u>SUSTAINING MEMBER</u>	\$50.00
<u>ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION</u>	\$ _____

I AM ALSO INTERESTED IN HELPING THE SOCIETY AS A VOLUNTEER. PLEASE CONTACT EM REGARDING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO JOIN THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND AM ENCLOSING \$25 FOR INDIVIDUAL OR \$35 FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP.

OUR OPERATING SUPPORT COMES FROM YOUR DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PGCHS
MAIL PAYMENTS TO
PGCHS, PO BOX 14
RIVERDALE, MD 20738-0014
TELEPHONE 301-464-0590

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Marietta Tours - Suspended Until
Further Notice - Information 301-464-
0590

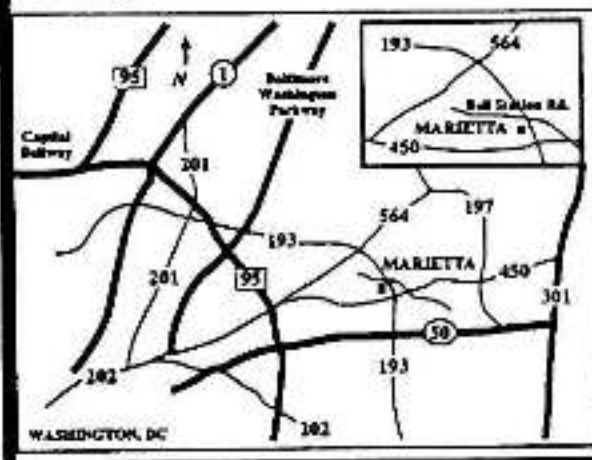
THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a Tasteful Collection of
Handcrafted Items for Home and Gift-
giving, Toys and Games for Children,
small antiques, Historical Society
Publications and souvenirs of Historic
Marietta.

Call 301-464-0590 for Gift Shop Hours.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 14

RIVERDALE, MARYLAND 20738-0014

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PERMIT NO. 1948

DATED MATERIAL

NEWS AND NOTES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1995

OUR 43RD YEAR

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 9

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1995

President - Jane Eagen
Vice President - Eugene Roberts, Jr.
Secretary - Sarah Bourne
Treasurer - John B. Bourne
Historian - Frederick S. DeMarr
Editor - Lester H. Sweeting

Directors - 1994/1995

John Mitchell
Julie Bright
Sarah Moseley

Directors - 1995/1996

Mildred Ridgeley Gray
Wallis Hall Cain
James Ray

Past Presidents

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP COST INCREASE

The Board of Directors has been reviewing the financial status of the Society and has determined that it is appropriate that the Society consider changes to the level of funding necessary to effect a lifetime membership in the society.

Why should this be necessary?

Ten years ago, and the current life membership level was set more than a decade ago, the cost of mailing News and Notes was less than \$1.00 per year. In addition, printing costs and other costs attendant to maintaining our extensive mailing lists and other activities were less than \$5 per member per year. Thus, the income from a \$200 life membership offset the total annual cost for such a membership for an extended number of years.

In 1995, however, we have found that mailing, printing and other costs have risen so that the income earned from the life membership trust fund exceed the annual cost of maintaining an extensive list of life members.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP
COST INCREASE
CONTINUED

Our Treasurer, Jack Bourne, advised the Board of Directors that a long-range plan must include resolution of this matter.

It is therefore suggested that the Membership consider that a change to our By Laws with respect to life membership increasing the cost thereof to reflect the economic realities will take effect on January 1, 1996. Consider a life membership as a personal Holiday Gift for yourself or another!

ANNUAL MEETING
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

November is the end of our year, and the November Meeting of the Society is given over to a business meeting, in addition to a speaker (see article below).

Our Board of Directors includes all Past Presidents, who serve ex-officio.

In addition, the officers serve one year terms. Six Directors are elected for two year terms on a staggered basis.

This year, Directors John Mitchell and Julie Bright are nominated for new two-year terms, and Sarah Moseley is retiring from the Board. Bill Uber is nominated for a full term to replace Sarah Moseley. In addition, the Director class of 1995/1996 is losing two members -- Judge James Ray and Wallis Hall Cain. Mildred Ridgeley Gray will continue her term. In light of the two resignations, nominations have been announced for Melinda Alter and Catherine Clagett.

The current officers, shown on the front page, have been renominated for an additional year.

NOVEMBER 11
SOCIETY MEETING TO
REFLECT ON THE
SECOND WORLD WAR

The Society is pleased to be able to present a lecture by a veteran of the Second World War, **Bernard Thomas Nolan**, Lieutenant Colonel, Retired, United States Air Force. Col. Nolan, who has just returned from a reunion of his comrades in the Eighth Bomber Command, will discuss the Air War in England and Europe and his 33 combat missions in B-24Hs and N-17Gs, between November 1943 and October 1944. A graduate of the University of Maryland, Col. Nolan also served at Andrews Air Force Base and with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

We look forward to your attendance at this meeting, which, you are reminded, will take place in the Glenn Dale Recreation Center on Enterprise Road.

A LADY WARRIOR
FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



My Librarian and her cohorts in the Hyattsville Preservation Association are continuing their efforts to document Hyattsville through oral histories with some of our elderly residents. While talking to one such lady, Mrs. Marrie Kier, they were allowed access to some of her old records - including early High School publications, and other memorabilia.

Among the items sent along for our information, however, were documents relating to a lady by the name of Esther Virginia Hall Beckett, who was born in Hyattsville (we believe) in 1898 and who had a fascinating history in her own right. Mrs. Beckett was better known as one of five women who served on active duty in both world wars, and one of only 5 of the 11,000 women who served during WWI who was awarded the World War I Victory Ribbon.

Esther Virginia Hall was born in Maryland on February 24, 1898, and she grew up (we are told) in Hyattsville. On December 7, 1917 she enlisted as a Yeoman 3rd Class in the Yeoman (F) branch of the United States Navy. These "Yeomanettes", forerunners of the WAVES, served as yeoman (a clerical rating), electrician's mate, storekeepers, cooks, stewards, and mess attendants. The Nursing Service was a totally different branch. Most of these young ladies lived in private quarters. They did drill, parade and worked a wartime schedule. They also received promotions like other enlisted personnel. Esther was promoted to Yeoman 2nd Class on May 1, 1918, and Yeoman 3rd Class on November 1, 1918. On February 16, 1919, she mustered out into "inactive" status. Her service and service of 427 other Maryland ladies allowed male yeomen to be reassigned for overseas duty.

On mustering out, Yeoman Hall joined the Navy Division of the Veterans' Administration. In 1921, she joined the Bureau of Navy Personnel as a civilian. After Pearl Harbor, she was released to the WAVES, with the understanding that she would return to her civilian job after the war ended. In the Second World War, Mrs. Beckett (she had married in 1934) was promoted to a senior lieutenant and was made paymaster. She was considered for appointment as Head of the Waves, but a heart condition precluded her accepting that high position, although she concluded her service successfully, mustering out as a Lieutenant on January 25, 1946.

Esther was one of the founders of the American Legion, and its second Post, the U.S.S. Jacob Jones Post of the American Legion of the District of Columbia. (My sources, though sketchy, indicate that this may have been an all-female Post.)

Taking an active interest in the Legion, (Ms Hall was a continuous member for 62 years) she was Commander of the Post in 1927, and was a Departmental Commander of the District of Columbia Department of the American Legion as well. She traveled on the S.S. Leviathan, flagship of the American Legion's trip for the tenth anniversary American Expeditionary, with General Pershing and others to celebrate the anniversary of the Armistice. While on that voyage, she led the tribute to the U.S.S. Jacob Jones and her gallant crew, who were lost in a submarine attack off the Scilly Isles on September 16, 1917.

It was on that trip to Europe that Ms. Hall met Norman P. Beckett, also a veteran of World War I, and a legionnaire. They were married in 1934, and moved to Denver,

where Esther was instrumental in setting up the Veteran's Administration - Western.

At her death in 1980, Mrs. Beckett was Commander of the Iola Barracks No. 2711 of the Veterans of World War I, a unique office for a woman to hold (and she was the sole woman in any Barracks in Kansas).

She the subject of at least two Certificates of Appreciation of a grateful nation signed by Presidents - the First by Harry S. Truman, and a posthumous certificate signed by Ronald Reagan.

Esther Virginia Hall Beckett - a daughter of Prince George's, is shown above in her WAVES Uniform.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

First, let me, on behalf of Treasurer Bourne and the Society, welcome new members: **Carolyn T. Lee, Brenda L. Marcum, Mavis McAvoy, and Queen Anne School/Kimberley Kratovil. Welcome All!!**

I cannot resist the following two short pieces. The first is from one of the reprints we received in connection with the material submitted on Lt. Esther Hall Beckett reported above and relates to her duties as Navy Paymaster.

PAYMASTERS NEVER FORGET

Letter from Captain X to Army Paymaster: "I observe that my promotion to the rank of Captain is shown as taking effect from the 19th May, 944. I therefore request that my account may be credited with 63,875 pounds (about \$300,000) as representing arrears of

pay as now due."

Letter from Army Paymaster to Captain X: "In reply to your letter, it is pointed out that since the date therein mentioned, the Battle of Hastings has been fought, in the course of which a considerable deficiency in bows and arrows was brought to light. Since you appear to be the sole survivor of this incident, your liability in respect of the deficiency, the replacement value of which is estimated at 63,875 pounds, 6 shillings and 8 pence, cannot be questioned. "If therefore you will remit the sum of 6 shillings and 8 pence, the matter can be dealt with per contra and may be considered as closed."

Ah well - and your faithful Editor can well remember when £, s, d were the rule (and one could divide by 12 and 20).

Next a short tale lifted from the latest Prince George's County Genealogical Society Bulletin:

THE SAD FATE OF REVEREND FRIDAY -- OR THE GREAT ONION MURDER

Harper's Ferry, WV, May 31, 1877 (a tale derived from various newspaper accounts)

On the night of May 31, 1877, the Reverend John M. Friday, the popular young minister of St. John's Lutheran Church of Harper's Ferry, left a church meeting in progress at his home to perform

a secret marriage* across the Potomac River on the Maryland shore. Expecting only a brief absence, he asked the meeting to await his return. He never returned. The gathering adjourned, and the minister's young wife began a night-long vigil. She finally fell into exhausted slumber and dreamed her husband had been *murdered*.

The next morning a lock keeper saw a hat floating in the C&O canal. It was Reverend Friday's. Later in the day his body was found in the canal above a lock near Sandy Hook, Maryland. The Reverend's watch had stopped at five past ten o'clock. Examination of the corpse revealed that he had been struck on the head and either pushed or fallen into the water and drowned.

Three weeks later two men were arrested on suspicion of the murder. One man allegedly confessed to a private detective from Baltimore--who had been placed as a 'decoy'--that the two had stolen ONIONS[!] from Mr. Barnhardt at Sandy Hook, one man carrying the loot in a sack. Walking up the canal, the men encountered Reverend Friday, who had lingered near the railroad bridge after performing the marriage. The man with the sack of onions used it to strike the Reverend, who fell into the canal and drowned.

The confession was later disavowed, and when the case went to trial, the men were acquitted--despite press accounts which had pronounced the mostly circumstantial evidence adequate for conviction.

* Liberal regulations in Maryland made Harpers Ferry a popular wedding site because couples could marry on the Potomac River Bridge or on the Maryland shore and walk back to West Virginia.

No more has been learned of the two men. But in 1905, a man under death sentence at Hagerstown for an unrelated murder allegedly confessed to the murder (of Reverend Friday). The truth will never be known. Reverend Friday's widow died at Philadelphia in 1908."

October - Month of Teas - Successful!!

Thanks to the efforts of Sharon Howe Sweeting, and her loyal assistants, Dusty Rhodes, Maxie Phillips, Sarah Bourne, Fred DeMarr, Bud Dutton, Susan and Jim Wolfe, Stella and Bill Uber, Melinda Alter, and others, the Society served tea to more than 150 Prince George's County Teachers this month - and acquainted them with the Library, the Gift Shop, Marietta, Prince George's Rich History and our Tricentennial.

This was considered a successful effort from the point of view of numbers, and from the gift shop sales - in excess of \$1200 at last report.

By the way - if you have not journeyed to the new Gift Shop - located in the 'glass' room in the basement - you must. Tim Yatman and associate did a wonderful job installing cabinets. President Jane Eagen pushed, prodded and managed. Bill and Stella Uber arranged, inventoried and set it up. It truly delightful and is a must stop.

Of course, since the Mansion will be closed for the next six weeks while windows are rebuilt - we cannot meet there - but we are assured that the Christmas Gala will take place at Marietta on December 9!!!

As usual - the price of admission is a dish

- ready to serve - of your favorite holiday sweet or savory treat. See you there!!!

Lester Sweeting



FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Let me begin by recusing myself of any semblance of objectivity related to this review and to state at the beginning my most profound admiration for the compiler's of these volumes. Shirley V. Baltz and the late George K. Baltz. Unlike many of you, I have only known Shirley since the late 1980s when we served together on the Board of Prince George's Heritage. That is, she was the Chairman and I was the newest recruit and to say that I was impressed with her historical knowledge and attention to detail would be a serious understatement. In a short time, she became my role model. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MARYLAND Marriages and Deaths in Nineteenth Century Newspapers. Volume 1: A through J and Volume 2: K

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What follows is best described on the back cover: "These accounts of marriage and death make not only interesting reading, they also act as a social commentary on life in rural nineteenth-century Prince George's County. There are stories of duels, murders, lynchings, railroad accidents, fires, falls from horses, drownings, etc. The extraordinary numbers of deaths of babies, children and young people give some insight into the Victorians' affinity with death. What is striking is the lack of sensationalism."

For example, in Volume 1, on page 105 appears this notice:

***CALVERT, ELIZABETH** - We regret to record the death of Mrs --- at 'Mt

November 1995 - October 1996

Yearly Planner

November 95						
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November

1 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

11 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

21 6:00 PM - 10:15 PM TRICENTENNIAL KICKOFF - WATKINS REGIONAL PARK

December

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

9 1:00 AM - 5:00 AM PGCHS HOLIDAY GALA, SITE TO BE ANNOUNCED

January

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

13 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

20 WINTER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

21 WINTER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

February

7 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

10 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

18 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM LOVES OF A LIFETIME - GOLDEN MEMORIES AT MARIETTA

March

1 HOW THE BETTER HALF LIVED - AN EXHIBIT

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

9 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

31 HOW THE BETTER HALF LIVED - AN EXHIBIT

April

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

8 GLENN DALE COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT AT MARIETTA

13 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM MARCHING THRU TIME ENCAMPMENT AT MARIETTA

14 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM MARCHING THRU TIME ENCAMPMENT AT MARIETTA

21 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

23 HAPPY 300TH BIRTHDAY TO US!!!

May

1 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

11 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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November 1995 - October 1996

Yearly Planner

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May

- 11** SHIP MEETING
- 18** SPRING, MAY POLES AND CHILDREN'S GAMES ON THE LAWN AT MARIETTA

June

- 5** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY
- 8** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING
GLENN DALE FESTIVAL AT MARIETTA AND GLENN DALE COMMUNITY CENTER

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September

- 22** DEMONSTRATION OF SCHOOL DAYS AT MARIETTA

October

- 12** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM HASTINGS MEDIEVAL FAIRE AT MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING
- 13** 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM HASTINGS MEDIEVAL FAIRE AT MARIETTA
- 26** PRESERVING IN THE KITCHEN - CANNING DEMONSTRATIONS AT MARIETTA

May 96						
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July

- 3** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 13** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

- 21** SUMMER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

August

- 7** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 10** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

September

- 4** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 14** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

- ready to serve - of your favorite holiday sweet or savory treat. See you there!!!

Lester Sweeting



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***CALVERT, ELIZABETH -** We regret to record the death of Mrs --- at 'Mt

Airy,' on Thurs last. She was the relict of the late Maj EDWARD HENRY CALVERT, who was the eldest s/o BENEDICT CALVERT of Mt Airy & grandson of CHARLES, the 6th Lord Balto. She was one of our oldest citizens, having been in the 77th yr of her age. She was a lady of the old school, retaining to the last the habits & manners of days long past; enjoying the esteem & respect of a large acquaintance. PA 4/1/1857."

I only hope the same can be said of me.
Reviewed by: Sharon Howe Sweeting

Editor's note: These volumes and many other special materials are available from the newly relocated Gift Shop at Marietta.

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

I think Marietta is smiling! She has recently hosted the TEN Tricentennial Teas and had about 175 guests. There were many volunteers and MNCPPC staff members assisting and explaining the events of the coming year. It was a first time visit for almost all of our guests. They were quite surprised that Marietta was there. Gabriel Duvall was also unknown to almost all of them until they came to tea.

Sharon Sweeting (and Les) outdid herself preparing goodies, cucumber sandwiches, zucchini bread, snack mixes, and the most delicious scones you can imagine. There were many oohs and ahhs heard as each guest picked their cup and filled it with one of the many blends of tea offered. The Marietta teacup collection was shown off and commented upon frequently. Some selected a special cup because their mother

or grandmother had one like it. Orlando Rideout IV visited with a Duvall relative from the West Coast and arrived at the height of one of the Teas. He was very pleased to see the House being used and making new friends.

Susan and Jim Wolfe allowed us to use their kitchen, which was not only a lifesaver, but also a truly gracious act. A special thanks to all of the Helpers (Dusty, Sarah, Melinda, etc.) And especially to Sharon and the Wolfe's. Maxie Phillips is a most gracious hostess and helped care for our guests in a special way. Many commented on how nice it was to be treated so well, to be pampered after a long day in the classroom. It was suggested that Marietta might be a quiet meeting space for small groups.

The Gift Shop was well received - and sold many books and other items. Stella and Bill Uber, along with a new member, Kay Eisinger, and my House Guest, Virginia Good, took care of many customers. We have on hand every book that is available. The Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites and The Tricentennial Cookbook both were very popular with our customers. Linda Dickenson has volunteered also. She is a decorative artist and is also learning to use the computer. The shiny silver labels on the new white bags, and the shop are looking quite spiffy. Come and join in as a volunteer - and as a customer. We plan to open each Saturday from Noon to 4:00PM and, as we have more volunteers, perhaps to extend hours to Sunday as well. If a particular book or other item is of interest, let us know. Christmas is coming - we will have seasonal items on sale, and hope you will visit.

I recently visited Charleston, and did a tour

of their shops. I asked about suppliers and the managers were quite forthcoming and helpful - so that I now have lists which we shall use for restocking. The Charleston Preservation Society has very successfully adapted the designs of gates, doorways, and other historic motifs to jewelry and linen items. They have marketed them well. Wouldn't it be nice to have some of the decorative motifs of Marietta as designs for jewelry and Christmas Ornaments?

Representatives from each of the Historic House Museums in the County (staff and "friends" alike), were invited to Marietta for brunch and we exchanged many ideas. We are all aware that budgets are being cut and that the Historic Sites staffing and budgets are at risk. It is extremely important that all of us work in concert to keep as many staff people and as much of the budget as possible.

Life since January has for your President been challenging and there has never been a dull moment. I feel we have been fairly successful in our endeavors, and hopefully have acquainted many more people with the Society and Marietta. The gift shop, of course, has moved, refurbished and reopened. This was accomplished only with the great effort of many people who have worked in it in the past and present. We have continued to work with the Tricentennial Committee and the Board of Education to host the teas for teachers to educate them to the programs and the riches available to them. Our first efforts to have legislation passed to help fund the restoration of Marietta were not successful, but we now have a track record and we have renewed our efforts for the 1996 legislative session. We are both better informed and better prepared. The Society worked with

Susan Wolfe, Site Manager, to plan monthly events for the Tricentennial Year. She is also working in concert with us on the Teacher Training for the Spring of 1997.

Our 1995 events - the St George's Day Dinner and the Prince of a County Reception at Pleasant Prospect, in September, were well attended and successful, as was the Fall Bus Tour - led by Dusty Rhoads.

As we wind down, I want to thank one and all - your support has been marvelous - I need and revel in it!!

Jane Eagen, President

HOLIDAY RECIPES

One of the Society's Past Presidents has prevailed on me to disclose a secret recipe which he enjoyed at the recent Teas. As this has been a family favorite for many Holidays at the home of my family (at least since before my marriage nearly 30 years ago), I suggest it now. The recipe makes quite a bit, and should be stored in a sealed tin or large heavy duty zip-type bags. I would not freeze it.

Holiday party mix

- 1 box each wheat, rice and corn chex cereal.
- 1 box honey nut cheerios.
- 1 large can mixed nuts
- 1 large bag stick or bitesize pretzels

mix dry ingredients in a large bowl (or two bowls, if necessary)

In a separate bowl, mix 2 tbsp. Garlic powder, 2 tsp celery powder, 2 tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce. Add 1 1/2 lb butter, and microwave, stirring occasionally, until mixture is melted. Mix liquid into dry ingredients, coating well. Place on baking sheets in fairly thin layers (leave enough room to stir). Bake at 250° for 2 hours(stirring occasionally). Let cool and then place in sealed containers. Serve in small bowls. Enjoy.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

PUBLICATIONS ORDER

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

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 Duvall Biography, \$1.00 plus
\$0.05 tax, plus \$0.35 s&h.

Fire Call, by Francis X. Geary,
\$5.00 plus \$.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) is enclosed.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Tel. No. _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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 APPROPRIATE CATEGORY

____ 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 for
an individual membership or \$35 for husband
and wife.

Our operating support comes from your dues
and contributions. All contributions may be
tax deductible. We appreciate your continued
support.

Please make checks payable to PGCHS
Mail Payments to: PGCHS, PO Box 14,
Riverdale, Md 20738-0014.

Tel 301-464-0590

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Marietta Tours - Suspended Until
Further Notice - Information 301-464-
0590

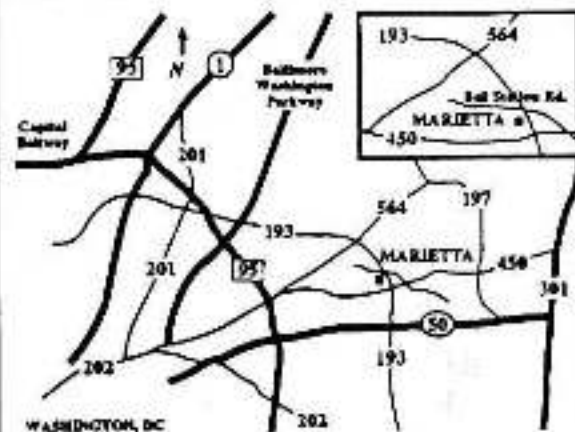
THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a Tasteful Collection of
Handcrafted Items for Home and Gift-
giving, Toys and Games for Children,
small antiques, Historical Society
Publications and souvenirs of Historic
Marietta.

Call 301-464-0590 for Gift Shop Hours.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National 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

DECEMBER 1995

OUR 43RD YEAR

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 10

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

As reported in last month's News and Notes, the Board has been considering a report from the Treasurer and his committee that we consider an increase in the cost of a Life Membership in the Society. The current cost, set over a decade ago at \$200, is insufficient to produce the income needed to cover the costs of a membership. This is due, in part, to increased printing and mailing costs, and to the decrease in the interest paid on cash investments. As the purpose of these memberships is to help us build a small endowment (or a large endowment), we must attend to the cost of maintaining these memberships.

At the Society Board meeting on November 11, the issue was again raised, and the Board, after discussion of the issue, decided that now is the time to make this change. Therefore, effective January 1, 1996, a Life Membership in the Society will cost \$400. We believe this is still a bargain, and that it will enable us to continue, in a small way, to build a fund from which to earn operating income.

Of course, this means that you still have the opportunity to acquire a Life Membership (or to give a holiday gift that keeps on giving) at the lower price of \$200. Send your check today to the Society.

By the way, dues statements will be issued for annual memberships shortly after the New Year.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!!!

HOLIDAY GALA AT MARIETTA

The Board also decided that, regardless of the impending removal of Marietta's windows, the 1995 Holiday Gala will be at Marietta on December 9. As usual, admission is a plate of your favorite holiday fare. Bring a friend - enjoy!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1995

President - Jane Eagen
Vice President - Eugene Roberts, Jr.
Secretary - Sarah Bourne
Treasurer - John B. Bourne
Historian - Frederick S. DeMarr
Editor - Lester H. Sweeting

Directors - 1994/1995

John Mitchell
Julie Bright
Sarah Moseley

Directors - 1995/1996

Mildred Ridgeley Gray
Wallis Hall Cain
James Rea

Past Presidents

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

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Well, we have been talking about it for what seems to be years - and yet it is now upon us. On November 21, 1995, the celebration of the Tricentennial of Prince George's County officially began - with an outdoor reception at Watkins Regional Park. For those who have not seen the annual Festival of Lights at Watkins, let me say that this is a must visit - you need not leave the car - bundle the kids up and drive through this marvelous display created by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission - and look for the Tricentennial theme.

You should also have received by now the Tricentennial Calendar. A note of caution this calendar may show a lot of events, but they are but a sampling of all of the many many local and special events that are being held to honor our 300 Years At Home in History in 1996. So enjoy them all - there certainly are many and they certainly reflect our diversity and our people.

I must, in fairness to the hundreds of hours of volunteer time put in by your Board and many, many others, point out a few of the most notable events that we as a Society will host or co-host over the next year. The Calendar attached lists as many as we can fit, but a further description is appropriate to whet your appetite for this wonderful series - something for everyone--

To honor ourselves as a Society and others who have done so much for Prince George's County -- Mark Sunday

April 21, 1996 on your Calendar Now - Our annual Saint George's Day Dinner will take place at the Andrews Air Force Base Officers Club. Sunday Dinner and a presentation of portraits of three of the prominent Prince Georgians (one each from the 20th, the 19th and the 18th Centuries) will be presented, as will our special Tricentennial Year St. George's Day Awards.

On St. George's Day itself - Tuesday, April 23, 1996, plan on a very long day. Beginning with breakfast at Mount Calvert and continuing until the Wee Hours of April 24 at the Gala at Cole Field House on the University of Maryland Campus - the day will be filled with reenactments of the original County Court, parades and speeches in Upper Marlboro, and many many other festivities to mark our special day.

For those who revel in our agricultural past (which dominated this County for its first 250 years, and which is still in evidence today) there is a series of special treats beginning on January 23, 1996 with a reception at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville. Not to be missed.

During the week of April 22, 1996, Maryland Public Television has promised an hour long documentary on our County to be aired on all PBS outlets in the area. Based on a preliminary description given at our last Tricentennial meeting, this promises to be a significant event - more digestible than Ken Burns but more memorable than Seinfeld.

Hopefully, copies of the tape will be available as mementos as well.

Speaking of mementos - how about a brick in the Tricentennial Walk at Upper Marlboro? These permanent reminders of ourselves and our ancestors can be purchased through the Tricentennial Committee. See the request form in the mailing you received earlier this month or call the Tricentennial Office at 301-952-1696.

Last, but certainly (as they say) not least, we have the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. At the specific request of our partners - the sponsors of the Pilgrimage, the beneficiaries are the Herb Garden Project at Marietta and the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of Local History which is part and parcel of the Society. See the flyer enclosed herein.

TREASURER'S COMMENTS

First, we should point out that our Treasurer, John (Jack) Bourne, is desirous of being replaced. After long and faithful service to the Society, he has decided (as Colin Powell might have said) that he does not wish to serve. We respect that, but we also would note that replacing such a pillar of the Society is neither easy nor necessarily desirable from our point of view.

But, we must accede to the desires of one of our most ardent supporters.

Our Treasurer, I would point out, should be a Certified Public Accountant. Therefore,

if any of our members has a suggested replacement for Mr. Bourne, please let us know, as soon as possible. We appreciate your assistance.

We would also like to welcome new members -- Anne C. Polumbo and Shirley H. Shafer.

Another announcement - about our Board. At the annual meeting on November 11, 1995, the Members present, by acclamation, agreed to the Board of Director's nominations for positions on the Board and for officers. These are:

Jane Eagen, President
Eugene B. Roberts, Jr.,
Vice President
Sarah Bourne, Secretary
John B. Bourne, Treasurer
Frederick S. DeMarr,
Historian
Lester H. Sweeting,
Editor

Directors - 1995/1996
Mildred Ridgeley Gray
Katherine Clagett
Melinda Alter

Directors 1996/1997
William Uber
John Mitchell
Julie Bright

Our 5 currently active Past-Presidents will continue as members of the Board - W.C. (Bud) Dutton, John Giannetti, Paul Lanham, Warren (Dusty) Rhoads, and Joyce McDonald.

Please welcome back our experienced members and welcome to our new members!

HOUSE AND GARDEN PILGRIMAGE

The May 4th event is further described in attached flyers,

but we thought that a small description of each of the sites, from the County Historic Sites and District Plan might also whet one's appetite. So, here goes--

Belair Mansion

Built in the 1740s -- Belair Mansion is a 2-story brick Georgian mansion with hip-on-hip roof; architecturally compatible flanking hyphens and wings were added in early twentieth century. On the grounds is a small family graveyard. The main block of the mansion was built in the 1740s for Samuel Ogle, provincial governor of Maryland, and was the country home of his son Benjamin Ogle, State Governor from 1798 to 1801. During the first half of the twentieth century, Belair was the country estate of prominent horse-breeder William Woodward, and is now the centerpiece of the residential community of Bowie.

Belair Stables

Built in 1907--This is a U-shaped stable building with an arched entryway of local sandstone; brick shedrows containing tackroom and stalls extend at both ends. This picturesque structure was built by James T. Woodward in 1907 and enlarged by his heir, William Woodward. Home to famous racehorses Gallant Fox, Omaha and Nashua, this stable symbolizes the Belair estate's association with thoroughbred race horses for more than two centuries.

Fairview

Built circa 1800--Fairview is a 2-story stuccoed brick

plantation house with flush end chimneys and a unique stepped gable at one gable end. Its Georgian-plan interior features fine Federal-style trim. Contemporary outbuildings include a bank barn and smokehouse. Fairview was built for Baruch Duckett, whose descendants reside there today. This was the home of the prominent Duckett and Bowie families, including Oden Bowie, Governor of Maryland from 1869 to 1872, who is buried in the family graveyard located a short distance from the house.

Bowling Heights

Built circa 1870--Bowling Heights is a large, three-part frame Victorian Gothic mansion with outstanding Eastlake-and Stick-style decorative details. The 2½-story, hip-roof main block is flanked by asymmetrical lower wings, one of which served as a private Catholic chapel. The grounds include several unique historic out-buildings. This striking house was built for John D. Bowling, Jr., and is nearly identical to Villa de Sales in Aquasco, built by Bowling's sister a few years later. Bowling Heights is an outstanding example of Victorian Gothic domestic architecture.

Billingsley

Built circa 1695, rebuilt in 1931 -- Billingsley is a 1½-story house of the Tidewater style, with steeply pitched gable roof, and brick walls laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. It was built, probably at the end of the seventeenth century, as a home

of Colonel Thomas Hollyday, first Chief Justice of Prince George's County Court; during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it was the home of the Weems family. Billingsley was renovated in the mid-nineteenth century as evidenced by the mature Greek Revival-style interior trim. In 1931, owner Arthur Meloy constructed the steeply pitched cross gables which dominate the north and south elevations. Although substantially altered, Billingsley is significant for the example it offers of very early architecture, as well as for its spectacular riverfront location.

Weston

Early nineteenth century, earlier wing -- Weston is a 2½-story, side-gabled brick plantation house. The principal facade is laid in Flemish bond, and the interior exhibits detail in both Federal and Greek Revival style. The main block was built early in the nineteenth century for Thomas Clagett VI, and soon afterward enlarged, probably incorporating part of an earlier Clagett dwelling. Weston has been the Clagett family seat for nine generations. It is an excellent example of a multiperiod plantation house. The grounds include several farm out-buildings, as well as the Clagett family graveyard.

Trinity Church

Built in 1846 and 1896 -- Trinity Church is a brick church with steeply pitched gable roof and gothic-arch stained glass windows, and later entry tower. The church

was designed by Baltimore architect Robert Cary Long, Jr., and built in 1846 on the site of the Episcopal church organized in 1810 by Bishop Thomas John Claggett. The 4-story crenelated entry tower was constructed in 1896. Trinity Church has long been associated with the prominent families of Upper Marlboro, many of whom are buried in the cemetery which surrounds the church.

Darnall's Chance

Built circa 1700, renovated in 1858 and rebuilt in 1988 -- Darnall's Chance is a 1½ story, hip-on-gambrel-roof dwelling, the early eighteenth-century home of the prominent Carroll family. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries this important town residence was the home of a series of successful merchants and in 1858 was renovated in the Italianate style by merchant E.G.W. Hall. For most of the twentieth century it was the home of merchant Harry Buck. In 1988, the house was rebuilt to its original configuration. Located on the grounds is an unusual eighteenth-century burial vault.

Strawberry Hill

Built circa 1869 -- Strawberry Hill is a two-part 2-story, gable-roof frame farmhouse with bracketed cornices, projecting bays and an atypical floor plan. It was built circa 1869 by Thomas Clagett VI of Weston for his son, Gonsalvo, and is one of several fine Victorian houses in the Marlboro area which Clagett provided for his children. When Strawberry

Hill was built, it fronted on the Washington-Marlboro Turnpike; it is still a prominent landmark.

Dukeshire

Built by Will Smith circa 1928 for the J. Yancey Christmas family, this handsome Neo-Georgian house is modeled after Rough Time's Manor on grounds that were once part of Lord Baltimore's and the Calvert family lands from the Provincial period. Their manor house, Mount Airy, still stands to the south. The Christmas family raised thoroughbred horses, including the sire of champion "Rough Time." The house was named Rough Time's Own in honor of this champion stakes racer. Many of the details of the house are architectural remnants of 'lost' Washington, including the tile floor from the foyer of the old Library of Congress.

His Lordship's Kindness

Built in 1784-1786 -- His Lordship's Kindness (also known as Poplar Hill) is a five-part Georgian brick Mansion with hip roof, hyphens and wings; the walls are laid in Flemish bond, and the interior exhibits outstanding Federal-style decorative detail. This elegant mansion was built by Robert Darnall, and included in one wing a private Catholic chapel. A smoke house, wash house and aviary are among the historic outbuildings, and there is a family graveyard on the grounds. His Lordship's Kindness is now partially surrounded by an operating horse farm; it is a superb example of an elegant and

carefully detailed plantation house.

THE HPC COMES INTO BEING

Recently, after testifying at a Park and Planning budget hearing on the needs of the Historic Preservation Commission, it was suggested by Bud Dutton that I might consider writing an article on the history of preservation efforts in Prince George's County.

My interest in historic preservation was an extension of my interest in American history. I grew up in the Woodbridge section of NorthEast Washington, DC near the border with Prince George's County. I traveled in and out of Prince George's County frequently visiting relatives and thus learning a little of the history of the County. In 1959 I was hired by a large international insurance service company as a field underwriter and later as an Insurance Claims specialist with my territory being Prince George's County. Traveling through the County, I became aware of a number of old buildings vanishing to the wrecker's ball. Knowing nothing about any preservation efforts at the time I thought it would be a great project to document these buildings. I no sooner started on this project when I learned about other preservation activities, the 1937 WPA project of documentation and survey, Mr. Van Horn's work, and private preservation efforts by owners of historic properties. When I moved to Prince George's County in 1961, I kept up my interest in preservation. As

and political activities, I was appointed to the Planning Board by County Executive Bill Gullett in 1971.

Once at the Commission, I learned that there was no active preservation plan in the County, other than Park and Planning purchasing of historic structures. There was an information map produced by Park and Planning in 1968, but, when it came to enforcement or control through the zoning or subdivision process, there was no program. Pressure, however, was coming from several directions to do something to preserve historic sites; citizens in Laurel, Riverdale, and Clinton were concerned about the historic structures Park and Planning had purchased and wanted to be assured that they would be preserved. Staff at the Commission were concerned and there was considerable national attention being focused on Historic Preservation.

As a Commissioner concerned about preservation, it was not long before I was approached by Susanna Cristofane, Sarah Walton and Margaret Cook, who were pioneers in preservation in Prince George's County. They informed me that the General Assembly had passed legislation creating the Historical and Cultural Trust in 1966 in Prince George's County. However, no one had activated the Trust or appointed Commissioners to it. It was their belief that the Trust would be the appropriate vehicle that would provide a County-wide preservation plan.

I approached County Executive Bill Gullett and told him of this concern. He agreed to

activate the Trust by appointing the first members thereto. It was not long after the Trust was established that Jack Carey, a developer who owned several historic properties and one of the first appointed commissioners to the Trust, came to me and told me that he had reviewed, with his legal counsel, the Trust Charter, and there was no enforcement provision in the Charter; and therefore very little other than education could be done by the Trust. Knowing of these limitations, the members of the Trust played a significant role in future preservation efforts. However, we still had no preservation plan, so we were back to square one.

By luck, Jim Gleason, the County Executive of Montgomery County, had appointed Tom Anderson to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Montgomery County in 1971. Tom was from an old Rockville family, he was an attorney had served in the State legislature and was active in historic and preservation groups. I had known Tom from my political activities, and we were kindred souls when it came to preservation. I laid out the preservation problem we faced in Prince George's County, and he pointed out that they faced similar problems in Montgomery County. We made a request of our fellow Commissioners to allow us to establish a Historic Sites Committee within the Commission to study the problems. After several meetings, it was agreed that we would develop a preservation plan for

Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. A historian had been hired in Montgomery County, and another in Prince George's County. It would be their job to begin the survey of historic sites in both Counties. We drafted legislation and found sponsors in both delegations in Annapolis. The legislation amended the Charter of the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission to provide for a Historic Sites Master Plan to be developed. A considerable amount of lobbying was done in Annapolis to pass this legislation, which was signed in 1973.

At the same time, the legal department of the Commission was drafting a preservation plan for both Counties. By 1975, the preservation plan and inventory of historic sites was ready to go to the respective County Councils. I attended the Montgomery County meeting and watched as our plan was turned down. Several weeks later, the same fate awaited us in Upper Marlboro, as our plan went down in flames and our efforts up in smoke. When we testified that there would be four hundred buildings on the plan, the Prince George's County Council said our plan was too ambitious and far reaching.

It was now early 1976 and both Tom and I were off the Commission. At this time, the next County Executive, Winfield Kelly, appointed me to the Historical and Cultural Trust. I decided to use the Trust as a 'bully pulpit' to promote the Historic Preservation Plan. We developed a little slide show

and went out to the public. We were also required to make an annual report to the Council, which we turned into a lobbying effort for the Plan. We received grants from the Maryland Historical Trust to finalize our inventory of historic sites, which we did with the help of the Planning Commission and John Walton, who was the sole employee in the History section at the time.

By 1978, Montgomery County was facing a preservation problem in Takoma Park, and they resurrected their Preservation Plan and approved it.

At the same time, in 1978, the Prince George's County Council was becoming concerned as citizens of the County were lobbying them to purchase every historic home that was endangered by development. At the same time, Council Chairman Bill Ammonett saw the advantages of Historic Preservation as a way to promote tourism. By this time, my good friend Larry Hogan was County Executive and another friend, John Butcham, was Chairman of the Planning Commission. After intensive lobbying by many citizens, an Advisory Committee was formed to develop a Preservation Plan and Gail Rothrock was hired as the first employee. The Plan was enacted by the County Council and the Historic Preservation Commission was formed in 1980, with Gail Rothrock as its first employee. In a nut shell, that is the history of the founding of the Historic Preservation Commission. It is a great lesson in perseverance.

Maryland HOUSE & GARDEN Pilgrimage

Dear Fellow Members of the Prince George's County Historical Society:

Prince George's County, in its Tricentennial Year, will open its doors to the 59th annual Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage on Saturday, May 4, 1996. Join with us in making the 1996 Tour for Prince George's County an exceptional one to celebrate its 300 years.

Proceeds realized from the Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage are divided among various tour projects. It is our great pleasure to announce that the Prince George's County committee has selected two projects towards which the tour proceeds will be directed: The Prince George's County Historical Society Library (the *Frederick S. DeMarr Library*), located at *Marietta*, the society's headquarters, and an herb garden for *Marietta*, its design to provide an educational setting from which an introduction to Prince George's County history may be given.

Filling a void where there has been no central "heritage center" to date, the library has amassed several thousand volumes on Prince George's County and Maryland history and such allied areas as architecture, art and antiques. Local newspapers, photographs, maps, personal papers, artifacts and memorabilia have added depth to the collection. Funds from the 1996 Prince George's County Tour will help to organize, catalogue, and preserve our County's archives and heritage.

News and Notes will have monthly reports from us so that we can fill you in on some of the houses to be on the 1996 tour and specially organized events to take place at some of the sites to celebrate the county's Tricentennial. Look for further updates here. In the meantime, think of purchasing a gift certificate as a holiday gift.

Sincerely yours,

Wallis Hall Cain

Lynn Springer Robert

Co-Chairs, 1996 Prince George's County Tour

1105 A Providence Road • Baltimore, Maryland 21286 • (410) 821-6933 • Fax (410) 821-7620

Sponsored by
The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland • Preservation Maryland • The National Society of Colonial Dames of Maryland
Maryland Historical Society • Maryland Historical Trust • Baltimore Museum of Art

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY 1696 - 1996

welcomes the 59th Annual

Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage Tour

Saturday, May 4, 1996, from 10:00 to 5:00.



*Specially organized as part of
Prince George's County's Tricentennial Celebration,
patrons and guests may enjoy a full day's tour or may visit at individual houses.*

Featuring 12 fascinating, historical and architecturally significant houses and sites spanning three centuries:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| * BELAIR c.1745 | * WESTON c.1806 |
| * BELAIR STABLES c.1907 | * TRINITY CHURCH c.1846 |
| * FAIRVIEW c.1785 | * DARNALL'S CHANCE c.1700 |
| * BOWLING HEIGHTS c.1869 | * STRAWBERRY HILL c.1868 |
| * BILLINGSLEY c.1695 | * DUKESHIRE c.1928 |
| * PONTOON BOAT TOUR | * HIS LORDSHIP'S KINDNESS c.1784 |
- (from Iron Pot Landing to Patuxent/Mt. Calvert)

Tickets: \$20/full day or \$5/per house

Advance ticket sales are appreciated. Although all tickets are available at any of the sites on the day of the tour, a full day's ticket may be purchased in advance by sending in the below:

Total Amount Enclosed _____ (No. of Tickets x \$20) \$ _____

Make check payable to: Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage
For: 1996 Prince George's County Tour.

Tickets will be mailed to: Your Name _____ phone _____
Address: _____

Mail to: Mrs. Ralph W. Powers, Jr.
PO Box 8
Friendship, MD 20758

These make great gift certificates!

Robert Crawley, author of the above piece, is the Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission - a post no other person has held since its founding in 1980.

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

Look out 1996! Here we come! We are celebrating the Prince George's County Tricentennial with a BANG!! It will have started on November 21 at Watkins Regional Park by the time you read this. Many of you have worked long and hard to see this day come and should be very proud of the events and activities planned for this exciting year. Very few groups on this continent have been in existence for 300 years. We are very special.

It would have been wonderful if all of you could have heard the two ladies who are responsible for the Maryland Public Television special on our County speak of us in such glowing terms. They said how much they have enjoyed their task and would do it for free is they could live at Mount Calvert! You could feel their sincerity and it truly warmed one's heart to listen to their praise of our diversity and how well it works for us, the beauty of the County, the dedication of the many who have worked so hard to preserve historic sites, and the wealth of sites we are fortunate to have. You could truly step out of the ugly stepsister cloak and leave it behind forever.

I hope each of you is planning to come to the Holiday Gala. IT WILL BE AT MARIETTA EVEN IF THE WINDOWS ARE BOARDED UP.

We can use more lights and imagine it is nighttime.

I have agreed to serve as your President for another year. My goal for the coming year is to have Marietta and Gabriel Duvall known to many more people in this County and particularly in the communities surrounding the Mansion. Reaching out to groups, organizations, and individuals should be a part of all of our activities this year. We have many events scheduled at Marietta and will have many opportunities for each of us to do this. We are indeed fortunate to have Vera Rollo serving as publicity chairman to assist in this effort. The Supreme Court Historical Society and the Prince George's County Bar Association have both shown a definite interest in Marietta and in honoring Gabriel Duvall. If we and our new associates and members join together, we should be able to accomplish many and great things.

When you consider your New Year's Resolutions, please remember Marietta and the Society. If each person did one thing to help and brought a friend to an event (start on December 9!) or a meeting, we could accomplish my goal and enjoy every moment of the experience.

CLASSIFIEDS

All openings listed herein are available to both male and female applicants. The lack of monetary benefits and salary applies equally to all - we do not discriminate in our desire to provide opportunities for each one to serve.

Painters and cleaners. Needed to paint the rooms in a stately old home on Bell Station Road. No pay or benefits, but good company and a great sense of accomplishment; satisfaction guaranteed. Date of project to be determined soon. Apply to Dusty Rhoads or Susan Wolfe at 464-5920.

Shop Assistants Short hours - immediate openings - generally 12 to 4 on Saturdays until January when program expands and additional hours will be available on Friday and Sundays. Pleasant surroundings and interesting customers, occasional weekday hours when advance booking of tours is made. Join the already committed group on December 2 for our grand opening and celebration. Sign up sheet in the Shop or call 249-6409.

File Clerks - openings available now - you can work alone or as a group. Make a party of it on an afternoon and help file the zillions of cards Librarian Fred DeMarr has in boxes. Let's get this task done before we redo the Library. Help wanted now!

Docents - Tour Guides - a wonderful opportunity to learn and share with others, openings available soon, training provided by the capable site manager, Susan Wolfe. Welcome visitors and guests to a wonderful house with charming character and a rich history. Usually daytime hours on weekends, Friday to Sunday, occasional weekday opportunities for school children and special tour groups.

Meeters, Greeters, and Tea and Party People - We plan to have a series of open house events to which we will invite groups and representatives of neighborhood associations. We need friendly members to host and hostess these sessions, refreshments to serve, and, as always, set up and clean up personnel. Sign up now, final dates will be announced shortly.

GABRIEL WHO?

It is so easy and so unfair to assume things. We all too often assume that everyone knows who Gabriel Duvall was, and that he lived at Marietta in prince George's County, Maryland. If we found ourselves in Oklahoma or Tennessee, however, we would have little idea about the local notables and heroes. At the Tricentennial teas for Teachers very few of the teachers knew about our Gabriel Duvall. This points up to us the need to educate the public about our County and for us especially to spread the word about Mr. Justice Duvall.

Offering attractive programs and events at Marietta is one way we can have the people in nearby communities come and get acquainted with our famous former resident. If you have ideas you would like us to consider, please feel free to pass them along. Maybe this is the special project in which you would like to become involved. Reply to 249-6409.

Jane Eagen

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

Yearly Planner

December 95						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December

2 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM GRAND OPENING - THE NEW MARIETTA GIFT SHOP

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

9 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD MEETING - MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM PGCHS HOLIDAY GALA, MARIETTA MANSION

January

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

13 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM PGCHS BOARD ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION, SWEETING HOME

20 WINTER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

21 WINTER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

February

7 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

10 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

18 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM LOVES OF A LIFETIME - GOLDEN MEMORIES AT MARIETTA

March

1 HOW THE BETTER HALF LIVED - AN EXHIBIT

6 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

March

9 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

31 HOW THE BETTER HALF LIVED - AN EXHIBIT

April

3 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

8 GLENN DALE COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT AT MARIETTA

13 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM MARCHING THRU TIME ENCAMPMENT AT MARIETTA

14 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM MARCHING THRU TIME ENCAMPMENT AT MARIETTA

21 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER, ANDREWS AFB OFFICERS CLUB

23 HAPPY 300TH BIRTHDAY TO US!!!

May

1 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

11 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 96						
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August 96						
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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

Yearly Planner

December 95						
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May

- 18** SPRING, MAY POLES AND CHILDREN'S GAMES ON THE LAWN AT MARIETTA

June

- 5** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 8** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING
GLENN DALE FESTIVAL AT MARIETTA AND GLENN DALE COMMUNITY CENTER

July

- 3** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 13** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

- 21** SUMMER PASTIMES AT MARIETTA

August

- 7** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 10** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD

September

- 4** 7:00 PM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING, GREENBELT LIBRARY

- 14** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

September

- 22** DEMONSTRATION OF SCHOOL DAYS AT MARIETTA

October

- 12** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM HASTINGS MEDIEVAL FAIRE AT MARIETTA
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

- 13** 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM HASTINGS MEDIEVAL FAIRE AT MARIETTA

- 26** PRESERVING IN THE KITCHEN - CANNING DEMONSTRATIONS AT MARIETTA

November

- 1** EXHIBIT - RULING THE ROOST - A POLITICAL HISTORY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

- 9** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PGCHS BOARD
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PGCHS MEMBER-SHIP MEETING

- 30** EXHIBIT - RULING THE ROOST - A POLITICAL HISTORY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

June 96						
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January 96						
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April 96						
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August 96						
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September 96						
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October 96						
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November 96						
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TRICENTENNIAL CALENDAR NUMBER ONE

Weekly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Dec 31</i> MN-CPPC HOLIDAY DISPLAY, WATKINS REGIONAL PARK	<i>Jan 1</i>	<i>Jan 2</i> 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM PASSPORT TO HISTORY EXHIBIT - ALL YEAR - CALL 801-434-2900 WEIGHT BROTHERS EXHIBIT - COLLEGE PARK AIRPORT MUSEUM - ALL MONTH	<i>Jan 3</i>	<i>Jan 4</i>	<i>Jan 5</i> MUNICIPALITIES PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT - US AIR ARENA THRU 1/28	<i>Jan 6</i> MARIETTA - WINTER PAST- TIMES EXHIBIT THROUGH 1/ 28/96
<i>Jan 7</i> SLAVERY AND INDENTURED SERVITUDE EXHIBIT AT RIVERDALE THRU 1/28/96	<i>Jan 8</i>	<i>Jan 9</i>	<i>Jan 10</i>	<i>Jan 11</i>	<i>Jan 12</i>	<i>Jan 13</i>
<i>Jan 14</i>	<i>Jan 15</i>	<i>Jan 16</i>	<i>Jan 17</i>	<i>Jan 18</i>	<i>Jan 19</i>	<i>Jan 20</i> MARIETTA PRESENTS WINTER PASTTIMES DEMONSTRATIONS - FEE
<i>Jan 21</i> MARIETTA PRESENTS WINTER PASTTIMES DEMONSTRATIONS - FEE	<i>Jan 22</i>	<i>Jan 23</i> 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM TRICENTEN- NIAL FARM SUBCOMMITTEE RECEPTION, NAT. AGRI. LIBRARY	<i>Jan 24</i>	<i>Jan 25</i> CELEBRATION OF AGRICULTURE IN PRENCE GEORGES COUNTY - NATION- AL AGRICULTURE LIBRARY, BELTSVILLE	<i>Jan 26</i>	<i>Jan 27</i>
<i>Jan 28</i>	<i>Jan 29</i>	<i>Jan 30</i>	<i>Jan 31</i>	<i>Feb 1</i>	<i>Feb 2</i>	<i>Feb 3</i> LOVES OF A LIFE- TIME EXHIBIT AT MARIETTA, THROUGH FEB- RUARY 28
<i>Feb 4</i>	<i>Feb 5</i>	<i>Feb 6</i>	<i>Feb 7</i>	<i>Feb 8</i>	<i>Feb 9</i>	<i>Feb 10</i>

TRICENTENNIAL CALENDAR NUMBER ONE

Weekly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Feb 11</i>	<i>Feb 12</i>	<i>Feb 13</i>	<i>Feb 14</i>	<i>Feb 15</i>	<i>Feb 16</i>	<i>Feb 17</i>
<i>Feb 18</i> 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM TEA FOR TWO - FREE TO THOSE WHO OVER 50 YEARS, MARIETTA MANSION	<i>Feb 19</i>	<i>Feb 20</i>	<i>Feb 21</i>	<i>Feb 22</i>	<i>Feb 23</i>	<i>Feb 24</i>
<i>Feb 25</i> 2:00 PM GEORGE WASHINGTON MUSICAL - HARPSICORD MUSIC - MONTPELIER MANSION	<i>Feb 26</i>	<i>Feb 27</i>	<i>Feb 28</i>	<i>Feb 29</i>	<i>Mar 1</i>	<i>Mar 2</i> THE BETTER HALF - LIVES OF 19TH CENTURY WOMEN - EXHIBIT AT MARIETTA THRU 3/31
<i>Mar 3</i>	<i>Mar 4</i>	<i>Mar 5</i> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM SEARCHING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS - SESSION 1 BOWIE BRANCH LIBRARY	<i>Mar 6</i>	<i>Mar 7</i>	<i>Mar 8</i>	<i>Mar 9</i>
<i>Mar 10</i>	<i>Mar 11</i>	<i>Mar 12</i> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM SEARCHING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS - SESSION 2 - BOWIE BRANCH LIBRARY	<i>Mar 13</i>	<i>Mar 14</i>	<i>Mar 15</i>	<i>Mar 16</i>
<i>Mar 17</i> PATTERNS IN TIME, PATTERNS OF HISTORY - QUILT SHOW - MONTPELIER MANSION THRU 3/31	<i>Mar 18</i>	<i>Mar 19</i> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM SEARCHING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS - SESSION 3 - BOWIE BRANCH LIBRARY	<i>Mar 20</i>	<i>Mar 21</i>	<i>Mar 22</i>	<i>Mar 23</i>

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

PUBLICATIONS ORDER

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

Calvert of Maryland, \$8.95 (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 Duwall Biography, \$1.00 plus
\$0.05 tax, plus \$0.35 s&h.

Fire Call, by Francis X. Geary,
\$5.00 plus \$.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) is enclosed.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Tel. No. _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

Prince George's County
Historical Society

Annual Membership Application
Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone--Home: _____

Business: _____

Please indicate: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Check below the category you select:

<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time Student.....	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Member.....	\$ 20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining.....	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member..(\$400 eff 1/1/96).....	\$200.00

☐ Additional Contribution _____

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

☐ For membership in the **Maryland Historical
Society**, include an **additional** \$25.00 for individual
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 support.

Please make checks payable to **PGCHS**
Mail check and form to:

Prince George's County
Historical Society
Post Office Box 14
Riverdale, Maryland 20738-0014
301-464-0590

HOURS OF OPERATION

Library: Saturdays 12 - 4 PM
and during special events

Marietta Tours - Suspended Until
Further Notice - Information 301-464-
0590

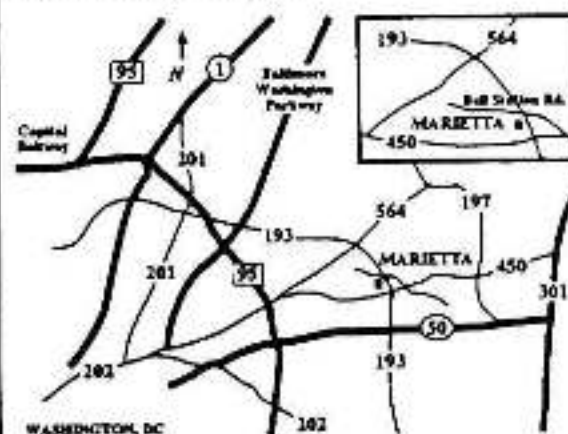
THE SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Features a Tasteful Collection of
Handcrafted Items for Home and Gift-
giving, Toys and Games for Children,
small antiques, Historical Society
Publications and souvenirs of Historic
Marietta.

Call 301-464-0590 for Gift Shop Hours.

LOCATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is located at Marietta, 5624
Bell Station Road, in Glenn Dale, MD, off
Route 193, near Route 450. This is a
facility of the Maryland National Park and
Planning Commission.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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