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**2013**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE**

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**



Mount Calvert, Society Headquarters



To Our Members and Sponsors:

Welcome to the Prince George's County Historical Society's 2013 annual report. This report is designed to provide a recap of the events and activities of the Society's 61<sup>st</sup> year as well as a look forward to plans for the future.

*The purpose of the Prince George's County Historical Society is to Collect, Preserve, Interpret, Share and Disseminate the Heritage, History, and Cultures of Prince George's County.*

To support our purpose we:

- ❖ Foster an understanding and appreciation of the history and heritage of Prince George's County;
- ❖ Collect, record, organize, restore and preserve historical data, artifacts and all associated materials relative to Prince George's County and the state of Maryland;
- ❖ Promote and encourage research into all aspects of Prince George's County history and heritage;
- ❖ Acquaint and make available to members and the general public historical data and all associated materials relating to Prince George's County through programs and publications arranged or sponsored by the Society; and
- ❖ Encourage and participate in the protection and preservation of historic sites and structures in Prince George's County.

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

### **Board of Directors as of December 31, 2013**

President - John J. Petro  
Vice President - Lynn Springer Roberts  
Secretary – Jane Taylor Thomas  
Treasurer - Donna L. Schneider  
Historian - Susan G. Pearl

#### **Directors (year term expires)**

Kent Abraham (2014)  
Elizabeth Beesley (2015)  
John Brunner (2016)  
Bremante Bryant (2016)  
Elizabeth Dougherty (2016)  
Christine Garcia (2016)  
Keith Gray (2016)  
Elizabeth Lingg (2015)  
Dan Louck (2014)

Nathania Branch Miles (2014)  
Joseph Plenzer (2015)  
Nancy Dixon Saxon (2015)  
Edward Scott (2014)  
Patricia Skews (2015)  
Jack Thompson, Jr. (2014)  
J. Andrew Wallace (2015)  
Sealani Weiner (2016)

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## The Society's 2013 Activities

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

The DeMarr Library is staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers including **Susan G. Pearl**, Historian, **Sarah Bourne**, **Dusty Rhoads**, and **Diane Stultz**, Genealogical Research Specialist. We constantly receive interesting and intriguing requests about the history of our county. We worked with the Korean Broadcasting System on their DVD biography of Pyon Su, the first Korean national to graduate from an American university – the Maryland Agricultural College. Questions concerning aspects of the history of Prince George's County may be directed by telephone to 301-220-0330, by email at [info@pghistory.org](mailto:info@pghistory.org), or on the web message board. Volunteers **Dan Louck**, **Elizabeth Lingg**, **Tom Simon**, **Clement Lau** and **Donna Schneider** are engaged in cataloging the collections of written materials, maps, obituaries and ephemera. Materials do not circulate, but may be used at the DeMarr Library. Photocopies of non-copyrighted materials are free for Society members and color copies or items scanned onto a CD are available for a modest fee.

A big thank you to **Clement Lau**, who assisted in the arrangement of donations to the library of surplus equipment from the University of Baltimore.

The library's hours of operation are on Saturdays from 12-4 PM and open at other times by appointment. Please contact us at 301-220-0330 or [pgchslibrary@aol.com](mailto:pgchslibrary@aol.com) to schedule an appointment.

**Mount Calvert, the Society Headquarters**, is located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The Society has created a committee to explore plans for our headquarters.

**Membership and Sponsorship** continued to evolve during 2013. The membership cycle is from January to December, with dues notices sent to members each December. A membership card is provided for each membership and sponsorship category and all members receive the Prince George's County Historical Society's newsletter "News & Notes." Program discounts will periodically be offered to members, including a membership with the Maryland Historical Society. A current membership card must be shown to receive photocopy and book discounts at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library.

**Preservation** of the county's historic properties has always been an interest of ours. During 2013, we continued to monitor Fairmount Heights High School, Wilmer's Park in Brandywine, the Old Marlboro High School/Elementary School in Upper Marlboro, and other properties throughout the county.

**Public Relations** activities are through our website, [www.pghistory.org](http://www.pghistory.org), and Facebook page. **Jarrett Stoltzfus** volunteered to be our webmaster and has helped us to keep our website current. Our newsletter, "News & Notes" continues to be our primary source to impart news and information to our members and we are working on adding the newsletter to our website.

### Programs and Activities:

The annual St. George's Day awards and luncheon was held on April 21, 2013, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Beltsville. St. George's Awardees were: Patrick and Nancy Clagett for

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their restoration of Kingston; Ralph Eshelman and Burton Kummerow for *In Full Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake*; the City of Greenbelt for its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary; Beth Lingg for her contributions to the Prince George's County Historical Society; Mildred Ridgley Gray and LaVerne Gray for their efforts in the preservation of the historic Ridgley community; Leigh Ryan for hers of support of Riversdale House Museum; St. John's Episcopal Church, Beltsville for the 150 years of service to the community. In addition, the Prince George's County Hall of Fame inducted Effie Gwynn Bowie.

Due to the ill health of the chair of the Martin Luther King Commemoration Committee of Bowie, the annual event did not occur. Our liaison on the committee, **Nathania Branch Miles**, has indicated that plans are underway for a 2014 program.

**Susan Pearl** arranged for us to partner with the City of Bowie to host a revolutionary war lecture at Belair Mansion on May 2, 2013. Dr. Robert Selig illustrated "Rochambeau's March through Prince George's County" by presenting the troop and supplies movement between Annapolis and Bladensburg as Rochambeau's troops eventually marched to Yorktown.

The Society led the annual Historic Preservation Week reception held on May 14, 2013, at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. We partnered with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Maryland Milestones, the Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust, the University of Maryland, the Aman Memorial Trust and other county organizations and businesses to host the event.

Society representatives **Jane Taylor Thomas** and **Nathania Branch Miles** joined with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Prince George's County Chapter to host the annual Juneteenth Celebration at the Nature Center, Watkins Regional Park on June 15, 2013. The annual event commemorates the end of slavery. This year's observance titled "Footprints and Roots," had a series of workshops on such topics as beginning genealogy, the underground railroad, ante-bellum free people of color, and Freedman's Bureau records, along with guest speakers, games, arts and crafts, ethnic and regional food, children's activities.

**Jack Thompson, Jr.**, arranged a trip to Tangier Island, Virginia, on July 27, 2013. A ferry from Crisfield, MD took attendees to the island for a delicious lunch, time to walk around the island to soak up its history and culture, and for those who wanted a weekend away, you could reserve a room overnight and catch the ferry back the next day.

Our annual Prince of a County fundraiser also arranged by **Jack Thompson, Jr.**, was held at West End Farm in Croom on September 15, 2013. Many thanks are offered to board member, **Elizabeth Dougherty** and her family, for opening her home and sharing a wonderful fall day with us.

**Christine Garcia** arranged a lecture about the Stingless Bees of the Yucatan by Professor Susan Langley on October 6, 2013. The delightful lecture informed about the ancient Mayan bee cultures, current Mexican beekeeping and the Yucatan stingless bees. Following the lecture we had a honey tasting. Afterwards, we adjourned to a local authentic Mexican restaurant, Taqueria la Veracruzana in Laurel, for food and conversation.

We partnered with the Maryland Milestones and M-NCPPC for our annual holiday party. The theme for the evening was Holidays in the Heritage Area: War of 1812 Kickoff in preparation for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake during 2014. Prior to the celebration we held our annual elections.

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As was mentioned in our FY2012 annual report, we decided to examine the mission and goals of the Society and to find ways to improve the Society. In the spring of 2013 we began the process of seeking answers through consensus to the following questions: Mission, Values, Vision, External Analysis, Internal Analysis, Goals and Action Planning. Our new purpose statement is shown on page 2.

During 2013 the Historical Society lost two of its long-standing members – **Jane Eagen Dodd** and **Anna Mae Holmes**. Both ladies were strong Society and history supporters and teachers and will be truly missed. A project Jane Dodd was working on was to get the book *I, Matthew Perry* into the Prince George's County Public Schools. Board member **Sealani Weiner** was involved on this project with Jane and is continuing to work with the school system to distribute the books in Jane's memory.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**John Brunner** and **Sealani Weiner** have spearheaded our participation in the Prince George's County History Day competition with the Prince George's County Public Schools on March 15, 2014. The Historical Society will help to judge the entries and provide prizes to those who use the Frederick DeMarr Library and various college, university and county libraries as one of their primary resources for information.

The Prince George's County Historical Society is sponsoring the Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage on April 26, 2014. **Jack Thompson, Jr.**, and the Upper Marlboro Historic Preservation Committee created a tour that will highlight Prince George's County as a staging ground for the British on their march to seize and burn Washington, D.C. in the summer of 1814. Tour participants will travel part of the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Byway that "connects the places, people and events that led to the birth of the National Anthem."

Additional events for 2014 include a lecture series planned by **Kent Abraham**, **Christine Garcia** and **Dan Louck** and **Elizabeth Dougherty** is organizing a book and author event, along with our perennial Martin Luther King, Jr. commemoration, St. George's Day awards in April, Preservation Month reception in May, Juneteenth celebration in June, Prince of a County reception in September, a Hispanic heritage event in October, and a holiday party in December.

For information about our events, please visit our website at [www.pghistory.org](http://www.pghistory.org) or check out the latest edition of "News & Notes."

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

## **Monthly Board of Director Meetings**

The Society has adopted the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM for its board meetings. The location of the meeting will rotate to locations within the county. All members and sponsors of the Society are welcome to attend these meetings. To find out where our monthly meeting is being held, please call 301-249-9000.

## Profit and Loss Report – FY12 and FY13

	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>FY 2013</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Book Sales	\$ 8,207.15	\$ 1,683.71
Donations Received	\$ 2,930.05	\$ 350.00
Historic Prince Georges Royalties	\$ 7,271.66	\$ -
Insurance Premium Refund	\$ -	\$ 336.00
Interest Income	\$ 69.81	\$ 58.60
Library Income	\$ 1,069.08	\$ 1,165.95
MDHS Dues Received	\$ 1,340.00	\$ 1,770.00
Newsletter Income	\$ -	\$ 100.00
PGCHS Dues Received	\$ 3,450.00	\$ 4,750.00
Program/Activity Income	\$ 6,798.72	\$ 7,905.00
Sponsorships Received	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 3,600.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 35,036.47</b>	<b>\$ 21,719.26</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Book Sales Postage/Taxes/Fees	\$ 342.43	\$ 413.14
Conference Expenses	\$ 277.60	\$ -
Donations & Gifts Paid	\$ 258.40	\$ -
Dues & Subscriptions Paid	\$ 354.00	\$ 10.00
General Operations Expenses	\$ 1,168.90	\$ 975.28
Historic Prince Georges Expenses	\$ 5,012.00	\$ -
Insurance Paid	\$ 1,257.00	\$ 1,301.00
Library Expenses	\$ 2,170.89	\$ 1,428.35
MDHS Dues Paid	\$ 1,805.00	\$ 1,600.00
Membership Expenses	\$ 650.69	\$ 940.26
News & Notes Expenses	\$ 2,083.05	\$ 2,284.17
Program/Activity Expenses	\$ 11,338.57	\$ 14,436.54
Strategic Planning Expenses	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 26,718.53</b>	<b>\$ 28,388.74</b>
<b>Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 8,317.94</b>	<b>\$ (6,669.48)</b>

## Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2013

Checking	\$ 12,367.80
Savings	\$ 14,709.21
Fixed Assets	\$ 10,677.55
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 37,754.56</b>