

News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January 1979

Vol. VII, No. 1.

The Meeting Schedule

There will be no meetings of the Society in January or February. The regular meeting schedule will be resumed in March.

Nominations for St. George's Day Awards

Each year at the annual St. George's Day Dinner the Society presents the St. George's Day awards to individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the preservation of our county's heritage. Since the awards program was initiated in 1974, 39 awards have been presented. We now solicit nominations from the membership for the 1979 awards. Please contact any officer of the Society with your nomination, or write to Paul Lanham, Awards chairman, 3115 Holland Cliff Road, Huntingtown, Maryland 20639. Deadline for nominations is March 1.

Note of Thanks

The officers of the Prince George's County Historical Society, on behalf of all those who attended, wish to thank the many members and friends who assisted at the annual Christmas Party, and those who brought foods. We would also like to recognize the following persons who spent a great deal of time, both before and after the event, helping: Joan Speicher, Forrest Bowie, Margaret Fisher, Edith Bagot, Herb Embrey, Ted Bissell, Alan Virta, Louise Tatspaugh, Carl Flynn, and Helen Reed.

Historical Markers Report

Bill Aleshire, a member of the Society's Historical Markers Committee, reports that a dedication ceremony was held on November 4, for the historical marker at Sacred Heart Chapel, one of the cradles of American Catholicism. The marker is located in Bowie on Route 450 (Annapolis Road) in front of the chapel, between Route 3 and Race Track Road. Bill also reports that the City of College Park has moved the marker for the College Park Airport from Route One onto the airport grounds. It was felt that traffic on Route One moved too fast for anyone to read the sign.

The White House Tavern

On Route One in Beltsville, a few hundred yards above the Beltway, stands a white frame structure known as the Del Haven--White House Motel. It is one of several older motels and guest homes still competing with the Holiday Inns, Quality Courts, and other chains that have invaded the strip between Beltsville and Hyattsville in recent years. The hurried commuter on Route One, if he takes note of the motel at all, will probably remember only the four odd ceramic tile pillars on the front of the building. The more leisurely traveler may notice the double chimneys on each end; he may inspect the historical marker nearby pointing out the site of the old Rhodes Tavern, visited by Washington; and he may come upon the old mile marker, placed by the side of the road in the early years of the 19th century when the highway was the Baltimore-Washington Turnpike and the principal stage route between the two cities. Few casual passers-by would suspect, however, that the Del Haven-White House Motel, with those odd pillars, is itself a structure worthy of historic note. But if those pillars, which date from the 1940's, were pulled down, and the original two-story porch rebuilt, the traveler would not see the Del Haven-White House Motel, but rather the historic White House Tavern, built by John Brown in 1834, one of the oldest structures in the Beltsville-College Park area.

A history of the White House Tavern recently came to the attention of the Society through the courtesy of Mrs. Margaret Wowra. It was written by S.G. Mulloy, an attorney in Washington, D.C., and the circumstances of its earliest known presentation were described in the following story in the Washington Evening Star of January 15, 1928:

Women's Club of Beltsville.--The Women's Country Club of Beltsville met on Monday, January 9, at the home of Mrs. Romeo Perry, with the president, Mrs. T.E. Woodward, in the chair. Mrs. Fay, treasurer, reported among disbursements Christmas gifts to the Branchville Fire Department, Mr. Wells, (keeper at the Beltsville crossing) and boxes of sweets to the shut-ins. Mrs. John Arminger, social service chairman, reported the sending, of Christmas cards, also. Mrs. Perry was appointed chairman of the membership committee for the remainder of the year. A paper on the White House Tavern was read by the president. This paper was written by Mr. S.G. Mulloy of Washington, D.C., a grandson of John W. Brown, the original owner of the tavern. A piano duet by Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Weingartner followed. Mrs. Ruth Tighe, county nurse, gave an informal talk and made arrangements to conduct a class in home nursing. This class will be held at Mrs. Perry's home beginning January 18 at 10 a.m., and will run for 10 weeks. The February meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. T.E. Woodward.

News and Notes reprints the paper in this issue in full. A source from the local area suspects that the Jack Wiseman listed in the third paragraph is actually Jack Wissman, and corrected Barb Baker's name (in Mulloy's draft) to Bob Baker. And readers are reminded that all references to "today" and "now" in the text refer, of course, to 1928, not 1979.

The White House Tavern

The White House Tavern was built in 1834 for John W. Brown, containing 24 rooms, viz; Attic 5, 2d floor 8, 1st floor 6 and cellar 5. When the house was remodeled in about 1897 two rooms that were on each end on the upper front porch were eliminated, making at present 22 rooms in the house. Regarding the cellar rooms: one was a large room fitted up with brick hearth and fire place and which was originally used for cooking purposes, the other four rooms were used for storage and were known as wine room, whiskey room, potato room and fish room. The first floor rooms were designated as front and back parlor, being on the south, bar room, being the front room on the north and to which there was formerly a separate entrance from the front porch, middle room and dining room, entry (being the room running along the north side, which was originally use? as a direct entrance from the bar room to the dining room so that guests would not have to come through the house) and kitchen. In the kitchen was a large fire place and brick bake oven, also a very large cook stove known as a railroad stove which was operated or extended by means of a track. The main rooms on the second floor and attic were numbered one to eleven consecutively and referred to by number. Some of the old numbers will still be found on the doors.

John W. Brown was born in Middletown, New York, April 22, 1799, and came to Maryland at about the age of eighteen or nineteen and employed by Stockton and Stokes Company, then operating the principal stage coach line between Washington and Baltimore. The land surrounding the present house was formerly owned by Richard B. Stockton and William B. Stokes, of the stage coach company, and it was from them that John W. Brown later purchased the property. At the time he purchased it there was a house which stood between the site of the present house and the spring, and it was in the old house that said Brown originally operated the tavern. This house was destroyed by fire. Between the time of the burning and the erection of the present house, Brown operated what was known as the Rossburg Hotel, which was in the old brick building that stands in front of the Maryland State College at College Park and on the side of which is marked "Experimental Station." It is said that Lafayette stopped there one night while on his way to Washington. When the present house was built in about 1834 it was called the "White House" and before it hung a large sign with a golden eagle on the top with these words "The White House, John W. Brown, Prop." This sign hung there until after the Civil War and was in the family until recent years

Brown purchased other and adjoining properties until at the time of his death in 1862 the farm contained 1740 acres and took in approximately the following area: Beginning about one mile south at the point near where the

ditches are on the west side of the road or about in front of Bob Baker's place; running then in a westerly direction to a point near the site of the present Paint Branch School or Kiernan's place: then in a northerly direction to a point near where Simm's store stood at Beltsville or where Hillery's store later stood: then in a still northerly direction across the railroad tracks to where the old Presbyterian Church stood, which was near the branch below the present site of Grange Hall; then in a southerly direction to and taking in the old mill property; then in a westerly direction to the B. and O. R.R., at a point near where Jack Wiseman's house now stands: then in a southerly direction to the place of beginning, taking in the present Magruder and other properties, but excluding the Emack property.

The White House was operated as a tavern from the time it was built until about ten years after the death of John W. Brown or about 1872. All stage coaches stopped there, some of the passengers stopped over night, others for meals. Cattle in those days were transported over the road and the drovers stopped there with as high as four to five hundred head of cattle at a time. Special fields were provided and corn, hay and feed could be hauled cut by the wagon load. Horses and mules were also transported over the road, some coming from points as far as Cincinnati, and likewise stopped there. The circus was also carried over the road and made its annual stopover. The coming of the circus was always looked forward to with interest. It is said that an elephant was once standing near the front porch when someone fed him a hot potato with the result that he demolished a portion of the porch.

At the time of the death of John W. Brown there were fifty two slaves on the place and twenty out-buildings, consisting of brick milk house (which still stands in the yard), smoke house (where the meats were smoked), barns, stables, granary and meat house.

In about 1841 John W. Brown married Sarah Ann Miller, and their children were; Britannia, who married Alfred Forman and later married Addison Slamm; Ambrose, Oliver, Andrew, Dollie who married F.A. Tschiffely, Calvin, Almira who married Samuel G. Mulloy, Waite and Olivia. The only surviving children now are Mrs. Tschiffely and Mrs. Mulloy.

In the family cemetery situated about a quarter of a mile from the house near the electric car line will be found, among others, tombs of the following;

John W. Brown, born April 22, 1799, died June 28, 1862

Sarah Ann Brown, wife of J.W. Brown, born June 14, 1823

Elizabeth Olivia Brown, born February 17, 1859, died September 7, 1862

Calvin M. Brown, born April 21, 1851, died December 22, 1887

John Miller died March 9, 1842

Sarah Miller, died April 23, 1860

(The last two mentioned parties being the father and mother of Sarah Ann Brown, wife of J.W.B.)

There will also be found in the cemetery tombs of quite a few other Millers.

There were also two other cemeteries where the slaves were buried. One was located near the slave quarters about two hundred yards north of the White House near where the old house now stands in the field. No trace of this cemetery is found at the present time. The other is located about three hundred yards north of the family burying ground, where the big sassafras tree stood and I believe is still standing, and there will be found rough stones-marking the graves.

The Old Mill situated near the government farm was on a part of the original Brown tract and it was for years operated and known as Brown's Mill. All grain on the farm was ground there for use at the White House.

The quarters where the slaves lived were in the field north of the White House, one of which is still standing.

One of the old mile stones stood, and I believe is still standing, about one hundred feet from the White House on the west side of the road, near a cherry tree. This stone is marked "25 M to B-12 M to W."

Among the former owners of the 'White House farm, or portions thereof, in addition to Stockton and Stokes, and prior to Brown, were: William Evans, William Lorman, Truman Bolt Sr., after whom Beltsville took its name, and William Spurrier. Several of the old original deeds are still in possession of the family, including of the original land grants of the property, bearing date as far back as April 5, 1684. While parts of which are illegible from age, it is interesting to note some of the wording. The beginning is as follows Maryland FF Frederick, Absolute, Lord and Proprietary of the Province of Maryland and Avalon, Lord Baltimore of Baltimore, etc. to all to whom these presents shall come, Greetings in our Lord God Everlasting." Another recital in the body of the instrument is "The fealty of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Michael the Arch Angel." And the conclusion: Witness our truly and well-beloved Horation Sharpe, Esq., Lieutenant-General and Chief Governor of our said Province of Maryland and Chancellor and Keeper of the Great Seal thereof." The instrument is sealed with what appears to be a large lump of beeswax about the size of a silver dollar and a quarter of an inch thick and fastened securely to the parchment by heavy tape.

Regarding the Civil War, many interesting events happened at and about the White House. Several skirmishes took place and it said that men were killed in front or near the house. On one occasion a cannon was fired from the hill where St. John's Church now stands and the shell burst in the field a short distance from the house. Relics of the old shell were kept until recent years. On another occasion the Union soldiers surrounded the house while the officers were at dinner in the house, when a body of Confederate cavalry rode up and a hasty getaway was made by the Union men and one soldier was killed. An axe was once obtained by the Confederate soldiers and a telegraph pole chopped down in front of the house and wires demolished in order to cut off communication. At times it was necessary for the family to take refuge in the cellar for protection against possible gunfire. Losses were sustained from time to time by soldiers taking milk and anything they could find edible and the taking of corn and hay for their horses. Threats were made to take the White House and turn it into a hospital.

The White House passed from the Brown family when it was sold in 1912 by Mrs. Almira Brown Mulloy to a Mrs. Ballard.

Editor's Note: The text of the historical marker marking the nearby site of Rhodes' Tavern reads as follows:

Site of

RHODES' TAVERN
Lieutenant-General
George Washington
"Dined at Rhodes"
December 18, 1798
On his last journey
from Philadelphia
to Mount Vernon.

The marker was placed there by the Pomona Grange of Prince George's County during the George Washington Bicentennial, 1932. Rhodes' is the tavern mentioned in the text of Mulloy's paper that John W. Brown operated before he built the White House. "Rosburg Hotel" is of course the Ressorborough Inn. At the time Mulloy wrote the paper, it was used as the headquarters of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station.

New Members

There are a number of new members of the Society who have joined since the last list was published in the September issue. Those names will be printed in the next edition of News and Notes.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

A subscription to this monthly newsletter is included in the yearly membership dues. For information call any officer or write to the Society at P.C. Box 14, Riverdale, Maryland Md.

President;	Mr. Frederick S. DeMarr	277-0711	
	4010 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville 20781		
Corresponding Secretary:	Mrs. Edith Bagot	927-3632	
	3510 Longfellow Street, Hyattsville 20782		
Treasurer:	Mr. Herb Embrey		434-2958
	10414 Tullymore Drive, Adelphi 20783		
Newsletter editor:	Mr. Alan Virta	474-7524	
	8244 Canning Terrace, Greenbelt 20770		

News and Notes from

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 1979

Vol. VII, no. 2

No February Meeting

There will be no meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society in February.

The March Meeting: A Preview

Mrs. Ruth Fox Hume, author of Medicine in Maryland, will speak to the Society on. "Medicine in Colonial Maryland" at the March meeting of the Society, to be held Saturday, March 10, at Riversdale Mansion at 2 p.m. Further details will follow in the March newsletter.

Maryland Antiques Show and Sale.

The first annual Maryland Antiques Show and Sale sponsored by and for the benefit of the Museum and Library of Maryland History, Maryland Historical Society, will be held in the elegant ballrooms encompassing the entire 12th floor of the recently restored Belvedere Hotel in Baltimore on February 9, 10, and 11. Nationally known dealers will offer for sale: English and American furniture, together with fine porcelains, brass, glass, clocks, dolls, books, and rare maps.

The Maryland Historical Society will mount a special exhibit at the Belvedere entitled "In the Latest Taste" which will display items imported for use in Maryland between 1750 and 1850.

On Friday February 9 at 11 am. Wendell Garrott, distinguished editor and publisher of the magazine Antiques will lecture on "Collecting American Antiques."

There is an admission charge for these events. For further details call 301-685-3750, extension 53.

Formation of Historic Takoma, Inc.

The Maryland Historical Trust in its newsletter SWAP reports that a new organization dedicated to the preservation of Takoma Park, Md. has been formed and is called Historic Takoma, Inc. The city of Takoma Park, which sits astride the Prince George's-Montgomery County border, was founded in 1883 when the extension of the railroad made it convenient to the city of Washington. For more information, call 270-5348.

Addition to the National Register

The Maryland Historical Trust reports the following addition to the National Register of Historic Places:

Mount Hope, the focal point of the Town of Cheverly. A frame farmhouse built circa 1839 and doubled in size in the 1860's by Fielder Magruder, Jr., it was renovated circa 1920 by Robert Marshall, founder of Cheverly. The house is the town's official symbol, appearing on the town seal and town flag. It is located on Cheverly Circle.

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following individuals to membership in the Prince George's County Historical Society;

Sponsor

Emory Harmon
George Gately , Sr.
Elizabeth McCormick
Bruce Johnson
Louise Tatspaugh
Col. and Mrs. Douglas Stuart
Elizabeth Clagett Clark
Gary C. and Ruth Myers

Greenbelt
Washington, D. C.
Hyattsville
Washington, D.C.
Hyattsville
Oxon Hill
Washington, D.C.
Greenbelt

Mr. DeMarr
Mr. Cecil
Mr. Cecil
Mr. DeMarr
Mr. DeMarr
Mr. DeMarr
Mr. DeMarr
Mr. H. Embrey

NASA/Goddard Visitor Center

A visitors' center has been opened at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, one of the largest research and development centers in the nation operated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The visitors' center is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays, and there is no admission charge.

A collection of spacecraft and flight articles, as well as exhibits about the nation's space flight program, are on display at the center. Actual mission operations can be observed nearby in Building 14. There is also a souvenir and refreshment center.

The Goddard Space Flight Center was named for Dr. Robert Goddard, known as the Father of American Rocketry. The center was opened in May 1959 as NASA's first major scientific laboratory devoted entirely to the exploration of space. Its work concerns the near-Earth type satellites, both manned and unmanned, the tracking network and the communications (voice and data) network called NASCOM. The center has the prime responsibility for the Delta Launch Vehicle, the most frequently employed NASA rocket. Goddard is also the home of the National Space Science Data Center. This facility houses banks of high speed computers and is the nation's central repository for much of the data acquired through space science experimentation.

The Goddard Space Flight Center occupies 1108 acres near Greenbelt on Greenbelt Road. The way to NASA and the visitors' center is well marked from the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. For information, call 344-0981.

Field Sports and Pastimes: According to Scharf

"The planter's porch was always crowded with yelping fox-hounds, waiting to hear the master's horn sound "mount and away" or to see the "quarter" door open that they might steal something. Those dogs divided as domestic pets, the affections of their masters with the mongrel water-dog, a cross apparently of the Newfoundland with the Irish wolf-hound, a strong, courageous animal, of great modesty, but which will swim a mile out into the bay in the teeth of a November gale and bring to shore a wounded swan--or be drowned in the attempt to do it.

"This fondness for field sports and associations, and for outdoor life, was not confined to any one class. All partook of it alike, from the gouty aristocrat, who rode to hounds with his swelled foot in a bandage, to the hatless loafer, walking barefoot around the water in the sunshine or twilight, with his crab-stick in one hand and his bag in the other.

"The Ladies, too, shared the feeling. They rode to hounds. They rode to church on horse-back. They did anything, except consent to stay home. The bridle-path which preceded the road was good enough highway for them. They would go to balls of an evening in their side-saddles, scarlet cloth riding-habits tied over their white satin ball dresses, their puffed, powdered and pomaded hair covered with a handkerchief large enough --if one could be found large enough to tent the whole amazing structure--their hoops arranged fore and aft so as to avoid contact with the horses flanks. Often the lady rode to church on a pillion behind her cavalier.

"The fondness for field sports was universal. In any other country than this it would have been extraordinary to see so grave, sedate and important an old gentleman as George Washington fox-hunting with a party of young

men at five o'clock of a frosty morning, or fishing his weirs before day-break, in person, or shooting ducks in November on a bleak -point by himself, or hauling the seine at the head of a yellowing gang of Mt. Vernon blacks; but here, this was what everybody did, and it was thought to be exactly the thing for a country gentleman to do.

"The country swarmed with game; the rivers teemed with fish, and the Indians among whom our early colonists had settled down as friends, were a tribe of hunters and fishers. There were deer, bears, wolves, foxes, squirrels, wild cats and a few panthers in the woods. The colony armed every man; in fact it compelled every man to carry a gun and learn how to use it, and it compelled all ships at first to pay their port dues in gunpowder and lead, so that every man might become a sportsman.

"A good shot with the rife or fusee, who might kill fifty squirrels a day could earn 100 lbs. of tobacco, that is to say, 12 shillings six pence, for their scalps less the cost of the ammunition. If he shot a wild turkey it was 2 s. to him, and in the season if he know how to "call" them, he might easily bag three or four a day. A deer "in grease" was worth five or six shillings; so that there was profit in wood-craft to the skillful pot hunter, and every servant had his Saturday afternoon in which to learn how to shoot."

The foregoing was extracted verbatim from J. Thomas Scharf's book, History of Maryland From the Earliest Period to the Present Day, chapter, 18, "Manners and Customs," pages 70 & 71. The book was published in 1879.

It may give the reader an insight into some of the inevitable carry-over from old customs and behavior that even today affects the native Marylander. It also may, in particular, explain their perennially intractable resistance to any attempt by those who to foster restrictive legislation affecting their ownership and use of firearms.

--Herb Embrey

"A Most Severe Gale"

During the year 1862, life in Southern Maryland was under the shadow of clouds of a civil war of which the London Times, in the autumn of 1864, was to write:

"The Americans are making war as no people ever made war before. Their campaigns combine the costliness of modern expeditions with the carnage of barbarian invasions. Grant squanders life like Attila and money like Louis XIV. Each party is out for total extermination."

To add to the troubles and burdens of our people the Marlboro Gazette tells us that a most severe gale visited the Upper Marlboro community February 24, 1862, and caused the following gentlemen to lose in whole or in part valuable tobacco houses, and in many cases the contents in the houses were severely damaged.

"William P. Pumphrey lost one house; Thomas Hodgkin, one; William B.B. Cross, two; George W. Hilleary, one; M.S. Plummer, one; Estate of Zadock Sasscer, one; John Hodges, two; Robert A. Clagett, one; the Estate of the late David Cranford [sic], one; Dr. Lee, one; William B. Bowie had several unroofed, Samuel Brooks two unroofed and, Jer. Berry had one to lose its roof."

--by the late R. Lee Van Horn, from his column "Out of the Past,"
in the Prince George's Post of April 13, 1961.

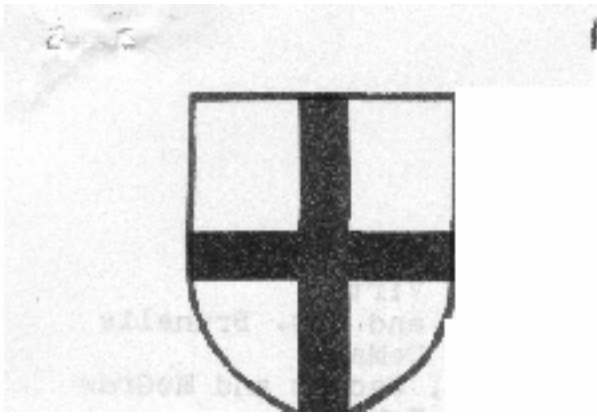
The Prince George's County Historical Society

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NEWS AND NOTES FROM

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Volume VII, number 3

March 1979

The March Meeting: Medicine in Colonial Maryland

The first meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society's 1979 season will be held on Saturday, March 10, at Riversdale, the Calvert mansion in Riverdale, at 2 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Ruth Fox Hume, author of Medicine in Maryland, who will speak on "Medicine in Colonial Maryland." Mrs. Hume is a most interesting and entertaining speaker, and she comes to us on the recommendation of several other local groups who have been delighted with her presentation.

Refreshments will be served following the program, and guests, as always, are welcome. Riversdale is located on Riverdale Road, between Kenilworth Avenue (Route 201) and the B & O tracks.

St. George's Day Dinner and Awards

The Society's annual St. George's Day Dinner, this year commemorating the 283rd anniversary of the founding of the county, will be held on St. George's Day, Monday, April 23, in the University of Maryland's Student Union building. Invitations will be mailed within the next few weeks to all members of the Society.

Each year at the dinner the Society presents the St. George's Day Awards, honoring individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the preservation of our County's heritage. If you have any nominations, contact Paul Lanham, chairman of the Awards Committee, immediately by writing him at 3115 Holland Cliff Road, Huntington, Md. 20639. Deadline is March 1.

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following individuals to membership in the Prince George's County Historical Society:

Donna Beatley	Cheverly	Sponsor
Lillian M. Clements	Hyattsville	Ms. Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Perry Wilkinson	Hyattsville	Mr. DeMarr
Beryl Wiser	Silver Spring	Mr. DeMarr
		Dr. Wiser

PRINCE GEORGE'S, COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

New Members (continued)

Harry B. Boyd, Jr.	Riverdale	Mr. Embrey
Jon Buck	Laurel	Mr. Virta
John Vermillion	Baltimore	Mr. and Mrs. Brunelle
Domenico Firmani	Hyattsville	Mr. DeMarr
Ruth Levine	Greenbelt	Mss. Jacobs and McGraw
Mrs. E. Craig Wilton	Alexandria	Mr. DeMarr
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Fall	Cheverly	Mss. Hamilton, Rollo, and McLeish

Recollections of the Summer of 1862

With the outbreak of the Civil War, many Marylanders went South to serve the cause of the Confederacy. Families and friends were divided by the conflict, and there were few in Maryland who could not count relatives or acquaintances on both sides. The division often created bitterness, yet on many occasions the ties of blood and friendship prompted acts of cooperation and kindness between persons who were nominally enemies.

The story of Richard Snowden Andrews and his family and friends is one case in which the ties of blood and friendship overcame the differences caused by the war. The story involves both Union and Confederate officers, Union and Confederate physicians, Union and Southern sympathizing civilians, and representatives of two Prince George's County families.

Richard Snowden Andrews Was one of those Marylanders who went South to serve in the Confederate Army. He was not a military man, but an architect in Baltimore, yet he served as a lieutenant colonel commanding the First Maryland Artillery, C.S.A. Andrews was born in Washington, D.C., in 1830. His father was Timothy Patrick Andrews, a native of Ireland who pursued a distinguished career in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of brigadier general and remaining loyal to the Union. During the Civil War he served as Paymaster General of the Army.

Richard Snowden Andrews' mother was Emily Roseville Snowden, of Prince George's County, daughter of Richard and Eliza Warfield Snowden, whose home was Oaklands, near Montpelier in the Laurel area. Her grandfathers were Major Thomas Snowden, of Montpelier, and Dr. Charles Alexander Warfield, who had led the patriots who burnt the tea-laden ship Peggy Stewart in Annapolis harbor in 1774.

Andrews' maternal connections thus included the Snowdens of Prince George's County and also the Fairfaxes. Dr. John Contee Fairfax of Prince George's County, who plays a prominent role in this story, was Andrews' cousin, born in the same year, 1830. Fairfax grew up in the District near the Andrews family at Woodburn, near the Soldiers' Home, where his mother and her second husband, Captain W.R. Sanders, made their home. Dr. Fairfax became one of the county's most interesting citizens. He practiced medicine for many years at his home, Northampton, near Largo. By right of his descent from Thomas, Lord Fairfax, he became the 11th Baron Fairfax of Cameron, succeeding his brother to the title in 1869. Dr. Fairfax never claimed his title, but remained in Prince George's County until his death in 1900. He was the son of Albert Fairfax and Caroline Eliza Snowden. His mother and Richard Snowden Andrews' mother were sisters.

The following story is reprinted from Richard Snowden Andrews: A Memoir, edited by Tunstall Smith of Baltimore and published in 1910. This particular recollection was written by Mary Lee Andrews, who married Richard Snowden Andrews in 1855. She remained in Maryland with her small children when her husband went South. --Alan Virta

"After the commotion and agitation of April 19th, 1861, my husband decided that there was but one thing for him to do. His heart was with the South, and the principle of States Rights was very dear to him. That there must be a conflict, he saw at once, and that he must take one side or the other. A few days, therefore, after the 19th of April, he left for the South, vaguely surmising what was ahead of him....

"It was one morning at the breakfast table, while reading the newspaper for war news, that I fell upon the account of the battle of Cedar Run [Va.] and among those fatally wounded I found my husband's name. Of course I was very much shocked and dazed but made no outcry. My little children were about me at the table, cheerfully eating their breakfast--I could not perturb their minds with my trouble nor must I communicate to them my anxieties--I had little faith in the newspapers, which always declared every engagement a victory for the Union troops and defeat for the South, and on reflection I found myself doubting the truth of the account, especially as my husband's death had already been once falsely reported in an engagement off Cape Hatteras. The more I thought of it the less I believed the statement in the morning's paper. I knew no male friends to whom I could immediately refer and when I went back to Mount Vernon Place [Baltimore] I did not venture to speak of it at once to his mother [Emily Roseville Snowden Andrews], hoping to spare her. She had an interview, however, with her physician a little later and he broke the news to her and she came immediately to me. I soothed and comforted her as much as I could, but she was very much agitated and we determined to send for someone who would know positively about it. It was not until evening that Mr. Lloyd Rogers came to see us and confirmed the account of the battle at Cedar Run. He had heard by private news that my husband was mortally wounded. Although this appeared to be the bald truth, it also seemed to be unbelievable, but when all hope seems fled what will not prayer do to restore it and kindle a fresh faith that all may yet come right? At this time it was my only consolation. We had to live under this terrible misapprehension until next morning, when a telegram was sent to Mrs. Andrews [his mother] from Colonel Lewis Marshall--one of General Pope's aides, who, although a Union soldier, was a friend of my husband's and proved most kind in these distressing circumstances--to say that Mrs. Andrews would be permitted to go to her son. The telegram ended with "Last accounts favourable"--which revived our courage. But she was quite unable to leave home. The cook, old Allie, who was devoted to my husband, came up into Mrs. Andrews' room, and with the other servants we gathered round the nurse and baby, who came in at that moment, old Allie imploring to be permitted to go to "Mr. Snowden." After a short consultation I decided to go myself, and then asked my nurse, who was a free woman, whether she would go with the baby and me. She replied that she was quite willing and in a few minutes I was ready to go to my own home to make rapid preparations to be off at once. I had a faithful nurse for the children I was about to leave. I stopped on my way home at my green-grocer's to ask if he could get me a carriage to take me to the first train to Washington. I sent for a neighbour, Miss Ann Cole, who was our devoted friend, explained the situation to her, and she entered heart and soul into my plan, promised to look after the children and helped me to pack a trunk. The baby was at this time seven months old, but I could not leave her behind.

"I could see my way but a step at a time and decided to go to Washington to an uncle of my husband's, Colonel Christopher Andrews [U.S.A.] and take my bearing from what I should hear there. When I arrived at his house I found them waiting for further news, having heard the same report that had reached me. He and his wife received us with open arms, and I was informed that Dr. Fairfax, my husband's first cousin, had just left the house, having come in from the country to inquire for news. It was thought that he might be overtaken and a messenger was at once dispatched to bring him back to us. The quest was successful and he was soon with us. We found that a passport was necessary, and that, as troops were being forwarded to the very point where the late engagement had taken place, it would be possible for me to go down in the same train with this army reinforcement. Cousin John Fairfax, who was devoted to Snowden, offered to go with me, which was a great support and simplified the whole matter. His carriage was at the door and he took me to the house where the passport could be obtained and where men were filing in and out on the same errand. After waiting for a long while in the street before the house, the moment came when we also could climb the stairs, and on arriving before Major Roger Jones, who was in charge, we found him to be an old schoolmate of my husband's. He received us kindly and gave a passport for the whole party. This was quite unusual, as great strictness prevailed and all civilians were refused these facilities. Having the passport we then proceeded to Mr. George Riggs' house where Cousin John asked for and received some fine old brandy. He was trying to think of all that might be needed as the Confederates were cut off from medical and hospital supplies. We drove then and there to see Dr. Miller, a physician of much reputation at that period, to ask what would be desirable to take with us. He and his family were at dinner and insisted upon our first sitting down and sharing it with them. We both needed this; in fact I was almost exhausted. From there we went to make necessary purchases from the druggist before returning to get a little rest at Colonel Christopher Andrews'.

"The next morning at about six o'clock we left for Alexandria. When we reached there the train was not made up, and we had to wait nearby, sitting on some lumber, as the place was full of soldiers belonging to General Sigel's corps which was going to the front. We got off at last in a very rough train, with boards for seats. In that we travelled all day long amid rather a boisterous group of rough soldiers who were talking and eating and joking together, until about six in the evening when we arrived at Culpeper Court House. The baby had continued very good throughout the journey and her nurse was attentive and invaluable. When we reached the station the soldiers of course poured out from the train, and Cousin John found for us a quiet room where some kind women brought me some refreshment. It was nearing twilight when Cousin John came to me to say that an ambulance had come and the surgeon in charge, who was there for some medical supplies, had been instructed to make inquiries for "Mrs. Andrews, as she was expected." This was through the courtesy of Colonel Lewis Marshall. We soon started in the ambulance for the farm house where my husband lay wounded. Night came on and we proceeded on our way over rough country roads and parts of the battle-field. From the close covered ambulance there was little to be seen save occasional lights in the Union camps. We were within the Northern lines, as General Stonewall Jackson had fallen back after striking a severe blow at the battle of Cedar Run.

"Presently the driver seemed to lose his way in the dark, and the baby began to cry, which in the end proved fortunate, as we were challenged at once by a sentry who put us on the-right road.

"The farm was ten miles away and the slow moving ambulance did not reach it until nearly midnight. By this time the August moon was brilliant in the sky. As we reached our destination someone came out to meet us to tell us to come round to the back of the house and enjoined great quiet so as "not to disturb Major Andrews as he was sleeping." We were told that he had had no fever, and that the surgeons were much encouraged. All about the front of the house were tents occupied by part of General Milroy's command. Indeed he was there himself declaring that he "would not let that arch-rebel out of sight."

"We snatched a few hours rest and early the next morning my husband was told that his cousin, Dr. Fairfax, was there, and he was soon allowed to see him. He was very cheerful and after greeting Cousin John said, "Either my mother or my wife must be with you." I saw him a few hours later. He was lying quite flat on a bed, covered with a sheet, with a bucket of water beside him from which a cloth was wrung out every hour and applied to the wound; and this was the only treatment he had! No carpet was on the floor and through the uncurtained windows, which were wide open, could be seen General Milroy's tents.

"When General Jackson fell back, he had left the surgeon of the Maryland battery, Dr. Fred Hunter, and an orderly to take care of Snowden, and from them we heard an account of all that had happened and the dreadful wound. We learned that while galloping along the road towards his guns, for at the time of the battle he was chief of artillery to General Winder, and had several batteries under his command, a shell struck him on the right side. He slid from his horse, knowing at once how severely he was wounded, and dragged himself out of the way to the side of the road to await assistance. General A.P. Hill, who was bringing up troops on the other side of the fence under cover of the woods, stopped for a moment to find out who it was, and promised to send an ambulance and surgeon at the first possible moment. Many people were hurrying by, and as time passed my husband asked one and another of them to send a surgeon, but it was not until after a long period of waiting that a surgeon came riding by with his attendants and stopped to examine the wound.

"He told my husband frankly that there was no hope, for the shell had torn deep through the abdomen even to the intestines. Part of the chest was burnt and the wound was nine or ten inches long. As he was riding away my husband called to him to say that once while fox-hunting he had seen a valuable dog almost disembowelled in getting over a fence, that he had taken him home and cared for him, and the dog had lived to hunt again. This touched the heart of the surgeon and it was not long after this that an ambulance was sent Arrived at the farmhouse they laid him on the floor and as no army surgeon was at hand they went out and stopped a country doctor, Dr. Amos, who was passing. On looking at the wound, Dr. Amos said there was nothing to be done and there was no chance for life. Snowden said "Isn't there a chance in ten, or twenty or even a hundred?" "Well," replied Dr. Amos, "since you are so plucky, I'll do the best I can for you," thinking to

himself that he would at any rate make the body more sightly. He then washed out grit and bits of cloth from the wound and proceeded to sew it up, using the only needle he had, which was a rusty one, and having no anaesthetic or disinfectants. Then he was placed on the bed and, as I have said before, there was no further treatment possible, except applications of cold water. On account of the apparent hopelessness of his condition it was decided that my husband should be left at the farmhouse and no attempt made to carry him back with General Jackson's troops which were retiring, leaving the ground free for the advance of the Union forces which occurred soon after. My husband was made prisoner and at once placed on parole.

"To get back to my arrival at his side, he was much cheered by our presence, and saw for the first time the baby, born during his absence. A day or two later there was a stir in the camp outside and they appeared to be striking the tents, and we soon found out that General Pope's command was falling back toward Washington and that we should be left in Southern lines. Cousin John hastened to avail himself of the opportunity to return to his home, and, being a physician and non-combatant, was able to join the army surgeons and found his way back to Washington. Throughout he had been a great support, always kind and helpful, with his intelligent judgment and constant care for us.

"The surgeon in charge of my husband said that I must not think of leaving to return to my family in Baltimore, that the support of my presence was an effective aid to his improvement...."

Written for my children and grandchildren forty-eight years later. --Mary Lee Andrews

Mrs. Andrews reported that in four or five weeks the wound had so healed that her husband could sit up, and in six weeks he could move about on crutches. For a year or more he could not stand erect. Richard Snowden Andrews did survive, and died at his home in Baltimore on January 6, 1903. Dr. Fairfax' son, Albert Kirby Fairfax, went to England and in 1908 assumed the title of 12th Baron Fairfax of Cameron. The present Baron Fairfax of Cameron (14th), Nicholas Fairfax, is the great grandson of Dr. John Contee Fairfax, and while in America this past summer was the guest of the Society at a reception at the Snowden home of Montpelier.



NEWS AND NOTES FROM

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Vol. VII, no. 4 April 1979

The St. George's Day Dinner

The 6th annual St. George's Day Dinner sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical Society is just a few weeks away. This year's dinner will be held in the University of Maryland's Student Union building on the traditional date, April 23. The date marks the 283rd anniversary of the erection of Prince George's County and this year falls on a Monday. A cocktail reception will precede the dinner, and the presentation of St. George's Day Awards to individuals and organizations who have rendered outstanding service in the preservation of our county's heritage will conclude the evening.

Please return the reservation card that accompanied your invitation by April 12 and indicate the number that will be in your party. If by chance you did not receive an invitation, or if you would like someone who is not a member to receive an invitation, please call the Society's corresponding secretary, Mrs. Edith Bagot, at 927-3632.

We extend a special invitation to those members of the Society who are not able to attend the regular Saturday meetings during the year. We hope you will be able to join us for the dinner.

No Meeting in April

The St. George's Day Dinner will take the place of the regular Saturday meeting in April. The regular meeting schedule will resume on May 12.

Trust to Restore Mount Airy

The Maryland Historical Trust has recently announced that it will restore Mount Airy, traditionally known as the colonial hunting lodge of the Calvert family, located in southern Prince George's County. Owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Mount Airy is located in Rosaryville State Park, off Rosaryville Road.

Mount Airy was built by the Calverts in the late 17th century. The first Calvert to live there full-time was Benedict Calvert, natural son of Charles Calvert, 5th Lord Baltimore. He presumably made the first substantial additions to the lodge, and alterations have been made all the way into the 20th century.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

George Washington visited Mount Airy on several occasions and was present in 1774 for the marriage of his stepson, John Parke Custis, to Eleanor, daughter of Benedict Calvert. Their son, George Washington Parke Custis, who built Arlington (the Custis-Lee Mansion now in Arlington National Cemetery) was born there. Pierre L'Enfant, planner of the city of Washington, designed the home's formal gardens. The Calvert family cemetery was located here until 1949 when the graves were moved to St. Thomas Church, Croom.

Following restoration, the Trust will probably lease the building.

HYATTSVILLE--AN HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland Historic Trust is asking the Hyattsville City Council to support a move designating an area of approximately 25 city blocks as an historic district.

The proposed district covers the area bounded by the Northwest Branch on the south, the B & O Railroad tracks on the east, Kennedy Street on the north, and by 40th Place on the west.

Once one of the most prestigious of Washington's suburban communities, the area has street after street of large Victorian-era homes and incorporates a "main-street" commercial area. To date, only one Prince George's municipality--Laurel--contains an officially designated historic district.

From an information release

Old Town College Park Preservation Association

The Old Town College Park Preservation Association, an organization devoted to preserving the oldest sections of College Park, now publishes a bimonthly newsletter. The editor is Billie Schnabel, and the newsletter is full of news about zoning, planning, development, highways, and city ordinances which affect the quality of life in the Old Town.

Old Town College Park lies between Route One on the west and the B & O tracks on the east; and between Paint Branch on the north and Guilford and Drexel Roads on the south. The development of the Old Town spans more than a century, so the town has an interesting variety of housing styles not found in newer subdivisions. The Maryland Agricultural College (now the University of Maryland's College Park campus), which was founded in 1856, and the establishment of a rail station in the area were two main factors that led to the development of the town.

More information about the activities of the Old Town College Park Preservation Association can be obtained by writing to 7400 Dartmouth Ave, College Park, Md. 20740. Memberships in the organization are available at the following rates: \$10 for individuals, \$25 for families, \$5 for both senior citizens and students, and \$50 for business and organizational sponsors. Checks should be payable to Old Town Preservation Association and mailed to 4617 College Ave, College Park 20740. A house tour is planned for Fall.

The Baltimore and Potomac Railroad

Back in the July 1973 issue of News and Notes Fred DeMarr presented a history of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad--and the story of the corporate strategy behind the building of the line. Briefly stated, before the Civil War, the B & O enjoyed a monopoly in rail service to the Nation's Capital from the North. The only rail line leading into Washington from the Northern States was the B & O line which passes through Laurel, College Park, Riverdale, and Hyattsville today. The Pennsylvania Railroad wanted access to Washington, too, but the Maryland Legislature protected the B & O. It would not grant the Pennsylvania the right to build a line through Maryland to the District.

The Pennsylvania's strategy therefore became one of cooperation with a group of Southern Maryland planters, led by Oden Bowie of Prince George's County, who had been trying to get a rail line from Baltimore into Southern Maryland for many years. The group had secured a charter which allowed them to build a line from Baltimore through or near Upper Marlboro to the Potomac River at Pope's Creek, but the Civil War and lack of finances had prevented them from building the railroad. The Pennsylvania was not really interested in a line into Southern Maryland, but it was very interested in a provision of the Baltimore and Potomac's charter which allowed it to build branch lines up to 20 miles long where it wished. They saw that the chartered route of the Baltimore and Potomac would take it within 18 miles of Washington. Suddenly the Southern Maryland planters had friends--friends who would finance their railroad and build a branch as well. Construction began in 1868, and was completed in 1872. A branch was built into Washington from that point 18 miles out of town--to create a junction which became known as Bowie. With a little help from its Southern Maryland friends, the Pennsylvania Railroad had beaten the B & O and secured access to Washington, Today that "branch line" carries Metroliners and freight trains in and out of Washington every day through Landover, New Carrollton, Lanham, Seabrook, Glenn Dale, and of course, old Bowie. The main line to Pope's Creek is now, in reality if still not legally, the "branch line."

The following article about the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad (which was formally absorbed into the Pennsylvania Railroad in the twentieth century) is taken from The Monumental City, Its Past History and Present Resources, by George W. Howard. Published in 1873, Howard's book surveyed Baltimore's industries, its possibilities, ties, and its resources, and was surely distributed to businessmen who were considering locating in Baltimore. As a piece of promotional literature, Howard's work naturally glosses over the political and corporate machinations that the reader of the 1970's has come to expect in this age of "exposure" journalism. Nevertheless, he presents a good summation of the interests and hopes of the group from Southern Maryland.

Those interested in the fuller story of the Pope's Creek Line (as the railroad was commonly called) should refer back to the July 1973 issue of News and Notes. The book-length histories of both the B & O and Pennsylvania Railroads treat the story of the Baltimore and Potomac and its "branch" in detail. Oden Bowie, we should note, became Governor of Maryland before the line was completed and has the distinction of being the last Governor from Prince George's County. He was elected in 1867, but because of changes brought about by the adoption of a new constitution that same year, did not become Governor until 1869. Before passenger service was dropped in 1949, in the days before good roads and autos in every garage, Oden Bowie's Pope's Creek Line was the only way many Prince Georgians had to get to Upper Marlboro.

--Alan Virta

Baltimore and Potomac Rail Road

The five lower Counties on the Western Shore of Maryland contain a population, intelligent, educated and refined, and possessing characteristics very similar to those which distinguish the inhabitants of our own City; moreover, in each of those counties may be found broad tracts of country remarkably fertile and productive and most beautifully located, and yet until within the last year or so, but little has been known of these people or the section in which they live.

A number of reasons may be urged for this apparent obscurity. We shall, however, suggest but one, so self-evident that its bare mention will cause its recognition. Until a very recent period there were practically no avenues of communication between Baltimore and large sections of these counties, not forty miles distant from the city limits. The fact is the "iron-horse" had penetrated the vast wildernesses of the West and scaled the lofty altitudes of the Rocky Mountains before he had entered the "forest of Prince George" or the great tobacco growing country of Charles and St. Mary's, while much the larger and richer portions of Anne Arundel and Calvert are still without rail road communication. The steamboats which ply between Baltimore and different points along the shores of these counties, though furnishing safe and commodious means of access, do not of themselves afford sufficient outlet for the trade of the Southern portions of the Western Shore, even when not obstructed by the inclemency of the weather during the winter season. Though they

contribute their quota to the development of that portion of our State they are not able to bring about that rapid improvement which would seem to be necessary to enable these sections of Maryland to keep pace with the great march of progress and advancement taking place in many other parts of the country.

Before the war, the gentlemen from these counties lived like feudal barons. Surrounded by their slaves, nearly all were independent as far as this world's goods were concerned, and the spirit of money-making, at present the prevalent feature of all communities, had made but slight inroads among the wealthy neighborhoods which so thickly dotted this lower tier of counties.

Hospitality, the brightest gem in Maryland's crown, the jewel which has made her far better known in foreign lands than some of her wealthier and more enterprising sisters, seemed to be both the business and pastime of the inhabitants of this portion of our State, and as there was no urgent necessity for the exercise of energy, at that time but little of it was exhibited. There bright exceptions even then to the rule. Some men were conspicuous in these localities for their clear appreciation of the real needs of lower Maryland and endeavored to arouse a spirit of enterprise. As early as 1853, a number of these gentlemen applied to the Legislature and obtained a charter for the Baltimore and Potomac Rail Road. The preliminary organization was not effected until 1859, and the following gentlemen were selected as Directors of the road:

Hon. John Stephen Sellman, of Anne Arundel County; Hon. William D. Bowie and Col. W.W.W. Bowie, of Prince George's County; Hon. Walter Mitchell and John W. Jenkins of Charles County; Edmund S. Plowden, of St. Mary's County' and Edwin Robinson, of Virginia.

Unavailing efforts were made to commence the construction of the road during the year. No State or City aid had been secured, and as was said above the large majority of land owners did not at that time realize the necessity for railroad communication with Baltimore. The Hon. Oden Bowie, since then Governor of our State, was made a Director of the road, and very soon thereafter its President, in 1860. He immediately suggested a more active policy, and two sections of the work, from Upper Marlboro to the Annapolis and Elk Ridge Rail Road, were put under contract. Had the contractors completed their work, Upper Marlboro, the county seat of Prince George's, would have been placed in communication with our City by means of the Annapolis and Elk Ridge Rail Road and its connection with the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road. Unfortunately the civil war broke out and a long period of inactivity followed. Governor Bowie never relaxed his efforts, but the political agitation which convulsed the country for the next four-years rendered abortive every attempt to build a road that did not minister to its necessities in some form.

The war over, the people of Prince Georges and Charles became alive to the almost absolute necessity of the road, but they were in no condition to respond financially to the demands of Governor Bowie. The system of labor in these counties had undergone a complete revolution. Millions of dollars worth of property had been swept away--hundreds of households were impoverished, and those who had escaped bankruptcy had not yet adjusted themselves to the great change that had taken place in the mode of planting and farming. With what rapidity they assimilated themselves to the change in their condition and put their shoulders to the wheel, it is hardly necessary to state here, but at this juncture, no local capital could be raised and the prospects of the corporation were desperate. Governor Bowie was undismayed. He had seen all along the great advantages to be derived from its construction, not only to the portion of Maryland through which it would pass, but also to Baltimore, which it would place in such close connection with the great Southern and South-western line of travel and which through its branch road to Washington gave another means of approach to the National Capital.

The capitalists of Maryland had very generally invested in the great corporations which had served to extend the trade and commerce of Baltimore, and the financial pressure which had followed the close of the war, and which has not altogether abated at this writing, did not leave many of them in a condition to aid in the construction of another road. Struggles, too, ensued with rival corporations, and it was not until 1867 that legislative enactments were obtained that enabled the corporation to commence its work.

In the meantime, the President had not been idle. Finding it impossible to interest the capitalists of our own State because of the crippled condition in which they were placed, he went elsewhere. The Pennsylvania Rail

Road Company appreciated directly the advantages likely to accrue to Baltimore and its own system of roads from its completion, and the requisite funds were secured for its construction. The road was put under contract immediately throughout its entire length.

It was to be built first from Baltimore through Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Charles Counties, to Pope's Creek, on the Potomac River, a distance of 73 miles, and its lateral branch to Washington, from Bowie Junction in Prince George's, was to be 17 miles long, making its entire length 90 miles. The Baltimore and Potomac was opened from Baltimore to Washington on the 2d day of July, 1872, and from Bowie to Pope's Creek on the 1st of January, 1873.

The most prominent features of the road are its great tunnels under the cities of Washington and Baltimore. The tunnel in our City passes directly under the streets and houses, is one and a half miles in length, and at some points 55 feet below the level of the streets. It is cut in many instances through solid rock. Water and other obstacles were encountered, but the most scientific principles of engineering were brought into play to surmount them, the magnitude of which will be better understood when it is known that its cost has been more than two millions of dollars. Indeed there is no such work under any other city in the Union. The road itself from Baltimore to Pope's Creek is a model of engineering skill. The Company have availed themselves of all the modern improvements in rail road construction known to Engineers. Its superstructure is substantially built and laid with durable rails weighing 64 pounds to the yard.

The immediate results to follow to the city of Baltimore are, an impetus to farming and planting through an extended and very fertile region of our own State, but which the productions of that section, such as corn, wheat and tobacco, are likely to be increased four-fold, and fruits and vegetables of every description brought into the city at prices which will place them within reach of the whole community; an enhancement of the value of property along its line, and an offer of sites for summer residences for our successful merchants, together with small farms, for their recreation and pleasure, at prices likely to render unnecessary the expensive exodus of our people during the hot months of summer to the various fashionable and uncomfortable resorts and watering places.

To the country through which it passes it will simply be an inestimable auxiliary. Its more remote benefits to our City will manifest themselves at an early day when the plans at present in contemplation have been carried out and the extension to Richmond completed. Already, through its Washington branch, intercourse with the Southern lines of rail road has been secured, and the completion of the Baltimore tunnel gives a perfectly agreeable and convenient route to through trade and travel. The road is abundantly provided with the finest equipment of engines, passenger coaches, palace and sleeping cars, and has already fulfilled the most sanguine hopes of its friends.

The following is a list of the present officers of the corporations

Hon. Oden Bowie, President; J.N. DuBarry, Vice President and General Manager; E.L. DuBarry, Superintendent; S. Little, Secretary and Auditor; J.S. Leib, Treasurer; Edwin S. Young, General Passenger Agent; James M. Drill, General Freight Agent.

Do any members of the Society have any particular recollections of riding the Pope's Creek Line to Upper Marlboro or beyond? Any particular memories of the view along the way, the stations on the route, or the personnel of the line? If so, let us hear about them. Write them down and send them to either Fred DeMarr or Alan Virta at P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Maryland 20840. We'd appreciate hearing from you.

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

One of Hollywood's more durable productions, The Wizard of Oz, is forty years old this year--and apparently still as popular as ever. Recently broadcast on television for the 21st time, The Wizard of Oz was rated 18th by the Nielsen television survey from a field of 66 programs aired during prime-time hours that same week.

The Wizard of Oz was released in 1939, the same year as Gone With the Wind, Stagecoach, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, and Goodbye, Mr. Chips. The Wizard came to the Washington area on Friday, September 1 for an exclusive two-week engagement at Loew's Palace at 13th and F Streets. If residents of Prince George's didn't want to leave the county to see a movie that week, however, the Evening Star's movie page listed four theaters in Prince George's to choose from. Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were dancing away in Story of the Castles at the Arcade in Hyattsville; Tyrone Power and Sonja Henie were appearing in Second Fiddle at the Marlboro; the Cameo in Mount Ranier was showing Return of the Cisco Kid and the Ambers-Armstrong fight film; and John Garfield and the Lane sisters starred in Daughters Courageous at Greenbelt. Two other theaters which appear in the yellow pages of the time--one in Capitol Heights and one in Laurel--did not advertise in either the Evening Star or the Washington Post.

The two week engagement at Loew's Palace was the only area showing of The Wizard of Oz during the Fall of 1939. More research, or a longer memory, would be necessary to say just when Judy Garland and her friends finally set foot in Prince George's County for the first time. The most recent showing on the big screen in this county took place last summer at the University of Maryland's Hoff Theater.

The Wizard of Oz received an enthusiastic welcome and good reviews on its first appearance in Washington. Writing in the Evening Star, critic Jay Carmody called the movie "a triumph of the movie camera in the realm of fantasy." "The enchanted land of Oz opened its hospitable portals yesterday to a capacity crowd of refugees from the world of reality," he began his review in the Star's Saturday paper. Those in attendance at that first day's showing may truly have been seeking refuge from the news of the real world. For on the very day The Wizard of Oz -opened here, September 1, 1939, the Star issued an urgent four-page extra. "Poland Invaded; Cities Bombed" was its headline. Hitler had finally made his move, and the second World War had begun.

__Alan Virta

Greater Washington Glass Show and Sale

The 7th annual Greater Washington Glass Show and Sale, featuring 30 dealers, will be held on April 20-21 at Christ Church, 8710 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, Md. The sale of antique and collectible glass is sponsored by the United Women of the church who will be serving delicious food during the show. The show is the only one of its kind in the U.S. and is known as the "Glass Show With Class" because it offers four free lectures on glass. Guest lecturer this year will be Mrs. Nancy O. Merrill, curator of the Glass Institute at the Chrysler Museum at Norfolk speaking on "New England Area Glasswares of the 19th Century." Glassblower Jean Dove of Mitchellville will be demonstrating "spun" glass, and there will be a Free Glass Identification Clinic. Hours of the I.D. Clinic are Friday, 12 to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 12 to 2 p.m. Hours of the show are April 20, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Orva Heissenbuttel will give a pre-opening lecture on Friday at 10:15 a.m. to "early bird" arrivals. Admission is \$2.00, good both days.

Events of the Surratt Society

The Surratt Society announces the following upcoming events:

April 14: John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Tour through Southern Maryland and Virginia (reservations necessary)

April 28-29: Victorian Housecleaning Display, at the Surratt House

May 8: Third annual banquet for members of the Surratt Society

May 19-20: Civil War Music Festival, at the house

June 17: Civil War Wedding Reception, at the house

July 7-8: Civil War encampment featuring re-enactors with authentic camps, relics, etc., at the house.

The Surratt House is located at 9110 Brandywine Road in Clinton near the intersection with Branch Avenue (Route 5). The phone number is 868-1121. Watch the-newspapers for times and details, and be sure to visit these educational--and fun--events.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Membership in the Society, at \$5.00 per year, includes a subscription to this newsletter.

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Corresponding Secretary:	Mrs. Edith Bagot 1510 Longfellow Street, Hyattsville 20782	927-3632
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Newsletter Editor:	Mr. Alan Virta 8244 Canning Terrace, Greenbelt 20770	474-7524



NEWS AND NOTES FROM

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Vol. VII, no. 5 May 1979

The May Meeting

Mr. David W. Gaddy, of New Carrollton, will be the guest speaker at the May meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society, to be held on Saturday, May 12, at 2 p.m. at the Calvert mansion, Riversdale. The subject of Mr. Gaddy's presentation will be "The Confederate Signal and Secret Service," a topic to which he has devoted much research in recent years. Prince George's County, as neighbor to the Federal capital and an area inhabited by many Southern sympathizers, was naturally the site of much Confederate intelligence work. Join us on May 12 for this interesting program.

Riversdale is located on Riverdale Road, a few blocks west of Kenilworth Avenue (Route 201). Guests are welcome, and refreshments will be served.

Tea to Honor Society Officers

Members of the Society are cordially invited to a tea honoring the officers of the Prince George's County Historical Society on the afternoon of Sunday, May 20, at the home of Mrs. A.H. Seidenspinner in College Heights Estates. The tea will be held between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m., and members may arrive at any time during those hours.

This year's officers to be honored by the tea are: President, Frederick S. DeMarr; Vice president, John Giannetti; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Edith Bagot; Recording Secretary, Harold Hutcheson; Treasurer, Herb Embrey; Historian, James Wilfong; and Directors, Mrs. Suzanna Cristofane, Paul Lanham, and Alan Virta.

Mrs. Seidenspinner's home is located at 3917 Calverton Drive in College Heights Estates. More information and directions are enclosed on a separate announcement with this newsletter.

The June Meeting

The Society's June meeting will be held on Saturday, June 2. This will be the first Saturday of the month, not the second. The meeting will be held at the restored church, St. Barnabas, Leeland, originally built in 1774. More details will follow in the June newsletter.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

The St. George's Day Awards

At the Society's 6th annual St. George's Day Dinner, held on April 23 at the University of Maryland, the following individuals and organization were presented awards in recognition of their significant contributions to the preservation of our county's heritage.

Shirley Baltz, of Bowie: in recognition of years of tireless research on the Bowie-Queen Anne area, her efforts in the preservation of Belair stables and the Belair mansion, and for her book on Belair published by the City of Bowie during the Bicentennial year.

Frederick Tilp, of Alexandria: a native Prince Georgean for his book, This Was Potomac River, which has recorded for posterity much of the lore of the Potomac and its tributary, the Eastern Branch or Anacostia, and their role in the development of this county and the state of Maryland.

Donald Skarda, of Berwyn Heights: for his Bicentennial history of Berwyn Heights and the surrounding area, which was another outstanding contribution to the literature on the history of Prince George's County.

Prince George's County Genealogical Society: for its many efforts in the area of genealogy, and its publications program, most notably the printing and indexing of the 1850 census of Prince George's County.

Gertrude L. Poe, of Laurel: in recognition of the support and promotion she has given to projects in the areas of history and preservation during her 40 years with the Laurel News Leader, most recently the Bicentennial, the Montpelier restoration, and Laurel Horizons project.

Dr. and Mrs. Bryan P. Warren, of Laurel: pioneers in the field of preservation, Dr. and Mrs. Warren purchased and restored Snow Hill and over the years have shared it with the public on numerous house tours. Mrs. Warren, with the active support of her husband, served as first chairman of the Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Louis L. Goldstein, of Prince Frederick: Comptroller of Maryland, in recognition of his encouragement and direct assistance to many in this county in their quest to maintain our rich heritage, both as a private citizen and as a member of the State Board of Public Works, manifested most recently in the transfer of the State's title to the Magruder House in Bladensburg to the Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Laurie Verge, of Clinton, and Joan Chaconas, of Brandywine: president and vice president, respectively, of the Surratt Society. Under Laurie Verge's leadership, the Surratt Society continues to grow and operates on a professional level equal to that of the leading programs in the nation. Joan Chaconas' contributions have been many, but primarily in the area of research of the Surratt story and its interpretation to the public, and with the authoritative book she prepared on the John Wilkes Booth escape route.

Maryland in our History"

Between 1822 and the beginning of the Civil War, approximately 15,000 American blacks left this country to establish a new life on the West Coast of Africa. The nation they and their descendants created was Liberia, one of only two African states--the other being the ancient kingdom of Ethiopia--to remain independent during the European conquest of that continent later in the century.

The blacks from America who settled in Liberia were free blacks or recently freed slaves. They were financed and transported to Africa by a white organization, the American Colonization Society, and its affiliates in many states, Maryland included. The American Colonization Society was founded in 1816 to aid free blacks who wished to emigrate to Africa. The motives of individual members of the society were as varied as the motivations of individual members of any movements. Many acted out of humanitarian concern recognizing the legal handicaps and prejudices under which free blacks lived in America; others thought two races could not

live peacefully together so desired the removal of the free blacks; others viewed the existence of a free black population as a challenge to the institution of slavery and thus wanted that free black class expelled. Whatever the motivations of individual members, those who led the colonization movement were moderate men, men who were motivated by humanitarian concern or a feeling that resettlement in Africa was best for all concerned. They were a middle force, between the abolitionists who wanted immediate emancipation of all slaves and the most extreme slaveholders who urged re-enslavement of all free blacks.

The Maryland State Colonization Society was the most active of all of the state societies. The support of colonization was so strong in Maryland, which had the largest free black population of any state, that Marylanders after several years decided to embark on an independent scheme of colonization, separate from the national society's Liberia colony. In 1833 the Maryland State Colonization Society drafted a constitution for the projected colony, to be named "Maryland in Liberia," and in 1834 the first settlers reached the shores of Africa, at Cape Palmas, south of Liberia proper.

The Maryland colony, as Liberia, was an English-speaking, Christian state. The blacks who emigrated there from Maryland did not adopt traditional tribal culture; indeed, many were third or fourth generation Americans. They built a nation and governed themselves (and eventually the natives) just as European settlers who came to America built a society exclusive of the Indians. To this day, descendants of the settlers dominate the government of Liberia (into which Maryland in Liberia was incorporated). While keeping in mind its political and ideological point of view, it is interesting to note that the journal, The New Republic, in an article published last month, likened Liberia to the white governments of the old colonial regimes that once ruled the rest of Africa, except for the fact that the ruling minority is black, not white. Whatever the merits or demerits of the social and political structure of Liberia, however, that nation has always been a staunch friend of the United States and a valuable ally on the continent of Africa.

Below we reprint extracts from a speech by Ernest Jerome Yancy, delivered on the centennial of Maryland in Liberia's incorporation into the nation of Liberia. It is a patriotic speech, expressing the pride the Liberians feel for the nation they created from the wilderness. Keep in mind that references to "Maryland" generally are to the Maryland in Liberia.

--Alan Virta

Oration Delivered on the Occasion of the
Centennial Celebration of Maryland County,
Republic of Liberia, April 24, 1957
by Ernest Jerome Yancy

. . . Today marks a century since the "State of Maryland in Liberia" became the County of Maryland of the Republic of Liberia. What happened a century ago has certainly made a great impact on the history and character of the Republic of Liberia....

Since April 24, 1857, tremendous changes have taken place; new concepts have emerged. The pace of events of these one hundred years has become swift until mankind has been pressed to keep up with it. But amidst it all God has been our shield and protection. Therefore let us on this occasion give Him the praise for His blessings and cares. Moreover it is only through His mercy and grace that what that group of men and women of distinguished talents and character did have a century ago has not only endured but has developed into something greater than they dreamed of. I have therefore selected for your consideration the subject "Maryland In Our History."

... The constitution of "Maryland In Liberia" was adopted on November 22, 1833 by the Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society. Six days thereafter the first group of emigrants was sent out to establish the new colony in Liberia on the West Coast of Africa. This group sailed from Baltimore on the "Brig Ann" under the command of Captain W.U. Langdon, flying for the first time the flag of the proposed State of Maryland In Liberia....

On February 10, 1834, the "Brig Ann" arrived at Garraway [on the African coast] and on the following day at 4:01 p.m. anchored in the harbor of Cape Palmas, with Dr. James Hall as agent of the Maryland State Colonization Society, who later became the first governor of Maryland In Liberia.

February 12 and 13 were spent in negotiations between Dr. James Hall, assisted by Messrs. George R. McGill and James M. Thomson and the owners of the soil, represented through and by their Kings, Freeman, alias Parmah of Cape Palmas, Will, alias Weah Belio of Garraway, and Joe Howard, alias Pahfluer of Grand Cavalla. On February 10, 1834, the deeds for four hundred square miles of territory and a Treaty of Friendship were signed. As compensation for the four hundred square miles of territory the Kings "accepted" the following: four cases muskets, twenty kegs of powder, one hundred pieces of cloth, ten neptunes, ten brass bottles, twenty hats, one hundred cutlasses, two hundred pounds beads, one thousand five hundred iron pots, six dozen looking glasses, twenty-four iron bars, one hundred trade knives, three hogsheads, tobacco, ten boxes of pipes, two kegs flints, six dozen locks, twenty-four decanters, fifty mugs, fifty bowls, one hundred fishing hooks, three pieces brass branded pistols, fifty pieces scissors and fifty Spanish dollars.

Immediately after the execution of the deeds and treaty, clearing of the site, on which the first homes were built, began. On February 22, 1834, the emigrants landed on the spot on which the Centennial Monument now stands. This was the beginning of the State of Maryland In Liberia.

From November 22, 1833, the date when the "Brig Ann" sailed from Baltimore with the first group of emigrants for Cape Palmas, to February 22, 1854, the Colony was administered and supported by the Maryland State Colonization Society through and by its agents and appointed governors. During that period there were five governors, namely: Dr. James Hall, Dr. O.W. Holmes, Mr. John B. Russworm, Dr. Samuel F. McGill, and Mr. William A. Prout. Drs. Hall and Holmes were white medical physicians, while Dr. Samuel F. McGill, also a medical doctor, Messrs. Russworm and Prout were [black American] emigrants.

Despite the fact that the Maryland State Colonization Society began to relax its control of the affairs in the colony and appointed Hr. Russworm governor,...the colonists of Maryland In Liberia began to clamor for complete independence from the Society. Perhaps the independence of the Republic of Liberia became their impetus. To quote the late Dr. S.D. Ferguson in this respect. "The people of Maryland In Liberia, twenty years after the Pioneer Settlers landed here, felt that the time had come for them to assume the reins of government and to declare themselves a Free, Sovereign, and Independent State. They therefore dispatched William A. Prout and William Cassell to Baltimore to treat with the parent Society on the subject."

Honorable Prout and Honorable Cassell, when going, carried with them the Declaration of Rights and Constitution that had been adopted by the colonists on March 29, 1853. This Constitution was almost a replica of the original [drafted by the Colonization Society] save in one respect, It did not forbid the use of "ardent spirits" excepting for and in sickness. Therefore the Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society refused to give approval to it until this prohibition was replaced by Messrs. Prout and Cassell.

Messrs. Prout and Cassell returned to Cape Palmas on the 29th day of May, 1854, and on June 6 of the same year their acts were ratified, the new constitution was adopted and the first election was held...

The late Dr. S.D. Ferguson, in his oration delivered on February 22, 1916, said: "From its founding [in 1834 to December 1856, there was not a single war to mar the peace of the colonists. But on the 22d of December 1856, not quite three years after declaring herself independent, we find the first battle taking place between the colonists and natives. The towns of the Greboes were fired upon and they were forced to retreat across toe Hoffman River. The Government of Maryland In Liberia found itself less than able than it had anticipated to carry on the war in which it was engaged, having been defeated in an attack made upon the natives, in which twenty-six of its citizens, including many of its active, enterprising and valuable class of its population had perished; and, apprehending danger to the very continual existence, of the state, should the natives prosecuted with vigor an attack, made on the Republic of Liberia the next most urgent appeal for succor."

[The Liberians responded with military aid, the natives did not attack, and a treaty of peace was signed with the native Kings.]

After peace was restored, the Government and people of the State of Maryland In Liberia immediately addressed themselves to the subject of their future. Foremost among the many factors which influenced their thinking and finally their decision was that of their numerical strength as compared to that of the natives. Their total number did not exceed nine hundred, including women and children while that of the natives was estimated at sixty thousand. Therefore, when this factor was taken into consideration, it was unanimously decided, by ballot, that annexation to the Republic of Liberia was the most logical and desirable thing to do. . . .

The Legislature [of Liberia] met on the 8th day of April 1857 and on the following day, President Benson [of Liberia] delivered a special message and presented the said petition, which was favorably considered, and acted upon by the Legislature and approved on the 24th day of April, 1857--a century ago. Thus was the State of Maryland In Liberia dissolved and annexed to the Republic of Liberia as the county of Cape Palmas, later changed to the county of Maryland

... Fellow Marylanders, that must have been a day of mixed feelings; feelings of sadness on the one hand, joy and gratitude on the other. Sadness, because that proud, brave and talented band of men and women had to yield to the events of their day. Gratitude, because they had not utterly failed and for their deliverance by God through the instrumentality of their sister state of their own kin and kith. Again joy, because they foresaw wider opportunities and wider horizons for participation in nation building. . . . Yes, since that eventful 24th day of April, 1857, Maryland has indeed been in our history. . . .

Let us resolve today to rededicate ourselves to the tasks ahead and to the principles upon which Maryland was founded, namely Justice to All, Humanity and Christianity. This is the surest way in our history to survive and will we be able to continue to sing

"All Hail Liberia Hail
In Union strong success is sure
We cannot fail
With God above our rights to prove
We will o'er all prevail!

" THUS WILL THERE ALWAYS BE MARYLAND IN OUR HISTORY.

The Governor of Maryland, U.S.A., Theodore R. McKeldin, was present for these Centennial celebrations. The detailed records of the Maryland State Colonization Society are kept at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. The colonization movement had support in Prince George's County. The names of numerous Prince George's citizens are found among the lists of financial contributors, and a local chapter of the state society was founded in Upper Marlboro. Many of the county's leading citizens were its organizers. We do not know now if any blacks from this county emigrated or not.

Preservation Week--May 6 through 12

In observance of Preservation Week, the Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust is encouraging the public to tour five of the county's historical sites. Appropriate to this nationally-designated week, all five sites are of national significance and visitors are sure to experience an enriched appreciation for our heritage that is only possible through the preservation of these, and other, physical aspects of our history. All sites are open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the dates indicated.

Fort Washington, Oxon Hill: Sunday, May 6

Overlooking the Potomac River, the fort, with its high masonry walls, gun positions, dry moat, and drawbridge, is considered an outstanding example of early 19th century coastal defense. Construction [of] the present fort began in 1814 to replace one destroyed during the War of 1812. For many years it was the capital city's major

Potomac River defense Take Indian Head Highway South from the Beltway. Turn right on Fort Washington Road.

Marietta, near Glenn Dale: Wednesday, May 9

An early 1800's brick country house, this was the home of Gabriel Duvall, Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury and justice of the Supreme Court. Take Route 450 east 4 1/2 miles from the Beltway to Bell Station Road. Turn left onto Bell Station Road and follow it to the house.

Montpelier, Laurel: Wednesday, May 9

This brick Snowden home, completed in the 1780's, is considered one of the nation's finest examples of Mid-Georgian Palladin [*sic*] architecture. Visitors may tour the 22-room mansion as well as the terraced gardens and 200-year old boxwood maze. From the Baltimore-Washington Parkway take Route 197 north. Turn left off of 197 onto Muirkirk Road at the light.

Surratt House, Clinton: Thursday, May 10

A two-story frame structure dating from 1852, built by John and Mary Surratt. It served as a tavern, polling place, and post office as well as the Surratt home--but its fame rests in that the assassin John Wilkes Booth stopped there on the night of April 14, 1865, during his escape from 'Washington. Largely because of that visit, Mary Surratt was convicted and hanged as a conspirator in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Located immediately south of the intersection of Old Branch Avenue and Piscataway Road.

George Washington House, Bladensburg: Friday, May 11

Also known as the Indian Queen Tavern, the house is restored as it was in the 1750's when Bladensburg was a major tobacco port. During the War of 1812 British troops established artillery emplacements on the grounds, and in 1894 Jacob Coxey's Army encamped in the yard. The house features a museum with dioramas of historic happenings in the county. Located on Alternate Route 1 (Baltimore Blvd.) near Peace Cross and Maryland Route 450.

--Prepared from an information release

Joseph C. Longridge

We regret to inform the membership of the death of Joseph C. Longridge, a charter member of the Society. Mr. Longridge served as an officer of the Society and was quite active in civic affairs, serving on the College Park City Council for some years.

Bowie Heritage Day

Bowie Heritage Day will be held this year on Sunday, May 20, at the Belair mansion and stables. Local artifacts will be on display, and there will be music programs, military reenactment, a slide show on Bowie and Belair history, and other events. Hours are from 2 to 5 p.m.

Dues Reminder

Your 1979 membership dues should have been paid by now. If you've neglected to renew, please do so now. Mail your check to the Society's treasurer, Mr. Herb Embrey, at 10414 Tullymore Drive, Adelphi, Md. 20783.

Additional Notes

We have received some interesting correspondence regarding our request for reminiscences of the Pope's Creek Line. We will publish this in next month's newsletter. We shall also publish a list of names of new members. We are several months behind on this, and we apologize for the delay.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Maryland 20840

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277-0711

Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Edith Bagot Hyattsville

927-3632

Treasurer: Mr. Herb Embrey, Adelphi

434-2958

Newsletter Editor: Mr. Alan Virta, Greenbelt

474-7524



NEWS AND NOTES FROM

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Vol. VII, no. 6 June 1979

The June Meeting: At St. Barnabas, Leeland

Members of the Prince George's County Historical Society and their guests will have the opportunity to visit one of Prince George's County's historic churches, St. Barnabas Church at Leeland, when the Society meets there on Saturday, June 2.

St. Barnabas, Leeland is the church for Queen Anne's Parish, which was established by act of the General Assembly for the Anglican Church in 1704. The present structure was completed in 1774 and restored in the early 1970's. In 1976 the vestry of the parish received one of the Society's St. George's Day Awards in recognition of the fine job of restoration. During the colonial era the renowned portrait painter, Gustavus Hesselius, an emigrant from Sweden, painted his famous work, The Last Supper, for the church while he was living in Prince George's County. The Last Supper is recognized as the first painting commissioned for a public building in America and is the first important American painting with more than one figure. The Rev. Jonathan Boucher, a friend of Washington's but a Loyalist nonetheless, was rector at the church immediately before the Revolution. Boucher was tutor to Washington's step-son, Jackie Custis, and entertained Washington on several occasions at his nearby home, Mount Lubentia.

A past president of the Society, Mr. Forrest Bowie, will lead us on a tour of the church, recount its history, and describe the restoration process, which he supervised. There will be a slide show illustrating the progress of the restoration.

The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. St. Barnabas, Leeland is located on Oak Grove Road at its intersection with Church Road. Oak Grove Road runs between Route 202 (just below Kettering) and Route 301 (just below Central Avenue). From the Beltway, take Route 202 South past the Community College and Kettering and turn left onto Oak Grove Road.

St. Barnabas, Leeland is located in one of the prettiest rural sections of Prince George's County. Plan to visit the church with us on June 2.

The Summer Recess

The June meeting will be the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring season. Regular meetings will resume in September.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

ERECTED ON ST. GEORGE 'S DAY, APR I L 23, '1696

A Note of Thanks

The officers of the Society extend their warmest thanks to Mrs. Pauline Seidenspinner for the wonderful tea she gave in our honor at her home on May 20, and thank all those members and friends who attended. We also say thank you to all the ladies who assisted Mrs. Seidenspinner, and to Mrs. Virginia Batka, pianist, and Mrs. Thelma Brunelle, vocalist, who added so much to the occasion.

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following individuals to membership in the Prince George's County Historical Society:

	Town	Sponsor
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon J. Wells	College Park	Mrs. Skarda
Brenda W. Fullmer	Hyattsville	Mr. DeMarr
Clara C. Quintal	Greenbelt	Mrs. Wainscott
Miriam W. Novak	University Park	Mr. Giannetti
William T. Sullivan	Riverdale	Mr. Embrey
Margaret H. Lee	University Park	Mrs. Tatspaugh
Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Phillips	University Park	Mrs. Seidenspinner
John W. Brown	Washington, D.C.	Mr. DeMarr
Mr. and Mrs. Buck. Fleshman	Hyattsville	Mr. Cecil

Publications of the Genealogical Society

The Prince George's County Genealogical Society offers three fine publications for sale of interest to anyone studying the history or genealogy of Prince George's County:

1850 Census, Prince George's County, Maryland. 160 pages, hardcover. Contains a complete abstract, name index, and map of enumeration districts. This publication was cited in the St. George's Day Award presented to the Genealogical Society this year. \$15-00

Prince George's County Land Records, Volume A , 1696-1702. 98 pages, hardcover. Abstracts of the 250 earliest deeds after the erection of the county, indexed. \$6.00

A Bibliography of Published Genealogical Source Records, Prince George's County, Maryland. 18 pages, softcover. A guide to official records and other documents. \$1.50

These works can be purchased individually at the prices quoted above, or may be purchased together at a special reduced price of \$20.50. Orders may be addressed to:

The Prince George's County Genealogical Society Box 819A Bowie, Maryland 20715.

When purchased together, the savings is \$2.50.

A Dramatic Incident

While Prince George's was still the western frontier county, before it was reduced to its present size, there were three Presbyterian churches in it: The Patuxent Congregation at Upper Marlborough, the church at the Eastern Branch of the Potomac, and the new church at Captain John (Cabin John), now in Montgomery County.

In 1742 the town of Bladensburg was laid out on the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River just a short distance to the North of the meeting-house on the Eastern Branch, thus the church there came to be known as the

Bladensburg Presbyterian Church. It was located on the high ground of the present-day Evergreen Cemetery, once known as the "Old Presbyterian Cemetery."

The Reverend Hugh Conn, member of a family long established on the western bank of the Eastern Branch (present day Fort Lincoln Cemetery) was its pastor until his death, a dramatic incident. The Maryland Gazette for Thursday, 9th July, 1752, carried the following item:

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

The Eastern Branch or Bladensburg Church still flourishes today as the Hyattsville United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and counts as one of its Treasures the silver communion service given to the Patuxent Church in 1707 by Colonel Ninian Beall. The information presented in this article is composed of selected excerpts pirated from Louise Joyner Hinton's Prince George's Heritage, chapter six, "Presbyterian Beginnings in Prince George's County."

--Herb Embrey

A Note on St. George's Day

The Prince George's Journal took note of St. George's Day in an editorial in its edition of April 25. We reprint that editorial here, for it contains a suggestion that certainly merits serious consideration by the society, the county government, and our citizens at large.

"Monday, April 23, was St. George's Day, the 283d anniversary of the establishment of Prince George's County, and the occasion passed with remarkably little fanfare. The most notable celebration was the annual St. George's Day dinner of the Prince George's Historical Society, at which the society honors those who have helped preserve the heritage of the county.

In other quarters, April 23 was just another Monday.

As every schoolboy may not know, an act of the General Assembly and Governor Francis Nicholson of May 5, 1695 provided that effective April 23, 1696, Prince George's County would be formed of portions of Charles ... and Calvert counties.

Since then the county has been through a revolution, a bitter civil war, violent storms and other natural and economic disasters. The Industrial Revolution eventually brought its bounty and it's left its mark, on the land, and yet, the county endured.

We think that survival and growth in the face of nearly three centuries of adversity is enough to justify some modest public observance of the county's anniversary. Perhaps the historical society could work with the county government to devise an appropriate means of marking St. George's Day in the future.

The county has far to go, but it's reassuring to pause once a, year to reflect on how far it's come."

On the Pope's Creek Line

The reminiscences of the Pope's Creek Line we promised for this issue will be run next month.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Membership dues are \$5.00 per year, and include a subscription to this newsletter. Address: P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Md. 20840.

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Newsletter Editor:	Mr. Alan Virta 8244 Canning Terrace, Greenbelt 20770	474-7524



NEWS AND NOTES FROM

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Vol. VII, no. 7 July 1

St. Mary's-Summer Festival

A number of special events will be taking place at St. Mary's City this summer that should be of interest to members of the Society--particularly those looking for some diversion less than half a tank of gas away.

One of the most popular events is the living history production. "St. Maries City, 1685," which takes place on the old State House grounds on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from June 13 through August 12. According to the newsletter now published by Old St. Mary's City, the production "recreates a community of people who together live, work and share the experiences that every new day brings to their households and village." Professional actors play the roles of townspeople who lived in Maryland 300 years ago, and visitors witness some of the events of their daily lives in the setting of this picturesque country village. "St. Maries City, 1685" is a free presentation of St. Mary's City Commission and the St. Mary's Summer Festival.

The candlelight theater is another popular event at St. Mary's City, and this year will be presented in the Assembly Room of the Reconstructed State House of 1676 on Wednesdays through Sundays at 8:30 p.m. from June 13 through August 5. Several productions will be offered over the course of the summer. Reservations are required.

Other summer events will be the Children's Festival, July 14 and 15; Second Annual Ebenezer Cooke Poetry Festival, July 29; and Militia Days, July 22 and 23. The newly-built 65-foot replica of the Dove, the pinnace which along with the Ark brought the first group of Lord Baltimore's colonists to Maryland in 1634, is now docked on the St. Mary's River just below the Reconstructed State House.

For the latest information on these events, contact the St. Mary's Summer Festival, 272 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, Md., 20653, or call them at 301-863-8522.-,

New Members of the Historical and Cultural Trust

Three new members have been appointed to the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust by County Executive Larry Hogan. Confirmed by the County Council on June 19 were Joyce Rumburg of Greenbelt, J.J. Smith of Bowie (who is restoring Content in Upper Marlboro), and Alan Virta of Greenbelt.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Memories of the Pope's Creek Line

Back in the April issue of News and Notes there was published an article on the Pope's Creek railroad, which branches off of the Pennsylvania's Baltimore-Washington line at Bowie and runs through western and southern Prince George's County, into Charles, and on to Pope's Creek on the Potomac River. Since that article focused on the corporate history and economic benefits of the line, we asked for some personal reminiscences from members of the Society who rode the line back in its passenger-carrying days. Three of our members graciously responded, and we present their memories below. Space limitations have prevented us from printing every word; however each article is being retained in Society files and will be available to future researchers.

We further invite our members to send us their reminiscences on the subjects of any article that ever appears in News and Notes. Whether they are printed in the newsletter or not, they will be gratefully accepted and retained for future research. So much of Prince George's County's history is recorded only in the minds and memories of our citizens--the Society invites you to make sure that our history is preserved by writing it down and sending it to us.

"The High School Train"

For three years I rode the Pope's Creek Line from Collington Station to Upper Marlboro--1913-1914-1915. Collington was the station next to Bowie. A train came up from Pope's Creek every morning, arriving 7:19 a.m., went on to Bowie, turned around--arriving at Collington at 8:36.

This was the "High School Train." Many children from the Collington area attended Upper Marlboro High School. It was either that or go to Baltimore or Washington. At each station along the way--Mullikin, Hall, and Leland--students were picked up.

After reaching Upper Marlboro, we had one half mile walk to the school, rain or shine, sleet or snow. It was not possible for us to reach school until 9:30. Sometimes after a heavy rain, the bridge over Western Branch would be covered with water, too deep for us to walk in. Then anyone driving a buggy or wagon would offer us a ride.

The train returned to Upper Marlboro about 4:30--so we had time to be "kept in" after school or make up work missed in the morning. It was almost 5:00 p.m. when we reached Collington. There we drove in a buggy to our home 2 miles away. It was a long, day, having left home at 8:00 a.m.--returning about 5:30 p.m.

The conductor was very nice to us but sometimes we were a trial to him.

I remember the gallons of oysters that my father used to have sent up from Pope's Creek. The conductor would buy them for him. My father was R. Lee Mullikin, who was station agent at Collington.

--Margaret M. Marshall (Mrs. Robert M. Marshall, Sr.)

"A Memory of the Pope's Creek Line"

Your reference to the "Pope's Creek Line" in recent issues of News and Notes was of interest to me, as I can remember my Mother mentioning this railroad. She was Ellen Lee Young (Mrs. Alexander Worthington Bowling, #2) born in 1877. Her parents were Livingston I. Young of the "Lower Gisboro" house on the Potomac and his wife, Louisa Gwynn of Piscataway.

Louisa Gwynn Young died while her three children were small and her husband deposited his brood at "Lower Gisboro" to be raised by his parents. I do not know whether my Mother's memories of the Pope's Creek Railroad stemmed from days at "Lower Gisboro" or from her frequent summer visits to her Mother's Gwynn relatives.

When my brother and I used to laugh at a newspaper cartoon series called "The Toonerville Trolley That Meets All the Trains" she would say, "But you should have ridden on the Pope's Creek Line!" She used to describe the train as wending its leisurely way through the lovely Southern Maryland countryside, picking up its passengers as it went. "If you wanted a ride," she would say, "all you had to do was to cross the nearest tobacco field and flag down the train. It always stopped."

Whether she was joking or not, I never knew, but I've always had a picture in my mind of the "Pope's Creek Railroad" as a method of travel as interesting and different as the fictional "Toonerville Trolley."

--Eleanora Bowling Kane (Mrs. Richard Robbins Kane)

Note: Lower Gisborough (or Gisboro), one of two old houses on The Gisborough Manor lands, was demolished in 1931 to make way for or the extension of a runway at Bolling Field. The manor was originally in Prince George's County, but became part of the District of Columbia, when the District was created. Bolling Field, along the Potomac, occupies the site now.

"From Bowie to Upper Marlboro"

I read with great interest the account of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in the April newsletter, especially the references to the Pope's Creek Line. As I attended high school at Upper Marlboro from 1932 to 1936 and living in Bowie, that train was my only means of transportation....

The train was a combined freight and passenger train, usually very long with many freight cars and the one passenger car, which was half baggage car on the end. Just in front of the baggage car was the caboose where the freight personnel were based. The conductor was a Fir. Oscar Ferguson, a passenger conductor from Baltimore... My father, John Vermillion, was the conductor on the freight train when the two were separate. He retired in 1930 after forty-three years of service Mr. Lee Mulligan of High Bridge was the passenger conductor during my father's time. My mother told me that when she was a little girl, attending Collington School, located in the northwest corner of Routes 450 and 197, the lady who was to become the future Mrs. Lee Mulligan was her teacher. Every morning and afternoon, when the train went by, the future Mrs. Mulligan was at the window to wave. (I don't know her maiden name.) ...

Mr. William Trott was the Station Agent at Bowie and John "Jerry" Dorsey was his assistant. Jerry lived with his family in a very attractive little residence which was attached to the station. Mr. Walter Showalter was the telegraph operator in the tower. As children, to all felt free to visit with him in the evenings (he always worked the evening shift). He would let us throw the switches which changed the tracks for oncoming trains. He was an avid checker player and kept an ongoing game with other operators along the line using the telegraph equipment and a marked checkerboard.

. . .Most of us [student riders from Bowie] were "deadheads Because they worked for the Railroad our fathers could get us passes.

The stations along the line were Collington, Mitchellville, Hall Station, Leeland, and Upper Marlboro. Between Collington and just south of Hall Station the countryside was largely farmland, the rest wooded. Between Leeland and Marlboro there were large tracts of swampland with sizable lakes within it. Once, on a very warm, sleepy afternoon several of the freight cars ahead overturned while rounding a turn through those swamps. A brakeman, standing in the open door of the baggage-car saw the freight cars go over. Responding immediately, he pulled the emergency brake cord and stopped the train. We were all thrown against the seats ahead but no one was injured and everyone said afterward that we were saved from being pulled over with the freight cars by the brakeman's quick action. That was the first time I had seen an emergency phone that they had which could be attached to the lines running along the tracks. With this they reported the accident. Arrangements were made to send cars to pick us up. However, we had to walk to the nearest crossing. We were sure we knew its location toward Leeland but Mr. Ferguson insisted that it was toward Marlboro. We walled a long way in the wrong direction before it was established that we had to turn around and go back. My

brother John was one of those who was sent for us. Apparently there was a thriving business in bootleg whiskey in that area during prohibition and the Railroad men were good customers. It was packaged in one half gallon jars. My mother had a large collection which she used for canning fruits and vegetables.

There had always been a seating problem which caused friction between the white and black kids. We were greatly outnumbered and, unless we got to the train first, we had little chance of getting seats together. On rare occasions, when there were other passengers on the train and no available seats, the Men would let us ride in the baggage section where we could sit down. Mr. Ferguson always reserved for himself a double seat in the rear of the car which he used for his office. The year when I rode alone [the Junior year] he usually invited me to ride there. He was a reader of the Morning Sun and I spent the morning trip reading it. I think that was my first introduction to the Bentztown Bard. The writer, Folger MacKinsey, is of interest to me because he had a home here in Severna Park where I now live and we have a Folger MacKinsey Elementary School and a MacKinsey Road....

--Elizabeth Vermillion Donoho

A Visit to Birmingham Manor--1979

Birmingham- Manor, one of the earliest homes of the Snowden family in Maryland, was situated in Anne Arundel County 1.35 miles northeast of Montpelier, the more famous of the Snowden residences. Richard Snowden, Jr., known as "The Ironmaster" because of his association with the Patuxent Iron Works, built Birmingham Manor about 1690 on a tract of land in a larger section called "Robin Hood's Forst." Birmingham Manor was one of the first as well as the finest examples of colonial architecture in Maryland until its total destruction by fire on August 21, 1891. Julius Snowden, who lived at Birmingham Manor before the fire, built a "bungalow" over the ruins. This later structure was intact until at least 1939 and is presumed to have been torn down subsequent to acquisition of the property by the Army for Camp Meade in 1941. The present day site lies adjacent to Switchboard Road on land belonging to the U.S. Park Service and is part of the right-of-way of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway some 100 feet away. A good part of the original manor grounds, however, remains on Fort Meade property through which the only access can be made. About 500 feet southsouthwest from the manor site is Birmingham Cemetery, the family burial ground. It is now called Snowden Cemetery, contained within, a fairly new chain-link fence, and is well maintained by the U.S. Army.

During a recent visit by this writer to the manor site little was revealed of its original grandeur. There is a grassy knoll upon which the manor house once dominated the countryside. A few feet to the west a deep hole attests to a water supply. Leading from this well is a cement walk of later construction and mostly buried under encroaching vegetation. There is also some piping and pieces of modern brick and clay tile. The place also bares evidence of recent visitation antedating a pile of thoroughly rusted cans with soft drink and beer bottles scattered about the brush plus the inevitable aluminum can. Visitors of thirty or so years ago left their souvenirs too as expended 30 caliber shells... the only reminder of the Army's passage. Immediately below the edge of the knoll are nondescript stone monoliths which, upon closer examination, take on some archaeological significance. These artifacts are the remains of the second building on the site, i.e. Julius Snowden's bungalow.

These are parts of the bungalow's foundation. Broken sections expose their construction to be of concrete mixed with brick rubble from the old manor itself. Other parts of the bungalow are plainly visible and consist of modern brick mortared to antique bricks from the manor despite differences in their sizes. Several good examples of the manor's "keystone brick" of which the first floor walls were constructed were found lying on the surface. It has been recorded that these bricks and other building materials for Birmingham were shipped from Richard Snowden's native land and brought to the site by barges on the nearby Patuxent River. A few of these bricks and fragments of iron were picked up at the site for the collection of the Prince George's County Historical Society.

Foundations of other buildings can be traced on or near the ground's surface but their relationship to the manor or Julius Snowden's bungalow cannot be determined without excavation. Care was taken not to disturb the site should serious archaeological exploration be undertaken in the future.

From a photograph of Birmingham Manor taken in 1884 there is no comparison with the way the place looks today. However, three trees visible in the old photograph are still there. Two, flanking the manor, remain standing but are quite dead. A third, shown to be in front of the house, is on the ground and obviously has been for many years.

It is a lonely place now. Except for light traffic noise from the parkway, one can scarcely imagine anything other than a wilderness having been there. Not only is the beautiful old manor gone but so are the boxwoods which adorned the place, and the gardens and manicured lawns and all the other outbuildings. No longer are there voices of children and people going about their business. Nearly three hundred years have passed since Richard Snowden's arrival--nothing remains now but a memory gently forested by nature's quiet but relentless reclamation of what was once hers.

--Francis N. Allen

Source: Montpelier and the Snowden Family, by William G. Cook. A Maryland Bicentennial Publication, 1976.

Editor's Note: The author carefully states that "it is recorded" that Birmingham was built of imported brick. The question of the origin of the bricks in many fine Maryland colonial homes has long, been discussed and debated. Today, the preponderance of historical opinion is that most bricks were not imported, despite tradition. The late journalist-historian-novelist-poet Alfred G. Townsend (Gath) went as far as to state that he doubted that any home in Maryland was constructed of imported brick. Brick could be made fairly easily here, and the cost of shipping it from England would be quite high. James Wilfong devoted an entire article on the myth of imported English brick in the Prince George's Post of April 12, 1973.

Postscript

Those ads which appear regularly in the Washington newspapers for the all-you-can-eat crab feasts at Pope's Creek are mighty tempting but the gas crisis and the thought of standing in long gas lines serves to discourage frequent trips to Pope's Creek by those of us in the northern part of Prince George's County. If only the Pope's Creek Line could take us there now.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

P.O. Box 14, Riverdale 20840

President, Mr. Frederick S. DeMarr, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Edith Bagot; Treasurer, Mr. Herb Embrey; Newsletter editor, Mr. Alan Virta.



NEWS AND NOTES FROM

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Vol. VII, no. 8 August, 1979

The Society Program This Fall

An ambitious meeting program for this Fall has been planned by the Society's program chairman, John Giannetti, and the board of directors. Special events will include an October luncheon meeting at the Rossborough Inn, University of Maryland, and the traditional Christmas Party at Montpelier. The September meeting, to be held on September 8, will feature Orva Heissenbuttel, who will speak on American Empire Antiques. Details on the September meeting will follow in next month's newsletter.

Patuxent River Park

The Patuxent River Park, located at Jackson's Landing on Jug Bay, has several programs which may be of interest to members of the Society. The park offers numerous nature programs, including canoeing pontoon tours, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, and nature walks through woodland and on boardwalks over swamp and marsh. A short trail has been prepared for wheelchairs and the visually handicapped. All of these programs are designed to acquaint the visitor with the environment and ecology of the Patuxent River.

There are also several park programs which illustrate human life along the river in days past. There is an old log cabin, smokehouse, and hunting and trapping shed, and a timber and hunting area where park naturalists demonstrate pioneer skills and tools needed to build an early homestead. There is also a program on tobacco, illustrating tobacco stripping and prizing.

It is best to call before visiting the park for the first time to check out the availability of particular programs which interest you. There is a \$3.00 fee to use the park, and this permit may be used by the family throughout the year. The popular pontoon boat tours of the river area, which last 50 minutes and cost \$1.50 per person, will be offered through October 15, but advance reservations are necessary. The pontoon tours can accommodate handicapped persons, but are open only to adults or teenagers who are at least 14 years of age.

Patuxent River Park publishes an annual calendar of events. For more information, call the park at 627-6075. The park is located off of Croom Airport Road, approximately 5.1 miles south of Upper Marlboro.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Addition to the National Register

Beall's Pleasure, built by the Secretary of Navy in President John Adams' administration, Benjamin Stoddert, has been accepted onto the National Register of Historic Places. Beall's Pleasure was built sometime after 1794 near the Beaver Dam Creek, now in the Landover community.

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following individuals to membership in the Prince George's County Historical Society:

Mr. Edward J. Griffin	Greenbelt	Sponsor
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob P. Busch	Upper Marlboro	Mr. Cecil
Mr. Glenn T. Harrell, Jr.	Upper Marlboro	Mr. Giannetti
		Mr. Durity

Victorian House Plans

A popular architectural magazine of the late 19th century was Shoppell's Modern Houses, published by R. W. Shoppell and the Cooperative Building Plan Association of New York. Included in the magazine were articles on homebuilding, maintenance, heating, ventilating, plumbing, decoration, landscaping, and other topics of concern to the homeowner or prospective homeowner, as well as numerous floor plans and drawings of Shoppell-designed homes. Individuals who wished to build a particular Shoppell home could order complete plans and specifications at additional cost from the publisher. They claimed that more than 8,000 of their homes were built around the country.

Antiquity Reprints, of Rockville Centre, New York, has recently published a catalog of 18 designs (drawings, floor plans, lists of building materials and special features) taken from the 1887 issues of Shoppell's Modern Houses. They are grand houses of the Victorian style, and the floor plans themselves are fascinating to examine and compare with the simple and often unimaginative plans in today's modern houses. The catalog also reprints several articles from the magazine.

The catalog is available for \$5.00 from Antiquity Reprints, Box 370 RS, Rockville Centre New York 11571.

--from an article in the Washington Star, April 6, 1979, by Lew Sichelman

Old Town College Park Preservation Association

The August meeting of the Old Town College Park Preservation Association will be held on Thursday evening, August 9, at 7 p.m. in the College Park Municipal Building. Guest speaker will be Orva Heissenbuttel who will speak on "Buying Antiques." For more information contact Billie Schnabel, 064-6709.

Remembering "Pussyfoot" Johnson

One of the most colorful figures of the early decades of the 20th century--on both the national and international scene--was the legendary "Pussyfoot" Johnson, a leader of the international Prohibition movement. "Pussyfoot," as he was known to millions, crusaded against drink across America and the world with such style, enthusiasm, and good humor that even his opponents, the "wets," had to like him. He was a big man with a jolly face and a wide smile, and the public liked him--even those who disagreed. The New York Times, on April 24, 1920, said this of Johnson: "He is the kind of prohibitionist that the most devoted opponents of prohibition have a fondness for. He has an ample sense of humor. He is as gay as the gayest bacchanalian song. He can take and give a joke. No heckling ruffles him. If anybody can persuade and win the wicked, it is a man of his type." Perhaps the secret of Pussyfoot's popularity and success was that he campaigned against drink on practical grounds--that alcohol was an enemy of humanity, of progress, and the family--instead of

making it a moral issue. When asked by Cosmopolitan Magazine in May 1926 if he had ever tasted alcohol his answer was simple: "Gallons of it!"

For a number of years, Pussyfoot Johnson lived in Prince George's County. A native of Chenango County, N.Y., he worked first as a reporter and then for the prohibition cause in Nebraska, Kansas City, and New York. While in Nebraska he met and wed a Laurel, Md., girl, so when his work brought him to Washington--sometime between 1899 and 1903--it was natural that they settle near her home town. Since Pussyfoot's work took him away from home quite often--sometimes for months, especially when he was in the Indian Service--Laurel was a good place for his wife and boys.

Pussyfoot left Prince George's County in 1912, when he accepted a job as editor of an Anti-Saloon League publication in Westerville, Ohio. One of his sons, however, remained here, and when Pussyfoot's wife died in 1927 in Westerville, she was returned to Laurel to be buried near her parents. Pussyfoot himself retired in 1929 and returned to his native Chenango County where he died in 1945.

In this issue of News and Notes we present three articles about Pussyfoot Johnson: a story of his life in Prince George's County, by John Brennan, some events of his career as found in his obituary, and an account of the "ragging" in London during which he lost an eye. More information on Pussyfoot can be found in the Standard Encyclopedia of the Alcohol Problem (1925), National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Who Was Who in America, and his biography (1920 , cited later.

William E. ("Pussyfoot") Johnson

At the meeting of the Society held in May, the editor of News and Notes happened to overhear Mrs. Felix E. Cristofane commenting on two crumbling 1916-20 scrapbooks she had with her pertaining to a one-time Laurel resident named William Eugene ("Pussyfoot") Johnson. Whereupon the editor asked that the highlights of her remarks be put on paper and he be furnished a copy for the newsletter.

The name "Pussyfoot" will ring a bell in the minds of all elderly readers [John Brennan's term!] who lived during, and kept track of, the zany goings-on of the Prohibition era, and they may or may not now recall that Pussyfoot Johnson was a top-level "dry" who acquired the nickname that he apparently relished incident to his pursuit of malefactors who were illegally supplying firewater to Indians out West in the early 1900's

Exactly when Mr. Johnson took up residence on the Washington Boulevard just south of Laurel, opposite the present-day Gude farm, isn't known, but the sparkling white corner house at the intersection of Route 1 and Locust Grove Drive was his home. While living here at "Oak Crest," which is the name of the settlement that borders the city limits line, this dedicated prohibitionist commuted to his Washington office (at the Methodist Building on Capitol Hill?) via the B & O Railroad's tiny Oak Crest station a few blocks behind his house.

Conversations with old-timers, buttressed by biographical information contained in the two scrapbooks, testify that William E. Johnson was a good-natured, tolerant, voluble gentleman who was known, liked, and respected not only locally but worldwide. The clippings tell of his ambition and efforts to have other countries follow the United States in adopting Prohibition, and in London, during a mock kidnapping perpetrated by a mob of 2,000 students, this good man lost his right eye to a thrown object. England was terrified at the thought that our Noble Experiment might be extended over into that ale-loving land.

Mr. Johnson's boys, Clarence Trevitt and Clifford Lee, went to school in Laurel, and their learned father would from time to time be invited to deliver the commencement address at exercises held in the Victoria Academy of Music that burned to its foundations in 1917 two days before this country entered World War I. Their mother is buried in Laurel's Ivy Hill Cemetery under a substantial and imposing monument showing that Lillian Trevitt Johnson was born in 1859 and died in 1927.

Mrs. Cristofane's scrapbooks turned up in the attic of a house near hers in Bladensburg that was once the home of Hr. Johnson's son Clifford, nicknamed "Kip." As a young man Kip taught school in Bladensburg, and

Mrs. Cristofane remembers with gratitude taking her report card home with "100-plus" entered thereon in his handwriting. In the custom of times past, Kip roomed and boarded at the home of a local family, the Ducketts, and he ended up marrying not one but two of the Duckett girls. The first wife died while he was working as a cartoonist for a Cincinnati newspaper after his return from service in World War I and the second, Augusta, is buried beside him in the churchyard of Holy Trinity Church in Collington, near Bowie. Thanks to Shirley Baltz, the authority on everything in the Bowie-Collington area, it may be stated that the gravestones of Kip and his second wife show identical life-spans, 1889-1960.

Now for the punchline. On a trip to visit relatives in upper New York State some years ago, the Cristofanes detoured via Greene, New York, where they had been told Pussyfoot had been buried in Sylvan Lawn Cemetery, (Mrs. Cristofane had known Pussyfoot slightly, incident to his visits to his son Kip.)

"Might we see the grave of Mr. William E. Johnson?" Mrs. Cristofane asked one of the cemetery attendants--whose answer was that there were so many Johnsons that he would have to go inside and consult cemetery records. At that point, just to keep the conversation going, Mrs. Cristofane self-consciously added, "His nickname was "Pussyfoot," whereupon the attendant beamed and asked, "Why didn't you say so? Of course I know where Pussyfoot is, and I'll take you right to him."

And that is how the Cristofanes were able to see with their own eyes a modern-looking, highly polished, elongated granite monument, at whose base are the balancing epitaphs "William E., 1862-1945" and "May Stanley, 1881-1963," [his second wife] and in the very center of which is the headline-size logo: "Pussyfoot" Johnson.

--- John C. Brennan

"PUSSYFOOT" JOHNSON, 82, NOTED CRUSADER IN DRY CAUSE, DIES

Gained His Nickname as Federal Agent in Oklahoma

Binghamton, N.Y. Feb. 3 [1945] William E. "Pussyfoot" Johnson, 82, who for 50 years waged battle against drink in all parts of the world except Alaska and South America, died yesterday.

Mr. Johnson, who retired in 1929 to his Smithville Flats (N.Y.) home, represented the American Anti-Saloon League abroad. From 1906 to 1908 he was a Government agent, obtaining more than 97 per cent convictions in nearly 6,000 bootlegging cases. Eight of his deputies were killed during the period, one because he resembled "Pussyfoot."

Mr. Johnson died in a Binghamton hospital where he had been taken in January. He had been in ill health for several months.

In the later years he expressed regret that the United States tried prohibition without the support of public opinion.

"It will return some day," Mr. Johnson said after repeal, "but not in our time."

Mr. Johnson became an international figure during his campaign in England in 1919 when he was mobbed and lost the sight of his right eye. He acquired the nickname of "Pussyfoot" 13 years earlier as chief special officer of the Indian Service.

Appointed by Theodore Roosevelt to enforce antiliquor laws and clean up bootlegging in Oklahoma and Indian Territory, Mr. Johnson visited a Haskell (Okla.) poolroom proprietor suspected of selling liquor.

Pretending to be a drunken cattleman, Mr. Johnson entered the poolroom and demanded a drink. He rejected the sarsaparilla offered and the proprietor then produced whisky. Immediately Mr. Johnson arrested him.

Struck Like Lightning

An Oklahoma newspaper, describing the raid, said "The booze hunter strikes like lightning even if he is a pussyfoot."

The nickname stuck and Mr. Johnson took pride in it. "That name is all right" he said years later. "It traveled around the world faster than I could keep up with it. Pussyfoot opened doors to places that William E. Johnson never could have entered."

One of Mr. Johnson's gun battles in his efforts to dry up Indian Territory occurred in two bootleggers' shack on a neutral strip of land a few feet wide and three quarters of a mile long, between Oklahoma and Kansas. The strip was called "no man's land" because at that time it was declared to belong to neither state.

The bootleggers denied Mr. Johnson and bragged that if he molested them he would be "carried away in a pine box."

With a deputy a few days later, Mr. Johnson entered the saloon. Two pine boxes were carried from the place--with the bootleggers in them.

Mr. Johnson once said that while serving the Government he never dared sit in a restaurant in one of the Western towns where he was known unless his back was to the wall. When he entered, he said, he usually had his hand on his pistol.

Dragged From Platform

Pussyfoot's invasion of England made him the most cartooned man in the British Isles and the target of English comic writers.

During one of his London campaigns he was dragged from a platform and paraded through the streets by a mob of students. A missile thrown by some one in the crowd struck him in the eye, causing loss of sight.

From a cot in the hospital he wrote the students: "You had a good time. I had a good time. I have no complaints, but if you want fun, get into the game against the greatest enemy of the human race--drink."

His pluck in that affair won him many friends. King George V personally expressed regrets; British sympathizers raised a \$2,000 fund for his dry campaign.

With a bandage still over his eye, Mr. Johnson redoubled his efforts throughout the British Isles. Despite the mobs which required police intervention frequently he won over many towns in Scotland to local option in the regulation of the liquor traffic.

He was born in Chenango County, N.Y., March 25, 1862, a son of William and Elizabeth Johnson. Prohibition interested him while a student in the University of Nebraska.

From 1884 to 1886, he was a reporter on the Lincoln Daily News and associate editor of The Voice, a prohibition weekly. He was prohibition nominee for the House of Delegates in [Prince George's County] Maryland in 1903, Prohibition candidate for Congress for the 5th Maryland district a year later, and in 1905 and 1909 managed the publicity campaign to promote passage of the denatured alcohol bill.

He married Lillie M. Trevitt in Lincoln in 1886. They had two sons, Clarence and Clifford. He married Mrs. May Stanley of Washington in 1928, after the death of his first wife.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at Greene, N.Y.

Mr. Johnson's son, Clifford Johnson, is an attorney with the Veterans' Administration here, and lives at 3906 Forty-eight Street, Bladensburg, Md. He left last night to attend his father's funeral in Greene, N.Y. The other son, Maj. Clarence Johnson, is on duty at the prisoner of war camp, Fort Benning, Ga.

--from the Washington Evening Star, Feb. 3, 1945.

Note: In a genealogical work, John Johnson and Other Johnsons, printed and written by Pussyfoot in 1940, it is recorded that Clarence went to California after World War I, where he twice served as mayor of San Bernardino. Clifford, who stayed here, was president of the Greater Bladensburg Citizens Association. Their mother's parents were Constant and Susan (Lee) Trevitt.

The Ragging of Pussyfoot Johnson

The famous incident in which Pussyfoot Johnson lost his right eye occurred in London in 1919. The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution--enacting Prohibition in this country--had been passed in January of that year, and Pussyfoot was ready to go international. In cooperation with British prohibition leaders, a speaking tour through England and Scotland was arranged.

He met a large crowd in London, many of them students who did not agree with his advocacy of prohibition. They created some disturbance in the hall--by catcalling and singing songs they had written about him--but it seemed all in fun and Pussyfoot laughed and joked along. So far, it was just an old-fashioned "ragging."

Then all of a sudden, a mob of the students rushed the platform. They scuffled briefly with the others on the platform, including Pussyfoot, before carrying him away, out of the hall. The rally organizers were furious, as were those who had seriously come to hear him--but Pussyfoot had been spirited away.

Outside, the students carried Pussyfoot aloft, singing about him and covering him with flour. He soon quit struggling and went along with the gag. He was borne along on a stretcher and paraded part of the way. At times they would stop and he would speak to the group.

The affair was about over, for the police had intercepted the parade, when a stone or some other missile came flying from somewhere and struck his right eye. He was taken to the hospital, but his eye was beyond help. Within two weeks it was realized that he had lost sight permanently.

Characteristically, Pussyfoot was not bitter. The following day he was photographed in his hospital bed, a bandage around his head, but with that ever-present wide smile. He did not blame the students--for the missile had not come from the group that "ragged" him. He said he would not be a martyr--that was too grave and somber a role for him. He accepted his accident with a good humor that was beyond most men and women. It was just one more incident that endeared him to his supporters and won the respect and admiration of his opponents.

--Alan Virta

Source: Johnson's biography, by Frederick Arthur McKensie (1920).

The Movies This Summer

Among the movies offered this summer is one that might be of special interest for citizens of Prince George's County--not necessarily because of the subject, because it has nothing to do with Prince George's County --but because the artist responsible spent much of his early life here.

The movie is The Muppet Movie, and the creator of the Muppets, Jim Henson, lived on Beechwood Road in University Park. The Muppets are those puppet-like creatures who got their first break on local Washington TV, went national on shows like Johnny Carson and Jimmy Dean, won starring roles on the children's show Sesame Street, and in recent years have had a national TV show of their own.

Jim Henson, creator of the Muppets, was born in 1936 in Mississippi. His father, an agronomist with the Dept. of Agriculture, was transferred to Washington, and the family moved to Prince George's County, Henson attended Northwestern High School on Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, where, without much thought, he joined the puppet club. After graduation, he began looking for a job, and discovered that WRC-TV (Channel 4) had an opening for a puppeteer. Henson applied and got the job. It was while employed with WRC that Henson created the first of the Muppets, Sam and His Friends, his show on WRC, won an emmy in 1958 for best local entertainment shows. It ran for several years, while Henson earned a degree in theater arts at the University of Maryland.

After graduating from the University, Henson decided to remain in puppetry as a career. The Muppets made a number of commercials and in the early 60's appeared as guests on Ed Sullivan and Johnny Carson's Tonight Show. In 1963 the Muppets became regulars on The Jimmy Dean Show, and remained there for three years. They joined Sesame Street, the, acclaimed children's show on public television, in 1969. In 1976, the Muppets began their own weekly half-hour show, known simply as The Muppet Show. It is still on the air, broadcast this summer on Channel 7 (WJLA:-TV) at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays. The Muppet Movie released this summer, is their first full-length film.

The Muppets are sculpted from foam rubber and covered with wool, flannel, or other material. They are soft and flexible, not like the traditional hard puppets, and look amazingly natural on stage beside humans. Rowlf the Dog was the first Muppet to really hit the big time nationally, followed by Big Bird, one of the stars of Sesame Street, The big stars of the TV show are Kermit the Frog, and Miss Piggy.

The Muppets clearly entertain children--but their appeal goes far beyond just kids. Their fast-paced humor, vaudevillian routines, and outrageous puns appeal to adults as well.

So Montgomery County can boast of its favorite daughter, actress Goldie Hawn of Laugh-In fame. Anne Arundel can claim Roy Clark, the country singer who maintained a home near Davidsonville. Washington, D.C., has Al Jolson. But Prince George's County can claim the Muppets!

Source: Current Biography, 1977.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Yearly membership dues of \$5.00 per year include a subscription to this monthly newsletter. Our address: P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Maryland 20840

President:	Mr. Frederick S. DeMarr 4010 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville 20781	277-0711
Corresponding Secretary:	Mrs. Edith Bagot 3510 Longfellow Street, Hyattsville 20782	927-3632
Treasurer:	Mr. Herb Embrey 10414 Tullymore Drive, Adelphi 20763	434-2950
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NEWS AND NOTES FROM

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Vol. VII, no. 9

September, 1979

The September Meeting: About Antiques

Orva Heissenbuttel will speak on "American Empire Antiques" at the September meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society, to be held Saturday, September 8, at 2:00 p.m. at Riversdale, the Calvert mansion in Riverdale. Mrs. Heissenbuttel will discuss antique furniture and furnishings of the early 19th century, the period during which Riversdale was built and furnished.

Mrs. Heissenbuttel is a member of the Society and of the Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust. Well known in the antiques world, she is associate editor of the Antiques Observer and founder of the American Antique Arts Association, a national organization with 1000 members in the Washington area. She has been closely associated with the purchase of the Chesapeake Beach Carousel at Watkins Park, Largo, and consultant curator of the historic Surratt House in Clinton. Mrs. Heissenbuttel was presented the Society's "St. George's Day Award" in 1977.

Guests and friends are more than welcome. Riversdale is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in Riverdale. If you need directions call Fred DeMarr at 277-0711 or Alan Virta at 474-7524 in the evenings.

Tobacco Barn Antiques Show

The 20th annual Tobacco Barn Antiques Show, sponsored by St. Thomas Episcopal Parish, will be held on September 7, 8, and 9 at the Edelen Brothers Tobacco Warehouse, Upper Marlboro. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday the 7th and 8th, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday the 9th. As in years past, delicious home cooked food will be served, and a door prize of a Grandfather Clock will be offered.

The Edelen Brothers Tobacco Warehouse is located at the junction of Routes 301 and 725 just east of Upper Marlboro. Free parking and a shuttle bus ride will be provided from the Race Track as parking is limited near the warehouse, General admission is \$2.50, but with an ad, card, or clipping, the price is \$2.00

The Tobacco Barn Antiques Show is one of the largest in the East It's well worth the time to stop by, even if you don't buy anything.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Immanuel Church, Horseheads Centennial

A series of events scheduled for September 16-23, 1979, will mark the centennial of Immanuel Church at Horsehead (near Brandywine) in Prince George's County, Maryland. A highlight of the celebration will be the dedication of a historical marker on Sunday, September 16, following the 11 a.m. worship service at which Dr. Charles I. Wallace, Sr., Washington East District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church, will speak. This is one of the oldest Methodist congregations in America, having been founded as Smith's Meeting House in 1794. From 1840 to 1879 it was known as Emory Chapel, when its name was changed to Immanuel Church. Bishop Francis Asbury, the pioneer American Methodist leaders preached at the meeting house in 1813. Members of the general public are invited to share this happy occasion. For information please call Mrs. David Cross at (301) 379-2478.

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following individuals to membership in the Prince George's County Historical Society:

Judy Schell	Berwyn Heights	Sponsor
Kimberly and Edward Fizdale	Hyattsville	Mr. Skarda
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin F. Morrison	Washington, D. C.	Mr. DeMarr
		Mr. DeMarr

We are also pleased to announce that Mrs. A. H. Seidenspinner of College Heights Estates, a long-time member of the Society, has become a Life Member.

Oxon Hill Manor--1979 Decorators' Show House

The Decorators' Show House, an annual project of the Women's Committee for the National Symphony Orchestra, will be at Oxon Hill Manor from September 24 through October 22, 1979.

Owned by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the mansion will be completely furnished by area decorators for this fundraiser for the National Symphony. The house will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday with afternoon hours on Sundays. Special rates are available for group tours which may be arranged by calling Marilyn Butts at 387-2932. Some of the past Decorators' Show Houses have been Prospect House in Georgetown, the Rockefeller House on Foxhall Road, and the Corby Mansion in Chevy Chase.

Candlelight Walking Tour of Chestertown

The annual candlelight tour of this historic Eastern Shore town will be held this year on Saturday evening, September 15. For information call 301-778-1082 or 301-778-3411.

The Revolution Comes to Magruder's Landing

Among the place names associated with sites along the Patuxent River in Prince George's County is the name "Magruder's Landing." Located approximately four miles below Nottingham, and just a little ways down and across the river from Calvert County's Lower Marlboro, Magruder's Landing is reached by car via Route 301, Croon, Road (Route 302), and Magruder's Ferry Road. The drive through the countryside is a pleasant one, past corn fields, barns of drying tobacco, and farmers in their fields harvesting the crop. In recent years, only a barn or two, the end of the road, the calm and quiet river, and a beautiful view of Calvert County on the opposite shore have marked the place. The future will bring change to Magruder's Landing, however, for a sign erected by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission relates that Magruder's Landing is the future site of the Magruder's Ferry Boat Launch, to be part of the Patuxent River Park system. Already two picnic tables sit in a clearing on the riverbank, but the sign warns that a permit is required to use them.

On a recent Saturday morning Magruder's Landing was quiet--no one was there at all except this visitor. But in years past--two hundred years ago and more--Magruder's Landing was a place visited often. There was never a town there, like neighboring Nottingham, for the site never boasted more than a few buildings. What brought people to Magruder's Landing were the landing, a warehouse, and a ferry across the Patuxent River. Each of these activities contributed a name to the place, for besides Magruder's Landing, the site has been known as Magruder's Warehouse and Magruder's Ferry, as well.

In the 1740's, the land was owned by Alexander Magruder, but for some reason known as Hannah Brown's Landing. A "landing" was just that, a place for ships to come to rest, to take on tobacco from the local planters. Sometimes towns, with storehouses, inns, merchants, physicians, churches, and tradesmen, developed at these landings--Upper Marlboro at Col. Belt's Landing, Bladensburg at Garrison Landing, and Aire at Thomas Lewis' Landing on Broad Creek being three examples. But in other cases, no town developed, and the place remained simply a "landing," a clearing along the riverbank, with perhaps a tobacco barn, visited whenever a ship came in. Although our knowledge of Magruder's Landing's past is incomplete, Magruder's Landing seems to have been one of these latter cases.

A new law enacted in 1747, however, caused an increase in activity at Magruder's Landing. Maryland's tobacco growers were facing economic crisis. Virginia's tobacco trade was regulated--the tobacco was inspected by provincial officials, guaranteeing high quality. Maryland's tobacco trade was not regulated, and the price of this province's tobacco declined in relation to Virginia's. After years of political struggle, a tobacco inspection law was passed for Maryland, instituting tobacco inspectors and public warehouses to store the crop. Although Magruder's Landing was not named in the original bill as a warehouse site, the protests of local planters were successful and in 1748 Magruder's Landing was assigned an inspector (at an annual salary of 35 pounds) and a warehouse. The place acquired a new name with this new status: Magruder's Warehouse.

The new warehouse and the presence of the inspector evidently brought more activity to the site, and sometime before the end of the Revolution, inns and a ferry were established there. Judge Van Horn's book, Out of the Past, records a license for an ordinary there by 1774 and a ferry by 1782, but they very well might have come earlier. Whatever the case, by the end of the Revolution, Magruder's Landing, or Magruder's Warehouse, or Magruder's Ferry--a new name--claimed a ship landing, at least one inn, and a ferry to cross the Patuxent Rivers. In 1816, according to Judge Van Horn and the Maryland Gazette, Magruder's Landing received mail on Mondays. The warehouse was ordered sold by the state in 1854, but the ferry kept travelers passing thorough. Martenet's 1862 map shows four or five buildings there, some undoubtedly barns, and Hopkins' 1878 map shows the same, including a store. Both refer to the place as Magruder's Ferry. But the end of the ferry (we don't know when), better roads providing easy access to larger Acquasco and Nottingham and points beyond, and new ways of getting tobacco to market--all probably contributed to the end of Magruder's Landing as a much visited place. More research, or the recollections of local residents, might tell us when that change came and fill in many of the gaps in our story of Magruder's Landing

During the Revolution, but particularly in 1781, the British threatened the lands along the Patuxent River, including lands in Prince George's County. In response, a company from the local militia was assigned to Magruder's Warehouse (apparently the favored name at the time) to guard the place against British attack. Printed below, courtesy of Ashby Canter, is a list of the local militiamen assigned to guard the warehouse. A reading of the names of the officers shows that the locals must not have feared charges of nepotism in the assignments of positions of command. Names preceded with an asterisk were difficult or impossible to read, and so the name may be transcribed incorrectly.

A Roll of the Guard kept at Magruder's Warehouse
that were from Benjamin Waile's Company of Militia of the
Lower Batalion.

		Supplants	
Benjamin Wailes	Capt.	John Ellis) Levin Letchworth)
Edward Lloyd Wailes	Lt.	Walter H. Hoxton) Sam'l T. Wilson) Corporals

will locate their studios in the facility. Nearly all the studios have been rented, and artists will begin to move in on September 1.

The George Washington Musicale, a program of colonial music, will be held on February 24, 1980, at 2:30 p.m. Mrs. Naomi Madison is directing this event, which this year will feature a harpist. Tickets for the musicale are free, but they must be obtained in advance.

Finally, the popular Candlelight Dinner will be offered on December 9. Tickets will be available after October 15.

The Montpelier Gift Shop, featuring many fine Gifts of crafts and commemorative items, will be open during all of these events.

Monument to Honor Bishop Claggett

The Society of the Pilgrims of St. Mary's is currently working to erect a monument in honor of Bishop Thomas John Claggett (1743-1816), a native of Prince George's County, first Episcopal bishop consecrated in America, and first chaplain of the U.S. Senate in Washington, on the grounds of St. Thomas' Church, in Croom.

The artist for the Bishop Claggett monument will be Felix de Weldon, who designed the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington and the Archbishop John Carroll monument on the courthouse lawn. The Claggett monument will be placed under an oak tree in the St. Thomas churchyard overlooking the countryside Bishop Claggett knew all his life. His remains and those of his wife, Eleanor Gantt, rested at the church until 1898, when they were removed to the National Cathedral in Washington.

Interested and sympathetic friends are invited to contribute to the monument fund. Donations should be made payable to the Pilgrims of St. Mary's Claggett Memorial Fund and mailed to:

Miss Helen Marie Martell
4201 Cathedral Ave. #1421-W
Washington, D.C. 20016

During the Bicentennial year, the Society of the Pilgrims of St. Mary's honored another native son of Prince George's County, -the first Roman Catholic bishop in America, John Carroll, by placing the above-mentioned monument in his honor on the courthouse lawn in Upper Marlboro, not far from his birth site.

The October Luncheon Meeting

The October meeting of the Society will be held at the Rossborough Inn, University of Maryland, on Saturday, October 13. A luncheon and cocktail hour will precede the meeting. The October issue of News and Notes will come out a little early with a form to return for the luncheon reservation.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Annual membership dues of \$5.00 include a subscription to this newsletter. Contact the society at P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Md. 20840, or call any of the officers listed below.

President: Mr. Frederick S. DeMarr 277-0711
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Edith Bagot 927-3632
Treasurer: Mr. Herb Embrey 434-2958
Newsletter editor: Mr. Alan Virta 474-7524



NEWS AND NOTES FROM

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Vol. VII, no. 10 October 1979

The October Meeting: Chesapeake Beach Railroad

The topic of the October meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society, to be held on Saturday, October 13 at the Rossborough Inn, will be "The Chesapeake Beach Railroad Museum." Speaking to the Society will be representatives of the Calvert County Historical Society, which is undertaking to establish a museum devoted to the Chesapeake Beach Railroad in the old station at Chesapeake Beach.

Opened in 1896, the Chesapeake Beach Railroad ran from a point known as Chesapeake Junction in the District of Columbia, where it met the Washington streetcars, through Seat Pleasant, Ritchie, Brown's Station, Upper Marlboro, across the Patuxent at Mount Calvert, into Anne Arundel County, and then into Calvert County to Chesapeake Beach. There were 14 stations in the District and Prince George's County, and until the line closed in 1935 thousands of Prince Georgians took the train to the beach, boardwalk, amusement park, and hotel at Chesapeake Beach. The famous carousel once located at Chesapeake Beach is now maintained at Watkins Park in Largo. A fuller description of the line and its stations can be found in an article by James H. Shreve in the October 1973 issue of News and Notes.

Our visitors from the Calvert County Historical Society will be Bernie Loveless, Gerald Donovan, and Dick Eisman, all of whom are working on the museum project. The meeting at the Rossborough Inn is our annual luncheon meeting. Cocktails will be served at noon, followed by lunch, mid then the meeting at 2 p.m. If you plan to come for the luncheon, please return the enclosed reservation form as we must know how many to expect. If you cannot make the luncheon, plan to join us for the meeting at 2 o'clock. The meeting promises to be a most interesting one. The Rossborough Inn is located on the University of Maryland campus on Route One, opposite Ritchie Coliseum. Guests are welcome.

College-Park House Tour

The Old Town College Park Preservation Association will sponsor a house tour in the old town on Saturday, October 13, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. The tour will feature nine houses whose architectural styles span the 100-year development of the old town College Park. The College Park Women's Club will offer lunch and refreshments to tour-goers in its historic clubhouse on Knox Road. Reception center for the tour will be St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, where tickets may be purchased and a slide presentation on the history of College Park will be shown on a continuous basis.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Tickets for the tour \$3.50 if purchased the day of the tour, \$2.50 in advance. The tour will include both a fraternity and a sorority house as well as private homes. Mini-buses will ferry non-walking tour-goers along the route. The reception center, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, is located on College Avenue, which is opposite the south gate of the University of Maryland.

The College Park House Tour will be held on the same day as the Society's October meeting. Since you will be in College Park anyway, plan visiting the house tour as well.

For more information, contact Mrs. Billie Schnabel at 864-6709.

Reminders 1979 Decorators' Show House

The Decorators' Show House, an annual project of the Women's Committee for the National Symphony Orchestra, is now being held at Oxon Hill Manor in Oxon Hill. The mansion is completely furnished by decorators, and is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3:30 P.m. on Mondays through Saturdays and during the afternoon on Sundays. The Decorators' Show House will be open until October 22. For more information call 387-2932.

Addition to the National Register

The old Laurel High School, the first public high school in Prince George's County, has been named to the National Register of Historic Places. The central portion of the school dates from 1899. According to the Maryland Historical Trust, other firsts for the building include the first water system and the first indoor toilets in a county school. Since 1976 the building has served as the Edward Phelps Community Center,

At the Surratt House

A display of political campaign material and election memorabilia, is scheduled at the Surratt House for November 3 and 4. For information, call the Surratt House at 868-1121.

A Clarification on Bishop Claggett

Last month's issue of News and Notes incorrectly stated that the remains of Bishop Thomas Claggett and his wife rested at the St. Thomas churchyard before their removal to the National Cathedral. Until their reinternment at the cathedral, they actually were buried in a family cemetery not far away.

Thomas Twining's Visit to America

One of the many visitors to America in the late 18th century was Thomas Twining, a British subject, the son of Richard Twining, who was a director of the East India Company and a prosperous tea merchant. Twining visited the East Coast and ventured as far South as Virginia, passing through Prince George's County by stage along the course of road known today as Route One. In this issue of News and Notes we present an extract from his printed journal of the trip, published under the title Travels in America 100 Years Ago in 1894. Twining's account of his journey is particularly interesting because of his reflections on the conditions of life our predecessors faced here and for his recognition of the work they were doing not only for themselves but for those of us who would follow them.

Printed first is the introduction to Travels in America 100 Years Ago with biographical information on Thomas Twining and the background of his visit to America.

TRAVELS IN AMERICA

100 YEARS AGO

Introduction

Thomas Twining was one of the energetic Englishmen who laid the foundations of the Indian Empire. He arrived in India, as he told his English neighbors in a lecture delivered forty-six years afterwards, a puny boy of sixteen, in 1792. He quitted it finally in 1805, still under thirty. In the interval, to quote his own words, he "had been intrusted with the reform of an extensive department of the public administration, had been appointed judge of a great district, had held the charge of a country containing more than ten thousand towns and villages, and more than two millions of people, and had been received by the Great Mogul on his throne in the old world and by General Washington in the new."

His visit to the United States, almost at the beginning of our national existence, was an episode in his Indian career, occurring in the course of his return to England between two terms of residence in India. It seems to have been solely a visit of curiosity, and readers of the account of it now presented to the American public will agree that they are much indebted to his curiosity, and to the record that he left of its assuagement. Authentic statements of the impression made upon intelligent and unprejudiced foreigners by the narrow strip of seaboard that virtually constituted the territory of the young republic are not so common that an addition to the short list will not be welcome.

After his return to England Mr. Twining married, and for a time settled in Northamptonshire, but after Waterloo lived with his family for twenty years upon the Continent. Returning to England in 1837, he settled at Twickenham, and died there in 1891.

* * * * *

[April] 26th [1795].-- At four this morning I quitted Baltimore, where I had passed a few days most agreeably, having found numerous friends where I expected to find none but strangers, and received a degree of spontaneous kindness and hospitality upon which I had still less reason to calculate.

In the stage-wagon, for such again was the conveyances, were ten other passengers. After going eight miles we reached the Patapsco, a small river which rises in the southern part of Pennsylvania. We crossed it in a boat which held the wagon and horses, the passengers remaining in their places, for the difficulty of getting in and out prevented our leaving these on trifling occasions, such as crossing a ferry, or stopping to change horses, or going up a hill.

At eight o'clock we reached a solitary inn called "Spurrier's:" where we found the usual substantial American breakfast. The country through which we had passed was extremely dismal, being covered with forests upon which the axe had as yet made but little impression, for, excepting a few open spots here and there, such trees alone were cut down as were necessary for the formation of a road, or rather the line of a road, for this was still in a very rude state, the driver being obliged to wind as well as he could between the remaining stumps. The soft soil being rendered deep by the rain that had fallen, our progress was very slow, not exceeding thirteen families in four hours--a pace slower than that to which I had been accustomed in my palanquin in India. My companions were chiefly from Virginia and the Southern States, and were very lively. They urged me to extend my travels to the south, but at the same time did not conceal the aversion of their countrymen towards the English nation, nor the caution this feeling would require me to adopt in my intercourse with the inhabitants.

Our next stage was to another solitary station called "Vans" fifteen miles [in Prince George's County]; the whole, with very little exception, through thick woods. The wagon, in winding through the trees and over their roots, was often so depressed in the soft ground and old ruts on one side, that the passengers were obliged to press towards the other. Without this perpetual trimming we should certainly have been overturned; not that such an adventure would have been attended with any serious consequence, the wagon being so low, and the pace so slow the scramble therefore on these occasions was attended with more mirth than apprehension. Eight miles more, over a country more cleared and a better road, brought us to the "Indian Queen" at Bladensburg, a small, solitary inn, surrounded by a few rude cottages, which a few years would probably

transform into respectable houses, particularly if the new city, now distant only one stage, should become the seat of government.

While we were at dinner one of the party informed Mr. Ross, the civil landlord, that I came from Bengal. "Why," observed Mr. Ross, "the gentleman speaks English as we do."

Over the fireplace in the dining-room was a plan of Washington, with the streets, squares, and public buildings of the intended city minutely detailed.

Our next and last stage of twelve miles was pretty good as to road and country, but we had a great deal of rain, which obliged us to unroll all the leathern curtains. This rendered the interior of the wagon very dark and oppressively hot, there being no aperture for light or air excepting in fronts between the driver and the passenger by his side. This obscurity and suffocation rendered more welcome the report of our driver at about three in the afternoon that we were approaching Georgetown. We entered this town in half an hour more, and descended from our prison at the "Fountain Tavern."

This day's journey had afforded nothing particularly interesting excepting the singularity of our traveling through the woods, and the appearance of a country just emerging from a state of nature. The luxuriance of the forests denoted a rich soils but a very small part only of the country had as yet been cleared for cultivation. As population advanced the woods would of course disappear. In the meantime it was impossible to see man in this early stage of solitary seclusion without considering the difficulties and privations he endured while slowly preparing the comforts of civilized life for his posterity. In the whole course of the day I had not seen a blacksmith's nor a baker's shop; and as for medical assistance in case of sickness or accident amongst the scattered inhabitants, there apparently was none whatever in the country we had passed through.

1st May [1795].-- ...Having remained here [at friends-in Georgetown] a short time, I continued my ride to Bladensburg, and alighting there at the "Indian Queen," was well taken care of the rest of the afternoon by Mr. Ross. I observed that Mr. Law's coachman [who provided Twining the ride back from Georgetown to Bladensburg] was well provided against the deficiencies of the country, having spare shoes for his horses and the necessary instruments of a blacksmith's shop.

2d May [1795].-- The stage-wagon arriving soon after breakfast, I take leave of Mr. Ross. Changed horses at Van's, and again at Spurrier's, There we dined, The day being very fine and my five or six companions very agreeable men, I enjoyed my ride, amused with the rude beginnings of civilization which I again saw on every side, and contemplating the changes which human energy and perseverance would gradually introduce.

* * * * *

The "Van's" to which Twining refers was Van Horn's Tavern, operated by Gabriel Van Horn at the site of Vansville, now near Beltsville. Mr. Ross of the Indian Queen was, of course, Richard Ross, who a few years later would open a new establishment a few miles out in the country between Bladensburg and "Van's" --known today as the Rossborough Inn.

* * * *

Marylanders, Beware:

While in Baltimore before venturing south to Bladensburg, Georgetown and Virginia, Twining was warned of a peculiar and dangerous practice engaged in by our neighbors, the Virginians. We pass on that warning:

Wednesday [April 20, 1795].-- ...At dinner to-day, at the great table, some travelers from Virginia sat opposite to me. Finding I had some intention of visiting that state, they jokingly advised me to be on my guard against the Virginian practice of gouging, by which a man dexterously forces out the eye of another with whom he quarrels. I expressed the difficulty I had in believing that this practice could be so common as the inhabitants of the Northern States represented it to be, One of the party observed that if I went as far as Alexandria, as I

talked of doing, I should see persons who had lost an eye in the manner alluded to. Upon my observing that I could not conceive how this operation could be so easily accomplished, he said that if I wished it he would soon show me. Expressing my consent, he rose, and, walking round the end of the table, came towards me. Having seated myself a little way from the table, he placed himself before me, laid hold of the hair by the side of my head, and twisting his fingers well in it, brought his thumb to the corner of my eye, against which he pressed with a force, or rather with a command, that satisfied me of the possibility of removing an eye from the socket in this manner. When he had disentangled his fingers from my hair, and I was at liberty, there was a jocular expression of satisfaction amongst the company, and some gentlemen assured me afterwards that they were glad to see me safe out of the Virginian's hands.

--from Travels in America 100 Years Ago (Being Notes and Reminiscences by Thomas Twining). New York, Harper & Brothers Publishers. 1894

The Prince George's County Genealogical Society

Congratulations and best wishes for the future are extended to the Prince George's County Genealogical Society, celebrating the tenth anniversary of its founding this Fall. Noted for its active publications program and the assistance it gives to county residents engaged in genealogical research, the Prince George's County Genealogical Society received one of the Society's St. George's Day Awards at last April's St. George's Day Dinner.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Subscription to this newsletter is included in the annual membership dues, which are \$5.00. Address inquiries to the Society at P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Md., 20840. President: Frederick S. DeMarr, 277-0711; Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Frank Bagot, 927-3632; Treasurers Herb Embrey, 434-2958; Newsletter editor: Alan Virta, 474-7524.



NEWS AND NOTES FROM

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Volume VII, no. 11 November 1979

The November Meetings At the Marlborough Hunt Club: November 10

The November meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society will afford members of the Society and their guests the uncommon opportunity to enter into the world of fox hunting through a visit to the Marlborough Hunt Club, located southeast of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County's Patuxent River hunt country. Master of the Hounds A.H. Smith, Jr., will present a short history of the hunt club and of the 300 year old tradition of fox hunting in Maryland, and then demonstrate with the hounds and horse many of the techniques and practices of the sport.

The meeting will begin promptly at 2 p.m. at the club. Directions are enclosed, and as usual, guests are welcome.

Nominations for Society Offices

Election of officers of the Prince George's County Historical Society for 1980 will take place at the very brief business meeting at the November meeting. If you have any suggestions for officers or would like to volunteer your services, contact any of the members of the Nominations Committee listed here: Jean Speicher, Chair, at 776-3086; Margaret Cook at 301-326-4544; John Zeender at 277-2383; or Ted Bissell at 277-4723,

Historic Preservation: "A Place in Time"

Historic preservation--as a national movement and as it exists in Prince George's County today--will be the subject of a series of programs to be offered in November at selected county libraries by the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust and the Adult Services Division of the Prince George's County Memorial Library system. The program will offer the excellent motion picture, A Place in Time, produced by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, followed by a slide show on historic preservation in the county presented by Robert Crawley, chairman of the county Historical and Cultural Trust.

The schedule is as follows: Monday, November 5, at Bowie Library at 7 p.m.; Tuesday, November 6 at Hyattsville Library, 7 P.M.;

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Wednesday, November 7 at Oxon Hill Library, 7 p.m.; and Saturday, November 10, at Laurel Library 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Be sure to look into this excellent program at the library closest to you.

For more information, contact any of the four participating libraries or Alan Virta, member of the Historical and Cultural Trust, at 474-7524.

Forrest D. Bowie

It is with deep regret that we inform the membership of the sudden death of Forrest D. Bowie, a past president and charter member of the Prince George's County Historical Society. Mr. Bowie died on Sunday, October 1, as the result of a heart attack. Only the day before he had attended the October meeting of the Society and appeared in good health.

Mr. Bowie was active in numerous organizations besides our own. He was Chairman of the Restoration Committee of St. Barnabas Church, Leeland, and served for several years on the board of directors of the Maryland Historical Trust. He was a member of the American Clan Gregor Society and owner of the historic home, Mount Lubentia, near Largo.

Forrest contributed much to the preservation of Prince George's County's heritage. He was one of the original recipients of the Society's St. George's Day Awards, and at our meeting the day before his death, he spoke at some length on his memories of the Chesapeake Beach Railroad, which ran near his property, and of the Chesapeake Beach resort. Forrest is survived by his wife, Frances, sons Dennis and Thomas, and daughter Ann.

Church Registers are Published

The Society is pleased to announce that the long-awaited indexes to the early church registers of Prince George's County are now off the press and ready for distribution. Compiled by Helen Brown and the late Louise Hinton, these indexes record more than 10,000 births, marriages, baptisms, and deaths in the four earliest parishes of the Anglican Church in Prince George's County, and show the names of spouses and parents as appropriate, with approximately 50,000 names contained in all. Parishes and churches included are King George's Parish (St. John's at Broad Creek), Queen Anne Parish (St. Barnabas, Leeland), St. Paul's Parish (St. Paul's at Baden), and Prince George's Parish (St. Paul's at Rock Creek).

Prince George's County Maryland: Indexes of Church Registers, 1686-:7085, is still available at a price of \$20.00. Orders may be placed with the Society at P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Maryland 20840. Checks should be made payable to Prince George's County Historical Society, Maryland residents please add \$1.00' tax. This work has already been purchased by genealogical libraries across the country. Add it to your own. This two-volume, paperbound work contains a short history of each parish.

Duvall Law Office Restoration

The Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants is undertaking to .restore the law offices of Gabriel Duvall, located at Justice Duvall's home, Marietta, in Prince George's County.

Gabriel Duvall was born in 1752 and served with the Maryland troops at the battles of Brandywine and Morristown during the Revolution. In 1782 he was chosen a member of the Governor's Council, in 1787 he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, in 1794 he became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and in 1796 was elected judge of the Maryland Supreme Court. In 1802 President Thomas Jefferson appointed him Comptroller of the United States, and he served in that capacity until 1812, when President James Madison appointed him to the United States Supreme Court. Duvall served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court for twenty-three years and spent the last nine years of his life at the family home, Marietta, where he died in 1844.

Marietta is now owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and eventually will become a museum devoted to Justice Duvall and to Maryland plantation life. The restoration of the law offices is one part of the overall, long-range project. The Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants is attempting to raise \$15,000 to aid in the restoration of the law offices. Any contribution to the effort would be greatly appreciated. Checks should be made payable to the "Duvall Law Office Restoration" and mailed to Mrs. J. Alston Fisher, 10216 Prince Place #103, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20870.

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following individuals to membership in the Prince George's County Historical Society:

		Sponsor
Clarence M. McMillan	College Park	Mr. DeMarr
Charles M. Spearman	New Carrollton	"
Dr. and Mrs. Charles G. Kurz	Bethesda	"
Mrs. Claire Kurz Bostelman	Culpeper, Va.	"
Mrs. Nannie B. MacGregor Harding	Kensington	"
Mrs. Alice MacGregor Nowell	Riverdale	"
Mrs. Elizabeth MacGregor Boswell	Bowie	"
Mrs. Anna MacGregor Eaton	Atlanta, Ga.	"

The name of our new member, Mrs. Harding, has appeared in News and Notes before. In July 1977 we ran an article entitled "Who Were Our Teachers?" which included a listing of all the teachers in the Prince George's County public schools for the year 1908. Recorded as the teacher in the elementary school #3, District 2, was Nannie MacGregor. That was Mrs. Harding, then a young lady of only 20 years of age. We especially welcome Mrs. Harding to membership in the Society.

The Invention of an American Lady

One of the conveniences taken for granted in the 1970's is the simple paper bag. Such was not always the case, for slightly more than one hundred years ago, the paper bag was regarded as a wonderful new invention. The following excerpt from The Monumental City, Its Past History and Present Resources, by George W. Howard (1873), a book about Baltimore's industries, shows us what the Marylanders of the 1870's thought of the paper bag.

Paper Bags

The manufacture of Paper Bags is of recent origin. Only a few years ago they were unknown, and dealers seemed content to wrap their goods and wares in the old-fashioned paper bundles. But American genius, which contemplates convenience, as well as principles of science and mechanics, applied itself to the comfort of store-keepers and customers, with complete success. The Paper Bag now universally used, is an indispensable requisite to the business and the economy of home. The most perfect Bag in use is the invention of an American Lady. The machine which cuts, prepares, folds, and pastes the bag with the square ends is her invention; for which she should receive the daily thanks of sellers and buyers.

But George Howard does not tell us who that American Lady was!

--Alan Virta

Named to the Historical and Cultural Trust

James F. Maher of Hyattsville has been appointed to the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust by County Executive Larry Hogan and confirmed by the County Council. An architect, Maher served as

associate architect for the restoration of the George Washington House (Indian Queen Tavern) in Bladensburg.

Leah Bartlett

We regret to inform the membership of the death on October 5 of Leah Clagett Bartlett, a member of the Society. Mrs. Bartlett, who was a member of the vestry of St. David's Episcopal Church in Washington, was the widow of Admiral Bradford Bartlett and a member of numerous patriotic and historical societies. She was a resident of Falls-Church, Va.

November meeting--Marlborough Hunt Club--November 10--2:00 p.m.

Baltimore: How Do *You* Like It?,

Maryland's great metropolis, the city of Baltimore, celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding this year--for it was in 1729 that an act of the General Assembly created the town--consisting then of sixty acres and one family. Today more than 800,000 live within the city's seventy-eight square miles, and several hundred thousand more in its suburbs. The Maryland Historical Society, in commemoration of the anniversary, is presenting this Fall an exhibition entitled "Baltimore Celebrates Baltimore," a multimedia display of library and art materials focusing (as the Maryland Historical Society describes it) "on the celebratory experience of Baltimoreans over the past 250 years." The Maryland Historical Society's Museum of Maryland History is located at 201 West Monument Street, just two blocks from the Washington Monument. The exhibition will be open through December 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. There is no admission charge. The Society's Gift Shop, which features numerous Maryland gifts, from books to neckties to jewelry and many other items, will be open during the exhibit hours.

While heartiest congratulations are in order to Baltimore on this important anniversary, we should keep in mind that despite the many great contributions Baltimore has made to the State, country and suburban folk always have been and probably always will be somewhat suspicious of cities. The late Prince George's County historian R. Lee Van Horn illustrated that point in his book, Out of the Past: Prince Georgians and Their Land, which was published by the Prince George's Is County Historical Society in 1976. The following is taken from Judge Van Horn's book:

"The [Maryland] Gazette, in its October 4, 1753 issue, published a poem that gives the idea of cities entertained by our forefathers, which I believe will be found truly descriptive of cities in our day. The poem is entitled "London."

Houses, Churches, mixe together,
Streets unpleasant in all weather;
Prisons, palaces contiguous;
Gates, a bridge the Thames Irriguous
Gaudy things enough to tempt ye;
Showy outside; insides empty:
Bubbles, trades, Mechanic Arts
Coaches, Wheelbarrows and carts.
Warrants, Baliffs, bills unpaid;
Lords of Laundresses afraid
Rogues that nightly rob and shoot men;
Hangmen, Aldermen and footmen.
Lawyers, Poets, priests, physicians
Noble simple all conditions
Worth beneath a threadbare cover;
Villainy bedaubed all over
Women, black red and grey

Prudes and such as never pray;
Handsome, ugly, noisy still
Some that will not, some that will
Many a beau without a shilling
Many a widow not unwilling
Many a bargain if you strike it
This is London: How do you like it.

Congratulations, Baltimore!

Queen Anne Parish

We note with pleasure another anniversary, this one closer to home. During the month of October, Queen Anne Parish, one of the earliest parishes of the Anglican (now Episcopal) Church in Prince George's County, celebrated the 275th anniversary of its founding in 1704. The parishoners of Queen Anne's worship in St. Barnabas Church, Leeland, an historic church recently restored to its colonial condition, dating from 1774.

The Walker in Shadows

Fans of both the mystery and of books about Maryland history will look forward to the publication this Fall of The Walker in Shadows, by Barbara Michaels. Published by Dodd, Mead, Inc., The Walker in Shadows is described as a "novel of romantic suspense. Publishers Weekly, in its issue of August 27, declared: "Genuinely spooky and scary, this real old-fashioned ghost story [is] set in contemporary Maryland with flashbacks to the Civil War." Maryland's role as a border state during the Civil War, and particularly the divisions among its citizens, are a part of the story. Publication date was set for sometime in October, so The Walker in Shadows should be reaching local bookstores soon.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Annual membership dues of \$5.00 include a subscription to this newsletter. The Society's address: P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, Maryland. 20840,

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Corresponding Secretary:	Mrs. Edith Bagot 3510 Longfellow Street, Hyattsville 20782	927-3632
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NEWS AND NOTES FROM

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Vol. VII, no. 12 December 1979

The Christmas Party

Saturday, December 15 is the date of this year's Christmas Party--and Montpelier, the Snowden mansion near Laurel, is where it will be held. The house will be decorated for the holiday season, the punch will be flowing, and the cakes, cookies, pastries, cheeses, crackers, breads, fruit, and other goodies will delight all who attend. As is the custom, members are invited to bring along any holiday food specialty they may wish to share, but whether you bring food or not, do come!

The party will begin at 2 p.m., and your guests are more than welcome. This will be a fine opportunity to show them one of Maryland's great colonial homes. Montpelier is located on Route 197 just south of Laurel. From the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, exit onto Route 197 going north, then turn left onto Muirkirk Road at the first traffic light. Signs will direct you to Montpelier. The Friends of Montpelier will open their Gift Shop during the party for Christmas shopping.

Riversdale Holiday Tours

The Second Annual Holiday Tours of Riversdale, the Calvert mansion in Riverdale, will be offered by the Riverdale Historical Society on Sunday, December 9th, from 1 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Ladies dressed in period costumes will lead the tours of the house, which will be decorated for the holidays. Refreshments will be served. The price is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children. For further information, call 927-8230. Riversdale is located at 4811 Riverdale Road.

Montpelier Candlelight Tours

The Friends of Montpelier will conduct their annual candlelight tours of Montpelier mansion this year on Monday and Tuesday December 10 and 11, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. The house will be decorated, and there will be colonial music. Tickets are \$1.50 for adults and 750 for students and children. The Gift Shop will be open. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Hyattsville Presbyterian Church

The Hyattsville Presbyterian Church celebrates its 275th anniversary this year, tracing its lineage back to the Patuxent Congregation of Presbyterians active in Prince George's County as early as 1704. In 1704, Col. Ninian Beall deeded one-half acre of land in what became Upper Marlboro to the Patuxent Congregation. The church in Upper Marlboro was succeeded by one in Bladensburg, founded several years later, and that church later moved to Hyattsville. The Hyattsville church still maintains the silver communion service given to the Patuxent Congregation by Ninian Beall in 1707. Congratulations to the Hyattsville Presbyterian Church!

Herbert W. Wells

We regret to inform the membership of the death on October 28 of a former president of this Society, Herbert W. Wells of College Park. Mr. Wells, 77, was a banker and businessman who served as president of G.T. Wells & Sons, a fuel oil distributor, at the time of his death. For many years he served on the Maryland-National Capital Park, and Planning Commission, and from 1957 to 1963 he was its chairman. Besides our own Society, he was associated with the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce and the Prince George's Kiwanis Club. Mr. Wells' many civic contributions were recognized by the Park and Planning Commission last year when it named its new ice rink on Calvert Road in his honor. Mr. Wells is survived by his wife, Evelyn, son Gordon T. Wells, two grandchildren, and four brothers and five sisters.

Election of Officers

The following individuals were elected at the November meeting to serve as officers of the Society for 1980:

President Frederick S. DeMarr, Hyattsville Vice president. John Giannetti, Berwyn Heights Corresponding Secretary Edith Bagot, Hyattsville Recording Secretary Harold Hutcheson, Laurel Historian James Wilfong, Prince Frederick Treasurer Herb Embrey, Adelphi Directors..... Susanna Cristofane, Bladensburg Paul Lanham, Huntingtown Alan Virta, Greenbelt. Awards Committee Margaret Fisher, Upper Marlboro .Sarah Walton, Clinton, Truman Hinton, Hyattsville.

New Member of the Society

We welcome Mr. Jack Taylor of Lanham to membership in the Society. He was sponsored by Paul Lanham and Sara Lumpkins.

Two Views of Southern Maryland

In his book Tidewater Maryland, Paul Wilstach defined Southern Maryland as that region "extending from the bay westward to the Potomac River and lying south of an imaginary line drawn between Annapolis and the District of Columbia." Southern Maryland, he wrote, "has a kind of entity all its own." Indeed it has, for Marylanders of all regions recognize that there is something more than simple geography that sets Southern Maryland apart from the other regions of the State. Wilstach did not try to enumerate the elements that contribute to Southern Maryland's distinctiveness, but several come to mind immediately: the rural character of the region, the freedom from the hustle and bustle of urban life, the predominant position of tobacco in its agriculture, the great influence of the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac, and the Patuxent River and their tributaries, and the heritage of antebellum plantation culture and support for the South during the Civil War. Many would argue that Southern Maryland's northern boundary has shifted southward considerably since Wilstach wrote fifty years ago, and indeed it probably has, for the great suburban extensions of the Washington, Baltimore, and Annapolis metropolitan areas fail many of the tests in the definition of Southern Maryland. But a short drive beyond the suburbs into the rural parts of Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties will confirm that the distinctive Southern Maryland does still exist.

In this issue of News and Notes we present two very different views of Southern Maryland. In modern parlance, we would say, "I have some good news and some bad news." First, the bad news.

"The Peninsula of Darkness"

In 1873, the nationally prominent Washington journalist George Alfred Townsend published a book entitled Washington, Outside and Inside. As the title implies, it was an insider's look at Washington--the operations of government, the social life, the physical city and its architecture, and the surrounding countryside. In a chapter entitled "Excursions in the Potomac Country," Townsend presented a most uncharitable depiction of Southern Maryland. We present excerpts from that chapter below.

Perhaps some explanation can be offered to soften Townsend's blows. First, he was a strong Northern man, and only eight years after the conclusion of the War Between the States, Southern Maryland still conjured up in his mind most disagreeable images; images of rebellion, treason, slavery, and complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln. Moreover Southern Maryland in the years just after the war was a devastated region--its labor force freed, many, if not most, of its fields lying idle, its life seriously disrupted. To a man holding Townsend's views to begin with, Southern Maryland indeed must have seemed a benighted place.

Townsend continued writing, often under the pen name Gath, for many more years to come. If it is any consolation to Southern Marylanders, his attitudes may have softened somewhat as the years went by. His poem, "Upper Marlboro," published in 1880 in his famous Tales of the Chesapeake, still portrays the region as one in decline, but the bitterness of his earlier writing is gone. The poem was reprinted along with a short biographical sketch of Townsend in the August 1975 issue of News and Notes.

In the excerpts below Townsend describes a trip he took to Bladensburg and another to Upper Marlboro and the Woodyard. To reach Bladensburg, he took a roundabout route instead of the direct one. Instead of coming out the 19th-century equivalent of Bladensburg Road and crossing the Anacostia River at Peace Cross, he crossed the river at the Navy Yard bridge and proceeded along the south side of the river. If one were to trace his path today, you cross the 11th Street Bridge, turn left and follow Minnesota Avenue its entire length and then wind into Bladensburg through the Kenilworth and Tuxedo industrial area. The wooded "heights" he mentions are today the District communities of Anacostia Heights, Garfield Heights, Twining, Capitol View, and the Maryland communities of Fairmount Heights, Beaver Heights, Cheverly, Defense Heights, the heights of Bladensburg, Rogers Heights, Decatur Heights, and other neighborhoods. The road from Washington to Upper Marlboro is old Marlboro Pike, Long Old Fields is Forestville; and the "byroad south" was most likely Woodyard Road, which leads on to Surrattsville and the Surratt's Tavern. The large dwelling near the Woodyard was quite likely His Lordship's Kindness.

Below, excerpts from the chapter "Excursions in the Potomac Country," with Townsend's view of Southern Maryland and a description of some of the Prince George's County countryside.

"A neighbor of mine, possessed of a good horse, came to my house one Sunday afternoon and asked me to go over the field and dueling-ground of Bladensburg with him....

"I need not tell any of your readers who possess the luxury of a map that a mile below Washington City--the Potomac receives a tributary called the East Branch. The East Branch, so called to distinguish it from the North and South Branch of the main Potomac--which unite near Cumberland, more than one hundred miles above Washington--was originally named the Anacostia; but, except as painted on the front of a suburban engine house, which stands near the East Branch, 'Anacostia' is an obsolete term. Formerly the East Branch was navigable several miles above Washington and large vessels cleared from Bladensburg piers to the West Indies and to Liverpool. But its length is insignificant--less than that of Bull Run or Antietam Creek. It is a cove merely, taking advantage of some flats to overflow them, and above Bladensburg it divides into a pair of brooks, frothy after a rain, but in fair weather merely rills.

"From the city to Bladensburg by that nearer route which the militia retreated by--the British after them hard--and by which carriage loads of insulted honor trotted to Bladensburg with one flash of powder and twenty flasks of cock-tails to each--it is no more than five miles. In the present instance, however, we crossed the East

Branch and followed its farther bank to the village, by which our way led through more novel scenery, but was prolonged by several miles.

"The East Branch divides the city from the peninsula of darkness. On this side are the spires and haze of the metropolis, the dome of the Capitol in the midst of its basin, like an egg end-upwards in a bird's nest, and all the instances and articles of life, society and human contact push to the water side. Beyond the East Branch is a squalid suburb, scrambling up barren hills, a lunatic asylum [St. Elizabeth's], a horse-boiling factory, deserted earthen forts. Behind that wall of hills is the wilderness of Edom, the land of Wilkes Booth's ride toward the coast, the cape of Point Lookout. A little old creaking stage goes every day through the clefts of those hills, carrying a haggard mailbag. Every night it comes back from Marlboro, or Leonardstown, or Port Tobacco, like an old hunch-backed hermit from a land of caves and ghosts. What it saw behind there, in the starved peninsula, no one prefers to guess. Perhaps the face of Dr. Mudd, telling the neighbors at his gate about the Dry Tortugas. Perhaps the woman at Port Tobacco whose heathen children wear the likeness of the hanged Atzerodt. Perhaps John Lloyd at the old Surratt Tavern, who hears every night in his dreams the voice of his landlady saying: 'Get them shooting irons ready for to-night. They will be called for!'

"Whatever the visions on the roadside or in the woods which are beheld by the driver of this old stage, he always looks to one leaner, more solemn and more mysterious every time he comes through those hill-clefts. Now and then he has a passenger who seems to have been rescued from captivity, some sunburnt and hairy Selkirk or Crusoe, wild-eyed, as if used to hearing only crows and parrots talk. The mail-bag is like a hollow belly, a very weazen of a pouch, as if it were the sack of a scavenger in Sahara. It looks like a mail-bag for whom nobody waits when the stage, with its old driver, creeps into the little Cross-Roads Post-Office [perhaps Bennings], where the Postmaster, perhaps, carries the Post-Office in his hat.

". . .We cross the East Branch Bridge over the same planks which echoed to the hoofs of Booth's and Harold's -horses. We pass the guard-house of heavy, bark-covered timbers, loopholed, standing yet, where Booth was challenged. We leave to the rig right the turnpike road he fled along in the night, going down into the necks and swamps of Charles County--pain in his broken ankle, the fresh ecstasy of his first murder in his temples, the thought of the aroused theatre behind, and Death stalking in to stop the play like the most stirring actor of them all. We turn northward along that bank of the East Branch opposite Washington, and versatile landscapes lie along our road. Now from some crest we see the city across the water, with Arlington crowned far beyond it, and Georgetown College turrets standing in the plumage of sunset. Now we descend into some nook, where nature has not one neighbor, except some fish-hawk, struggling to a blasted tree-top with a herring in its beak. There the cannibal bird eats screaming, as if revenge were in its appetite; and round the base of its column lies rotting timber, swept down by frequent freshets from the old forts above.

"Again we rise through a ravine to a hill, where we are almost level with the nearest breastwork, and can look through its falling embrasure. Some negro has built himself a cabin of the timbers of its bombproof, and the gray smoke curls into patches of fir trees, where his hut clings to the heights precariously. Turning again toward the city, we see, across the river, the Poor House of Washington.

"Looking still across the river we see in a darker wrinkle of the grassy bluffs the Cemetery of Congress, of little repute in these days of greater places of interest, but good enough to take the' bones of mighty George Clinton and Elbridge Gerry, two of our Vice-Presidents, and of William Wirt....

"A railroad from Washington to Baltimore [Baltimore and Potomac] and the lower necks of Maryland crosses the Eastern Branch under the tourist's eye.

"Wirt was born in Bladensburg, a hamlet which now bears out the reputation of Nazareth, As we keep steadily toward it, the river breaks in view to our left sometimes, widening in a meadow, deepening under a woody bluff, flowing narrowly between the bushes and willows, On the right the heights are vigorous with timber....

"On another occasion, I rode with Mr. E. B. Wright, a fellow correspondent, to Surrattsville, ten miles from the end of the Eastern Branch bridge.

"I had gone down to the old town of Upper Marlborough, a venerable and ague-ridden place, the county-seat of Prince George, where Reverdy Johnson studied law. This county formerly contained more slaves and shipped more tobacco than any in Maryland. The road from Washington to Marlborough has been macadamized and graveled since the war, and it is now one of the best roads in the region of the city. There is little to be seen on the way except the Hamlet of Long Old Field, where both the British and the American armies bivouaced in 1814. Beyond this point the old road by which the British advanced, is discerned winding along the way like a hidden brook all overgrown with rank shade. Marlborough has not at present above three hundred people, though it formerly had five times as many. The 'Star Spangled Banner' was written by Francis Scott Key while seeking to recover a citizen of Marlborough whom the British had carried off on their retreat, for breaking his cartel, and firing on their rear--one Doctor Beans [Beanes]. Key undertook to obtain his release, and was carried on the British fleet to Baltimore where he witnessed the bombardment and sketched the song.

"After looking into the old court-house and the three graveyards of Marlborough, and seeing the negroes carousing on Saturday night around the stores, and making a night's rest on a hard bed, we drove back in the morning nearly to Long Old Field, and then taking by-road to the south passed many Catholic farmers riding to church on horseback, and changed our direction at the Woodyard.

"The Wood-yard stands at the source of Piscataway Creek, and near by the ground is marshy. An old mill, mill-race, and a couple of deserted barns are within a few furlongs distance in an old sloping field. The aspect of the place is dismal, except that a large dwelling surveys a part of the scenery from a moundy hill above the deep dell of the stream. Here the American army tarried a time awaiting the British, under General Ross, Wood-yard, on higher grounds.

"Three miles to the South of the Wood-yard, a sandy plain is the point celebrated more than half a century after the Wood-yard had been commemorated as Surrattsville. A frame dwelling of commodious size, at a cross-roads, with a blacksmith shop and two houses adjacent, in the midst of small forest clearing, with a peach-orchard, the peach-orchard at that side of the house which was formerly a tavern, bar, and post-office. There was nothing remarkable about the house; it was painted white, and a neat yard and front porch, with some pigeon-boxes and small oaks, cedars, and locusts stood at hand. While making a sketch of the house, the proprietor came out and told us that John Surratt was teaching school at Frederick, and John Lloyd, who kept tavern here on the fatal afternoon and night when Mrs. Surratt, Booth, and Harold drove out from, Washington, was now living in the latter city. At the time we spoke, tobacco hogsheads were strewn around the lawn--the same lawn on which Mrs. Surratt had halted her buggy, and dismounting, told Lloyd to have them shooting-irons ready, as they would be called for that night; the same lawn on which Booth and Harold had paused near midnight of that same day, Booth crying out triumphantly: 'Do you want to hear some news? We have murdered the President and the Secretary of State'.

"...The lower counties of Maryland [have] good but hilly roads. There are no taverns fit for lodging except at Port Tobacco, Leonardtown, and Marlborough. One has only to go fifteen miles out of Washington to find cross gates on all the roads which he must dismount and open. At the same time a kind of rude hospitality prevails, and if the tourist will supply himself with a few bottles of whiskey he can pay for his welcome. The new railroad [Baltimore and Potomac, Pope's Creek Line] may have some effect on these old slave-holding Catholic countries [sic], but they will come up slowly as they declined, like a patient after the typhus fever."

Source: Townsend, George Alfred. Washington, Outside and Inside. Cincinnati: S.M. Betts & Co. 1873. pp. 700-717.

"A Soft People, A Gentle People, A Goodly People"

A more kindly description of Southern Maryland was offered in 1925 by Congressman Millard Tydings, who represented the more northerly parts of Maryland in the House of Representatives and who later represented the entire State in the U.S. Senate. The occasion of his tribute to Southern Maryland was a sad one, for it was offered in a eulogy for his departed colleague, Congressman Sydney E. Mudd, Jr., of Southern Maryland.

"Young Sidney," as he was called by Southern Marylanders to distinguish him from his father who had served before him in the Congress, died in the Fall of 1924 at the young age of 39. Tydings attended his funeral and described for the House of Representatives the land and the people their colleague had represented.

"That expanse of land embraced between the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay, which runs to the southern confines of Baltimore City, and which we fondly refer to as southern Maryland, and which in song and story is called the 'land of the fiddle and the flask,' has a personality that is unique in the history of this country. Its people there are not interested in massing great heaps of rock and stone in the form of skyscrapers. They are not people who are actuated in their everyday pursuits by the mere desire to accumulate great fortunes. They are not empire builders in the sense they would band the world with rails of steel. They are a soft people, they are a gentle people, they are a goodly people, and they are the kind of people who in the last analysis contribute the best that can be contributed to the welfare of mankind. And as I attended the funeral and imbibed something of the atmosphere of southern Maryland, I understood, where Sydney Mudd got his breadth of view, his gentle qualities, his moderateness, his friendships, his loyalty--the things that characterized him and made him stand apart among the men and women of our State. As I went down to Chapel Point where his body was to be interred and looked down from that hill to the blue Potomac, with the green hills rolling from it, with picturesque undulation over the horizon, through fields touched by autumn--with a wealth of color all about us, I somehow envied him such a resting place; I felt that the bell of the old church would ring a little sweeter in that atmosphere than elsewhere; I felt that the song of the lark would sound softer and dearer in such a setting; and I felt after years of service in this environment, with the strong friendships all about him, with a life filled with activity in the public service, that with his end coming soon, it was an end in such a setting as he would have liked to have."

Source: Sydney E. Mudd: Memorial Addresses Delivered in the House of Representatives of the United States in Memory of Sydney E. Mudd, Late a Representative From Maryland. 1925,

For a fuller discussion of the elements of Southern Maryland's distinctiveness, see Roger Thomas' essay on Southern Maryland in The Old Line State: A History of Maryland published by the Hall of Records Commission in 1971. The observation that Southern Maryland's people were not interested in accumulating wealth was recorded by George Howard in The Monumental City: Its Past History and Present Resources, published in 1873, the same year Townsend's work was issued and fifty-two years before Tydings' similar observation. See News and Notes for April 1979 for Howard's characterization. And we should note that Millard Tydings' fondness for Sydney Mudd was bipartisan, as Tydings was a Democrat and Mudd a Republican.

--Alan Virta

A Note on the Sweet Science

Prince George's County has played such a role in professional boxing in recent years that it deserves comment in this newsletter. In Las Vegas, Nevada, on November 30 Sugar Ray Leonard of Palmer Park became the World Boxing Commission's welterweight champion of the world by defeating Wilfred Benitez of Puerto Rico in the 15th and final round. And the Capital Centre in Largo was the scene of two of Muhammad Ali's heavyweight title defenses, against Jimmy Young in 1976 and Alfredo Evangelista in 1977. That pugilistic historian Bill Aleshire has brought to our attention the existence of a boxing gymnasium in Berwyn as early as 1913. The traveling boxer and his manager, visiting the small towns and challenging the locals, is part of American folklore. Do any members of the Society recall such an event occurring in this county, or recall their elders recounting such an event? Write us at Box 14, Riverdale 20840.