



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXIX Number 1

January & February 2010

Black History Month Activities and Exhibitions

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has a series of events planned to celebrate Black History Month (BHM). This year's Black History Month exhibition focuses on the Prince George's County School System and how it recognizes the legacy of African Americans by naming schools in their honor. Learn about these individuals and their accomplishments and how the schools are named in the county. For more information about these events and others visit www.pg parks.com.

February 7 – Black History Month Opening Reception & Exhibition: *Honor Roll of Excellence: Prince George's County Schools Named for African Americans* at the Harmony Hall Regional Arts Center. See the unveiling of the 2010 BHM poster designed by Prince George's County Public High School art students. The reception from 2-4 PM is free, but reservations are required by calling 301-203-6070. The exhibition is open until February 28.

February 4, 5 and 6 – African American Dance Ensemble Lecture/Demo celebrates African heritage through dance and features colorful attire of different African groups at the Publick Playhouse at 10:15 AM and 12 noon on February 4 and 5 and 8 PM on February 6; fee, call 301-277-1710 for tickets

February 5-28 – Culture of the Mind & Spirit: An Exhibition of Regional African American Artists features the works of a diverse group of artists with a common heritage and profound links to Montpelier Arts Center; free

February 14 – Expressions of a People at Harmony Hall Regional Arts Center offers performances, children's activities, workshops and entertainment for the entire family from 1-6 PM; free

February 20 – The Temptations perform their smash hits and enjoy their latest release "Awesome" at the Harmony Hall Regional Arts Center at 8 PM; \$25/person, \$20/senior & students, call 301-203-6070 for tickets

February 21 – The Ties that Bind: Tying the Past to the Future includes the making of a memory book, a historical picture walk and African dance at the Prince George's Ballroom from 2-4 PM; \$5/person, call 301-341-7439 for details

February 25 – Race, War and Conflict: African Americans in the Military from WWI to Vietnam is an evening of music, food and a photographic exhibit about the experiences of African Americans in the military and the end of a segregated military force at Newton White Mansion from 7-9 PM; \$5/person and free for veterans and active military personnel



Charles Herbert Flowers High



Ridgeley School

The Prince George's County Historical Society

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Directors: Kent Abraham, Beverly Addison, John Brunner, Jane Dodd, Elizabeth Dougherty, Kevin Lee Hall, Elizabeth Lingg, Dan Louck, Nathania Branch Miles, Randie Reilly, Dusty Rhoads, Jane Taylor Thomas, Jack Thompson Jr., Andrew Wallace, Sealani Weiner, Laurence Winston

News & Notes is published six times a year.

You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month (next meetings will be January 9 and February 6). Dates and locations may vary. Please call 301-249-9000 to confirm.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us. All ages are definitely welcome!

Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

Greenbelt Library Building
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt
301-220-0330

Hours: Saturdays Noon to 4 pm
and by appointment



DeMarr Library Closure

Be sure to check the next issue of our *News and Notes* (or call the library at 301-220-0330) to find the library schedule this spring. The County Library system is planning renovations of the entire Greenbelt Branch building, and this means that our PGCHS library will have to be closed for some weeks or possibly months. At the moment we do not know the exact schedule, but it is possible that our library will not be open for research from March through June 2010. We will, however, continue to respond to research inquiries by U.S. mail, e-mail, telephone, and through the *BOARDhost* link on our Historical Society website (www.pghistory.org). We will keep you informed.

Montgomery County History Conference

The Montgomery County History Conference, to be held at Montgomery College in Germantown on Saturday, January 23, 2010, will feature several sessions that may be of interest to members of the Prince George's County Historical Society. The opening session, entitled *Doing Historical Research: The Story of Yarrow Mamout*, will be presented by Jim Johnston, who visited our library several times in researching this story. Mamout was brought to this country in 1752 in one of the slave ships of Christopher Lowndes (of Bladensburg) and Benjamin Tasker (of Belair and Annapolis). After Mamout was freed, he worked and lived to a great old age in Georgetown, and became well enough known that Charles Willson Peale painted his portrait in 1819. The Keynote Speaker of the conference will be Ira Berlin (Distinguished Professor of History, University of Maryland) who will speak on *Slavery in Maryland*. In between these two presentations, there will be sessions on Theatre during the Civil War, Collections Care, Farm Women, Garrett Park's Nuclear Free Zone, Historic Preservation Ordinances, and Archaeology at the Josiah Henson Site. The cost of the conference is \$45 if paid before January 10 (\$55 if paid after January 10).

For more details and registration information, go to: <http://www.montgomeryhistory.org/>

President's Message

Welcome to the Society's new board members **Beverly Addison, Kevin Lee Hall, Randie Reilly** and **Jane Taylor Thomas**. Brief biographies of our new directors can be found on page 4. We would also like to offer our sincere thanks to our outgoing board members, **Ann Harris Davidson, Joyce Dowling** and **Charles Hendricks** for their support of the Society during their tenure.

The society's new publication "**Historic Prince George's - A Confluence of Cultures**" is beginning to take shape. Our authors are off to a good start in an exciting direction. The sales of the company, organization or family pages have started and the profiles are being written. Thus far, profile participants include the **City of Bowie, Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, Prince George's Community College, Bowie State University, Morningside House** in Laurel, **Executive Inn & Suites** in Upper Marlboro, **Bob Hall Distributing, Rip's Country Inn, Belair Engineering, Petro Design/Build** and **Minnick's Properties**.

As members we all have the opportunity to make this project a huge success.

There are two ways we can become involved.

Photos... Great coffee table books are filled with photos that are interesting, unique and funny. It's relatively easy to get photos that have been published through public sources, schools, museums and libraries. But to make this a "must have" addition to anyone's book collection, it needs to have photos from the private collection of families. These family photos have a personal story attached to them which enhances the captions and shows the diverse cultures that help make our county unique.

Two of the authors will meet everyone who has photos and stories to share. A personal visit will make the process more enjoyable and less invasive. The authors will be equipped with a tape recorder, laptop computer and a portable scanner. This way it will not be necessary to borrow any photos or articles and removes all chances of lost or damaged items.

Networking... We are all part of a network of families, businesses, churches or social clubs and other networks of individuals connected to and part of the history of our county. Identifying prospective participants for the profiles of businesses or organizations should be easy. We all buy a lot of our products and services from county businesses, most of us belong to a religious, service or social group. They are all qualified to have the history of their organization, employees or members profiled by a professional writer of our county.

We just have to make the initial contact, confirm they are interested, then forward the contact information to our representative **Lou Ann Murphy** with Historical Publishing. She will meet with them to go through the entire presentation and schedule the follow-up session.

It's a simple process that we can provide to ensure the financial success of our publication.

Members should contact me at 301-249-9000 or one of the authors with all prospects so we can schedule a meeting at their convenience.

Election Results Are In

Congratulations to the 2010 Board of Directors! All incumbents that were on the slate were re-elected. We are also welcoming four new directors to our board: Beverly Addison, Kevin Lee Hall, Randie Reilly and Jane Taylor Thomas. Following is a brief introduction of each of them.

Beverly Addison became interested in the county's history through the genealogy of the surnames in her husband's family: Addison, Bowie, Clagett, Duckett, Eversfield and French families. She and her family live on a farm that was originally granted to Thomas Brooke (1632-1676) which was named Brookefield in 1663. Beverly is currently focusing on her career in real estate and property management after many years as a global administrator for an international financial services firm's intranet.

Kevin Lee Hall is a former Commissioner for the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Hall was previously a special assistant to the County Executive, a confidential assistant to the White House Chief of Staff and worked for the Prince George's County Fair. He is involved in the Azalea Charities and Maryland Farm Bureau. Kevin is currently managing his family's farm, along with participating in development projects and consulting with infrastructure and development firms.

Randie Reilly has had a varied career in marketing and management in New York, Texas and Maryland. She currently owns a small business which sells hand-made artisan pieces and paintings. Randie was the President of the University Park Elementary PTA. Ms. Reilly volunteered with Global Development Services for Youth, which empowers minority youth and exposes them to international and entrepreneurial experiences. She also acted as parade co-chair for the 2006 Martin Luther King, Jr., "Living the Dream" festival and parade.

Jane Taylor Thomas is a founding member and current President of the Prince George's County Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society. She has co-authored several books – *Prince George's County: Black America Series*, the *Images of Fort Washington* and the *Images of Oxon Hill*. Ms. Thomas also conducts genealogy courses and workshops. She enjoys worldwide travel and researches her surnames wherever she goes. Professionally, Jane is Human Resource Specialist for the Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General.

Please see page 2 for a complete list of Board members.

2010 Historic Property Grants Program

The Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) will be awarding grants of up to \$500,000 for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation or restoration of historic property. Applications must be postmarked or delivered by Tuesday, January 19, 2010.

Eligible properties must be located in Prince George's County and must be listed as an Historic Site or listed in the National Register or qualify as a contributing property within a National Register or local district. Properties determined to be eligible by the HPC or Maryland Historical Trust for local or National Register listing are also eligible. Grant applicants can be individuals, nonprofit organizations and political subdivisions (incorporated municipalities).

The selection process is competitive. Projects will be ranked using the following criteria:

Significance of the Property	Administrative Capability
Equitable Countywide Distribution	Community Interest and Support
Urgency of Need for Financial Assistance	Educational Value
Retention of Original Materials	Innovation Value
Long-Term Resource Preservation	Leverage of Other Preservation Activities
Project Readiness	

A minimum 10% match is required; in-kind matches of labor and materials are permitted. The match may consist of cash, donated services or use of equipment. All work must conform to both the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Ordinance and policies. In addition, grant recipients must convey a perpetual historic preservation easement on the property to the M-NCPPC at the time the grant is awarded. The easement must be recorded in the county land records before any funds are disbursed.

If you are interested in more information and the application, call 301-952-3680 or visit www.pgplanning.org/hpgrants.htm.

From the Library

We have had lots of interesting visitors pursuing lots of interesting subjects at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History in Greenbelt in the last few months. A group of University Park area residents and alumni/ae of Northwestern High School have been working hard to discover everything they can about "Nine Pond." On the chance that you, like your library staff, had not previously heard of Nine Pond, we must let you know that it was a man-made pond, constructed in the shape of the number 9, on the property of Bellevue, the Christian Heurich family farm. The 376 acres of the Bellevue farm included what is now Prince George's Plaza on East-West Highway (MD 410), extending north along the west side of Adelphi Road. This land was purchased in 1884 by Christian Heurich, the successful owner-operator of the Heurich Brewery in the District of Columbia, and served as his country getaway. (Many of you know his in-town mansion near Dupont Circle – the former home of the Historical Society of Washington.) There are many questions about Nine Pond – was it really meant to look like the number nine (and if so, should we be looking for an "Eight Pond"?), or was it just a long waterway ending in a round body of water that encircled an island? If any of our members or friends has information about the Heurich gardens, and in particular the mysterious Nine Pond, please let us know!

We've had several University of Maryland students, both undergraduate and graduate, working in the library recently. Several undergraduates from Professor Mary Sies's class (American Studies) have been working on social history and oral interviews as part of the Lakeland History project. Another graduate student is working on Harmony Hall, the 18th-century plantation at Broad Creek (originally the port town of Aire on the Potomac). It is always a pleasure to work with university students, and we are pleased that they recognize our Library of County History as an important source of the information that they need.

We've had lots of research and discussion regarding an unmarked cemetery on the north edge of Greenbelt, which was described some 50 years ago, but essentially unknown today. Several Greenbelt residents have come in to examine our maps and other materials, and have determined that this was the graveyard of the oldest Methodist church in the Greenbelt area, located at what is now the intersection of Research and Hillside Roads. If any of our members have information about this, please let us know!

One of the most "fun" visits, and most interesting searches for information, was in regard to a pretty trivial subject – the use of the apostrophe in **Prince George's**. The apostrophe, of course, simply indicates the possessive form – setting it apart from, for example, Prince George County in Virginia. Though our County has always had an "s" on the end of **George**, the use of the apostrophe has been inconsistent over the more than three centuries of its existence – from the use of essentially no punctuation at all in the earliest days, to fairly consistent use of the apostrophe in the late 18th and most of the 19th century, and then the removal of the apostrophe for part of the 20th century. Today, one always finds **Prince George's** written with the apostrophe, and an apostrophe is clearly shown in the County Seal. John Kelly, who writes the *John Kelly's Washington* column in the *Washington Post* decided to try to find out the story behind the use and disuse of our apostrophe. He visited our library on Thanksgiving Saturday, and looked at everything we could find on the subject; he even skimmed through every 1971 issue of the apostrophe-less *Prince Georges Post*, searching for the return of the apostrophe (which actually reappeared on April 27, 1972, both in that newspaper's masthead and in all copy thenceforward). If you did not see his column in the *Washington Post* of November 29, 2009, go to

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/28/AR2009112802033.html>

But the story did not end at that point. We have since discovered that by County Resolution 81-1971 (adopted October 19, 1971), the Prince George's County Council resolved "that the seal, an impression of which follows herein, be and it is hereby adopted as the County Seal of Prince George's County." That seal was and is complete with an apostrophe.



John O. Brostrup



On the next day, the Historical Society and the M-NCPPC Parks Department arranged for Mr. Boucher and HABS staff to interview Mr. Brostrup in the parlor at Marietta, producing a lively discussion and fascinating information about the early days of the HABS program. (The Historic American Buildings Survey continues today, as part of the National Park Service, and in 2008 celebrated its 75th anniversary.) We have just learned that John Brostrup's 2002 interview will soon be published in *Cultural Resource Management*, journal of the National Park Service. We look forward to seeing it, and we wish John Brostrup a fond farewell.

We note the death at age 94 in October 2009 of John O. Brostrup, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) photographer, who left us a legacy of wonderful photos of Prince George's County's historic buildings. In 1936 and 1937, Mr. Brostrup travelled all around Prince George's County, guided by Forrest Bowie of Mount Lubentia, recording on film historic buildings of all types and in all conditions. The collection of his photos, now filed at the Library of Congress and accessible on the web (<http://rs6.loc.gov/pp/hhhtml/hhGeographics28.html>), is an indispensable resource for anyone studying the historic buildings of our area.



Susan Pearl, John Brostrup and Jack Boucher at 2002 St. George's Day Awards

In 2002, when we, by great good fortune, discovered John Brostrup residing in a retirement home in Rochester, N.Y., the Historical Society decided to recognize him with our St. George's Day Award, together with his successor, Jack Boucher (senior architectural photographer for HABS, and principal author of the 1993 publication *Landmarks of Prince George's County*). Messrs. Brostrup and Boucher accepted their awards at our 2002 St. George's Day celebration, meeting one another for the first time, and together receiving the thanks and appreciation of the Historical Society and friends.

Upcoming Joint Public Hearing

You are invited to attend a Planning Board/
District Council Joint Public Hearing on the
Preliminary Historic Sites and Districts Plan.

When: Tuesday, January 19, 2010
7 PM

Where: Newton White Mansion
2708 Enterprise Road
Mitchellville, MD 20721

To register to speak, please call 301-952-3600.

THANK YOU!!

We would like to thank our members and sponsors for supporting the Historical Society in 2009. We greatly appreciate your contributions and look forward to your continued participation.

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Calendar of Events for January and February 2010

- January 4** – *History's Mysteries Lecture* at Savage Library, 7 PM; join the Laurel Historical Society in unraveling one of Laurel's great mysteries, The Maryland Industrial and Agricultural Institute for Colored Youths; free; address is 9525 Duress Lane in Laurel
- January 9** – *Twelfth Night Ball* at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM; come in period attire or black tie to celebrate the traditional end of the holiday season at this Regency-style ball; \$25/resident, \$28/non-resident, capacity is limited and advanced registration is required by calling 301-864-0420
- January 12** – *Second Tuesday Lecture "Early American Horseracing"* at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, no reservations required
- January 17** – *Conquering the Sky: The Secret Flights of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk* at the College Park Aviation Museum, 2-3:30 PM; Larry E. Tise discusses his book about the Wright Brothers rise to fame on the Outer Banks to the quickly expanding role of the world press and the flights' repercussions in war and military technology; free with museum admission
- January 19** – *Joint Public Hearing on the Preliminary Historic Sites and Districts Plan* at Newton White Mansion, 7 PM; to register to speak, please call 301-952-3600
- January 22-24** – *Regency/Federal Dress Weekend* at Riversdale House Museum, starting Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon; make a serviceable dress for living history events, from cutting to finishing, using a commercial pattern; \$50/resident, \$65/non-resident; advanced payment is required, call 301-864-0420
- January 23** – *Stitch n' Time Textiles Club* at Accokeek Foundation Education Center, 1-4 PM; bring your wheels and needles and help preserve heritage skills, use wool from the farm's heritage breed sheep to card, spin and knit; free, for details call 301-283-2113
- January 25** – *Brown Bag Lecture "What's Cooking In the Colonial Kitchen"* at Belair Mansion, 12-1 PM; bring your own lunch, free, no reservations required
- January 30** – *A Black History Month Concert with the Society for the Preservation of African American Arts* at Montpelier Mansion, 2 PM; learn about African Americans' rich history through re-enactments, song and theater based on plantation life in the 1800s; ages 12 and up; \$10/FoM members, \$15/Non-member; reservations required by calling 301-377-7817; SNOW DATE: February 6 at 2 PM
- January 31** – *In Plane View: Photographic Projects from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum* at College Park Aviation Museum, 2-3:30 PM; Carolyn Russo explores the history of aviation and space flight with her camera; free with museum admission
- February 5, 12, 19 & 26** – *The Bentley Family of Upper Marlborough* at Darnall's Chance House Museum; 12, 1, 2 and 3 PM; focuses on African American women who lived at Darnall's Chance in the 18th century with a special focus on the Bentley Family; free
- February 6** – *Life on the Plantation: African American History*, 12, 1, 2 & 3 PM; tour focuses on the daily lives of the slaves who lived and worked at Marietta Plantation; regular tour admission price
- February 6** – *Bluebird Box Building Workshop* at Accokeek Foundation Education Center, 1-4 PM; help preserve Maryland's bluebirds by building bluebird boxes; free, but registration required by calling Tricia Hardin at 301-283-2113 ext. 12; SNOW/RAIN DATE: February 13
- February 7** – *Grand Opening of Snapshots in Time: Our Community in 1910 and 2010* at Laurel Museum; 1 PM, free
- February 9** – *Second Tuesday Lecture, topic TBA*, at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM, free
- February 11** – *Looking At What Isn't There: The Sadler Photographs in the Snapshots Exhibit at the Laurel Museum* at the Laurel Municipal Pool Room, 7 PM; join the Laurel Historical Society for a lecture on a collection of early 20th century slides depicting Laurel and learn to think with a critical eye – looking for what isn't there; free; address is 9th and Main Street in Laurel
- February 12** – *Hands-on History: The Chef's Apprentice* at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; ages 8-12 prepare a meal from start to finish; \$15/resident, \$18/non-resident, advance registration required by calling 301-864-0420
- February 13** – *Famous Couples of Marietta* at Marietta House Museum, 5, 6 & 7 PM; treat your sweetheart to a candlelight tour highlighting famous couples who lived at or visited Marietta, complimentary glass of champagne or punch and desserts; \$8/person, \$15/couple
- February 14** – *George Washington Musicales with Pro Musica Rara* at Montpelier Mansion, 3 PM; features music of Haydn, Mozart and others performed for string quartet by Pro Musica Rara; ages 12 and up; \$10/FoM members, \$15/non-members, reservations required by calling 301-377-7817; SNOW DATE: February 28 at 3 PM
- February 14** – *Valentine Tea* at Belair Mansion, 4 PM; \$24/person, reservations and payment required by calling 301-809-3089
- February 19** – *No Trump-Uptown and Swing* at Oxon Hill Manor, 7-9 PM; join us for a night of card playing, hand dancing, music, photographs and food; for more information call 301-839-7782
- February 20** – *Highland Tea* at Darnall's Chance House Museum; 2-3:30 PM; celebrate Darnall's Chance's Scottish heritage and enjoy the tastes and sounds of Scotland; \$20/resident, \$25/non-resident; reservations and advanced payment required by calling 301-952-8010
- February 21** – *Seasonal Selections – The Plummers' Kitchen* at Riversdale House Museum, 12 PM; the Riversdale Kitchen Guild prepares foods common among Maryland's 19th century African-Americans; regular admission fees, includes tour of the house
- February 27** – *Stitch n' Time Textiles Club* at Accokeek Foundation Education Center, 1-4 PM; bring your wheels and needles and help preserve heritage skills, use wool from the farm's heritage breed sheep to card, spin and knit; free, for more details call 301-283-2113
- February 27** – *Black Nuns in a Slave Society* at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; Sister Mary Reginald Gerdes relates the seldom heard history of Mother Mary Lange and the Oblate Sisters of Providence, founded in Baltimore in 1829 as the first congregation of religious women of African descent; free, arrive early as space is limited

Ongoing Exhibits:

- January-November 30** – *"Amid Cheers of Thousands" – The Wright Military Flyer at Fort Myer and College Park, 1909-2009* at College Park Aviation Museum; photographs depict the Wright Brothers' record breaking flight trials at Fort Myer, VA and pilot training at College Park, MD 100 years ago; free with regular tour admission
- January 14-December 19** – *Remembering Mr. Lincoln: An Exhibition* at Surratt House Museum, highlights the life and legacy of our 16th President as the Sesquicentennial of his 1860 election approaches on November 6 – an event that ignited the Civil War; during regular tour hours and regular tour admission price
- February** – *"Put to Work in Making Tobacco"* at Belair Mansion and *"Heroes of the Turf: African American Jockeys"* at Belair Stables, commemorate the contributions of African Americans to Belair's history and the history of Thoroughbred racing

For details and additional events, visit: www.pgparcs.com, www.accokeek.org, www.cityofbowie.org/museums, www.greenbeltmuseum.org, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>, and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXIX Number 2

March & April 2010

St. George's Day, 2010

The Prince George's County Historical Society will gather at Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro on Sunday, April 25, to celebrate the 314th anniversary of the establishment of Prince George's County. Trinity Church was established by Bishop Thomas John Claggett in 1810, so we are especially happy to be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the church with its congregation and friends. As in previous years, the Prince George's County Hall of Fame will again join us for our annual St. George's Day dinner and program.

Trinity Church is a handsome brick church, gothic in style, with steeply pitched gable roof and gothic-arch stained-glass windows; entrance is through a tall crenelated entry tower. The sanctuary was built in 1846, designed by well-known Baltimore architect Robert Cary Long, Jr. It replaced a small church of wood frame construction which had been erected at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The Trinity congregation had been formed at that time by Thomas John Claggett, Bishop of Maryland, the first Episcopalian Bishop to be consecrated (in 1792) in the United States. Bishop Claggett was Rector of St. Paul's at Baden, and its chapel-of-ease, St. Thomas' at Croom, and believed, as did the residents of Upper Marlboro, that a church was needed in the County Seat. By 1810, the frame building was completed and services were being held in it. Bishop Claggett himself served as Rector of the new Trinity Church until his death in 1816.

By 1845, the decision had been made to construct a new church to replace the older frame building. A building committee was appointed by the Vestry in December 1845, and its treasurer, Thomas Claggett of Weston, had authority to collect donations and subscriptions towards the building of the new church. In January 1846, the Building Committee advertised in the *Baltimore Sun*, and received, among others, a proposed design by Robert Cary Long, Jr. It was his gothic-style design, with some modifications (for example, Long's original design had included a steeple) that was selected.

Robert Cary Long, Jr., had already established himself as a leading architect in Baltimore. The son of an earlier architect of the same name, the younger Long had designed several churches in Baltimore and other cities – churches that would have been familiar to some members of the Upper Marlboro congregation. Long supervised the construction of Trinity Church, receiving a 5% commission as well as traveling expenses between Baltimore and Upper Marlboro. The church was consecrated by William R. Whittingham, Bishop of Maryland, in December 1846.

In 1896, the Vestry and congregation decided to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the church's construction with a major renovation – in addition to new floor and pews and other interior woodwork, a handsome brick tower was built, enclosing the original gothic-arch door, and creating a new entry into the sanctuary. This is the building where we will gather for our St. George's Day celebration this year.



(continued on page 5)

The snow storms the Washington, DC area experienced during the 2009-2010 winter season have been historic and with winter not quite over, there is the possibility of more history in the making. While snowbound and looking through files of Historical Society history, we found the following News & Notes story from January 1974 about the January 27-29, 1922 Knickerbocker storm. Since several of the local television stations referenced this storm during their newscasts, we thought it would be relevant as well as informative to reprint the article.

Knickerbocker Disaster

Just 52 years ago the Washington area experienced what was perhaps its worst snowstorm in history, and certainly the most disastrous considering the loss of life. A total of 26 inches of snow caused the roof of the Knickerbocker Theater to collapse, killing 97 persons and injuring over one hundred others. The Knickerbocker, located at 18th & Columbia Road, NW, was later rebuilt and renamed the Ambassador Theater. It was closed and torn down just recently, about 1972.

The following account of the disaster along with a series of photos was published in booklet form about two weeks after the storm.

The Storm

Beginning at 4 o'clock, Friday afternoon, January 27, 1922, Washington was visited by a snowstorm which swept in from the Carolina Capes, and within a few hours had demoralized city activities with a foot of snow.

Within five hours after the blizzard had struck the city, traffic was moving slowly, and indications of a real blockade were in evidence.

Sweeping in from the Southwest, the storm's effect was felt early. Trains were reported late early in the evening and reports from nearby towns indicated they were caught in the worst snowstorm of several years.

Street car schedules were thrown behind four hours after the storm had struck Washington. All machinery at the command of the companies for clearing the tracks was rushed into service, but the storm soon gained headway on the apparatus. Traffic became badly jammed at 11 o'clock when the theater crowds started home, and two hours later all street traffic was demoralized. Automobiles on the incline streets became uncontrollable when drivers put brakes into use, the slippery pavements failing to hold the wheels. Several accidents were averted through seeming miracles as the machines slid about. Pedestrians crowded near to watch the capers of the floundering cars.

Skidding automobiles caused most of the accidents, according to the police, who also reported eleven persons injured the first day of the storm.

The Second Day

The storm finally abated after twenty-eight hours, leaving the city blocked under twenty-six inches of snow.

All means at the hands of the District authorities and business interests were thrown into operation in an attempt to dig Washington from the blanket of white.

Every available man and piece of machinery already used during the storm were continued at their stations as the blizzard abated and signs of relief were signaled from weather officials.

The twenty-six inches of snow which fell during the storm, and drifted to five-foot depth at hundreds of points, broke all records for the District. The snow-fall was beaten during the three-day blizzard in February, 1899, but the amount of snow which fell during the period of this storm is unprecedented for that length of time.

One man was frozen to death and several score were injured through traffic accidents, and conditions of sidewalks and streets attributable to the storm.

Throughout the business section, forces of men were bending every effort to clear the streets for traffic. Traffic was confined to one line and an accident to any of the vehicles impeded movements for blocks.

(continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3)

Stores, usually busy on Saturday, were practically without customers. Many employees were unable to report, and nearly all stores were closed at 3 o'clock.

Government departments released employees early in the afternoon and the streets were crowded with thousands attempting to foot their way home over the slippery streets. Many of the pedestrians were women of all ages who had braved the elements to attend work. Many accidents, a large majority resulting to women, were reported as the streets became jammed with the home-going crowds.

The Theater Disaster

Ninety-six persons were killed and 125 injured when the roof of the Knickerbocker Theater, at Eighteenth street and Columbia road northwest, collapsed at 9:10 while the second show was in progress. The audience was disturbed by a groaning sound. A few persons sitting near the exits rose to their feet and started for the door. Before they could get clear of the aisles there was a roar and the entire roof collapsed and fell into the center of the amphitheater.



So sudden was the collapse that many of those in the seats had no warning of what was coming. There were no pillars in the structure to support the roof, it having been built upon the "open house" plan with great steel girders extending from side to side.

The result was that the entire roof collapsed from the center. The steel beams and the concrete roof falling in a "V" shaped mass.

Simultaneously with the roar of the falling roof came the cries and moans of the injured. Policemen on duty in the vicinity turned in alarms of fire, while at the same time hurry calls for aid were sent to hospitals. The streets were so blocked with snow that had been falling the past twenty-eight hours that it took a long time for the rescue parties to arrive.

The scene was one of tragedy. Standing were the semi-circular walls of the structure; covering the seats was a twisted mass of concrete, wire and shattered steel beams. Moaning appeals for help could be heard coming from beneath the debris. Men, women and children, many of them bleeding from wounds about the head and hands,

many with clothing torn to shreds, were sitting or reclining in the snowdrifts that raised waist-high about the theater. Frantic appeals for help could be heard from all sides – residents of the neighborhood, almost beside themselves with the shock of the disaster, rushed to the scene and did all they could to aid the injured who had been able to escape before the debris engulfed them.

Fire alarms for fire were turned in in rapid succession, and police reserves from all precincts were requisitioned to aid the work of the rescue.

A crowd, estimated at from 3,000 to 10,000, lined all streets adjacent to the theater and overwhelmed the first police arrivals. The Seventy-first Company, Sixth Regiment of Marines, was placed on duty at 11 o'clock with orders to shoot at the first sign of disorder or rioting. Soldiers from Walter Reed Hospital also were used to keep back the frantic crowds. Columbia Road was roped off from Biltmore street to Eighteenth street.

Rescuers were hampered by the swirling snow. Hundreds of jacks were being used to lift the debris. Large portions of the fallen roof remained intact, making it necessary to dig with picks and crowbars to get to those imprisoned underneath. Later saws and acetylene torches were used to clear away the steel girders.

The effect of the calamity [sic] was paralyzing.

It was early Monday morning before the last victim had been taken from the ruins.

The damage caused by the storm has been estimated at several millions [sic] dollars. Ninety-seven persons are dead and almost two hundred injured.

Source: The Storm Published by Martin A. Olmem. Washington: 1922. 32 pp.

(Above publication through the courtesy of Mrs. Margaret Roeder Lewis of Seattle, Washington State, a native of Upper Marlboro.)

(continued from page 1)

Trinity Church will be celebrating its bicentennial anniversary with a number of different events. One of these events will be to join with our Historical Society for a combined celebration of St. George's Day and the important anniversary of the church. The Historical Society is delighted to return to Trinity Church for this special event. The day will begin with a regular church service in the morning, followed by tours of the church and a lecture on the history of the church by Society Historian Susan Pearl. We will then move to the Parish Hall for our annual St. George's Day dinner and program. Trinity Church will be a wonderful place to celebrate St. George's Day 2010! You will receive your invitations soon, and we look forward to seeing you there.



I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer is the story about African-American explorer Matthew Henson and his journey to help fellow explorer, Robert Peary, reach the North Pole. The book by Carole Boston Weatherford has been suggested by librarians from the Prince George's County elementary schools as a recommended read for every child. In an effort to accomplish this goal, the Prince George's County Historical Society would like to purchase the 136 copies needed to supply each public elementary school in the county with the book. If you are interested in making a donation to support this effort, the cost of one book is \$14.40. A bookplate with your name will be included for each book purchased. If you would like your donation to go to a specific elementary school, please provide the school name(s). Mail your donation to Prince George's County Historical Society, P.O. Box 14,

March and April Madness Book Sale

All Historical Society books listed for sale on page 9, except for Landmarks of Prince George's County, are on sale at 20% off for orders placed in March and April 2010. The order form is on page 9.

As a bonus, receive a free copy of Calvert of Maryland with every order.



WANTED

Prince George's County High School
Yearbooks

The DeMarr Library is looking for local high school
yearbooks to add to its collection.

If you have any yearbooks you would
like to donate, please call

Sarah Bourne at 301-277-5468
or email her at sarahbourne@juno.com

Spotlight on the Prince George' County Historical Society Board of Directors

J. Andrew Wallace

For over forty years Andrew Wallace has worked in the fields of folklife, cultural and historic preservation, and community action.

Since the early 1960s Mr. Wallace has been involved with the production and presentation of the traditional arts as a producer, director, administrator, fieldworker, and interpretive musician. A founding member of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington (1964), he produced numerous concerts and festivals during the 60s in the Washington D.C. area while performing frequently at festivals and concerts. In 1971 he became Coordinator of Folklife Programs for the National Park Service and was detailed as Program Director of the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA), then the National Folk Festival Association, a position he held through 1975. During this time he directed the National Folk Festival at Wolf Trap, organized several regional festivals, including the acclaimed Northwest Folklife Festival, produced an overseas tour for the U.S.I.A., and served as a program curator and fieldworker for the Festival of American Folklife, co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution.



In 1975 Mr. Wallace left the Washington area and moved to upstate New York to work on independent projects in the field. He produced a tour of Franco-American music and dance to French Canadian communities in northern New England for three consecutive years (1977-79), supported by the Vermont Council for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), spent five years on the staff of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival (1976-80) as Editor and Associate Director, and produced a tour of the blues musician Gatemouth Brown that toured Africa for the U.S.I.A. During this time Wallace also served on the staff of numerous festivals around the country, wrote several articles on traditional arts for publication, and pursued his career as a performer.

In 1980 Andy Wallace accepted a job as Assistant Executive Director of the Community Action Agency for Otsego County, New York, a non-profit organization administering some 15 federal, state and local anti-poverty programs. He had direct responsibility for the administration of six programs, with budgets totaling \$700,000. During this period Wallace also founded and was the first president of Otsego Rural Housing Assistance, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to improving low income housing in the county.

In 1988 Andy returned to the Washington D.C. area and went back to work for the NCTA as Associate Director. For nine years he organized the National and Lowell Folk Festivals and was involved with several of the organization's national tours, including the Masters of the Banjo, Guitar and Violin.

For the past 25 years Andy has also been actively involved in vernacular architecture and historic preservation, restoring five 18th and 19th century houses, writing articles on preservation, and lecturing to preservation organizations throughout the East. He currently serves on the boards of Prince George's Heritage and Prince George's County Historical Society, and advises the County Preservation office on an occasional basis.

Mr. Wallace recently served as Public Events Coordinator and Folklife Specialist at the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, from November 2001 until March of 2005. He currently works as a consultant in the fields of preservation, folklife and cultural affairs.

For the past twenty years, Andy has been married to Sondra Stigen Wallace, who serves as Associate General Counsel for Legislation for the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, and shares Andy's passion for music and preservation. The Wallaces are the owners of Mount Lubentia, a county, state and national historic site.

(continued from page 8)

- April 22** – *Chesapeake Ferries, Bridging a Water Divide: An Illustrated Talk by Peter Leshner* at Maryland Historical Society, 5:30 PM reception, 6 PM lecture; \$10/member, \$15/non-member, call 410-685-3750 ext 319 to register
- April 24** – *Shared Traditions – Weaving: African American Weaving-A Personal Journey with Karen Hampton* at Accokeek Foundation Education Center, 11 AM-12:30 PM; \$7/non-member, free/member, call 301-283-2113 to register
- April 24** – *The Art of Cookery Made Seasonal and Historic-Spring Luncheon* at Riversdale House Museum, 1 PM; locally-grown produce from the kitchen garden and orchard will be prepared using historic recipes; capacity is limited, reservations and advance payment required by calling 301-864-0420, \$30/resident, \$34/non-resident
- April 25** – *St. George's Day Luncheon and Awards* at Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro, 12 noon; call 301-952-8539 for more information
- April 26** – *Community Celebration of "Snapshots in Time: Our Community in 1910 and 2010"* at Laurel Museum, 1-4 PM; free, call 301-725-7975 for more information
- To November 30** – *"Amid Cheers of Thousands" – The Wright Military Flyer at Fort Myer and College Park, 1909-2009* at College Park Aviation Museum; photographs depict the Wright Brothers' record breaking flight trials at Fort Myer, VA and pilot training at College Park, MD 100 years ago; free with regular tour admission
- To December 19** – *Remembering Mr. Lincoln: An Exhibition* at Surratt House Museum, highlights the life and legacy of our 16th President as the Sesquicentennial of his 1860 election approaches on November 6 – an event that ignited the Civil War; during regular tour hours and regular tour admission price

For details and additional events, visit: www.pgprks.com, www.accokeek.org, www.cityofbowie.org/museums, www.greenbeltmuseum.org, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, <http://www.nps.gov/foa/>, and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>



Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemoration Committee of Bowie decided to change its traditional January observance of Dr. King's legacy to April 18, 2010.

The commemoration returns to the site of our first ecumenical service, the Christian Community Presbyterian Church (CCPC) at 3120 Belair Drive in Bowie starting at 1:30 PM.

A survey of the month of April reveals the historical significance of that month in the growth of the freedom movement: Letter from Birmingham Jail, Founding of the Student non-Violent Coordinating Committee, Anti-Vietnam War speeches in CA and NY, and Assassination in Memphis.

The day's program will begin with a program integrating selected film shorts with commentary of various Bowie clergy highlighting the legacy of Dr. King.

Musical selections presented by an a cappella choral group and traditional choral selections by a well known gospel choir. A rousing rhythmic performance by a step dance group will once again thrill the audience.

The honoring of those who have rendered outstanding service to the community will be one of the program highlights. The awards committee, headed by Mrs. Alberta Strith and Mr. Samuel Hutchinson are currently reviewing award recommendations

Our special guest will be a Congress member of close connection to the Human Rights movement.

As we did last year, complimentary copies of the speaker's book will be provided to all who pay the donation fee of \$10.00. The day will end with a delicious 3 course fellowship dinner in the HOBES hall of the Presbyterian Church. We will present those members of the Historical Society during the awards segment of the program. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, April 18th.

Calendar of Events for March and April 2010

- March 2** – Eleanor Calvert Custis Stuart lecture by Michelle Kretsch and Dr. Leigh Ryan at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM; \$5/person, \$2.50/student
- March 4** – Washington, Lafayette & Tilghman at Yorktown: Charles Willson Peale's Revolutionary Portrait for Maryland lecture by Elaine Rice Bachmann at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; \$35/member
- March 6** – 7th MD Company A Drill Day at Marietta House Museum, 12-4 PM; Civil War re-enactors demonstrate military drills, weaponry and tacticals; free, for more information call 301-464-5291
- March 9** – "Prince George's County Cemeteries" lecture by Jennifer Stabler, M-NCPPC, at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, no reservations needed; call 301-809-3089 for more information
- March 11** – Furniture in Maryland Life gallery walk viewing highlights of Maryland furniture at Maryland Historical Society, 12-1:30 PM; fee, call 410-685-3750 ext 319 to register
- March 11** – Apart Before Death lecture about what happened to women when marriages failed during the Colonial period at Laurel Municipal Pool Room, 7 PM; free, call 301-725-7975 for more information
- March 13** – Federal Crafts Workshop at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; learn the basics of confectionary or millinery, lunch provided; registration and advanced payment required by calling 301-864-0420, \$38/resident, \$45/non-resident
- March 13** – An Early 20th Century Night On the Town: Dinner and Theatre in Historic Laurel, 6 PM; \$35/person, call 301-725-7975 for more information
- March 13** – Refuge System Birthday Bash at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, 9 AM-3 PM; enjoy folk music, children's author Amy S. Hansen, falconry talks and tram tours; free
- March 13-14** – Hands-On History Days – Be a Woodturner's Apprentice at Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM-12 PM; work in a woodturner's shop and help make chairs the old-fashioned way; reservations -recommended by calling 301-377-7817, ages 5 and up, \$7/child
- March 14** – Elizabeth Van Lew: Citizen Spy at Maryland Historical Society, 3 PM; living history performer Meg Kelly will present Miss Van Lew throughout her life as she assisted Union Soldiers imprisoned in Richmond; includes refreshments; ages 12 and up; \$25/person, call 410-685-3750 ext 319 to register
- March 17** – Vince Vaise, Park Ranger with the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; will speak on the events that inspired Francis Scott Key to pen the Star Spangled Banner; free, ages 12 and up
- March 19-21** – Eleventh Annual Lincoln Symposium at Surratt House Museum, presenting tours, speakers, banquet, and entertainment related to the Civil War era and the Lincoln assassination; \$160/person with tours priced separately; advance registration required, call 301-868-1121 or www.surratt.org for full details.
- March 20** – Irish History and Heritage Festival at Maryland Historical Society, 12-4 PM; celebrate the history and culture of Ireland through music, dance, foods, and stories; free/MdHS members, \$10/non-members
- March 20** – Colonial Tavern Dinner at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 7-9 PM; following dinner listen to Ship's Company sing sea chanteys and tavern songs of the period; reservations and payment required by calling 301-952-8010, \$35/resident, \$42/non-resident
- March 21** – Seasonal Selections – Soup du Jour at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; Riversdale Kitchen Guild prepares soups using root vegetables from the winter garden; regular admission fee
- March 21** – "Spring Back In Time: Visit Our Community 100 Years Ago" at Laurel Museum, 1-4 PM; for children, \$5/child, reservations required by calling 301-725-7975
- March 25** – Maryland Day at Maryland Historical Society, 12 noon; celebrate the founding of Maryland and the 2010 "Marylander of the Year" Award; \$35/person, call 410-685-3750 ext 319 to register
- March 27** – Shared Traditions - Weaving: The Art of Eastern Woodland Indian Finger Weaving at Accokeek Foundation Education Center, 11 AM-12:30 PM; \$7/non-members, free/members, call 301-283-2113 to register
- March 27** – First Ladies Tea at Marietta House Museum, 1 PM; celebrate Women's History Month with special guests First Ladies Martha Washington and Dolley Madison (a close friend of Mrs. Duvall); reservations and advanced payment required by calling 301-464-5291, \$22/person
- April 1** – A Chesapeake Aesthetic: Fashionable Design in Later 19th-Century Baltimore lecture by James Archer Abbott at the Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; \$35/member
- April 3** – Children's Day at Accokeek Foundation Education Center and National Colonial Farm, 9 AM-4 PM; \$5/non-member, free/member; Chicken and Egg Workshop, \$10/non-member, \$8/member, call 301-283-2113 for more information
- April 8** – Treasures from the H. Furlong Baldwin Library gallery walk exploring rare documents, including the archive's "Famous Person" file at Maryland Historical Society, 12-1:30 PM; fee, call 410-685-3750 ext 319 to register
- April 10** – Discovering Maryland's National Treasures: Maryland in the Revolution seminar at Maryland Historical Society, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM; learn about famous and lesser known Marylanders and their families who contributed to the cause of Maryland independence, includes tour and boxed lunch; \$40/MdHS member, \$55/non-member, call 410-685-3750 ext 319 to register
- April 10** – The Legacy of Liberty at Maryland Historical Society, 1 PM; students of the Baltimore School for the Arts present original dramatic portrayals of life in Maryland during the American Revolution; \$10/member, \$15/non-member, call 410-685-3750 ext 319 to register
- April 10** – Tavern Night at Riversdale House Museum, 8 PM; partake of tavern-style food and beverages while being entertained by the Ship's Company Chanteymen; ages 21 and over; reservations and advanced payment required by calling 301-864-0420, \$20/resident, \$24/non-resident
- April 13** – "Changes of the Seasons in Native American Culture" lecture by Natalie Proctor, at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, no reservations needed; call 301-809-3089 for more information
- April 14** – The Last Lincoln Conspirator: John Surratt's Flight from the Gallows lecture and author signing by Andrew C.A. Jampoler at Maryland Historical Society, 6:30 PM; \$10/member, \$15/non-member, call 410-685-3750 ext 319 to register
- April 17-18** – Marching Through Time at Marietta House Museum, 11 AM-4 PM; experience camp and domestic life, military drills, period merchants, crafts, food, and hands-on children's activities; free parking at Glenn Dale Community Center with continuous shuttle service; \$5/person, under 4 is free
- April 18** – Seasonal Selections – Green, Green at Riversdale House Museum, 12 noon; Riversdale Kitchen Guild prepares early young green plants for the garden; regular admission fee
- April 18** – Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at Christian Community Presbyterian Church, 1:30 PM; enjoy film shorts, music, lecture and book signing, fellowship dinner and more; \$10 donation suggested
- April 21** – Hampton House of Baltimore lecture by Angela Roberts-Burton, Park Ranger with the Hampton National Historic Site at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; ages 12 and up; free



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXIX Number 3

May & June 2010

Sunday with the Fergusons at Hard Bargain Farm

You are cordially invited to join the Prince George's County Historical Society and the Alice Ferguson Foundation for a *Sunday with the Fergusons at Hard Bargain Farm* on Sunday, May 23, 2010, from 2 to 5 PM at 2301 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607. The afternoon will include a tour of the Ferguson Farmhouse and gardens, a lecture about life on the hilltop at Hard Bargain Farm, and an early picnic supper. The cost is \$25 per person and checks can be made payable to PGCHS and mailed to Donna Schneider, 4701 Colonel Ewell Ct., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. For any questions or more information, please call Elizabeth Dougherty at 301-780-3976.



Used with permission of the Alice Ferguson Foundation

To get us in the spirit of the day, following is some background about Henry and Alice Ferguson, Hard Bargain Farm and the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF), courtesy of the AFF. For more information, visit the AFF website www.fergusonfoundation.org.

The Ferguson Era: An Overview

In 1922, Alice and Henry Ferguson acquired the 139-acre Hard Bargain Farm property as a summer and weekend retreat. Their purchase included a dilapidated farmhouse, several farm structures, fields, woodlands, wetlands, streams, the Potomac shoreline, a view of Mount Vernon and a beautiful rolling landscape.

At Hard Bargain Farm, Alice Ferguson, who was an artist trained at the Corcoran School of Art, pursued a variety of creative, intellectual and public interest endeavors. In addition to her painting, her passions included amateur archeology, environmental conservation and farming. The property continues to be an expression of Alice Ferguson's ideas and remains as she developed it.

In 1930, Alice commenced archeological excavations along the Potomac River shoreline. Her discoveries, as well as later interpretations of her discoveries made by archeologists from the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Michigan, provided evidence that this area had been occupied by Native Americans for more than 10,000 years. As a result of these findings, the Accokeek Creek Site received National Historic Landmark designation in 1966.

In the 1920s, the Fergusons built the existing main house and its ancillary buildings, preserving the surrounding natural landscape. After World War II, they purchased a 500-acre tract of land known as Bond's Retreat. Later renamed "Moyaone Reserve" after the Native American site Alice Ferguson investigated and believed to be the village called "Moyaone", the land was parceled into

(continued on page 4)

The Prince George's County Historical Society

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Email: pgchslibrary@aol.com or info@pghistory.org
PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com

Website: www.pghistory.org

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Vice President: Lynn Roberts
Secretary/Treasurer/
Membership: Donna Schneider
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Newsletter Contributors: Pamela Cooper, Nathania Branch Miles, Susan Pearl and Donna Schneider

Directors: Kent Abraham, Beverly Addison, John Brunner, Jane Dodd, Elizabeth Dougherty, Elizabeth Lingg, Dan Louck, Nathania Branch Miles, Randie Reilly, Dusty Rhoads, Sarah Schaffer, Jane Taylor Thomas, Jack Thompson Jr., Andrew Wallace, Sealani Weiner, Laurence Winston

News & Notes is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month. Dates and locations vary. Please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us.

Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

Greenbelt Library Building
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt
301-220-0330

Hours: Saturdays Noon to 4 pm
and by appointment



Welcome New Members

The Society would like to welcome two new members:

Charles Clagett
Lisa Holt

We appreciate your support!

2010 Society Sponsors

The Society would like to thank our sponsors. Their generosity helps to fund the Society's programs, newsletter and general activities, as well as the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History. We greatly appreciate your support!

Platinum:

Estate of Ethel Belinky
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Bronze:

Beverly Addison
Bucher/Borges Group
Elizabeth Magruder Cosgrove
Sandra Cross
Jean Lancaster
Dan Louck
James McCeney
Douglas and Susan McElrath
Dusty and Julie Rhoads
Anne and Ghiselin Sasscer
Donna Schneider
Judy and Ken Schneider
Victoria Thompson
Andrew and Sondra Wallace
Jim and Susan Wolfe

Temporary Closure of Frederick S. DeMarr Library

The Greenbelt Library will close on May 10, 2010, for several months of renovation. This means, unfortunately, that the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History, housed since spring 2008 in the Greenbelt branch, will have to close for the entire period of renovation.

We will continue to respond to research inquiries during the months that the library is closed. Inquiries can be addressed to library staff in several ways. For telephone inquiries, just call 301-220-0330, press #1 for the library, and leave your inquiry in a phone message. Inquiries by e-mail should be addressed to pgchslibrary@aol.com or by U.S. mail to PGCHS, P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD, 20738-0014. You may also leave an inquiry on the BOARD-host link at our website – www.pghistory.org. Or you may address the PGCHS historian directly at susan.pearl@verizon.net. Inquiries that are strictly genealogical would best be addressed to the Prince George's County Genealogical Society at pgcgs@juno.com.

Annual Historic Preservation Week Reception

This year's annual Preservation Week Reception will be held on Thursday, May 27th at 6 p.m. at Darnall's Chance House Museum located at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

The reception provides an opportunity for those interested in Prince George's County's heritage to get together and celebrate the individuals and organizations that are working in historic preservation, to review the state of preservation in the county, and to look to the future. Doug McElrath, President of Prince George's Heritage, will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

There will also be ample time to socialize and enjoy Darnall's Chance. Darnall's Chance was built between 1741-1742 by James Wardrop, a Scottish immigrant, who amassed a fortune as a merchant and entrepreneur in the bustling port-town of Upper Marlborough, Maryland. In 1748, he married Lettice Lee, daughter of Phillip Lee, the progenitor of the Maryland branch of the illustrious Lee family of Virginia.

The Wardrops managed a large residential complex that included a substantial brick house, outbuildings, orchards, livestock and an ornamental garden. Their household included 32 slaves - house servants, skilled craftsmen and field hands. Following Wardrop's death in 1760, Lettice married Dr. Adam Thompson (creator of the "American Method" of smallpox inoculation) and later Col. Joseph Sim (ardent supporter of the American Revolution). She died on April 3, 1776 and willed her children the property, including the family burial vault.

The house was remodeled in 1858, producing such a drastic change that the original configuration of the Wardrops' home was essentially forgotten. The building was restored and reopened in 1988, returning it to its 1742 appearance.



All Society members are invited to the free reception, but must reserve a space. Please call the **Riversdale House Museum at (301) 864-0420** to RSVP, or you may notify Pam Cooper of Prince George's Heritage by email at pamelakcooper@verizon.net by May 20th, 2010.

(Hard Bargain Farm continued from page 1)

5-acre lots and sold to individuals who shared their values regarding environmental conservation. Many of these individuals built homes in the area and, as permanent residents, were active in the fight to preserve the Potomac shoreline from industrial development during the 1960s.

Following Alice's death in 1951, Henry became more active in community affairs. In early 1954, he made it known that he would share a cottage on the property with the community for educational purposes. The community quickly responded and created a non-profit corporation limited to exclusively educational purposes, and was named the Alice Ferguson Foundation in memory of Alice.

Due to the enthusiasm of AFF and its wide range of suggested educational projects, Henry announced that he would leave Hard Bargain Farm to the Foundation. During its early years, AFF pursued a mission of fostering and supporting the local education system. Today, its primary focus is on the use of the Farm, river and nature trails for environmental education. To protect the nearby Potomac waterfront from major industrial development, AFF donated its land holdings along the Potomac to the Department of the Interior. This land donation, along with other land transfers by nearby landowners, enabled the establishment of Piscataway Park. By 1967, the Farm and trails were attracting 3,000 students per year, prompting the conversion of farm buildings to education-related facilities as well as building the Wareham Lodge to meet the demand of overnight school trips and for other educational uses. The vision, begun by the Fergusons over 80 years ago, has continued through AFF, and the Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center has become a facility that supports a model environmental educational opportunity for thousands of children and adults each year.

Spring Madness Book Sale

The Historical Society is extending its book sale. All books listed on page 9, except for *Landmarks of Prince George's County*, are on sale at 20% off for orders placed by June 30, 2010. Complete the order form, also on page 9, and send it to us today.

As a bonus, receive a free copy of *Calvert of Maryland* with every order.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has donated yearbooks and annuals to the DeMarr Library and we welcome more!

If you have any yearbooks you would like to donate, please call Sarah Bourne at 301-277-5468

Is This Your Last Newsletter?

If you have not paid your 2010 dues by May 31, 2010, this will be your last newsletter. The costs of the newsletter, events sponsored by the Society and the maintaining of the DeMarr Library are constantly increasing and we are dependent on our members for their support so we may continue to offer these activities. Please renew today! A membership application can be found on the back page. We greatly appreciate your membership! Thank you.

St. George's Day, 2010

St. George's Day, 2010, was observed on April 25 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro. We celebrated not only the 314th anniversary of the establishment of our County, but also the 200th anniversary of the founding of Trinity Church. At this happy event, the Historical Society presented six St. George's Day awards:

To the **Anacostia Watershed Society**, for restoration of historic George Washington House in Bladensburg;
 To **Edward Day**, for increasing knowledge and awareness of Prince George's County history at metropolitan and state levels;
 To **Anna Holmes**, for preparation and publication of *Treasured Reflections of Time: Memoirs of Anna Mae Queen Holmes*;
 To **Lakeland Community Heritage Project**, for preparation and publication of *Lakeland: African Americans in College Park (Images of America)*;
 To **Nathanial Branch Miles** and **Jane Taylor Thomas**, for preparation and publication of *Oxon Hill (Images of America)*; and
 To **Trinity Episcopal Church**, in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the church

An additional unannounced award was presented to Anne M. Sasscer, representing herself and Mary L. Mackall and Stevan F. Meserve, authors of *In the Shadow of the Enemy: The Civil War Journal of Ida Powell Dulany*.

The Hall of Fame of Prince George's County inducted two individuals:

Theresa Douglas Banks (c.1900-1972), a native Prince Georgian who taught in the County school system for 48 years, and was a dedicated community activist and welfare worker who balanced participation in civic and church activities while providing food, clothing, and other essentials for disaster victims, the needy, the elderly and the infirm.

Lansdale G. Sasscer, Sr. (1893-1964), prominent attorney and lifelong Upper Marlboro resident, who served 16 years as a Maryland State Senator including two years as president of the State Senate, and later represented the five counties of Southern Maryland for 14 years as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

(Calendar of Events continued from page 8)

- June 19** – *Women Artists and Folk Art* at Maryland Historical Society, 1-4 PM; celebrate women's artistic traditions with a series of demonstrations of contemporary quilting, beading and claywork; children's crafts and tours of MdHS's folk art exhibit; \$10/adult, \$5/child 13 and under, free/MdHS member
- June 20** – *Birds of a feather...* at Fort Washington Park-Lighthouse, 8:30 AM; a bird watching trek through Fort Washington Park for adults; fee
- June 20** – *Seasonal Selections – In a Jam* at Riversdale House Museum, 12 PM; Kitchen Guild preserves berries from the garden; free, fee for house tour
- June 22** – *Tuesday Time Travellers* at Belair Mansion, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; ages 4-10 can enjoy a look at Early American games and pastimes; free call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- June 23** – *Summer Music Concert* at Oxon Hill Manor, 7-8 PM, doors open at 6:30 PM; relax on the patio and enjoy the music of the John Jensen Trio's tribute to Tommy Dorsey; refreshments and seating provided; \$15/person, call 301-839-7782 to make a reservation
- June 27** – *Family Fun Days* at Montpelier Mansion, 4-6 PM; play games, do a craft, dress up, take a tour and bring a picnic dinner to eat on the grounds; free for all ages, canned food accepted for donation to local food banks
- June 28 – July 2** – *Hands-on History Week: The Artist's Apprentice* at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM – 3 PM; European masterworks by Rembrandt, Rubens, Van Dyck and more serve as inspiration for arts and crafts, games and cooking activities; ages 8-12; \$30/resident, \$36/non-resident; \$135/resident or \$144/non-resident for all week; call 301-864-0420 to make reservations
- July 6-9** – *Hands-on History Week: The Artist's Apprentice* at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM – 12 PM; see above for program; ages 5-8; \$15/resident, \$18/non-resident; \$55/resident or \$60/non-resident for all 4 days; call 301-864-0420 to make reservations

National Colonial Farm has several "green" classes and workshops in May and June, such as DIY Worm Composting and Local Food Forum; visit www.accokreek.org for more details.

Patuxent Research Refuge has many free public programs ranging from art exhibits, bird, nature and flower walks, to owl prowls and hands-on wildlife activities; visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov> for more information or call 301-497-5887

To November 30 – *"Amid Cheers of Thousands" – The Wright Military Flyer at Fort Myer and College Park, 1909-2009* at College Park Aviation Museum; photographs depict the Wright Brothers' record breaking flight trials at Fort Myer, VA and pilot training at College Park, MD 100 years ago; free with regular tour admission

To December 19 – *Remembering Mr. Lincoln: An Exhibition* at Surratt House Museum, highlights the life and legacy of our 16th President as the Sesquicentennial of his 1860 election approaches on November 6 – an event that ignited the Civil War; during regular tour hours and regular tour admission price

For details and additional events, visit: www.pgparcs.com, www.accokreek.org, www.cityofbowie.org/museums, www.greenbeltmuseum.org, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, www.mdhs.org, <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>, and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

THE ROSENWALD SCHOOLS OF MARYLAND



An archival photo of Germantown School in Worcester County, two-classroom, two-teacher school, built 1922-23, now in process of restoration

As many members know, the Prince George's County Historical Society has, for the last two years, sponsored a study of Maryland's Rosenwald schools. This study was funded by the Maryland Historical Trust, and was completed in March 2010. The study has produced a report and Multiple Property Documentation on those schools that were built for Maryland's African-American students between 1918 and 1932, with the financial assistance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The research, field work, photography, and writing were carried out by Susan Pearl, historian of the Society.

Rosenwald schools have attracted a great deal of interest since 2002, when the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed them, as a class of buildings, in that year's list of America's Eleven Most Endangered Buildings. Julius Rosenwald (1862-1932), president of Sears, Roebuck and Company from 1909 to 1924, be-

came one of America's great philanthropists, one of his favorite causes being the education of the Negro. Encouraged by Booker T. Washington, he funded the construction of schools in Alabama, and then established the Julius Rosenwald Fund in late 1917, specifically aimed at the visible, physical production of school buildings. From that time until his death in 1932, the Rosenwald Fund contributed to the building of more than 5000 new schools for black children (as well as additional shop buildings and teachers' homes) in 15 southern states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia).

The fund itself provided only seed money for school construction; the majority of the cost came from public taxation, and each local black community was required to match the contribution of the fund in either cash or in-kind contribution such as lumber or labor. But in spite of these limitations, the Rosenwald program did much to improve black schools, offering architectural plans that were state-of-the-art for that period, and providing incentives to local African-American communities which invariably led to further improvements. In the state of Maryland, between 1918 and 1932, 156 schoolhouses were constructed in 20 counties. This study tells the story of some of these schools, including some important efforts at their preservation.

From 1865 to 1872, the Freedmen's Bureau had established schools for newly freed African-American children previously denied the right of education. The Freedmen's Bureau school buildings often served also as a place of worship for the local black community, and the community would tend to grow around it. After the Freedmen's Bureau ceased activity in 1872, operation of schools for black children was taken over by the local board of School Commissioners. In the following years, other rural black communities developed and grew, and more schools were built, but these schools were small and fragile, and had minimal assets. Especially in the Deep South, the school facilities were woefully inadequate, and continued to be so after the 1895 passing of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, by which the Supreme Court sanctioned the "separate but equal" concept – schools for black children, where they existed at all, were far from equal in resources to those of white children. In the early 20th century, there were several agencies that worked to assist and improve schools for black children, but the Julius Rosenwald Fund soon became the most significant of them. Beginning in 1917, after a trial period in Alabama, the Rosenwald Fund poured more than \$4,000,000 into the construction of school buildings.

Maryland was a minor player in the larger story of the Rosenwald Fund. Only 156 schools (plus two teachers' homes and three shop buildings) were built with Rosenwald assistance in the state of Maryland – to be compared with 787 schools plus 26 accessory buildings in North Carolina. Only in Missouri and Florida were fewer schools built with Rosenwald assistance, and only

(continued on page 7)

(Rosenwald Schools continued from page 6)

Missouri received a smaller total financing from the Rosenwald Fund. But the impact of these schools in Maryland was significant, and of immense importance to the communities in which they were built.

The construction of these schools in Maryland between 1918 and 1932 is the subject of *The Rosenwald Schools of Maryland*. The study examines Julius Rosenwald's cooperative venture that began in 1912 with Booker T. Washington, producing the first experimental schools, and then the initiation of the Julius Rosenwald Fund in 1917. The early school designs, produced at Tuskegee from 1917 to 1920, are examined – nine of the schools in Maryland were built on these Tuskegee designs, and five of them are still standing (at least in part). The relocation of the school construction headquarters to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1920 is reviewed, and particular attention is paid to the school designs of the following period during which the majority of the schools in Maryland were built. The study examines the reorganization of the Rosenwald Fund in 1928, and the transition from smaller one- and two-teacher buildings to larger, more substantial ("permanent") buildings – a significant change for Maryland. It summarizes the results of detailed field survey, bringing together statistics from the 20 counties of Maryland where Rosenwald schools were built; this includes the number and locations of Rosenwald schools that have been identified, illustrated by photographs from the Rosenwald Archives, as well as current photographs of the surviving buildings. Of the 156 schools built in Maryland with Rosenwald assistance, 53 are still standing, just over one third of those originally built.

The Rosenwald Schools of Maryland will be available for reading at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History, and electronically (upon request to pqchslibrary@aol.com) during the months that the library is closed.

Ms. Pearl will present the results of the study as part of a panel at Maryland's annual preservation conference in Easton on May 20, 2010. The panel will also include discussion of the collaboration between Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald, and of the current restoration of the 1918 San Domingo School in Wicomico County.

Juneteenth Celebration

Juneteenth, the nation's oldest celebration commemorating the end of slavery, traces its origination to Galveston, Texas in 1865. The observance of June 19th as African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States.

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Prince George's County Chapter Celebration, the Prince George's County Historical Society and the Church of the Latter-Day Saints Suitland Ward will host its 5th annual Juneteenth Celebration. "Roots and Footprints" will be held in Watkins Nature Center Amphitheater on Saturday, June 19th, 2010 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. The day's activities will begin with several workshops on beginning genealogy, DNA, Preservation of Black Aviation, Photo Preservation and a program for children to name a few. The keynote speaker will be Carroll Gibbs, noted author of "Black Georgetown" and lecturer on African American history, who will discuss the significance and history of Juneteenth.

From 12 noon until 5:00 pm State Senator Ulysses S. Currie, Prince George's County Councilman Samuel H. Dean and Chairman of the Planning Board Samuel J. Parker will host a Juneteenth Celebration that will include musical and inspiration performance, living history demonstrations, old fashion games, food vendors and exhibitors. Other activities include Chess demonstrations and games led by Ted Fagan of the Eagle Chess Academy, a kickball tournament, carnival games, pony rides and hayrides, Double Dutch demonstrations, archery, face painting, animal shows and more. Watkins Regional Park is located at 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774.

For more information call Carolyn Rowe at (301) 292-6987 or Park & Planning at (301) 627-2270.

Calendar of Events for May and June 2010

- May 2** – Artillery Demonstration at Fort Washington Park-Old Fort, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM; volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American arms and visitors can participate in a non-firing artillery drill; all ages, fee and for more information call 301-763-4600
- May 5** – "Preservation and Conservation of Family Documents" by Nancy Purinton, sponsored by the Prince George's County Genealogical Society at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 7 PM, email pgcgs@juno.com for more details
- May 8** – Flower Mart Celebration, 10 AM – 2 PM; attend Flower Mart with Maryland Historical Society, decorate a hat, make paper flowers and enjoy lemonade and cookies; see special MdHS hat collection on view this weekend only; free with admission; call 410-685-3750 ext 319 to register
- May 8** – Wool Washing Frolic at National Colonial Farm, 10 AM – 2 PM; learn how to wash wool fleeces using Colonial methods and Stitch 'n Time Club members will be spinning and knitting wool into items for sale
- May 8** – Mother Goose Tea at Marietta House Museum, 2 PM; featuring nursery rhyme characters, flavored teas, desserts and nursery-rhyme inspired fun; ages 6 & up, must be accompanied by adult, \$12/resident, \$15/non-resident, reservations required, call 301-464-5291
- May 8** – Mother's Day Tea at Belair Mansion, 4 PM; treat a special lady to a special afternoon, \$24/person, reservations required, call 301-809-3089 or email: museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- May 9** – Mother's Day Tours at Riversdale House Museum, 12:15-3:15 PM; bring a special lady for a free guided tour, one free tour with each paid admission, \$3/adult, \$2/senior, \$1/student, free/4 & under
- May 9** – "Harp Felt" Mother's Day Tea at Billingsley House Museum, 1-3 PM; enjoy pastries, tea sandwiches and tea while listening to melodic harp music; \$10/person, call 301-839-7782 to make a reservation
- May 13** – "Looking at What Isn't There: The Sadler Photographs" lecture at Laurel Municipal Pool Room, 7 PM; free
- May 15** – Turkey Ramble at Fort Washington Park-Visitor Center, 10 AM; join park guide for a hike and talk about the wild turkeys that live in the park; all ages, fee, call 301-763-4600
- May 15** – "To Go a' Soldiering" at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; meet members of local revolutionary war regiments as they prepare for battle; free, call 301-809-3089 or email: museumevents@cityofbowie.org for more information
- May 16** – Bowie's 42nd Annual Heritage Day at Belair Stable and Mansion, 12-4 PM; mansion tours, bluegrass music, pony rides, "horse tales" and kids activities; free
- May 16** – Discussion of "The Lincoln Assassination Encyclopedia" by Dr. Edward Steers at Surratt House Museum's Visitors Center, 12-4 PM; free, copies of the book available for sale
- May 16** – Historic Hyattsville House Tour, 1-5 PM; self-guided tour featuring a large Queen Anne home, bungalows and an 1897 historical home; www.preserveyhyattsville.org or 301-927-6947 for more information; \$10 in advance or \$12 day of tour
- May 16** – Festival of Music presented by Lakeland Community Heritage Project at Memorial Chapel, University of Maryland, 5 PM; showcases gifted local musicians and commemorates an earlier music festival presented in Lakeland more than 50 years ago; tickets \$15, call 301-345-3692 or LakelandHistory@yahoo.com
- May 17** – Brown Bag Lunch History Discussion at Belair Mansion, 12-1 PM; topic is about children on the 18th c., bring your lunch and enjoy some history; free, call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- May 18** – From Seed to Supper: A History of School Gardens and Their Role in Children's Health lecture sponsored by the Greenbelt Museum at the Greenbelt Community Center room 201, 7:30 PM; free
- May 18** – "New Perspectives on the Battle of Bladensburg" lecture by Don Shomette at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM; \$5/person, \$2.50/student
- May 19** – "Gems of Endearment" history lecture at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; Master gemologist and appraiser Lynne Loube will speak on the jewelry of George and Martha Washington; refreshments; free, ages 12 and up
- May 20** – Kids' Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-12 noon; railroad fun and games for ages 1-10; free, call 301-575-2488 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- May 22** – Pirate Fest at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 11 AM – 4 PM; experience life on the 18th century high seas, swab the deck, walk the plank and more; \$5/person, call 301-952-8010 for more information
- May 22** – Shared Traditions – Colonial Weaving Demonstration at National Colonial Farm, 11 AM – 12:30 PM; learn about weaving in the American colonies and see a loom demonstration; \$7/non-members, free/members
- May 22** – "The Birth of the Banjo: From Gourd to Modern Day" by George Wunderlich at Surratt House Museum, 4-5 PM; free, arrive early as space is limited
- May 23** – Seasonal Selections – From the Still Room and the Dairy at Riversdale House Museum, 12 PM; Riversdale Kitchen Guild churns butter, distills herbal infusions and more; free, fee for house tour
- May 23** – Sunday with the Fergusons at Hard Bargain Farm; 2 PM, \$25 per person, see page 1 for more information
- May 27** – Preservation Month Reception at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 6 PM; see page 3 for details
- May 29** – Turkey Ramble at Fort Washington Park-Visitor Center, 10 AM; join park guide for a hike and talk about the wild turkeys that live in the park; all ages, fee, call 301-763-4600
- June 2** – "Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps" by Tom Shawker, sponsored by the Prince George's County Genealogical Society at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 7 PM, email pgcgs@juno.com for more details
- June 5 & 6** – Rome at Riversdale, 10 AM-June 5, 12 PM-June 6; celebrate ancient Rome, participate in activities, watch Legion XX battle demonstrations and enjoy neoclassical pastime inside the museum; \$5/person, \$3/student
- June 6** – Artillery Demonstration at Fort Washington Park-Old Fort, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM; volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American arms and visitors can participate in a non-firing artillery drill; all ages, fee and for more information call 301-763-4600
- June 12** – Spinning Frolic at National Colonial Farm, 10 AM – 2 PM; observe Stitch 'n Time Club members as they card, spin and weave wool from the farm's sheep
- June 13** – Birds of a feather... at Fort Washington Park-Lighthouse, 8:30 AM; a bird watching trek through Fort Washington Park for adults; fee
- June 14** – Brown Bag Lunch History Discussion at Belair Mansion, 12-1 PM; topic – TBA, bring your lunch and enjoy some history; free, call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- June 17** – Kids' Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM-12 noon; railroad fun and games for ages 1-10; free, call 301-575-2488 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- June 19** – Juneteeth at Watkins Park Nature Center, 8:30 AM – 4 PM, see article on page 7 for more details

(continued on page 5)



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXIX Number 4

July & August 2010

Bring Your Family to Dig Into Our County's Prehistoric Life

Sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical Society and the Laurel Historical Society

Date: Saturday, July 17, 2010

Time: 2 PM

Where: Dinosaur Park
13200 Block of Mid-Atlantic Boulevard
(just off Contee Road across from historic Oaklands)
Laurel, MD 20708

Cost: Free

RSVP: pgchsmembers@hotmail.com or Donna at 301-952-8539

A paleontologist will give us a tour of Dinosaur Park before we have the chance to unearth a piece of Prince George's County's prehistoric past, including bones of *Astrodon johnstoni*, Maryland's state dinosaur, and fossils of trees and plants. Light refreshments will be provided.

The Dinosaur Park features a rare deposit of fossils from the Cretaceous Period (144 to 65 million years ago). The Park is part of a geologic formation called the Muirkirk Deposit that consists of sediments and clays that occur south of Washington DC to north of Baltimore. The parking area is surrounded by large chunks of ironstone (siderite) that recall the days of iron mining in the 1800s and 1900s, and is paved with crushed brick from when the local clay was used for brick making.



The Prince George's County Historical Society

Phone: 301-220-0330

Email: pgchslibrary@aol.com or info@pghistory.org

PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com

Website: www.pghistory.org

President: John Petro
Vice President: Lynn Roberts
Secretary/Treasurer/
Membership: Donna Schneider
Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Newsletter Contributors: Susan Pearl and Donna Schneider

Directors: Kent Abraham, Beverly Addison, John Brunner, Jane Dodd, Elizabeth Dougherty, Elizabeth Lingg, Dan Louck, Nathania Branch Miles, Randie Reilly, Dusty Rhoads, Sarah Schaffer, Jane Taylor Thomas, Jack Thompson Jr., Andrew Wallace, Sealani Weiner and Laurence Winston

News & Notes is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month. Dates and locations vary. Please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us.

Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

Greenbelt Library Building
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt
301-220-0330

Closed while work is being done on
the Greenbelt Library



Welcome New Members

The Society would like to welcome three new members:

Sandra Emme
Ronnie Gathers
Mrs. H.W. Merritt

We appreciate your support!

2010 Society Sponsors

The Society would like to thank our sponsors. Their generosity helps to fund the Society's programs, newsletter and general activities, as well as the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History. We greatly appreciate your support!

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Estate of Ethel Belinky
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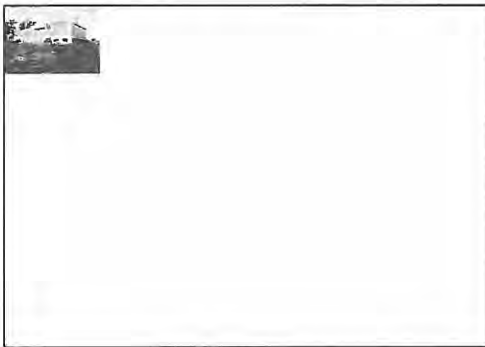
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Sandra Emme
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Dusty and Julie Rhoads
Anne and Ghiselin Sasscer
Donna Schneider
Judy and Ken Schneider
Victoria Thompson
Andrew and Sondra Wallace
Jim and Susan Wolfe

Rosenwald Schools of Maryland

Over the past two years, the Prince George's County Historical Society has sponsored a study of the Rosenwald schools of the State of Maryland (see article in May/June 2010 *News and Notes*). Funded by the Maryland Historical Trust, the research, field-work and photography were undertaken by Susan Pearl, Historian of the Historical Society, and completed at the end of March this year. Ms. Pearl presented the results of her study at the state's annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference in May, and she will present an expanded, illustrated lecture on the study, co-sponsored by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Historical Society. It will take place on Tuesday, July 6, 2010, at 12:30 p.m., in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the County Administration Building, 14741 Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro. Members and friends of the Historical Society are invited to attend. Since space is limited, please RSVP to Susan Pearl at 301-262-3367.



The left photo is Rosenwald Archives photo of 1920/21 Central Industrial School, Prince Frederick, Calvert County and the right photo is the same building in 2009.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join the Prince George's County Historical Society

at our headquarters at Mt. Calvert on

Thursday, August 12, 2010 at 6 PM

**Boat rides on the Patuxent River (weather permitting),
food and music**

Check your mail in July for details

HARMONY HALL LISTED AMONG MARYLAND'S MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The fine brick plantation house known as Harmony Hall has been listed as one of 2010's most endangered historic properties in Maryland. *Preservation Maryland*, a non-profit Maryland preservation organization, recently announced the eleven properties which it considers among the most important and most threatened of the state's historic properties. The *Preservation Maryland* program's purpose is "to generate public awareness of Maryland's significant threatened properties, generate possible solutions, and serve as a call for action."

The "Endangered Maryland" list is modeled after the nationwide list created each year by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Other states have done the same, and these statewide lists have proven to be highly effective tools for public education and fundraising in support of historic preservation. This year's other ten Endangered Maryland Historic Sites are:

- The Almshouse, Hagerstown, Washington County
- The Arabber Community, a cultural tradition in Baltimore City
- Ellicott City Historic District, Howard County
- Fells Point Recreation Pier, Baltimore City
- Fox's Tavern near the South Mount Civil War battlefield, Frederick County
- Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Cultural Landscape, Caroline and Dorchester Counties
- Lakefront Promenade at Lake Kittimaqundi, Columbia, Howard County
- Millbrook Grist Mill at Nanjemoy, Charles County
- Newtowne Manor, 18th-century Jesuit missionary home, St. Mary's County
- Providence Farm, 18th-century brick farmhouse, Centreville, Queen Anne County

Harmony Hall, constructed circa 1760, is a Georgian plantation house, built of brick laid in Flemish bond. Its interior plan consists of a central stairhall flanked on each side by a single parlor, with particularly fine decorative woodwork in the staircase, cupboard, cornices and mantels. The house was built by Enoch Magruder on part of the *Battersea* tract fronting on the Broad Creek as it flowed into the Potomac. Magruder was a landowner, plantation proprietor, and successful merchant, and his handsome brick house stood at the edge of the port town of Aire. After Magruder's death, the house and part of the *Battersea* land passed to two more generations of his family, but was leased during 1792 to two Addison brothers and their brides, who gave it its present name of Harmony Hall. The granddaughter of one of the brides wrote in her book *One Hundred Years Ago, the Life and Times of Walter Dulany Addison* (1895), "The two families lived in great happiness together, and from this fact my grandmother . . . called the place Harmony Hall which name it retains to this day."

Harmony Hall was sold by Magruder descendants in 1850, and passed through several short-term owners until it was purchased in 1892 by Robert Stein, linguist, explorer, and immigrant from Silesia, Prussia. Many of the Steins' extended family also bought land in this area early in the twentieth century, thus creating the neighboring community known as Silesia.

Harmony Hall was purchased in 1929 by Charles W. Collins, an Alabama attorney and author who had a consuming interest in history, archaeology, and the restoration of historic buildings. He began restoration/renovation work on Harmony Hall, adding a two-story brick wing on the south end, and resided in the house for the rest of his life. Onto property just north of Harmony Hall, he moved a mid-18th-century frame house from the village of Piscataway, and had it reassembled and restored there (Piscataway House). Collins also made plans for the restoration of the early brick-and-frame 18th-century Want Water house near Harmony Hall but never completed them; he died in 1964. In 1966, Collins' widow sold the 66-acre Harmony Hall property, including the Want Water house, to the National Park Service. During the years since its purchase, the Park Service has maintained the house, leasing it to tenants for periods of time, and conducting archaeological excavations on the property. Nevertheless, the house at Harmony Hall has suffered serious deterioration, and its present condition, together with its outstanding history and significance, makes it a prime candidate for preservation, and has gained it the dubious distinction of listing among Maryland's Most Endangered Historic Properties.

Prince of a County, 2010

The Prince George's County Historical Society is fortunate to celebrate its annual reception and fundraising event at a handsome restored Victorian residence, closely related to the property where we celebrated one year ago. This year's *Prince of a County* event will be held at *Locust Grove*, in the Woodmore area, on Sunday, September 19th. *Locust Grove* is the late-19th-century home of the Slingluff family, and is a noticeable landmark on Enterprise Road. We are grateful to Bill Shipp and Ellen Nedde and their family for welcoming the Historical Society and friends to their beautiful home.

Locust Grove is a two-and-one-half-story frame house, five bays by two, embellished with elaborate Gothic Revival detail. It is sheathed with German siding painted light olive green, and the tall windows have ornamental jigsawed lintels highlighted in darker olive and red. A large rear wing extends to the east, and projecting bays and dormers add variety and decorative detail to the handsome exterior.



The house was built circa 1880 by Trueman Cross Slingluff on the *Locust Grove* farm that he had inherited. Before 1880, he had lived in the brick plantation house of his great-grandfather, Fielder Cross, but at approximately the time of his second marriage to Emma Florence Hardisty of Melford in 1882, he completed the building of this handsome frame house. The new house was a very large and noticeable landmark on the old road between Buena Vista and Oak Grove. It incorporated abundant decorative features of the Gothic Revival style, e.g., elaborately carved lintels and vergeboards, ornamented gable dormers, and ornamental ceramic chimney pots. The large rear wing provided a large dining room and separate entrance for the farm laborers, as well as a large kitchen at ground level. The unusually high assessed value in the 1880s indicates the extraordinary size and ornamentation of the

new dwelling. The Slingluff house is also reported to have been the first dwelling in Prince George's County to be fitted up with piped gas.

Early in the twentieth century the Slingluff family moved to Melford (where we celebrated *Prince of a County* last year), and the Enterprise Road property became the home of the Weaver family for more than 50 years. The Shipp family purchased the house twenty years ago, and they have done a wonderful job of restoration. *Locust Grove* will make a beautiful setting for this year's *Prince of a County* celebration. You will receive invitations in August, and we look forward to seeing you at *Locust Grove* on September 19!

Hazy, Lazy Summer Dayz Book Sale

Enjoy one of the Historical Society publications during your summer vacation. All books listed on page 7, except for *Landmarks of Prince George's County*, are on sale at 20% off for orders placed by August 31, 2010. Complete the order form, also on page 7, and send it to us today.

As a bonus, receive a free copy of *Calvert of Maryland* with every order.



Calendar of Events – July and August 2010

- July 3** – Patriotic Concert at Fort Washington Park, next to Visitor Center, 7 PM; patriotic music from Fort Washington Community Chorus and Montgomery Community Band directed by Dr. Gordon Bowie; bring lawn chairs or blankets and a non-perishable food item for the Fort Washington Food Pantry; free
- July 6** – Rosenwald Schools of Maryland lecture by Susan Pearl at County Administration Building, 4th floor; 12:30 PM, see article on page 3 for details; free, RSVP to Susan Pearl at 301-262-3367
- July 6** – Twilight Tram Tour at National Wildlife Visitor Center, 7:15-8 PM; 45-minute guided tour through the habitats of Patuxent Research Refuge; \$4/adults, \$3/seniors, \$2/children under 12, space is limited, so call 301-497-5887 for reservations
- July 10-11** – Colonial Vignettes at National Colonial Farm, 2:30 PM; 2010 Museum Theater Interns will perform scenes related to the impending nuptials on July 31; free
- July 11** – A Fox Tale Puppet Show at National Wildlife Visitor Center, 12:30 PM & 2:30 PM; discover the nighttime world of critters found at Patuxent Research Refuge; free, no registration necessary
- July 11** – Artillery Firing Demonstration at Fort Washington Park-Old Fort, 1, 2, 3 PM; the Fort Washington Guard will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; fee, for more information call 301-763-4600
- July 13** – Tuesday Time Travelers at Belair Stable Museum, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; “Horsing Around” – kids ages 4-10 enjoy Belair’s horse history, free; for more information call 301-809-3089
- July 15** – Kids Kaboose at the Bowie Railroad Station Museum, 10:30 AM; stories, games and train watching for children 10 and under; free
- July 15** – Jazz on the Lawn: Oklahoma Twisters at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; bring a lawn chair or blanket to enjoy all-American western swing and bring a picnic; free
- July 17-18** – Annual Mid-Summer Open House at Surratt House Museum, 12-4 PM; enjoy free guided tours
- July 17-18** – Colonial Vignettes at National Colonial Farm, 2:30 PM; 2010 Museum Theater Interns will perform scenes related to the impending nuptials on July 31; free
- July 17** – Prehistoric Dig at the Dinosaur Park, 2 PM; free, see article on the front page for details
- July 18** – Family Fun Days at Montpelier Mansion, 4-6 PM; explore the grounds, play games, do a craft, take a tour, have a picnic dinner on the grounds; free, canned food accepted for donation to local food banks
- July 21** – Concerts at the Manor at Oxon Hill Manor, 7-8 PM; enjoy musical selections from jazz/R&B vocalist Pam Parker; \$15/adult, children 10 & under are free; refreshments and seating provided
- July 24-25** – Colonial Vignettes at National Colonial Farm, 2:30 PM; 2010 Museum Theater Interns will perform scenes related to the impending nuptials on July 31; free
- July 26** – Mrs. Rumney’s Housewifery School for Young Ladies at Belair Mansion, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; young ladies ages 6-11 are invited to learn embroidery, butter making and polite deportment from Col. Tasker’s housekeeper; free, but reservations required by calling 301-809-3089
- July 31** – A Colonial Wedding (Colonial Day) at National Colonial Farm, 6-8 PM, weather permitting; this highly interactive performance will highlight Maryland’s rich Colonial history through an entertaining look at marriage; \$7/non-members, \$5/members, children 12 & under are free
- August 1** – Artillery Firing Demonstration at Fort Washington Park-Old Fort, 1, 2, 3 PM; the Fort Washington Guard will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; fee, for more information call 301-763-4600
- August 1** – Family Fun Days at Montpelier Mansion, 4-6 PM; explore the grounds, play games, do a craft, take a tour, have a picnic dinner on the grounds; free, canned food accepted for donation to local food banks
- August 12** – Join us at Mt. Calvert for boat rides, food and music, 6 PM; see box on page 3
- August 17** – Tuesday Time Travelers at Belair Mansion, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; “Not All On the Wall” – kids ages 4-10 investigate art from the museum, free; for more information call 301-809-3089
- August 18** – Concerts at the Manor at Oxon Hill Manor, 7-8 PM; enjoy the roots blues sound from Bill Thomas; \$15/adult, children 10 & under are free; refreshments and seating provided
- August 19** – Kids Kaboose at the Bowie Railroad Station Museum, 10:30 AM; stories, games and train watching for children 10 and under; free
- August 19** – Jazz on the Lawn: Buck Hill Quartet at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM; bring a lawn chair or blanket to enjoy the bluesy sounds and bring a picnic; free
- August 21** – Mammy Reminisces at Surratt House Museum, 4-5 PM; join Mammy and her daughter as they engage the audience with memories of African American life during and after slavery; free
- August 28** – 1814 British Invasion of Prince George’s County Bus Tour, 8 AM – 5 PM; Dr. Ralph Eshelman will guide the tour along the routes the British Army marched through the County; bus departs from and returns to Darnall’s Chance; fee; for more information call 301-952-8010
- August 28** – Historic Airports Tour, 10 AM – 4 PM; take a tour of the county’s aviation heritage; \$5, lunch not provided, but lunch stop scheduled; departs from and returns to College Park Aviation Museum; space is limited, please call 301-864-6029 for reservations
- August 28** – Marching with Rochambeau at Belair Mansion, 11 AM – 4 PM; Colonial troops offer a glimpse of Army life on the road to Yorktown to defeat the British; free
- August 28** – Stitch n’ Time Textiles Club at Accokeek Foundation Education Center, 1-4 PM; bring your wheels and needles and help preserve heritage skills, use wool from the farm’s heritage breed sheep to card, spin and knit; free, for more details call 301-283-2113

National Colonial Farm has additional classes and workshop; visit www.accokeek.org for more details.

Patuxent Research Refuge has many free public programs ranging from art exhibits, bird, nature and flower walks, to owl prowls and hands-on wildlife activities; visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov> for more information or call 301-497-5887

To November 30 – “Amid Cheers of Thousands” – The Wright Military Flyer at Fort Myer and College Park, 1909-2009 at College Park Aviation Museum; photographs depict the Wright Brothers’ record breaking flight trials at Fort Myer, VA and pilot training at College Park, MD 100 years ago; free with regular tour admission

To December 19 – Remembering Mr. Lincoln: An Exhibition at Surratt House Museum, highlights the life and legacy of our 16th President as the Sesquicentennial of his 1860 election approaches on November 6 – an event that ignited the Civil War; during regular tour hours and regular tour admission price

For details and additional events, visit: www.pgiparks.com, www.accokeek.org, www.cityofbowie.org/museums, www.greenbeltmuseum.org, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, www.mdhs.org, <http://www.nps.gov/fova/>, and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXIX Number 5

September & October 2010

Marietta

We regret to inform the membership of the closing, at the end of August 2010, of Marietta as a House Museum. Marietta, built circa 1812, was the plantation home of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall, and from 1985 until last year served as the headquarters of the Prince George's County Historical Society; during these nearly 25 years Marietta became a favorite and much-loved destination for our members. Historical Society members and volunteers worked in many different ways, preparing Marietta for public visits, establishing programs, setting up the Gift Shop, operating the library, and raising money in various ways for the benefit of the Marietta House Museum. When our library moved out of Marietta early in 2008, many of us felt sad and nostalgic



Marietta in Cool Weather

about leaving the beautiful place that had become our home, but we knew that for the sake of the library, the move to a larger, more efficient space was necessary. And shortly thereafter, we removed our headquarters from Marietta, re-establishing ourselves at Mount Calvert on the Patuxent. Through the generosity of the M-NCPPC Natural and Historical Resources Division, we will continue to hold our Board meetings and some of our programs at various M-NCPPC historic properties, including Marietta. Many of us, however, have a strong attachment to Marietta, and, since the recent decision to close the museum, have spent some time reminiscing about our Society's close historical relationship with this site.

In the early 1970s, Fred DeMarr set up his library for the use of the Historical Society and the public; it was first housed at Montpelier in Laurel, and then at Riversdale, which served also as the location for Society meetings and programs. In the early 1980s, as Riversdale prepared to close down for major restoration work, the Historical Society looked for another location, and settled on Marietta. In 1985, a Joint Use Agreement was drawn up between M-NCPPC (owner of Marietta) and the Historical Society, allowing the Society use of Marietta's modern basement space for the library and office. In August and September of 1985, Society volunteers, including Fred DeMarr, Dusty Rhoads, Alan Virta, and John Giannetti, packed up the library collection, carried it from Riversdale, and began to set it up in the largest basement space at Marietta.

At the same time, the Society agreed that its members would work on areas of the historic house, preparing the rooms for public tours, and raising money for furnishings and decoration. Up until this time, there had been occasional tours of Marietta, but it was not set up as a house museum, and the historic interior was badly in need of repair. Particularly during the summer of 1987, Society members and volunteers (known as the Marietta House Committee) put in countless hours of work: cleaning, stripping wallpaper, painting, creating drapes and bed-hangings, and acquiring furnishings. They had only 6 weeks and \$500 but they did it! The transformed Marietta opened to the public late that fall, staffed by Historical Society volunteers.

(continued on page 3)

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Phone: 301-220-0330

Email: pgchslibrary@aol.com or info@pghistory.org
PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com

Website: www.pghistory.org

President: John Petro
Vice President: Lynn Roberts
Secretary/Treasurer/
Membership: Donna Schneider
Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Newsletter Contributors: Susan Pearl, Donna Schneider and Jane Taylor Thomas

Directors: Kent Abraham, Beverly Addison, John Brunner, Jane Dodd, Elizabeth Dougherty, Elizabeth Lingg, Dan Louck, Nathania Branch Miles, Randie Reilly, Dusty Rhoads, Sarah Schaffer, Jane Taylor Thomas, Jack Thompson Jr., Andrew Wallace, Sealani Weiner, Laurence Winston

News & Notes is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month. Dates and locations vary. Please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us.

Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

Greenbelt Library Building
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt
301-220-0330

**Hours: Currently closed while the Greenbelt
Library is being renovated.**



2010 Society Sponsors

The Society would like to thank our sponsors. Their generosity helps to fund the Society's activities, lectures and newsletter, as well as the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History. We greatly appreciate your support!

Platinum Sponsor

Estate of Ethel Belinky
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Donna Schneider
Judy and Ken Schneider
Victoria Thompson
Andrew and Sondra Wallace
Jim and Susan Wolfe

Become a sponsor today!

(Marietta continued from page 1)

The House Committee members also dreamed up and presented several programs that have become synonymous with Marietta and have continued to the present day. The first *Mad Hatter Tea* took place in March of 1988; all food and service was provided by the same painters and seamstresses who had worked so hard the previous summer, and their children performed the appropriate "Wonderland" roles. In more recent years, Sharon Sweeting, Historical Society librarian and newsletter editor, donned her bright Red Queen gown, and made her appearance crying "Off with their heads!" strewing red sequins as she went, to the delight of the youngsters at the *Mad Hatter Tea*. This popular tea was repeated for 20 years, inspiring all sorts of other theme teas, such as the *Nutcracker*, *First Ladies*, and *Under-the-Sea* Teas that also became popular. Society member Maxie Phillips organized a collection of tea cups and saucers, so that at every tea each attendee had an individual lovely tea service, while enjoying the exquisite goodies baked and served by Society members and other friends. Among other events instituted by Society members were the Children's Colonial Games Day, Quilt Shows, Doll Shows, and the popular Holiday Candlelight Tours. Note cards were printed with the charming pen-and-ink drawing of Marietta by Sarah Moseley of the House Committee, and the House Committee also produced the first Historical Society brochure with photos of Marietta.



*The Original Marietta House Committee
at Teatime*

As the Historical Society was settling into Marietta, the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants began working toward the restoration of Justice Duvall's law office, and conducted an archaeological investigation of the Duvall family cemetery about one-half mile north of the Marietta house. The Historical Society collaborated with the Duvall Society in celebrating the opening of the law office for tours, and also the ceremony of reinterment of the Duvall family remains, and re-erection of the historic gravestones, on Marietta's grounds.

One of the most arduous commitments of the Society was the establishment of the Marietta Gift Shop. Headed by Joyce McDonald, volunteers created many of the items that were sold in the shop, at first located within the historic house. After the shop moved into the basement space, it was run by Stella Uber, who worked practically full time purchasing stock, cleaning, setting up displays, and keeping the books. Society members took turns opening the shop on Saturdays and Sundays, and during special events when the museum was open. All proceeds were used to purchase objects for Marietta. The Society continued to operate the gift shop for almost 20 years before it was taken over by the M-NCPPC.

Society members were the first to offer interpretive tours of the historic mansion on a regular basis, and several (notably Dusty and Julie Rhoads) continued to do so after 1991 when Susan Wolfe was hired by M-NCPPC as manager of the Marietta House Museum. Susan and her husband, Jim Wolfe, lived in the 1968 wing of Marietta until Susan's retirement in 2007, and both were very much involved with the activities of the Historical Society, adding to the programs offered at Marietta, and serving as a very effective liaison between the Society and the M-NCPPC.

Other contributions by the Society included the establishment of school tours. Jane Eagen Dodd worked for many years with Susan Wolfe, designing grade-level-appropriate tours, with hands-on activities, and instruction in the use of primary source materials.

The Society has loaned many specific items to Marietta, not only the collection of bone china tea cups, but antique furnishings and decorations as well. Individual members have

(continued on page 6)

Updating of the PGCHS By-laws

As per Article VIII of the Society's by-laws, proposed changes to the by-laws must be presented to the general membership no less than 30 days prior to any general membership meeting. The next general membership meeting will be our Annual Membership meeting in November, at which time the Board of Directors is requesting the membership to approve the amended by-laws below. We made some grammatical changes and clarifications, but the substantive changes include:

Article III – updating the membership categories and adding the sponsorship section;

Article IV – moving the newsletter editor and membership chairman from officers to directors, increasing the number of directors; allowing for the combination of the Secretary and Treasurer into one position, and changing the method of presenting board of director nominations to the general membership;

Article V – clarification of the duties and responsibilities of the officers and directors;

Article VI – reducing the number of required general membership meetings per year and adding the requirement of minimum attendance of officers and directors at board meetings; and

Article VII – the addition of the Preservation, Newsletter, Library and Headquarters committees and the method of appointment for the committee chairperson.

We ask the membership to review the by-laws and to be prepared to vote upon them at the annual meeting. If you have any questions regarding the proposed changes or the by-laws in general either contact us at pgchsmembers@hotmail.com or PGCHS, PO Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED BY-LAWS

Article I-Name

This non-profit corporation shall be known as the "Prince George's County Historical Society, Incorporated" hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Society".

Article II-Objectives

Section 1. To foster an understanding and appreciation of the history and heritage of Prince George's County, Maryland.

Section 2. The collection, recording, organization, restoration and preservation of historical data, artifacts and all associated materials relative to Prince George's County history and heritage.

Section 3. To promote and encourage research into all aspects of Prince George's County history and heritage.

Section 4. To acquaint and make available to members and the general public historical data and all associated materials relating to Prince George's County through programs and publications arranged or sponsored by the Society.

Section 5. To encourage and participate in the protection and preservation of historic sites and structures in Prince George's County.

Article III-Membership/Sponsorship/Dues

Section 1. Membership shall be open to anyone interested in promoting the objectives of the Society. An application shall be made in writing and filed with the membership committee.

Section 2. Membership shall be classified as, Individual/Family, Student, Life, Sustaining, Institutional, Newsletter and Honorary.

Section 3. Individual/Family, Student, Sustaining and Institutional shall pay annual dues as determined by the Board of Directors. Life members shall make a one time payment for life membership. Newsletter membership is for complimentary exchange with organizations or individuals which have been deemed to be friends of the Society. Honorary membership may be conferred for life by two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board of Directors in recognition of outstanding contribution to the objectives of the Society. Honorary members are exempt from further payment of dues.

Section 4. Sponsorship shall be classified as Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Each sponsorship level shall pay an annual amount determined by the Board of Directors. Sponsorship grants all membership privileges.

Section 5. Dues and sponsorships are payable by January first of the calendar year. Dues and sponsorships not paid by April first will result in the member being dropped from membership. New members or sponsors paying initial dues after September first shall be considered paid for the remainder of that year and the following year.

Article IV-Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian who shall be elected on an annual basis.

Section 2. There shall be at least fifteen (15) and no more than eighteen (18) directors elected for three (3) year terms; these shall be elected on a staggered basis. The officers together with the directors shall constitute the Board of Directors and shall be elected at the November general meeting of each year for the following calendar year. A slate of candidates for these offices shall be presented to the membership in the issue of the Society newsletter published prior to November general meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the November general meeting. In the event of there being more than one nominee for any office, election shall be by ballot.

Section 3. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined and a single officer may be elected as the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 4. In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the Board shall appoint a member of the Society to fill the vacancy until the end of the term vacated.

Section 5. All past presidents shall be members of the Board with voting privileges.

Article V-Duties of Officers and Directors

Section 1. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Society, shall preside at meetings and shall appoint Committee Chairpersons.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the president in the absence of or upon the incapacity or resignation of the President.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors, shall handle the general correspondence of the Society, and shall maintain a file of the Society's proceedings and correspondence.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of the Society funds and for maintaining a financial record in accordance with accepted accounting practices. The Treasurer shall deposit all funds received in the name of the Society. Monies shall be paid out by best method for all Society activities. The Treasurer shall present a financial report at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall handle the same duties as the individual positions of Secretary and Treasurer as listed in Article V, Sections 3 and 4.

Section 6. The Historian shall be the custodian of the archives of the Society and shall make same available to Society members, researchers, and the general public.

Section 7. Each Officer and Director shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 8. All Directors of the Society shall have such other responsibilities and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

Section 9. No compensation shall be paid to the Board of Directors for their services as such, but they may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred by them in performing official duties on behalf of the Society and at the direction of the Board of Directors.

Article VI-Meetings/Quorums

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of three times a year and at the call of the President.

Section 2. There shall be a minimum of one general membership meeting a year.

Section 3. A quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors shall consist of eight (8) Board members.

Section 4. Officers and Directors are expected to attend a minimum of 75% of the Board of Director meetings held per year.

Section 5. A quorum for membership meetings shall consist of twenty-five (25) members.

Section 6. All interested members may attend Board meetings.

Article VII-Committees

Section 1. The Society shall have standing committees for: Preservation, Membership, Newsletter, Library, Programs, Finance, Headquarters and Public Relations.

Section 2. Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President from the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Committee Chairperson shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Special committees may be established for specific tasks and may be terminated at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Article VIII-Amendments to the By-laws

These By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present at any general membership meeting provided that the Board of Directors has reviewed the proposed change and the membership has been notified of said change not less than (30) days prior to the meeting.

No by-law changes shall be made that are contrary to the intent of the original Articles of Incorporation signed on December 8th

/s/ _____
Secretary

**Prince of a County
at Locust Grove**

Sunday
September 19, 2010

2 to 5 PM

\$50 per person

Mail checks payable to
PGCHS
4701 Col. Ewell Court
Upper Marlboro, MD
20772

For more information,
call Donna at
301-952-8539

SAVE THE DATE!

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**

**Friday evening, November 5, 2010
Goddard Space Flight Center Recreation Center
(access from Good Luck Road, Glenn Dale)**

We're trying something new and different this year! Our annual meeting (complete with election of Board and officers, and updating of By-laws) will take place just before dinner and the performance by Goddard's Music and Drama (MAD) group of one of Rodgers and Hammerstein's most popular musicals (because of MAD's contract agreement, we can't tell you the title yet, but it's about a musical Austrian family named von Trapp . . .). You will receive a notice sometime in October that will give you not only the title (if you haven't guessed) of the musical, but also specifics as to time of meeting, dinner, and performance, as well as the exact price of the evening (probably in the range of \$32 per person), and details for RSVP. We look forward to a really delightful evening!

(Marietta continued from page 3)

contributed antique books for the parlor bookshelves, and antique furniture to enhance the room displays or to contribute directly to certain special events. And for most of these events, Society members provided countless home-baked cookies and other refreshments.

The operation of the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History was a highlight of the Society's activity at Marietta from 1985 to 2008. Fred had run the library essentially by himself. After his untimely death in 1997, a group of dedicated volunteers came together, considered the daunting task before them, and determined to continue offering this great resource to the public. They made sure the library was open to the public every Saturday afternoon (as well as some other times by appointment), drawing to Marietta countless researchers who, after completing their research, often treated themselves to a tour of the house and purchases at the gift shop. The library was legally transferred to the Society by Fred's sister and executrix, Louise Tatspaugh, on December 3, 1999. Within a few years, however, it became clear that the library space at Marietta could not effectively house the growing Society library. But even so, only the wonderful new space at the Greenbelt Library, offered to the Society for the setting up of its collection, could have tempted the Society's Library Committee in 2008 to leave beautiful Marietta.

Over the years, Marietta has been the scene of many happy events that the Prince George's County Historical Society has been a part of - not only the annual Holiday party of the Society, but also joint celebrations with the Duvall Society, the Prince George's County Bar Association, and the U. S. Supreme Court Historical Society, to name a few. After the end of August, limited work will be done at Marietta to convert the spaces into offices for the staff of M-NCPPC's Natural and Historical Resources Division, who oversee the operations of all of the Commission's historic house museums. The Historical Society will miss the cooperative museum events with Marietta's staff, but will continue to hold occasional Board meetings and small programs at Marietta. We were extremely fortunate to have had such a productive and enjoyable time at Marietta, and are happy to have shared a quarter century of history with this lovely place.

Susan G. Pearl
(with essential and much appreciated assistance from Joyce McDonald,
Dusty Rhoads, and Susan Wolfe)

Board Member Spotlight: Jane Taylor Thomas



Ms. Thomas was born in historic St. Mary's County, Maryland. When she was four years old, her family moved to Washington, DC. Although she grew up in the beautiful capital city of Washington, DC, 38 years ago she moved to the suburbs of Prince George's County after marrying her husband, Maurice.

Over the years, Ms. Thomas has devoted her time and efforts to voluntarily assist individuals from all walks of life without regard to their cultural, ethnic, religious, or racial background in the pursuit of achieving employment, promotions, business opportunities, and training. Her appreciation and dedication to service to all mankind was crystallized when she heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. deliver his "I Have A Dream" speech while standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

She served as a member of the Prince George's County Hook-up of Black Women and the Committee of 100. She participated in career days at various high schools in Prince George's County and served as Vice President of a group that exposes high school students to "life skills." This program provided each graduating student with a scholarship to the college of their choice or vocational training. She devoted time, money and effort to ensure that young people are aware of career opportunities in the Federal and private sectors. She has served as the President of the Board of the Serenity Players, a local theatrical group based in Washington, DC. She also served as an officer in the U. S. Army Reserves.

Ms. Thomas is currently employed as a Human Resource Specialist for the Department of Defense (DoD), Office of the Inspector General (OIG). In addition, she serves as a certified DoD Mediator and a collateral Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor.

In addition to working full time, Ms. Thomas is involved in extensive community outreach efforts with various projects. Publicity Chair for the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (AAHGS) (national) and Vice President and founding member of the Prince George's County, Maryland Chapter. She has been involved in genealogical research for over 30 years, researching family from St. Mary's County, as well as surrounding counties. She serves as President of an investment club. She is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Ms. Thomas served as a Program Chair or a participant in an African American History Month program, exposing the organization to diversity. As the Program Chair, she focused on speakers that appeal to diverse groups of individuals and fosters support and understanding of equal opportunity. She coordinated programs for both the agency and the community on the legendary Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen, and other noteworthy groups. She spearheaded a session on Genealogy – tracing of family roots, as well as many others. Ms. Thomas, along with Ms. Rowe (adjunct professor) and Ms. Miles, taught a course titled, "An Introduction to African-American Genealogy," at the University of the District of Columbia. She also conducts genealogy workshops on "How to Conduct Genealogy Research" and "Interviewing Techniques".

She wrote articles for the OIG newsletter, *The Grapevine* (worldwide newsletter), the *Prince George's Gazette* and the *Prince George's Post* newspapers as well as speeches for national and local presidents of AAHGS. She recently served as a script writer of commercials for her agency's annual Diversity Day Program as well as a presenter for a session titled, "Impact of Music in the African American Culture".

She has traveled abroad to China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Panama, Hawaii, Alaska, Hong Kong, Singapore, and the West Indies and extensively throughout the United States. During her travels, she always manages to find time to research records for her surnames.

Ms. Thomas co-authored three books titled, *Black America Series: Prince George's County, Maryland* and *Images of America: Fort Washington and Oxon Hill*. She and the co-authors provided presentations on the book at Southeastern University, National Holocaust Museum, as well as special requests.

Ms. Thomas lives in Ft. Washington, MD with her husband, Maurice. She is a proud mother of two sons and grandmother of five children.

Calendar of Events for September and October 2010

- Sept. 9** – *Singing Laurel's History* at Laurel Museum, 6 PM; free
- Sept. 10** – *Belgian-Style Brews & Beverages* at Riversdale House Museum, 6 PM; Mike Roy, brewer for Hyattsville's Franklin's Restaurant and Brewery will talk about his craft with emphasis on Belgian-style beers. Enjoy samples including the limited edition "Rosalie" made from fruits and botanicals grown at Riversdale; \$20/resident, \$24/non-resident, advanced registration is required by calling 301-864-0420
- Sept. 11, 18 & 25 and Oct. 2** – *Four Centuries in Four Saturdays* at Maryland Historical Society, 9 AM – 12 noon; explore Maryland's past with lectures by historians Robert Brugger, Jean Baker, Jean Russo and Mary Jeske; \$200/person, \$175/MdHS member or \$50/session, reservations required by calling 410-685-3750 ext. 319
- Sept. 11** – *Belair on the Civil War Homefront* at Belair Mansion, 11 AM – 4 PM; members of the Atlantic Guard Soldiers Aid Society will recreate domestic life during the Civil War; free
- Sept. 14** – *Second Tuesday Lecture* by Dr. Jean Russo, "Planting Will Not Do Without Some Other Business or Profession: The Fortunes and Families Behind the Georgian Mansions of Annapolis" at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free
- Sept. 15** – *Fall History Lecture Series* at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; free; call 301-377-7817 for topic
- Sept. 16** – *Kids Kaboose* at the Bowie Railroad Station Museum, 10:30 AM – 12 PM; stories, games and train watching for children ages 1-11; free
- Sept. 16** – *Rosenwald Schools in Maryland* by Susan Pearl at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free
- Sept. 17** – *Book Launch and Reception for Maritime Maryland: A History* by Dr. William Dudley at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; \$15/person, \$10/MdHS member and Friends of JHU Press, reservations preferred by calling 410-685-3750 ext. 319
- Sept. 19** – *Prince of County reception at Locust Grove, 2 PM; \$50/person, see page 6 for details*
- Sept. 19** – *Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition "Between Fences"* at Montpelier Mansion, 2-6 PM; reception for exhibit exploring the cultural history of fences and land use
- Sept. 19** – *Karen Ashbrook and Paul Oorts in Concert* at Riversdale House Museum, 5:30 PM; features music of Flanders and France from and about the Napoleonic era; \$15/person, advanced registration is required by calling 301-864-0420
- Sept. 20 to Nov. 17** – *Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition "Between Fences"* at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM – 4 PM; explore the immigrant experience in Laurel starting with the first Snowden to arrive in the area
- Sept. 24** – *Maman, Papa, et Moi* at Riversdale House Museum, 6:30 PM; bring children ages 4-7 in their pajamas for evening of Flemish fun with a story, snack and craft; \$6/child & 1 adult resident, \$8/child & 1 adult non-resident; \$5 each additional child, \$2 each additional adult, advanced registration required by calling 301-864-0420
- Sept. 25** – *African American Heritage Day* at National Colonial Farm, 11 AM – 5 PM, rain or shine; theme is "Common Ground: Connecting Food, Land, and History", includes artist Lorina Harris, food vendors Damian Mosley of Blacksauce Kitchen and "Doc" Shields, West African culinary storyteller Vera Oye Yaa-Anna and foodways expert Michael Twitty; \$5/non-member, 2 & under and members are free
- Sept. 26** – *Surratt Society's 35th Anniversary Celebration* at Surratt House Museum, 2-5 PM; cruising down the Potomac on a Victorian sternwheeler departing from Alexandria, VA; \$40/person, advanced registration required by calling 301-868-1121
- Oct. 2** – *Immigration & Naturalization Records* workshop at Maryland Historical Society, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM; \$50/MdHS member, \$65/non-MdHS member, includes continental breakfast and boxed lunch, advanced registration required by calling 410-685-3750 ext. 319
- Oct. 2** – *Haunted Riverfront Walk* with the Laurel Historical Society and Venus Theatre, 8 PM; for more information email info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org
- Oct. 4** – *Brown Bag Lunch Lecture "The Houses of Annapolis – Great and Small"* at Belair Mansion, 12-1 PM; free
- Oct. 4** – *Baltimore Immigration* talk by the Genealogy Group of the Laurel Historical Society at Laurel Municipal Pool Room, 7 PM; free
- Oct. 7** – *History of the United States Capitol with an evaluation of the Capitol Competition Drawings* by William C. Allen, Architectural Historian, Office of the Architect of the Capitol, at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; \$35/member
- Oct. 9** – *Tales the Tombstones Whisper* by John Mike Dixon at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; traces the evolution of graveyards, interesting epitaphs and changes in practices and customs; free, call 301-868-1121 for information
- Oct. 9** – *Have You M.E.T.? Museum, Eats and Theater* in Historic Laurel, 6 PM; for more information email info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org
- Oct. 12 & 14** – *Druid Hill Park History* at Maryland Historical Society, 6:30-8 PM; join the Friends of Druid Hill Park in celebrating its 150th anniversary with talks by Dr. David Terry, Ed Johnson, Anne Draddy and Barry Kessler; free
- Oct. 15** – *Hands-on History: The Gardeners Apprentice* at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; ages 8-12 learn about the craft of the gardener; \$15/residents, \$18/non-resident, advanced registration required by calling 301-864-0420
- Oct. 17** – *Fall Festival of Fun* at Billingsley House Museum, 1-3 PM; games, fall arts & crafts and pumpkin painting; \$3/person, advanced registration required by calling 301-627-0730 or 301-839-7782
- Oct. 20** – *Fall History Lecture Series* at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; free; call 301-377-7817 for topic
- Oct. 21** – *Waterfowling on the Chesapeake, 1819-1936* by C. John Sullivan at Maryland Historical Society, 5:30 PM; \$15/non-members, \$10/MdHS members, reservations preferred by calling 410-685-3750 ext. 319
- Oct. 22** – *Moonlight and Shadows Walk* at Riversdale House Museum, 8 PM; walk the grounds of Riversdale by the light of the full moon, enjoy live music and mulled cider around the fire; dress for the weather; ages 12 & up; \$5/person
- Oct. 23** – *My Thoughts Be Bloody Book Signing and Remarks* by Nora Titone at Surratt House Museum, 12-4 PM; new biography on the famous Booth theatrical family and possible sibling rivalry that may have affected the Lincoln assassination; free; call 301-868-1121 for more details
- Oct. 23** – *The Great Jack O'Lantern Campfire* at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 7 PM; see hand-carved illuminated jack o'lanterns, enjoy a campfire and roasted marshmallows, popcorn and cider, listen to haunted Halloween tales, get your fortune told and kids can hunt for glowing jack o'lanterns; \$2/person; rain date is Oct. 24 at 6 PM
- Oct. 24** – *Harvest Some Fun* at the Laurel Museum, 1:30-3:30 PM; \$5, reservations required, for more information email info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org
- Nov. 1** – *Belair Mansion Annual History Lecture Day* at Belair Mansion, 9 AM – 4 PM; call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org for more information
- Nov. 2** – *Lecture: The Election of 1860* by Charles W. Mitchell at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; will discuss the history of the election and its effect on Maryland; \$15/person, \$10/MdHS member, reservations preferred by calling 301-685-3750 ext. 319
- Nov. 4** – *With Whimsy and Artistry: Folk Art at the Maryland Historical Society* by Alexandra Deutsch, Chief Curator at Maryland Historical Society, 6 PM; \$35/member

For details and additional events, visit: www.pgparke.com, www.accokeek.org, www.cityofbowie.org/museums, www.greenbeltmuseum.org, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, www.mdhs.org, <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>, and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXIX Number 6

November & December 2010



In the Spirit of the Season,
the Prince George's County Historical Society
and the City of Bowie Museums
cordially invite you and your family to
join us in Celebrating the Holidays
at Belair Mansion
12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD
on Monday, December 13, 2010
from 6 to 9 PM

Bring your favorite holiday dish to share
and take the time to tour the
beautifully holiday-decorated mansion

For more information please
call 301-220-0330,
press 2 to leave a message or
email PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com



The Prince George's County Historical Society

Phone: 301-220-0330

Email: pgchslibrary@aol.com or info@pghistory.org
PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com

Website: www.pghistory.org

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Vice President: Lynn Springer Roberts
Secretary/Treasurer/
Membership: Donna Schneider
Historian: Susan G. Pearl

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Donna Schneider

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News & Notes is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month. Dates and locations vary. Please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us.

Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

Greenbelt Library Building
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt
301-220-0330

Hours: Saturday, 12-4 PM
By Appointment at Other Times



Re-opening of Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

After nearly seven months of renovations to the Greenbelt Library branch, our Historical Society library will re-open for public use on Saturday, December 4, 2010, at its regular hours from noon to 4:00 p.m. That same day, the re-opening of the Greenbelt branch will be celebrated in a Grand Opening Ceremony, beginning at 1:00 p.m. We have been able to keep up with research inquiries during these months, through telephone, e-mail, and the Historical Society website, but we will be very glad to interact in person once again with researchers who come to visit our library.

During the holidays, we will of course be closed on both Saturdays (Christmas Day and New Year's Day), but will re-open again on Saturday, January 8, 2011. We look forward to seeing you there soon!

Alice Ferguson Foundation Receives Federal Grant

The Alice Ferguson Foundation was the recipient of a \$1.1 million federal grant to restore a half-mile of shoreline along the Potomac River that was being lost since 1976 after an outfall pipe from the nearby water treatment plant was installed. The restoration project rebuilt eroding scenic shoreline in Piscataway Park and was unveiled on October 12, 2010. Tons of sand, rocks, plants and other material were used to rebuild the living shoreline. The new habitat will support the park's aquatic wildlife and plant life. The grant is part of the \$167 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for habitat restoration that was distributed to 50 projects across the country.



Congratulations to Our Elected Officers and Directors!

OFFICERS

President: John J. Petro
Vice President: Lynn Springer Roberts
Secretary/Treasurer: Donna Schneider
Historian: Susan G. Pearl

DIRECTORS

Elizabeth Dougherty
John Brunner
Jane Taylor Thomas
Randie Reilly
Nancy Dixon Saxon
Sealani Weiner

Please welcome Nancy Dixon Saxon to the Prince George's County Historical Society Board. Nancy is very active in the Fairmount Heights community, is currently on its Town Council and is involved in several other county organizations. We look forward to serving our members for another year and planning entertaining and educational events for all to enjoy. For a full list of our Board, please see page 2.

The Society's by-law changes proposed in the September – October 2010 newsletter were voted upon by the attending members and were passed. There was one minor change to the changes proposed. A new membership category of "Family" was added and the Sustaining membership category has been removed. If anyone is interested in receiving a copy of the updated by-laws, please email us at PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com.

After our brief business meeting, the annual meeting continued with a delicious buffet dinner and Goddard's Music and Drama (MAD) club's delightful production of *The Sound of Music*.



Membership Dues to Increase and Benefits Added

Starting with the 2011 membership year, the membership dues for several categories will increase. In addition, we have added the new category, Family. We have not changed our Individual and Corporate dues amounts for more than eight years. Rising costs are the main reason for this increase. However, we also plan to offer additional benefits to our members, such as discounts to Society-sponsored events. All of the benefits will be detailed when the membership renewal notices are sent in December. Following are the updated membership categories and dues amounts:

Student - \$10 (no change)
Individual - \$30 (\$5 increase)
Family - \$45 (new category)
Corporate - \$75 (\$25 increase)
Life - \$500 (no change)

There are no changes to the Sponsor categories.

2011 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage

The Prince George's County Historical Society is sponsoring the Prince George's County portion of the 2011 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. On Sunday, May 22, 2011, take a tour along the Potomac River corridor by visiting homes and gardens between Fort Washington and Accokeek. The proceeds from this tour will be used to build ghost structures at Mt. Calvert to help interpret its history and for the operation of the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History.

However, this tour cannot be successful without the help of volunteers. We are looking for individuals who are willing to contribute a few hours of their time by being a greeter and ticket taker at the homes in the morning or afternoon. Also, if anyone is interested in making flower arrangements to be displayed in the featured homes, that would also be appreciated. If you are available to assist us on May 22, please contact Lynn Roberts at antiquelynn@aol.com or 301-627-8622. Thank you.

Goddard Space Flight Center

Because we were unable to arrange a tour of the Goddard Space Flight Center in conjunction with our annual meeting and *The Sound of Music* production by Goddard's Music and Arts club (MAD), we thought we would provide some background about NASA's chief science center.

The Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) at Greenbelt is a world leader in scientific discovery and understanding. It is home to more than 10,000 men and women responsible for breakthroughs in earth science, astrophysics, heliophysics, and planetary science. Carved out of the U.S. government's agricultural research lands, the center was established on May 1, 1959, as the Beltsville Space Center. It was later renamed for Dr. Robert Hutchings Goddard, considered to be the father of modern rocket propulsion. GSFC is NASA's first, and oldest, space center. Its original charter was to perform five major functions on behalf of NASA: technology development and fabrication, advance planning, scientific research, technical operations, and project management. The Goddard facility covers 1,270 acres and maintains the adjacent Magnetic Test Facility, a National Historic Landmark.

The Goddard Space Flight Center contributed to *Project Mercury*, America's first manned space flight program, assuming a lead role for the project in its early days. Today, GSFC conducts scientific investigation, development and operation of space systems, develops and supports missions, and designs and builds spacecraft. The center operates two spaceflight tracking and data acquisition networks, develops and maintains advanced space and earth science data information systems, and develops satellites systems. It manages operations and missions including solar and astrophysical observatories and unmanned Earth observation missions.

GSFC's High Bay Cleanroom is the world's largest, with 1.3 million cubic feet of space. The center has pioneered several fields of spacecraft development, including modular spacecraft design. It has developed more scientific instruments for planetary exploration than any other organization; among these are instruments sent to every planet in the solar system. Its best known project is the *Hubble Space Telescope*, the only telescope ever designed to be serviced in space by astronauts. After multiple servicing missions, *Hubble* is expected to function until at least 2014, when its successor, the *James Webb Space Telescope*, is due to be launched. In addition to these projects, GSFC's noteworthy future missions include *Glory*, which will enable scientists to understand how aerosols and black carbon influence the Earth's atmosphere, and *Aquarius*, which will measure the water's salinity in order to better understand the global cycling of water.

One high point in the history of Goddard Space Flight Center was reached in 2006 when Dr. John Mather (a Prince George's County resident) became co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in physics for his work on data from NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE), which studied the pattern of radiation from the first few instants after the universe was formed.

We plan to organize a tour of GSFC in the near future and hope you will be able to join us.



Mercury Spacecraft Boilerplate

Source: National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Our Appreciation

We would like to thank our members and sponsors for supporting the Historical Society in 2010. We greatly appreciate your contributions and look forward to your continued participation.

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Calendar of Events for November and December 2010

- November 16** – Quarterly Lecture at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM; art historian Dr. Aneta Georgievska-Shine presents “Peter Paul Rubens: Life into Art”; \$5/person, \$2.50/students; for more details call 301-864-0420
- November 17** – Fall History Lecture Series – “A Riverkeeper’s Patuxent Journey” by Fred Tutman at Montpelier Mansion; 7:30 PM; free, for details call 301-377-7817
- November 18** – Kids Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; railroad fun and games for ages 1-11; free
- November 26-28, December 2-5 and December 9-12** – 11th Annual Gingerbread Contest and Show at Darnall’s Chance House Museum, 12-5 PM; \$1/person
- November 27** – Taste of the Past at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; sample food from the past in Belair’s 1930’s kitchen; free
- November 28** – Trainspotting Day at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10 AM – 4 PM; watch Amtrak’s busiest day of the year; free, donations to Toys4Tots accepted
- December 3, 10, 17** – Holiday Open House at Billingsley House Museum, 9 AM – 3 PM; free; call for driving directions at 301-839-7782
- December 4** – Breakfast with Sint Niklaas at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; enjoy a Belgian-inspired breakfast and children receive a gift bag; resident \$9/child, \$5/adult, non-resident \$11/child, \$7 adult, reservations are required by calling 301-864-0420
- December 4** – A Season for Children at Surratt House Museum, 1 PM; ages 5-12 are invited to enjoy music and crafts appropriate to a Victorian Yuletide; free, for details call 301-868-1121
- December 4** – Snowflake Tea at Belair Mansion, 4 PM; \$24/person, reservations required by calling 301-809-3089
- December 4** – Winter’s Eve at National Colonial Farm, 5-8 PM; tour the seasonally decorated farm; \$2 fee or canned food donation; for more information call 301-282-2113
- December 5** – Belair by Candlelight at Belair Mansion and Stable Museums, 4-7 PM; free, donations to Toys4Tots accepted
- December 10-11** – Holiday Candlelight Tours at Montpelier Mansion, 6-9 PM; festive music, light refreshments and children can learn about holiday traditions of some of Maryland’s first immigrants and make crafts; \$3/adult, \$1/ages 6-7, under 5 is free; for details call 301-377-7817
- December 11** – KinderKristmas at Belair Mansion, 10 AM – 12 noon; ages 4-11 enjoy decorations, traditions, fun and games; free, donations to Toys4Tots accepted
- December 11** – Holiday Lunch with Santa at Billingsley House Museum, 11 AM – 1 PM; games, arts and crafts and photos with Santa; \$2/person or bring a canned good or unwrapped toy, reservations required by calling 301-839-7782
- December 11** – ’Tis the Sounds of the Season at Surratt House Museum, 1 PM; enjoy the Virginia Bronze Handbell Ensemble ring with traditional music; free, for details call 301-868-1121
- December 13** – Prince George’s County Historical Society Holiday Party at Belair Mansion, 6-9 PM; bring your favorite dish to share, for more information call 301-220-0330 and press 2 to leave a message or email PGCHSmembers@hotmail.com
- December 17** – Breakfast with Santa at Prince George’s Ballroom, 8-11 AM; \$3/person, children must be accompanied by an adult; reservations required by calling 301-341-7439
- December 15** – Harp for the Holidays at Oxon Hill Manor, 11 AM – 1 PM; enjoy live harp music, tea, sandwich and sweet selections; \$15/person, reservations required by calling 301-839-7782
- December 18** – ’Twas the Week Before Christmas at Surratt House Museum, 1 PM; Civil War Santa will delight with tales from the ages; for ages 5 and up, free, for details call 301-868-1121
- December 18** – Hansel & Gretel Tea Party at Darnall’s Chance House Museum, 2 PM; ages 5 and up and children must be accompanied by an adult; \$12/resident, \$15/non-resident, reservations required by calling 301-952-8010
- December 29** – Winter Wonderland Tea at Belair Mansion, 4 PM; \$24/person, call 301-809-3089 for reservations
- December 29** – The Calverts by Candlelight at Riversdale House Museum, 6 PM; pay an evening call on the Calverts, enjoy refreshments and live music, and children’s activities; \$5/adult, children 12 & under/free
- December 30** – Kringle Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; games, stories and trainspotting for ages 1-11; free
- January 10** – Brown Bag Lunch Lecture at Belair Mansion, 12 noon; topic to be announced, bring your lunch; free, call 301-809-3089 for more information
- January 11** – “Digging Up The Past: The St. Mary’s City Lead Coffin Project” at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; Dr. Timothy Riordan discusses the exhumation and examination of the lead coffins of some of Maryland’s 17th century citizens; free
- National Colonial Farm** has additional classes and workshop; visit www.accokeek.org for more details.
- Patuxent Research Refuge** has many free public programs ranging from art exhibits, bird, nature and flower walks, to owl prowls and hands-on wildlife activities; visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov> for more information or call 301-497-5887
- To February 25, 2011** – Fly Now! at College Park Aviation Museum; aviation posters from the Smithsonian Institution’s National Air and Space Museum; free with regular tour admission
- To December 19** – Remembering Mr. Lincoln: An Exhibition at Surratt House Museum, highlights the life and legacy of our 16th President as the Sesquicentennial of his 1860 election approaches on November 6 – an event that ignited the Civil War; during regular tour hours and regular tour admission price

For details and additional events, visit: www.pgparcs.com, www.accokeek.org, www.cityofbowie.org/museums, www.greenbeltmuseum.org, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, www.mdhs.org, <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>, and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>