

News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXV Number 1

January-February 2006

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County Historical Society)

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It's All In The Family . . .

While researching the Duvall family genealogy, I often wonder how people met or where their names came from. One question I had was, how did Edmund Bryce DuVal II who was born in Prince George's County and educated in male boarding schools in Baltimore, Montgomery County and Alexandria, VA meet his wife Caroline Donaldson Lansdale from Harford County. Edmund and Caroline had 11 children, most with very familiar family names: Lansdale, Katherine Moylan, Augusta Caroline, Gabriel, Philip Lansdale, Edmund Bryce III, Gabriella Augusta, Mary Frances - and then there is Cornelia. Where did that come from? Well, information about Caroline's grandmother provided answers to both questions.

Cornelia Van Horn Lansdale (1758-1853)

Cornelia was married to Major Thomas Lancaster Lansdale of Hazelwood, Prince George's County.

Their son William Moylan Lansdale married Eliza Catherine Moylan. Their daughter Caroline Donaldson Lansdale married Edmund Bryce DuVal II in 1846.

Additional family ties: Thomas and Cornelia's daughter Violetta, William Moylan Lansdale's sister married Samuel Sprigg who served as Governor of Maryland. And Gabriella Augusta DuVal who married Marion Duckett had a daughter named - Violetta! And

I can easily see how genealogy can be an obsession, one bit of information leading to another. The earlier centuries' tradition of using family names in succeeding generations certainly helps us to make connections and to discover family ties. I wonder if 21st century traditions will follow suit or go their own way.

Susan Wolfe

Presidential Musings . . .

The extraordinary landmark changes brought about by the urbanization of the county in the 1940s was the subject of this column in the last issue. It should be noted that urbanization was also on the minds of our forefathers a full 300 years ago. In the General Assembly session in 1706 and again in 1707 the establishment of six towns was directed to join the new county's only urban center – Charles Town. Upper Marlboro, Nottingham, Queen Anne and Mill Town on the Patuxent and Piscataway and Aire (Broad Creek) on the Potomac side of the county were ordered to be founded. Upper Marlboro grew the quickest as it was located in the part of the county which was, then, in the most densely settled part of Prince George's. Mill Town was the only one of the six that failed to develop; the others, except Upper Marlboro, failed to flourish as the Assembly had envisioned. The county's urban and suburban development along the post road (Route 1) in the 18th century, along rail lines in the 19th century and along roadways in the 20th century certainly would have been shocking to those legislators of 300 years ago. The inner beltway population and growth of Bowie and Laurel certainly outpaced what any urban designers could have imagined in the 18th, 18th or early to mid 20th centuries.

Today these mandated sites of 1706 are part of the "rural tier" which 21st century leaders also see as ripe for development. The eastern and southwestern parts of the county are increasingly envisioned as necessary sites for new urban planning. Will the vision of the legislators of yore come to fruition in the next few decades or will the question of urban development be posed for this area again, three centuries hence?

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The PGCHS would like to say thank you again for your generous donation to the Society this year.

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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). The deadline for the March-April edition is March 15.

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

Editor's Corner

Happy New Year and welcome to the first **News and Notes** issue for 2006. As promised, you should be receiving this early in January, rather than in February as in past years. The calendar on Page 6 gives you a wide choice of things to do on a cold winter's day. Check it out, and also our website, plus www.pgparcs.com.

I am one of the 'odd' people who use WordPerfect, so I convert Word articles for this newsletter. Anyone who does this knows that at times it is not the easiest thing in the world to do. If you submit an article to me, it would be a huge help if you could type it in two columns, rather than one, and also fully justify the margins, along with using the font "Ariel". And if you too have WordPerfect, then please submit your article using that. Every little bit helps get the newsletter to you faster and more accurately. Thanks!

Judy

Historic Preservation Update

On 29 November 2005, the Prince George's County Council adopted four Council Bills that will strengthen the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance and revise the composition of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Within that week, the four bills were approved and signed by County Executive Jack B. Johnson.

Until the passage of CB-83-2005, the HPC was made up of nine members, each representing either a specific organization or a specific area of expertise. With the approval of CB-83, the composition of the HPC will be slightly changed: the nine members will now include three with "a demonstrated special interest, specific knowledge or professional or academic training in such fields as history, architecture, architectural history, archeology, anthropology, agriculture and historic preservation;" three other members will represent the fields of commerce, realty, municipal governance, community associations, building/preservation restoration, home building, and law; the remaining three will specifically represent the Minority Building Industry Association, the Board of Realtors, and the Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust.

CB-82-2005 amends Subtitle 24 (Subdivision Regulations regarding protection of historic properties) of the County Code. The Planning Board shall now **require** (rather than **recommend**) the preservation of historic resources listed in the *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* (the County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation). And developer/applicants are **required** to use flexible techniques where appropriate in their plans to minimize the impact of new development on historic resources.

CB-92-2005 also amends Subtitle 24, clarifying the Planning Board's authority to protect significant archeological sites in accordance with the *Guidelines for Archeological Review*; these professionally developed *Guidelines* deal with identification, interpretation, and protection or mitigation of significant archeological sites, and were adopted by the Planning Board in May 2005. CB-92 requires archeological investigation and review through the subdivision process, in accordance with the *Guidelines for Archeological Review*.

CB-93-2005 amends Subtitle 29 (the Historic Preservation Ordinance) of the County Code; it determines that potentially significant archeological sites, even if **not** listed in the *Historic Sites and Districts Plan*, are subject to Subtitle 24.

These new bills will help in the effort to preserve more of the County's most fragile historic resources, such as domestic and agricultural outbuildings, slaves quarters, and archeological sites.

Susan G. Pearl, Historian

Researching Prince George's County Properties

On Saturday, November 19, 2005, an article appeared in the Real Estate section of *The Washington Post* entitled *Tracing the Origin of Spaces: Owner-Sleuths Uncover the History Behind their Homes*. This very interesting article described the detective work, both physical and archival, that has revealed some of the history of two houses in the District of Columbia. Following this article, and closely associated with it, was another article: *A Guide to Researching History of Your Home*. The *Guide* summarized archival sources and recommended research methods for ferreting out the history of one's house, offering information about what to look for, not only in the District of Columbia but in many jurisdictions in Maryland and Virginia. The section on Prince George's County was fairly short and, unfortunately, not altogether correct, so it seems appropriate here to offer some guidelines for undertaking documentary research on Prince George's County properties. Following is the letter that I sent to the Editor of *The Washington Post* after reading the above-cited articles.

.....

In reference to the article, *A Guide to Researching History of Your Home* by Terry Rupar in the Real Estate section (page F23) of the Saturday, 19 November 2005, issue of *The Washington Post*, I would like to provide some additional information and correct a few of the impressions that the article gave regarding property research in Prince George's County.

Brief guidelines on *How to Research a Property* are available to researchers at the library of the Prince George's County Historical Society, located at historic Marietta, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale (301-464-0590). Also available at the library is a list of the most frequently used research sources, and their locations.

For property research, one must first develop a Chain of Title, i.e., a chronological list of the owners and transfers of ownership back at least to the period of construction of the building. To develop this Chain of Title, the researcher begins with the current deed to the property and works backwards through legal deeds, sometimes necessarily referring to wills and court cases for the disposition of property. When the Chain of Title is complete, the researcher then consults tax assessments to determine just when the property underwent "improvements," i.e., the construction of building(s) on the property.

The deeds (between 1840 and the present) can be found in the Land Records section (lower level) of the County Administration Building (CAB), 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro. (They are no longer located in the County Courthouse, as incorrectly indicated in the 19 November article.) At the CAB, these deeds may be read, depending on the date of the legal instrument, either in recorded books, on microfilm, or in computer files. Any deeds dating before 1840 can be found only at the Maryland State Archives, located at 350 Rowe Boulevard in Annapolis.

All of the Prince George's County tax assessment records are housed at the Maryland State Archives, both in recorded books and on microfilm. Some of these assessment records (1783 to 1871) are also available in the microfilm reading room at the Hyattsville Library, 6530 Adelphi Road in Hyattsville.

(Continued on Page 5)

If Wills and/or Court cases figure in the completion of the Chain of Title, the researcher will find these sources at the Maryland State Archives.

Once the date of construction is determined, based on the title search and on architectural examination, the researcher will want to consult other sources to fill out the full story of the property and its owner/occupants. Many of these sources are available at the library of the Prince George's County Historical Society at Marietta: a variety of historic maps from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries; genealogical information including marriage licenses, church records, tombstone inscriptions, obituary files, biographical files, and some published family genealogies; nearly complete runs of a variety of local newspapers; subdivision plats; the 1940 *Franklin Atlas*, which shows details of all the buildings constructed in many of the County's developing communities by 1940; community histories; church histories; architectural surveys of many communities; specific information on pattern-book and mail-order houses; extensive vertical files on places and events; individual files on several hundred specific historic properties; extensive cross-referenced photographic archives; a complete collection of the *Maryland Historical Magazine* and the *Archives of Maryland*; and a wide variety of published (ca. 6000 volumes) and unpublished materials on many aspects of the history of Prince George's County and Maryland. When visiting the Historical Society library (noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and by appointment), the researcher will receive individual assistance by the Society historian and members of the Library Committee. Researchers may also request demonstrations by library staff as to how they can access more information (e.g., census records, historic photographs and plats) on the web.

The Washington Post article indicated that the Sanborn fire insurance maps (which give a wealth of information about individual historic structures in developed areas) are not available at the Maryland Room of the Hyattsville Library, but failed to indicate where these very useful maps can be found. The complete set of Sanborn Maps can be found at the Maryland Room, University of Maryland library, College Park, and also at the Maryland State Archives, and at the Geography and Maps Division (Madison Building) of the Library of Congress. For Prince George's County, the Sanborn maps cover the period from 1897 to 1949.

In addition, the Historic Preservation Office of the M-NCPPC Planning Department (located at the CAB in Upper Marlboro) has files on a very large number of individual historic properties and historic communities. Many more publications on County and State history, as well as microfilm of census and other records, are available at the Hyattsville Library. For more specific genealogical research, contact the Prince George's County Genealogical Society, located at 12219 Tulip Grove Drive in Bowie, 301-262-2063.

I hope that this information is helpful to property owners who are interested in researching their properties in Prince George's County.

Susan G. Pearl, Historian
Prince George's County Historical Society
Prince George's County, Maryland



Calendar of Events

January-February 2006

- Jan. 10 **"Shadow Patriots"** by Lucia St. Clair Robson, Second Tuesday Lecture at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM, \$3/person
- Jan. 15 **Fireside Tea** at Billingsley House Museum, call 301-627-0730 for fees and details
- Jan. 19 **Antique Valentine Display** at Surratt House Museum through February 26, free with museum admission
- Jan. 22 **"An Afternoon of Irish & Celtic Music"** at Marietta House Museum, 4 PM, \$5/person, reservations required, 301-464-5291
- Jan. 31 **My Soul is a Witness** at Publick Playhouse, 7:30 PM, \$15/adults, \$12/seniors, call 301-277-1710 for details
- Feb. 3 & 4 **Everybody's Hero: The Jackie Robinson Story** at Publick Playhouse, Friday at 10:15 AM & 12 PM, \$6; Saturday at 11 AM, \$7
- Feb. 4 **Exhibition Tendencies: A 20-year Retrospective of African American History in Prince George's County** at Harmony Hall Regional Center through March 25, free, open Monday to Saturday, call 301-203-6070 for details
- Feb. 10 **Black Journey** at Publick Playhouse, 10:15 AM & 12 PM, \$6, call 301-277-1710 for details
- Feb. 12 **Sweetheart Tea** at Belair Mansion, 4 PM, \$20/person, prepaid reservations required, call 301-809-3089 or email: museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- Feb. 12 **Speaking of Flight: Doris Rich on the Life and Career of Aviation Pioneer Bessie Coleman** at College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM, free with admission
- Feb. 12 **Expressions of a People** at Harmony Hall Regional Center, free, call 301-203-6070 for details
- Feb. 12 **Sweethearts Tour** at Marietta House Museum, 12-4 PM, 2 for 1 admission
- Feb. 12 **Children's African American Heritage Celebration** at Riversdale House Museum, call 301-864-0420 for details
- Feb. 14 **"Walter Bowie, Confederate Spy" by Earl Eisenhart**, Second Tuesday Lecture at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM, \$3/person
- Feb. 18 **Prehistoric Party** at Clearwater Nature Center, 1-4 PM, \$3/person, free/under 2, call 301-297-4575 for details

- Feb. 18 **Highland Tea** at Darnall's Chance House Museum, call 301-952-8010 for details
- Feb. 18 & 19 **Landsknecht Winter Camp** at Marietta House Museum on lower field, 10AM-4PM on Sat., 10AM-3PM on Sun., free
- Feb. 19 **Drop-in Cream Tea at Billingsley** House Museum, call 301-627-0730 for details
- Feb. 25 **First Ladies Tea** at Marietta House Museum, 3 PM, prepaid reservations required, call 301-464-5291
- Feb. 25 **Day of the Dinosaur** at Watkins Nature Center, ages 3 & up, residents \$2, non-resident \$3, call 301-218-6702 for details
- Feb. 26 **George Washington Musicale** at Montpelier Mansion, call 301-953-1376 for details
- March 5 **Southern Maryland Art League Show** at Billingsley House Museum, Sundays through April 16
- March 11 **7th MD Co. A US Drill Day** at Marietta House Museum on lower field, 10 AM-3 PM, free
- March 11 **Tavern Night** at Riversdale House Museum, call 301-864-0420 for details
- March 15 **History Lecture Series** at Montpelier Mansion, call 301-953-1376 for details
- March 18 **Mad Hatter's Tea** at Marietta House Museum, 1 & 4 PM, prepaid reservations required, call 301-464-5291

For more events and details, visit www.pgparcs.com.

Be a Society Sponsor

The benefits of becoming a Sponsor of the Society are numerous, the most significant of which are *recognition of your commitment to the preservation of the rich heritage of the county* and our gift to you, membership in the Society. As a member of the Society, you will receive advance notice of upcoming Society events held throughout Prince George's County including historical lectures, tours and trips, and social events. You will also receive the Society's bi-monthly publication **NEWS & NOTES**, which keeps members of the Society abreast of historical activities in the county and provides insight into historic sites, persons, and artifacts pertinent to the county. In addition, as a member of the Society, you will receive invitations to attend Society functions which are not open to the general public.

There are three levels of sponsorship: Gold (\$500 donation), Silver (\$250 donation), and Bronze (\$100 donation). If you have any questions, please call Elizabeth Dougherty at 301-680-3976.



Publications For Sale

- 1. Landmarks of Prince George's County*** – 125 black and white photographs of the rich architectural legacy of Prince George's County by Jack E. Boucher. Arranged chronologically, the photos and captions offer a panoramic overview of the county's architectural and historical development. Indexed. Hard-cover, 144 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 2. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History*** – The history and essence of Prince George's County come alive in words and pictures in this beautiful collector's edition. Written in a fascinating narrative with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Many of them are in full color and are previously unpublished. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. Price: \$42.95.
- 3. Journey Through Time – A Pictorial History of the Prince George's County Police Department*** – A history of the county police department covering over 200 years. Author: Lt. Dennis Campbell. Indexed. Printed 1991. Hardcover, 304 pages. Price: \$40.00.
- 4. Calvert of Maryland** – This fact-based novel shows the home life of the colonists from a child's viewpoint. This story is told in the first person by young George Calvert, godson of the first Lord Baltimore, George Calvert. Reprint of James Otis Kaler's 1910 publication. Hardcover, 166 pages. Pen and ink illustrations. Price: \$6.95.
- 5. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 6. Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland 1861** – Atlas was adapted from Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland, with information from 1860 federal census for each election district. Indexed. Reprint 1996. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 7. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume I - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 8. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume 2 - Protestant Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Parish, and Prince George's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 9. Out of the Past – Prince Georgians and their Land** – Chronicle of everyday life in Prince George's County, Maryland from the time of its founding in 1676 until the beginning of the Civil War. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 10. Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. Price: \$10.00.

*Shipping and handling for books numbered 1, 2, and 3 is \$3.00 for each copy of the book because of size and weight. They are shipped separately.

Shipping and handling for all other books is \$2.50 for the first book and 50 cents for each additional book.

Shipping and handling for international orders. Please call 301-464-0590 or email the Historical Society for current postage rates.

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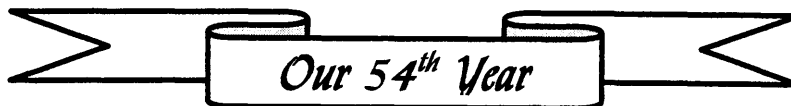
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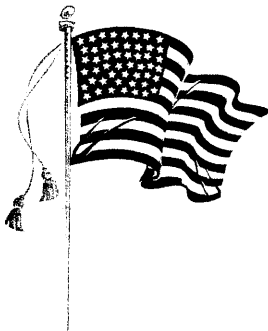
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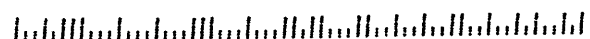


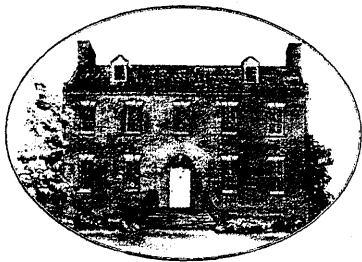
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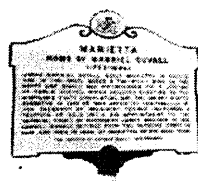
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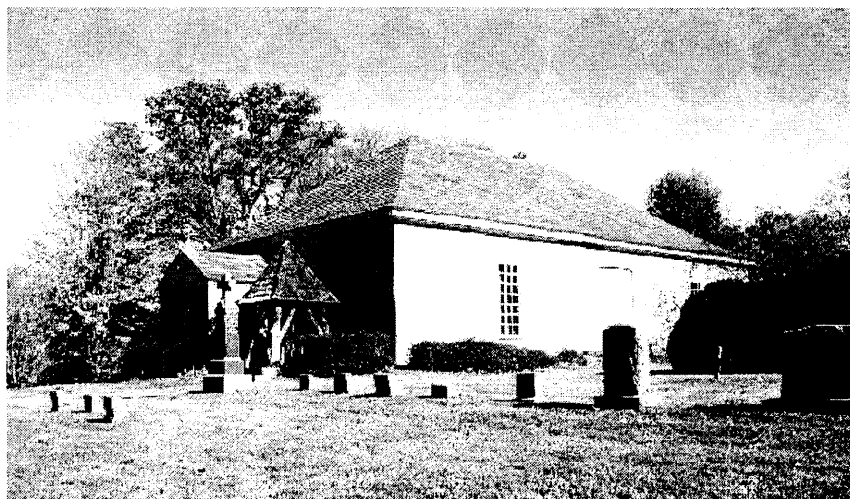
LECTURE SERIES: *Rosenwald
Schools in Prince George's
County* by PGCHS Historian
Susan Pearl. See Calendar for
more information.



St. George's Day, 2006

St. John's Church, Broad Creek

This year we will gather at St. John's Episcopal Church, in the heart of the Broad Creek Historic District, to celebrate our 310th St. George's Day on April 23. St. John's Church was built 1766-1768, the fourth church built on the site of the first church in King George's (Piscataway) Parish.



In 1692, the "Act for the Service of Almighty God and the Establishment of the Protestant Religion within this Province" had established the Church of England as the official church of the Maryland province. Two of the 30 Anglican parishes were located within the boundaries of the new Prince George's County when it was established in 1696. One of them, Piscataway (later known as King George's) Parish, established in then Charles County, extended along the Potomac River and included the area around Broad Creek. In 1692, there was no existing church building in Piscataway Parish, but inhabitants of the area formed a vestry and in 1694 purchased a tract of land on Broad Creek, and contracted with carpenters to build a wooden church. The building of the first church on this site begins the history of St. John's Episcopal Church, one of the historical/architectural landmarks of the Broad Creek community.

(Continued on Page 3)

Presidential Musings . . .

With the arrival of March and, therefore, Women's History Month the notable accomplishments of Prince George's County women should be recognized. It was on the Landover farm of **Amanda Best**, a women's rights advocate, that Belva Lockwood in 1884 was nominated for the presidency of the United States, the first woman so nominated. (The structure in which this took place was moved in 1983 to Glenn Dale.) The County counts among its remarkable citizens from the distaff side **Mary Bowie**, the builder of Bowieville (1819), who has been described as, "a woman of masculine business capacity and energy, who managed her large plantation with skill and success," and **Rosalie Calvert** of Riversdale (1807). She, like Mary Bowie, was another meticulous manager of business, workers, and family.

Independence and strength were the hallmarks of **Nellie Plummer**, an educator, who chronicled her family's struggles in the book, *Out of the Depths, or the Triumph of the Cross*; **Hester King**, a civil rights activist and NAACP county chapter founder, **Bonnie Johns**; an advocate for children's rights, mental health and education and **Cora Rice**, an entrepreneur and civic activist. Among the determined women of the second half of the 20th century who took their activism into the political arena were **Gladys Noon Spellman**, **Hilda Pemberton**, **Jo Ann Bell** and **Audrey Scott**

While there are hundreds of outstanding women who could be named as Women of Achievement, there are countless hundreds of thousands of other women over the last three centuries who were unheralded and often unrecorded, but none-the-less displayed remarkable courage, strength and character as wives, mothers, farmers, cooks, teachers and later as employees, company owners and political leaders. A heartfelt salute is extended to the women who have made this County a better place to live and all its citizens a better people.

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Treasurer: Donna Schneider
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Editor: Judy Schneider (410-721-2183)
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If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us. We'd love to have you join us. All ages are definitely welcome!

Help Wanted

Nathania A. Branch Miles and Jane Taylor Thomas are producing a book for Arcadia Publishing Company entitled *Images of America: Oxon Hill*. They are looking for vintage photos of the Oxon Hill District from the early 1900s. The *Images of America* series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns and cities across the USA. Each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shaped the character of that community today. If you have any photos or stories to share, contact Nay Branch Miles at nathania.miles@verizon.com or Jane Taylor Thomas at janemaur@aol.com. All photos and materials will be returned in excellent condition.

(Continued from Page 1)

In 1706, the Maryland General Assembly passed the "Act for the Advancement of Trade," designating five towns, each 100 acres in size, in Prince George's County. One of them, Aire, was located at "Thomas Lewis's Landing" on Broad Creek, where active trade had already been established. The port town community began to grow, and a new frame house of worship was planned at the site of the 1694 church; begun in 1707, the second church on the site was larger and more substantial than the first building.

One indication of the growth and activity of this Potomac port town is the fact that by the early 1720s, the vestry at Piscataway Parish made plans to construct a church of brick to replace the 1707 wood-frame structure. In January 1722/23, the vestry contracted with John Lane and carpenter John Radford to build a new brick church and complete the framing and interior detail. In a church questionnaire of 1724, Rector John Fraser wrote: "My parish church in its infancy was twice built with timber . . . [not able to] keep the wooden churches in repair . . . [the Vestry] lately built a new church with brick from the ground to the great expences of the Parishioners . . ." Rector Fraser also indicated in this questionnaire that he baptized many Negro slaves, who "frequent my churches ordinarily . . ."

The present-day church at Broad Creek reflects the growth and prosperity in the Broad Creek community during the 1760s. In April 1765 the Vestry contracted with one Thomas Cleland to build a full-length addition to the 1723 brick church. The plans were changed several times over the next year, but finally in April 1766, it was decided that all the old brickwork was to be taken down and rebuilt. The church was completed in 1768.

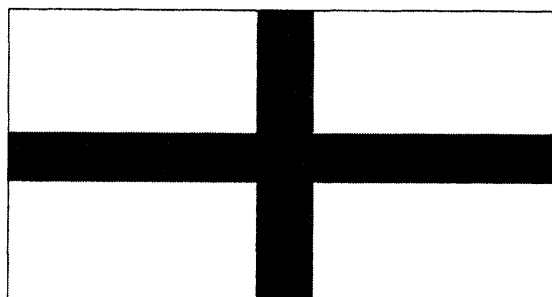
Today this very handsome church stands on landscaped grounds on the banks of Broad Creek, adjoined by its ancient

graveyard. North of the church building is the Parish Hall (built in 1966), where we will gather for our St. George's Day dinner. The church measures 38 feet by 63 feet; its brick is laid in Flemish bond, and the building has a flared hip roof and a small gabled entry porch in the west façade. The east façade has two 12-over-9 windows that replace a circular stained glass window of 1910. Centered in the south façade is a double door, originally the main entrance. Although there have been many alterations to the church building over nearly 240 years, it is essentially this 1768 church that we will see on St. George's Day, 2006.

A number of prominent men have served as rectors at St. John's Church, including Henry Addison and his nephew, Walter Dulany Addison. George Washington is reported to have worshipped in this church on his frequent visits to Prince George's County. An engraved plate affixed to the colonial pew near the front of the church reads "In memory of George Washington – Restored by his Great-Great-Great Grandnephew, George W. Magruder, 1895."

St. John's Church is an outstanding example of Georgian ecclesiastical architecture, and represents one of the oldest of the Anglican church sites in Prince George's County. It will be a wonderful place to celebrate St. George's Day, 2006. You will receive your invitations soon, and we look forward to seeing you there!

— Susan Pearl & Susan Wolfe



St. George's Flag
(Red Cross on White Field)

County History Online

The Prince George's County Historical Society is online at www.pghistory.org.

Prince George's County Historical Society members can join the PGCHS email list conversations about local history events and news articles by sending a blank message to PGHist-chat-subscribe@topica.com. Non-PGCHS members and people concerned about getting too many messages can subscribe to the PGCHS announcements-only email list by sending a blank message to PGHist-subscribe@topica.com. There is no need to subscribe to both, as announcements will be sent to both lists. You will be sent a confirmation email that you must reply to, so make sure that email doesn't get lost in your Spam filter. The listserv was chosen with privacy and ease of use in mind. If you have any problems subscribing, please email our list manager, Joyce Dowling, at webmaster@pghistory.org.

From the web site you can access a lot of information, including our Message Board which is a constant resource for answering questions online. PGCHS Historian, Susan Pearl, usually responds on Saturday to the posts that are made during the week, but anyone with answers may reply to posts. The information is archived there for web surfers interested in those topics.

Thanks to Clair Garman, our web calendar has many listings or history-related events in Prince George's County. You may want to check it out when you have visitors in town. The calendar system the PGCHS uses also provides a zip code search for other activities in your area. There is also a link to it at the bottom of the web calendar page.

The History Links page gives links to the Hall of Fame, Marietta Mansion, St. George's Day Awards, and Tricentennial History on our PGCHS site. There are also

several links to other sites, including county historical organizations, local historical sites (museums and towns), other county historical sites, state historical sites, state history resources, U.S. history, and world-wide history links.

Additional information on the site includes:

- Society objectives
- Board Members list and contact links
- Books for Sale
- Membership benefits
- Frederick S. DeMarr Library information
- Marietta location and map
- Search form for automated search of entire site

If you have any problems with the site or suggestions for new links, please email Joyce Dowling, at webmaster@pghistory.org or 301-782-9922.

— Joyce Dowling

(For more events and details, visit www.pgparks.com. Ed.)

Be a Society Sponsor

The benefits of becoming a Sponsor of the Society are numerous; the most significant of which are *recognition of your commitment to the preservation of the rich heritage of the County* and membership in the Society. As a member of the Society, you will receive advance notice of upcoming Society events held throughout Prince George's County, including historical lectures, tours and trips, social events, and other gifts depending on your level of sponsorship. You will also receive the Society's bi-monthly publication **News & Notes**, which keeps members of the Society abreast of historical activities in the County and provides insight into historic sites, persons, and artifacts pertinent to Prince George's County. In addition, as a Society member you will receive invitations to attend Society functions which are not open to the general public.

There are three levels sponsorship: **Gold** (\$500 donation), **Silver** (\$250 donation), and **Bronze** (\$100 donation). If you have any questions, please call Elizabeth Dougherty at 301-680-3976.



A N A C O S T I A T R A I L S H E R I T A G E A R E A

Ms. Susan Pearl
Prince George's County Historical Society
P.O. Box 14
Riverdale, MD 20738

November 28, 2005

Susan
Dear Ms. Pearl,

On behalf of ATHA, Inc., I would like to express my sincere gratitude for allowing John Nelson and me the opportunity to do photo research in the Frederick DeMarr Historical Library, operated by the Prince George's County Historical Society. We were greatly impressed by the rich collection of resources available to the public. These resources allowed us to collect a nice variety of images which greatly complimented and enhanced the content of ATHA's new visitor brochure.

I am especially appreciative of the personal service you provided us. Without this personal attention, it would have been difficult to complete our project. Your assistance and expertise greatly enhanced our search and made what would have been a very time-consuming task into a pleasant and enjoyable search.

ATHA, Inc. works hard to preserve and promote Prince George's County history and appreciates the efforts of the Prince George's County Historical Society. Once again, thank you for generously sharing your resources with us. If there is any way ATHA, Inc. can return the favor or be of service in any other way, please let me know.

Sincerely,

K. Crooms
Karen Jennings-Crooms
Executive Director

Cc: Mr. John Petro, President, Prince George's County Historical Society



Calendar of Events for March-April 2006

March-June - Rediscovering Early Flight Through a Lens: Photographing the Wright Experience exhibit at College Park Aviation Museum, free with admission

March 2-Nov. 26 - The Crime of the Century exhibit at Surratt House Museum, free with admission

March 5 - A Lecture: The Rhetoric of Abolition, 2 PM at Surratt House Museum, free

March 7 - Lecture on early 19th century American Costume by Sandra Altman at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM, fee, call 301-864-0420 for details

March 11-12 - World War I Weekend at Fort Washington Park, 10 AM-5 PM Saturday, 10 AM-3 PM Sunday, free, for details call 301-864-0420

March 12 - Speaking of Flight Lecture on the courageous women of NASA by Margaret Weitekampe at College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM, free with admission

March 14 - Reviving the Colonial: Dress, Decor, Style and Structure at Belair Mansion, fee, 7:30 PM, call 301-809-3089 for details

March 15 - Spring History Lecture on Spirits in Early Chesapeake by Eleanor Breen about George Washington's distillery at Montpelier Mansion at 7:30 PM, free

March 18 - How to Search for Your Roots, a Belated Black History Month Presentation, by Agnes Kane Callum at Montpelier Mansion, 2 PM, free, reservations required, call 301-953-1376

March 25 - Rosenwald Schools in Prince George's County presented by PGCHS Historian Susan Pearl at Seabrook Historic School, 2 PM, free

March 26 - Maryland Day at Historic St. Mary's City, for activities celebrating Maryland's 372nd founding, call 800-762-1634 for details

March 28 - Lecture by Anthony Pitch, author of the Burning of Washington, on the War of 1812 at Riversdale House Museum, 2 PM, fee, call 301-864-0420 for details

March 31-April 2 - Seventh Annual Symposium, The Crime of the Century: Part II at Surratt House Museum, \$160, reservation and payment required in advance, for details call 301-868-1121

April - Laurel Historic Main Street Tour by local historian Joe Robison, free, call 301-725-7975 for details

April 1 - Laurel Historical Society Annual Gala "From Millhouse to Museum" at Laurel Museum, fee, call 301-561-4252 for information

April 2 - Civil War Artillery Demonstrations at Fort Washington Park, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM, fee, call 301-763-4600 for details

April 2 - Special Focus Tour: "Oh Freedom" at His Lordship's Kindness at 12:30 PM & 2:30 PM, fee, call 301-856-0358 for details

April 9 - Speaking of Flight Lecture by Thomas King and Richard Gillespie on sharing discoveries of TIGHAR's field school at College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM, free with admission

April 11 - Costuming Jane Austen by Alden O'Brien at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM, free

April 19 - Spring History Lecture by Robert Barnes on research he has done at the Maryland Archives and Old Bailey in England on indentured servants at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM, free

April 22-23 - Annual Marching Through Time at Marietta House Museum, 11 AM-5 PM, fee, call 301-464-5291 for details

April 23 - Earth Day, join the Earth Day work project at Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract in Laurel, 1-4 PM, free, call 301-497-5763 for details

April 29 - Maryland Day 2006: Explore Our World at the University of Maryland College Park Campus, for details call 301-405-1000

Rub the Oils and Strew the Powders: The Legacy of European Herbs in Early American Medicine and Cuisine, an ongoing exhibit at The Montpelier Arts Center, free, daily from 10 AM to 5 PM, for more information call 301-953-1993



Publications For Sale

- 1. Landmarks of Prince George's County*** – 125 black and white photographs of the rich architectural legacy of Prince George's County by Jack E. Boucher. Arranged chronologically, the photos and captions offer a panoramic overview of the county's architectural and historical development. Indexed. Hard-cover, 144 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 2. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History*** – The history and essence of Prince George's County come alive in words and pictures in this beautiful collector's edition. Written in a fascinating narrative with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Many of them are in full color and are previously unpublished. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. Price: \$42.95.
- 3. Journey Through Time – A Pictorial History of the Prince George's County Police Department*** – A history of the county police department covering over 200 years. Author: Lt. Dennis Campbell. Indexed. Printed 1991. Hardcover, 304 pages. Price: \$40.00.
- 4. Calvert of Maryland** – This fact-based novel shows the home life of the colonists from a child's viewpoint. This story is told in the first person by young George Calvert, godson of the first Lord Baltimore, George Calvert. Reprint of James Otis Kaler's 1910 publication. Hardcover, 166 pages. Pen and ink illustrations. Price: \$6.95.
- 5. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 6. Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland 1861** – Atlas was adapted from Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland, with information from 1860 federal census for each election district. Indexed. Reprint 1996. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 7. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume 1 - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 8. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume 2 - Protestant Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Parish, and Prince George's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 9. Out of the Past – Prince Georgians and their Land** – Chronicle of everyday life in Prince George's County, Maryland from the time of its founding in 1676 until the beginning of the Civil War. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 10. Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. Price: \$10.00.

*Shipping and handling for books numbered 1, 2, and 3 is \$3.00 for each copy of the book because of size and weight. They are shipped separately.

Shipping and handling for all other books is \$2.50 for the first book and 50 cents for each additional book.

Shipping and handling for international orders. Please call 301-464-0590 or email the Historical Society for current postage rates.

Make checks payable to: Prince George's County Historical Society. Maryland residents, please add 5% sales tax.

Mail your order to:

Prince George's County Historical Society
Publication Sales
P. O. Box 14
Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

Prince George's County Historical Society

Membership Application

DATE _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
PHONE (HOME) _____ (BUSINESS) _____
EMAIL _____

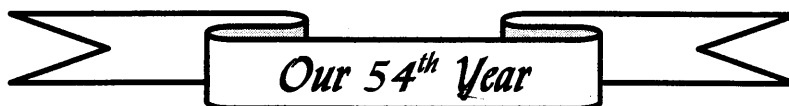
Membership Category (Please check one)

- Sponsor: ☐ Gold Level \$500 ☐ Silver Level \$250 ☐ Bronze Level \$100
☐ Member/Family \$25 ☐ Sustaining Member \$50
☐ Institutional Member \$50 ☐ Life Member \$300 ☐ Additional Contribution

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

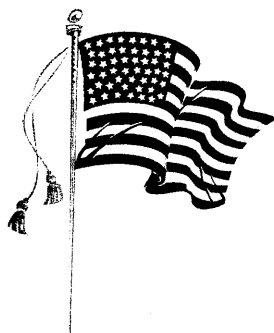
☐ For membership in the *Maryland Historical Society*, include an additional \$30 for individual or \$40 for family. Please make checks payable to PGCHS and mail your check and this form to: Prince George's County Historical Society, P. O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

We are funded through your dues and contributions. Contributions are tax deductible. We appreciate your support.

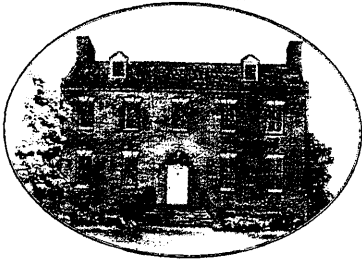


Prince George's County Historical Society
P.O. Box 14
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TO:



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXV Number 3

May-June 2006

MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM

(Home of the Prince George's
County Historical Society)

Facility Manager: Susan Wolfe
5626 Bell Station Road
Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120
301-464-5291
TTY 301-699-2544
(Off Route 193, near Route 450)
A facility of the Maryland-National
Capital Park and Planning
Commission

MARIETTA HOUSE TOURS

Friday, 11 am to 3 pm
Saturday & Sunday, 12 noon to
4 pm
Weekday & evening tours by
appointment only

MARIETTA HOUSE GIFT SHOP

Manager: Stella Uber
301-464-0590
Open Friday, 11 am to 3 pm,
Saturday & Sunday, 12 noon to
4 pm (also open during special
events)

FREDERICK S DeMarr LIBRARY OF COUNTY HISTORY

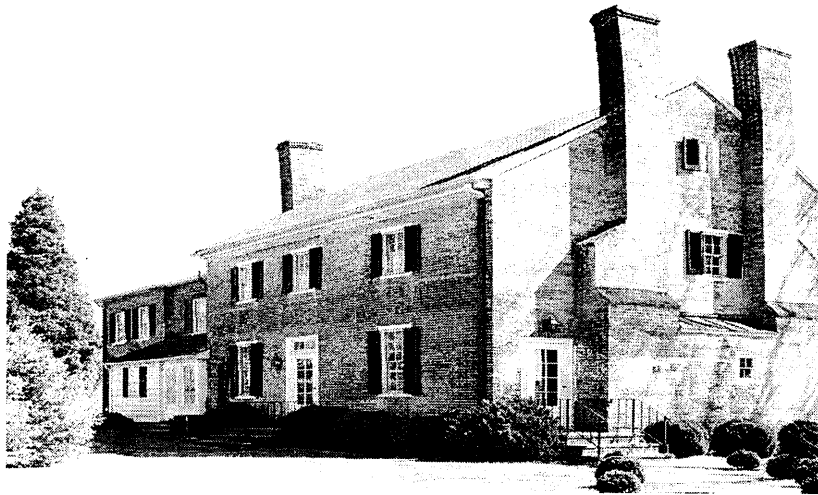
Historian: Susan G. Pearl
301-464-0590
Open Saturday, 12 noon to 4 pm

LECTURE SERIES:



2006 Preservation Month Reception

This year's annual Preservation Month Reception will be held on Thursday, May 25 from 6 to 8 PM at Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park, 16302 Mount Calvert Road, Upper Marlboro. The reception is hosted by Prince George's Heritage, Inc., and M-NCPPC with sponsorship and assistance by numerous organizations involved in historic preservation in the county, including the Prince George's County Historical Society and the Prince George's Historical and Cultural Trust.



The reception provides an opportunity for those interested in our county's heritage to get together and celebrate the individuals and organizations that are working in preservation, to assess our efforts, and to look to the future. The evenings agenda will include a keynote address by preservation advocate Audrey Scott, Director of Planning for the State of Maryland, awarding of preservation plaques to historic property owners, and the announcement of the County Endangered Sites List. Sam Parker, Chairman of the County Planning Commission, will serve as master of ceremonies. There will also be ample time to socialize and enjoy the unique-setting resources of Mount Calvert, one of the county's most significant sites.

(Continued on Page 3)

Presidential Musings . . .

Following last September's *Prince of a County* celebration, a number of Board members were struck by the plethora of agricultural innovations and advances developed in our county. Being at Boxlee created the opportunity for reflection on plant hybridization as noted in the "tulipomania" of the late 18th century to the development of the Glenn Dale Azalea in the 20th century. The Plant Introduction Station in Glenn Dale, the University of Maryland Tobacco Research farm in Upper Marlboro, the Beltsville Research Center, the Department of Agriculture's archives and numerous departments at the University of Maryland at College Park are all located here and provide scientific theorizing and practical application of these new ideas.

In addition to developments in plants, we can also boast of animal husbandry and breeding used to develop a thoroughbred stock from *Selima* (a horse) at Belair in the 18th century, *Cinderella* (a cow) at Riversdale in the 19th century and the large-breasted turkey at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in the 20th century. Innovative barn design and scientific farming techniques by Charles Benedict Calvert led the 19th century into efficiency until then unrealized. His efforts on the national stage led to the development of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and he provided land for the Maryland Agricultural College, which became the University of Maryland.

While agriculture is now under five percent of the county's economic base, it was the historical financial heart of Prince George's County. Hopefully, over the next few years an interested group of local historians will be able to compile and further research this interesting chapter of the county's history.

Thank You Sponsors!

The PGCHS would like to say thank you again for your generous donation to the Society this year.

Gold Level

Robert M. DeMarr
ezStorage
Petro Design/Build, Inc.

Silver Level

The Wixon Family

The Prince George's County

Historical Society

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Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120
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Email: pgchslibrary@aol.com or
info@pghistory.org
Website: www.pghistory.org

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Directors: Anna Holmes, Lynn Roberts, Andrew Wallace, William Uber, Joyce Dowling, Wallis Cain, Elizabeth Dougherty, Hannah Cox Charles Hendricks, and Dan Louck

Newsletter contributors: Susan G. Pearl, John Petro, Dusty Rhoads, Wallis Cain, Andy Wallace, Donna Schneider, and Judy Schneider
Printer: MinuteMan Press, 410-451-0218

All members of the Prince George's County Historical Society are invited and welcome to attend Society board meetings. We meet at the Marietta Mansion one Saturday each month at 9:30 am - May 6 and June 10. (Dates are subject to change. Call to confirm the date if you would like to attend.)

News & Notes is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations). The deadline for the July-August issue is June 15.

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

Bronze Level

Hannah C. Cox
Craftworks Design Inc.
E.H.T. Tracerics, Inc.
Henry Hamann
Edward and Evamaria Hawkins
Kenneth F. Hodges
Dan Louck
Douglas and Susan McElrath
Barbara M. Murphy
Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust
Robinson & Associates
Judy and Ken Schneider

Overlooking the confluence of the Western Branch and Patuxent Rivers, Mount Calvert's archaeological and historical resources represent over 8000 years of Native American, Euro-American and African American culture. The site includes a wonderful late 18th Century restored plantation house, the only remaining historic structure at Charles Town, the first seat of Prince George's County government.

All Historical Society members are invited to attend the reception. RSVP's are required! Please call either ATHA at 301-877-0777 or email Pam Cooper at pamelakcooper@verizon.net to make your reservation.

— Andy Wallace

St. George's Day 2006

On Sunday, April 23, 2006, the Prince George's County Historical Society celebrated St. George's Day (the 310th anniversary of the establishment of the County) at St. John's Church, Broad Creek. Nearly 100 people gathered for this annual celebration of the County's heritage and a very nice buffet dinner was served. We were also treated to a tour of the Church.

Each year since 1974 the St. George's Day awards are presented to honor persons or organizations that have contributed to the recognition and preservation of Prince George's County heritage. At this year's celebration, the following were honored with St. George's Day awards.

- **Katharine D. Bryant** and **Stephanie Stulich** for the publication of *Images of America — College Park*
- **George H. Calcott** for the publication of *The University of Maryland at College Park, A History*
- **Ann Harris Davidson** for the publication of *Historic Homes in Berwyn Heights, 2006 Calendar*
- **Renee Kidd** for outstanding volunteer commitment to Riversdale House Museum and the Riversdale Historical Society

- **David P. Fogle** for long commitment to preservation and professional efforts to invest this dedication in young people
- **Montgomery Development** for sensitive restoration of Bowieville Mansion
- **Suzan Stephenson** for documenting and preserving the history of horse breeding and racing in Prince George's County
- **Nathania Branch-Miles, Jane Taylor Thomas** and **Beverly Babin Woods** for the publication of *Images of America—Fort Washington*.

After the presentation of the St. George's Day Awards, The Hall of Fame of Prince George's County, which annually recognizes the creativity and contributions of distinguished Prince Georgians of the past, proceeded with the formal induction of its 2006 honoree, **Jim Henson**. Henson was a man who achieved his phenomenal success (The Muppets) but still retained his social conscience and artistic integrity in his work and promoting environmentalism.

His best remembered puppet Kermit the Frog (sorry Miss Piggy!) was named after his childhood friend from Mississippi. One of the main reasons why Jim preferred to use Kermit the Frog for his signature character was that he was the lightest in weight of the regular puppets and therefore one of the most comfortable for use for extended periods of time. Kermit was originally created out of his mother's old coat and a ping-pong ball. In the beginning Kermit was not a frog, but a lizard-like character, however he gradually evolved into the character that we know today. You can find a statue of Henson and Kermit on the University of Maryland, College Park campus which is Jim's alma mater.

The Historical Society was delighted that Jane, Elizabeth and Cheryl Henson were able to attend the award presentation.



Historic Preservation Updates

The Historical Society has long been active in the preservation of historic documents, buildings, and artifacts. From the beginning of the preservation movement in Prince George's County, the Society has pursued the objectives stated in its By-Laws, one of which is "to encourage and participate in the protection and preservation of historic sites and structures in Prince George's County." The Society was represented on the citizens' advisory committee for both the 1981 *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* and that Plan's 1992 amendment, and has, over the years, kept abreast of and worked for the preservation and restoration of the County's historic sites. Recently, the Historical Society has played a significant part in the efforts to preserve and restore the Ridgeley Rosenwald School.

Each year, the Society has recognized and celebrated notable preservation projects through the presentation of St. George's Day awards - for example, in recent years, St. George's Day awards were presented for the restoration of the William W. Early House in Brandywine, the saving by relocation of Buena Vista in Glenn Dale, the restoration of the Goodloe House and the Knights of St. John Hall in Bowie, and now the magnificent restoration of Bowieville in the Leeland area.

In the last several years, the Society had endeavored to participate more actively in the deliberations over preservation issues by the County's appointed Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Although it is often difficult because of associated deadlines to provide informed input to the monthly HPC meetings, the Society is renewing its efforts. We have established a Preservation Issues Committee, which previews the agenda and staff reports before each HPC meeting, and enters into the HPC record its comments and suggestions on those cases of particular interest to the Society. For example, Melford, the mid-nineteenth-century brick plantation house of the Duckett and Hardisty families, now the center piece of the Maryland Science and Technology Center in Bowie, has been a property of special importance to the Society. Therefore, when the HPC scheduled a review of Melford's maintenance and necessary repairs at its February 2006 meeting, the Society's Preservation Issues Committee addressed the HPC as follows:

"The Historical Society has for years been deeply concerned about the present condition and several times with officers of [the development

company] to express interest and concern. Although it is clear that the condition of the house is being carefully monitored, we have seen little evidence of the recommended and required repairs, and little evidence of long-term planning for preservation and use of the house, the outbuildings, and the immediate grounds. The Board of Directors of the Historical Society urges the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and staff to facilitate, and indeed require, real progress towards the goals of restoration and reuse of this very important historic site, and we offer whatever assistance we can in this regard." We are happy now to see that repair work at Melford is finally about to begin.

Similarly, a month later, the Committee entered into the HPC record its comments regarding the rebuilding and interpretation of the antebellum dwelling (which may have been a slave quarter), once part of the plantation known as *Brookefield of the Berrys* south of Croom:

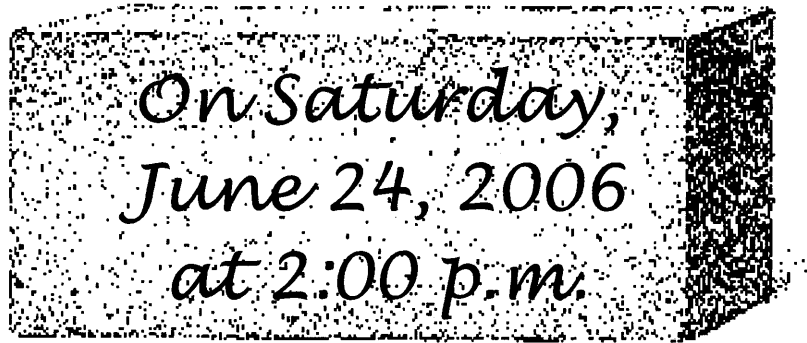
"The Preservation Issues Committee of the Prince George's County Historical Society has met and reviewed the staff report and recommendations for [the site plan for the developing property] adjacent to Historic Site#86A-20, Brookefield of the Berrys. The Historical Society supports the reconstruction of the antebellum structure on Parcel A of the developing property, and supports the plans to display the mortise-and-tenon structural detail, as well as the conveyance of Parcel A to the homeowners' association for future use and interpretation. The Historical Society will be pleased to assist, if needed, with research and preparation for this interpretation."

In April, the Society commented on a proposed subdivision on the acreage of Historic Site #78-17 (Charles Hill), and urged the HPC to recommend improvements in the layout of the planned subdivision, and in the design of the new houses to be built.

The Committee will continue to work and communicate with the HPC regarding upcoming preservation issues. Any Society members who would like to work with the Committee should contact us at 301-464-0590, or at **pgchslibrary@aol.com** by e-mail.

Don't forget the annual Historic Preservation Month Reception, where you will learn about various preservation projects, both those under way and those still to be desired. The reception will be held this year at Mount Calvert from 6:00 to 8:00 on Thursday evening, on May 25th. —Susan G. Pearl, Historian

WALK WITH US!



*the Prince George's County Historical Society
will meet at the Clock Tower located between
the County Administration Building and the Courthouse
in Upper Marlboro, Maryland
to unveil the newest section of bricks in the
WALK OF HISTORY*



*Following will be a mini walking tour of Upper Marlboro History
given by Barbara Sikora from Darnall's Chance
and light refreshments served at Darnall's Chance House Museum*



If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Saturday, June 17

Wallis Cain 301-627-3677

Donna Schneider 301-952-8539

From The Library

The library staff continues to work on developing a proposal for a librarian fellowship/internship, to be presented to the graduate programs in library science at Catholic University of American and the University of Maryland at College Park. We have had much-appreciated assistance from three local professional librarians, as well as welcome advice from former Historical Society librarian Sharon Sweeting, in trying to make this project not only of long-term help to our library, but of meaningful use and interest to the graduate student who undertakes it.

As usual the library has received a great variety of interesting inquiries in the last several months. The day before Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele was to dedicate the newly enlarged Marbury wing of the Prince George's County Courthouse in Upper Marlboro in October, we received a request from his staff for information on the Courthouse, and on the man for whom the wing was named. We were of course immediately able to send the January/February 2005 issue of *News & Notes*, with its cover article on the history of the Courthouse, as well as biographical information on Judge Benjamin Ogle Marbury.

We have also received inquiries from the editors of the Thomas Jefferson papers at Monticello, seeking information about some of the Prince George's County residents that appear in Jefferson's correspondence. It has been exciting to help them sort out the various members of the Sprigg family, with whom Jefferson was in contact in the later years of his life.

We have had long conversations, e-mails, and a visit from an Indiana University graduate student working on African-American amusement parks and 'recreation spaces,' including not only the Notley Hall Amusement Park on the Potomac, but also retreat communities such as Eagle Harbor and Lincoln. A graduate student at the University of Maryland, now the resident caretaker of the Market Master's House in Bladensburg, has been spending a great deal of time with our collections, preparing a major research paper on the Market Master's House and early Bladensburg. We have constant visits from other student researchers, e.g., a graduate student working on antebellum free black communities, and another grad student

analyzing the history, structure, and purpose of a historic preservation related organization, who chose to concentrate on our Historical Society. Our library will receive copies of all of the resulting theses/reports.

Students are, of course, frequent visitors, but they comprise only a part of our regular patrons. Staff of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) has made use of our photo archives, in preparing a new, handsome, and informative brochure for the Heritage Area.

Ward Bucher, the architect working on the George Washington House in Bladensburg (Ward is also presently directing the outstanding restoration work at Bowieville), has recently made use of our collections; our library is the repository for all of the plans and photography from the 1976 work on the George Washington House, and these plans and photographs are critical for the present project.

With the County's new emphasis on archaeology required before development, our library has frequently assisted professionals doing research on historic lands in preparation for excavation. This month we were able to help one of these researchers regarding land that was once part of the Pleasant Prospect in the Woodmore area; a small part of the large Pleasant Prospect plantation, including the beautiful mansion, is listed in National Register of Historic Places, and development (preceded by the required archaeology) will be taking place around it.

About a year ago, library staff helped writer Carole Herrick with questions she had regarding the Battle of Bladensburg, and related events of 1814 in Prince George's County. She has now completed her book (*August 24, 1814, Washington in Flames*) and has sent us a review copy. As soon as I have time (certainly not before January), I will read the book and write a review for **News & Notes**, and then add the book to our library shelves.

Finally, the library (thanks to the efforts of Library Committee member Diane Stultz) has acquired a new (previously owned) computer, and we are working on acquiring the new software that we need in order to continue accessioning all of the library materials, as well to establish networking capability between the two library computers. Any assistance from the membership, in software, funds, or expertise toward this goal will be much appreciated. Just call us at the library (preferably on Saturdays between noon and 4:00 p.m.) at 301-464-0590.

—Susan G. Pearl, Library Historian



May-June 2006 Calendar

May-June – Celebrating 150 Years [of the University of Maryland] Exhibit, Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center, University of Maryland, 12-1 PM, free

May-December – Landmarks and Legacies: A History of the College of Education, 1920 to Present Display, South Lobby Benjamin Building, University of Maryland, 7 AM-9 PM, free

May 6 – May Day Celebration and Tea, Marietta House Museum, 1 PM, enjoy a scone and dessert buffet tea, Maypole dancing and making May baskets, prepaid reservations required, call 301-464-5291 for fee information

May 7 – Speaking of Flight lecture, College Park Aviation Museum by Col. Wolfgang W.E. Samuel, USAF (Ret) about the American recovery of German jets after World War II, 2 PM, free with price of admission

May 7 – Civil War Artillery Demonstration, Fort Washington Park, 1, 2 & 3 PM, fee per vehicle

May 7 – First Annual Children's Day, Riversdale House Museum, 1-4 PM, dance 'round the Maypole, roll hoops and walk on stilts, enjoy games, marbles and corn husk doll making, performances by Horn's Punch & Judy Show, refreshments and children's delights will be sold, fee, includes entrance to the mansion

May 13 – Children's Day to celebrate Colonial life, National Colonial Farm, 12-4 PM, rain or shine, fee

May 14 – Complimentary Mother's Day Tours of Darnall's Chance for mothers and grand-mothers when accompanied by a paying child or grandchild, 12-4 PM

May 17 – Spring History Lecture Series, Montpelier Mansion by Lee Preston, archaeologist for Howard County, on the excavation of Longwood, 7:30 PM, free, no reservations required

May 20 – Gateway Arts District Open Studio Tours, tours are self-guided, call 301-864-3860, ext. 1 or 3 for more details

May 20 & 21 – Spring Open House at Surratt House Museum, free guided tours, partake in children's games and activities of the Surratt era, 12-4 PM, no reservations required

May 21 – 38th Annual Bowie Heritage Day Celebration, Belair Mansion & Stable, 12-4 PM, free

May 25 – Historic Preservation Month Reception at Mt. Calvert, free, 6-8 PM, see article for details

May 27 – Hands-On History Day, Montpelier Mansion, for 2 to 5 year olds, get ready for Father's Day by learning all about Dads in long ago Maryland and take home a craft to give to Dad on his special day, 10 AM-12 noon, \$5 per child, reservations required, call 301-953-1376

June 1-August 31 – Favorite Sons of Upper Marlboro, Darnall's Chance House Museum, view portraits of famous Upper Marlboro residents who made a difference to local, state and national history. The portraits are on loan to the Museum from The Hall of

Fame, Prince George's County, Inc. to celebrate the 300th birthday of the town of Upper Marlboro, free with regular admission

June 3 & 4 – Roman Days, Marietta House Museum, meet Legionaries and gladiators as they demonstrate armor, battle tactics, and camp life, battle reenactments, domestic displays, craft demonstrations, educational activities, period merchants and food, 10 AM-4 PM, no pets please, fee

June 4 – Civil War Artillery Demonstration, Fort Washington Park, 1, 2 & 3 PM, fee per vehicle

June 10 – Happy Birthday, Upper Marlboro! Celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Upper Marlboro, have a slice of cake, meet famous 18th and 19th century people associated with Upper Marlboro history, listen to bands perform classic American music and 18th century-style fife and drum corps, bring your own picnic lunch or food available for purchase, 11- 3 PM, free

June 10 – Open Hearth Cooking Class, Riversdale House Museum, learn basic open hearth cooking skills using a variety of techniques and equipment in Riversdale's re-created kitchen in the dependency building, 10 AM-2 PM, fee, advance registration and payment required, call 301-864-0420

June 11 – Speaking of Flight lecture, College Park Aviation Museum by Dr. J. Gordon Leishman about the technological advancements of early helicopter flight, including those made by Emile and Henry Berliner at the College Park Airport, 2 PM, free with price of admission

June 17 – Walk With Us, the Prince George's County Historical Society is unveiling the next section of bricks at the Walk of History, 2 PM, see enclosed flyer for details

June 17 – Midsummer Evening, Riversdale House Museum, celebrate one of the longest days of the year with early 19th century games, bring your own blanket to dine al fresco, Regency-era costumes optional, 7 PM, fee, advance registration required, call 301-864-0420

June 18 – Complimentary Father's Day Tours at Darnall's Chance for fathers and grandfathers when accompanied by a paying child or grandchild, 12-4 PM

June 24 – Hands-On History Day, Montpelier Mansion, 6 to 8 year olds will tour our 18th century herb garden, and learn about how herbs were used in medicine and cooking, make a take-home craft with herbs. 10 AM-12 noon, \$5 per child, reservations required, call 301-953-1376

For more events, visit www.goprincegeorgescounty.com or www.pgparcs.com.



Publications For Sale

- 1. Landmarks of Prince George's County*** – 125 black and white photographs of the rich architectural legacy of Prince George's County by Jack E. Boucher. Arranged chronologically, the photos and captions offer a panoramic overview of the county's architectural and historical development. Indexed. Hard-cover, 144 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 2. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History*** – The history and essence of Prince George's County come alive in words and pictures in this beautiful collector's edition. Written in a fascinating narrative with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Many of them are in full color and are previously unpublished. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. Price: \$42.95.
- 3. Journey Through Time – A Pictorial History of the Prince George's County Police Department*** – A history of the county police department covering over 200 years. Author: Lt. Dennis Campbell. Indexed. Printed 1991. Hardcover, 304 pages. Price: \$40.00.
- 4. Calvert of Maryland** – This fact-based novel shows the home life of the colonists from a child's viewpoint. This story is told in the first person by young George Calvert, godson of the first Lord Baltimore, George Calvert. Reprint of James Otis Kaler's 1910 publication. Hardcover, 166 pages. Pen and ink illustrations. Price: \$6.95.
- 5. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 6. Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland 1861** – Atlas was adapted from Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland, with information from 1860 federal census for each election district. Indexed. Reprint 1996. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 7. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume I - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 8. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume 2 - Protestant Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Parish, and Prince George's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 9. Out of the Past – Prince Georgians and their Land** – Chronicle of everyday life in Prince George's County, Maryland from the time of its founding in 1676 until the beginning of the Civil War. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 10. Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. Price: \$10.00.

*Shipping and handling for books numbered 1, 2, and 3 is \$3.00 for each copy of the book because of size and weight. They are shipped separately.

Shipping and handling for all other books is \$2.50 for the first book and 50 cents for each additional book.

Shipping and handling for international orders. Please call 301-464-0590 or email the Historical Society for current postage rates.

Make checks payable to: Prince George's County Historical Society. Maryland residents, please add 5% sales tax.

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Prince George's County Historical Society

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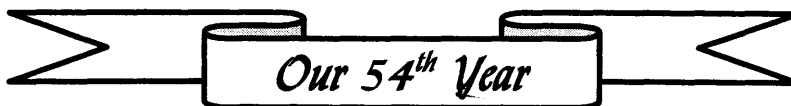
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☐ Member/Family \$25 ☐ Sustaining Member \$50
☐ Institutional Member \$50 ☐ Life Member \$300 ☐ Additional Contribution

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

☐ For membership in the *Maryland Historical Society*, include an additional \$30 for individual or \$40 for family. Please make checks payable to PGCHS and mail your check and this form to: Prince George's County Historical Society, P. O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

We are funded through your dues and contributions. Contributions are tax deductible. We appreciate your support.



Prince George's County Historical Society
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TO:



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXV Number 4

July-August 2006

MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM

(Home of the Prince George's
County Historical Society)

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Historian: Susan G. Pearl
301-464-0590
Open Saturday, 12 noon to 4 pm

LECTURE SERIES

Happy Birthday Upper Marlboro

In the spring of 1706, exactly 300 years ago, the General Assembly of the Maryland colony officially established five new towns (and re-established Charles Town, which had first been created in 1683). All but one of these six port towns have essentially vanished, leaving only quiet rural area with few or no visible 18th century features above ground (but potentially rich archaeological resources yet to be discovered). Only one, Marlborough (known now as Upper Marlboro), has survived and flourished, and has been the County Seat since 1721.



Marlborough House, 18th Century landmark in Upper Marlboro, razed 1957
Photo 1936 by Historic American Buildings Survey

By the end of the 17th century, when Prince George's County was established, the site which would become Upper Marlborough was already a gathering place for merchants; a tavern was established in 1703, and a Presbyterian meeting house in 1704. The seat of local government at that time was Charles Town, located on the Western Branch at its confluence with the Patuxent River. Charles Town had been established as an official port town by Acts of the General Assembly during the 1680s. Then in April of 1706 the General Assembly, by an Act for the

(Continued on Page 4)



Presidential Musings . . .

For over two decades, young historians have converged on the University of Maryland in the middle of June for the finals of the National History Day competitions. Students from all states competed in local, then state and finally the Nationals to determine winners in documentaries, exhibits, papers or performances categories in senior (high school students) and junior (middle school students) brackets. Local winners were nominated to state championship contests, which, in turn, nominated their best entries to the nationals. Students must use primary source documents and/or interviews, where available, to support their findings. The program promotes excellent scholarship and encourages local historic events as examples of larger, global occurrences and issues.

National History Day was begun in 1974 by Dr. David Van Tassel from Case Western Reserve to promote scholarship and interest in history among junior and high school students. By 1980, the program had become national and a year-round staff was employed and national headquarters were established, first in Cleveland, but then moved to Maryland in 1992. The competition is similar to the National Science Fair. The History Channel and other corporate sponsors and a number of educational institutions financially support the program. In addition to the contest segment of the organization, NHD offers workshops and seminars for teachers and summer internships for students.

This year over two million students, teachers, parents and volunteers have participated in National History Day and its component parts. While individuals must do papers by themselves, documentaries, exhibits and performances can be done either by groups or, also, as individuals. Research and scholarship are key to contestant success. However, all participants at all levels of competition are winners for having gone through the process. Having young people excited about history, especially local history, is a great thing for all of us. For more information go to NationalHistoryDay.org.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

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All members of the Prince George's County Historical Society are invited and welcome to attend Society board meetings. We meet at the Marietta Mansion one Saturday each month at 9:30 am - July 15 and August 12 (Dates are subject to change. Call to confirm the date if you would like to attend.)

News & Notes is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations). The deadline for the September-October issue is August 15.

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

Logo

Did you notice our new Historical Society logo? If not, turn back to page 1 and check out the masthead. Many thanks to Wallis Cain, Lynn Roberts and two graphic designers from M-NCPPC for all of their hard work. (If you need a copy in color, contact Judy and I'll email it to you.)

Our logo depicts the Crown of England; 1952 is the year the Society was formed. Tobacco leaves are used to separate the wording of the outer circle. Within the quadrants of the shield, St. George's Cross is depicted top right, with the mirror image bottom left. Bottom right is the preserved door of Bowieville and top left depicts the Frederick S. DeMarr Library. It's official debut will be on Saturday, June 24th at The Walk of History by the Clock Tower at 2 pm.

Welcome New Members

The Prince George's County Historical Society would like to welcome the following individuals, organizations and companies as new members who joined the Society since June 2005:

Accokeek Foundation
Carolina Rojas Bahr
Todd Bahrenburg and Diane Dean
Michael J. Berry
Nathania A. Branch Miles
Suzanne M. Carr
Craftworks Design, Inc. (Bronze Level Sponsor)
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Mr. & Mrs. James McCeney
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Mrs. H. W. Merritt
Courtney Michael
Robinson & Associates (Bronze Level Sponsor)
Peter Shapiro
Tracy D. Stone
Meghan Tice
James D. Trent, Jr.

Thank You Sponsors!

The PGCHS would like to say thank you again for your generous donation to the Society this year.

Gold Level

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The Wixon Family

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Edward and Evamaria Hawkins
Kenneth F. Hodges
Dan Louck
Douglas and Susan McElrath
Barbara M. Murphy
Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust
Robinson & Associates
Judy and Ken Schneider
Victoria Thompson

Be A Society Sponsor

The benefits of becoming a Sponsor of the Society are numerous; the most significant of which are *recognition of your commitment to the preservation of the rich heritage of the County* and membership in the Society. As a member of the Society, you will receive advance notice of upcoming Society events held throughout Prince George's County, including historical lectures, tours and trips, social events, and other gifts depending on your level of sponsorship. You will also receive the Society's bi-monthly publication **NEWS & NOTES**, which keeps members of the Society abreast of historical activities in the County and provides insight into historic sites, persons, and artifacts pertinent to Prince George's County. In addition, as a Society member you will receive invitations to attend Society functions which are not open to the general public.

There are three levels of sponsorship: **Gold** (\$500 donation), **Silver** (\$250 donation), and **Bronze** (\$100 donation). If you have any questions, please call Elizabeth Dougherty at 301-680-3976.

Maryland Historical Society Renewals

For those members who have renewed their Maryland Historical Society (MdHS) dues with us and have received a renewal notice from MdHS, please discard the renewal notice. The Prince George's County Historical Society has been in contact with MdHS and discovered that even though the dues payments have been received, the funds have not been applied to the members' accounts. MdHS is in the process of updating their records. After this is complete, you will receive your membership card. You should also continue to receive the publications and notices from MdHS during this period.

Also please note that for the next renewal period the rates for the individual and family MdHS memberships will increase by \$5 to \$35 and \$45 respectively.

Advancement of Trade, re-established Charles Town, and established five new towns. Only one of these port towns was located on the Potomac River, a clear indication that the concentration of population and commerce was at that time in the eastern part of the County: *Aire* was established along the wide estuary of Broad Creek, a major tributary of the Potomac. The other four were on the Patuxent River: *Mill Town* at William Mills' land in the southern part of the County, *Nottingham* on Thomas Brooke's land at Mattapany Landing, *Queen Anne* at Anderson's Landing, and *Marlborough* "at the upper landing on the Western Branch, commonly called Colonel Belt's landing."¹ It is the latter town, now our County Seat, that we will look into on this its 300th anniversary.

Eleven Commissioners were appointed to set up the five new port towns in Prince George's County. Between 19 April 1706, when the *Act* was enacted by the Assembly, and 1 September of that same year, these Commissioners were to meet together on the lands specified, select and purchase 100 acres of "Convenient Land" at each location, survey and lay out each town with streets and alleys, leaving spaces for the erection of church or chapel, market house, and other public buildings, and then lay out the remaining part of the 100 acres in as near as possible to 100 equal lots. So at this time 300 years ago, we can be sure that the Commissioners were busy investigating the five new town locations, making selections and negotiating with the owners of the lands.

In the case of our County Seat, it was first known as the "Town of Marlborough," but soon came to be called "Upper Marlborough" in order to distinguish it from "Lower" Marlborough, a port town established in the same year on the opposite side of the Patuxent River in Calvert County. According to longstanding tradition, the two port towns were named for John Churchill, First Duke of Marlborough. Churchill was at that time England's most popular hero, having won in 1704 an important victory at the Battle of Blenheim in the War of the Spanish Succession.

From the time of Upper Marlborough's official establishment in 1706, Charles Town began to fade in importance. In 1716 a pair of stocks and a whipping post were erected in Upper Marlborough by order of the County Court, and in 1717 the County standard of weights and measures was moved from Charles Town to Upper Marlborough. By 1718, Upper Marlborough had become such an active center that its inhabitants petitioned to have the Courthouse moved from Charles Town to Upper Marlborough, approximately three miles northwest, upstream on the Western Branch. The General Assembly consented to the move, and a new Courthouse was ordered to be built near the eastern edge of Upper Marlborough. The County Court first met at the not-quite-finished Courthouse 28 March 1721; this new Upper Marlborough Courthouse was repaired and enlarged in 1747 by Daniel Page, the same builder who five years earlier had been contracted to build the chapel-of-ease (now St. Thomas' Church, Croom) for St. Paul's Church in Baden.

From the time of its establishment until early in the 20th century, Upper Marlborough was the commercial, political and social center of Prince George's County. The Western Branch was used for the transport of tobacco, and in 1747, by an *Act for Amending the Staple of Tobacco*, the General Assembly named Upper Marlborough as one of the Tobacco Inspection Warehouses in Prince George's County. Many prominent merchants lived and worked in Upper Marlborough, and tobacco warehouses lined the road to the Branch. Several residents apparently raised and kept swine right in the middle of town "to the great prejudice of the inhabitants thereof," for in 1732 the Assembly responded to complaints and enacted a prohibition and fine against anyone keeping swine unenclosed in Marlborough town . . .² By 1744, the population of Upper Marlborough had grown to the extent that it was designated as one of the Hundreds (the political/administrative divisions) of the County; by the 1760s a post office had been established in the Town. Upper Marlborough was a social center as well; by the 1750s the town could boast a new Assembly Hall, at which were offered balls, concerts and opera productions. Starting in 1750, horseracing drew many people from the surrounding area, and the several taverns in Upper Marlborough were popular stopping places for travelers, and gathering places for the exchange of news and ideas. In addition to the regularly sitting Courts, Upper Marlborough included the offices of numerous successful lawyers, many of whom went on to achieve prominent political positions. In 1798/99 a new Courthouse of wood frame construction was erected on the site of the original 1721 structure, designed by William Lovering, the same Washington architect who completed the design for Riversdale just a few years later. This Lovering-designed Courthouse was renovated in 1854 and served until 1881, when the new brick Courthouse was erected on the south side of Main Street, a short distance to the west of the original.³ Although most of Marlborough's 18th-

century buildings have long since disappeared, important landmarks like *Kingston*, *Content*, and the *Digges-Sasscer House* incorporate and preserve at least a part of the original building. The main block of *Darnall's Chance*, originally built in the mid 18th century and then drastically rebuilt a century later, has been rebuilt and restored to what it must have looked like originally.

By the early part of the 19th century, the silted Western Branch was no longer used for the shipping of tobacco, but a system of roads had become well established, connecting Upper Marlborough with the growing Federal City, and with other developing towns, plantations, churches, and gathering places. Upper Marlborough experienced unusual excitement during the war of 1812. On 22 August 1814 a large company of British troops, under General Robert Ross, marching northwest from the Patuxent toward the nation's capital, camped overnight at the edge of Upper Marlborough. One British soldier described the attractiveness of the town: "It was one o'clock, when the neat houses and pretty gardens of Marlborough presented themselves to our view . . . at that moment I imagined that I had never looked upon a landscape more pleasing, or more beautiful. The gentle green hills which on either hand inclosed the village, tufted here and there with magnificent trees, - the village itself, straggling and wide, each cottage being far apart from its neighbours, and each ornamented with flower-beds and shrubberies; these, with a lovely stream that wound through the valley, formed . . . one of the most exquisite panoramas on which it has ever been my good fortune to gaze." The same soldier related that, though the soldiers helped themselves to food and produce, they avoided inflicting unnecessary damage to the town, and "when we marched out on the following day, we left Marlborough, not perhaps so rich in livestock, but quite as picturesque and rural as when we entered it."⁴ The then new Trinity Episcopal Church, however, was left with a long-term negative impression of its short-term British visitors. The Vestry minutes record: "No meeting . . . owing to the situation into which the country was thrown by the invasion of the British army in August. . . . Several leaves here and some in other parts of the book were torn out by some of Ross's soldiers who found the book in the church where it was put for safekeeping . . . to their eternal disgrace be it recorded." And one prominent citizen of Upper Marlborough, Dr. William Beanes, became forever known for his part in this event. After he was taken by the British to Baltimore, Francis Scott Key went there to negotiate for his release, and during the bombardment of Fort McHenry, wrote the lyrics for what became our national anthem.

As the 19th century progressed, Upper Marlborough continued as a government and commercial center. By the middle of the 19th century, it boasted not only a group of fine dwellings, but also a variety of stores, a bank, an academy, and three churches - Methodist, Episcopal and Roman Catholic (the Presbyterian congregation had left Upper Marlborough for Bladensburg in 1725) - as well as two newspaper offices. Main Street was dotted with law offices of prominent attorneys. The Town was incorporated in 1870.

The advent of the railroad in the 1870s created a second pattern of development for Upper Marlborough, as granaries and tobacco warehouses were built around the depot site. This new development and the new markets that it opened for the area's agricultural products enriched the town and strengthened the prominence of Main Street as the commercial cultural and governmental center of the community. Throughout this period, Upper Marlborough remained the principal location of the Prince George's County Bar.

Also during this period, as noted above, a new Courthouse was designed and erected on the south side of Main Street.

While Upper Marlborough society was dominated by some of the County's most prominent white planters, politicians, merchants and attorneys, the town had always had a substantial African-American population, and a longstanding free black population. Early in the 19th century, when William Thornton and his wife visited the Craufurd family at *Kingston*, Mrs. Thornton wrote in her diary: "We went to two or three shops - . . . the best belonged to a free negro man, who is doing very well; he owns the house and lot in which he lives, maintains a large family decently and is generally respected."⁵ At the end of the Civil War, a group of blacks purchased land and built a Methodist meetinghouse on the south edge of town, and then worked with the Freedmen's Bureau toward the establishment in 1867 of a school for their children. In 1922, a new Rosenwald school was built, replacing the deteriorating Freedmen's Bureau school. Just a year before that, when a new High School had been constructed for white students, the building that it replaced had been moved to the

black community, reassembled and opened as the County's first secondary school for black students. It was replaced in the 1930s by the first Frederick Douglass High, located just south of the County Courthouse; a plaque on the grounds of the expanded Courthouse marks the site of this Frederick Douglass High School.

The thriving economy of the town early in the 20th century allowed for new construction and new facades on some of the older buildings. Between the World Wars there was another building boom, and Upper Marlborough was a bustling center, with not only the courts and attorneys' offices, but also stores, hotels, a movie theater, community meeting halls, separate (until *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954) primary and secondary schools for black and white students, and an array of retail and personal services ranging from restaurants and candy stores to gas stations and a bowling alley. In 1940, the 1881 Courthouse was completely rebuilt, changing from a Queen Anne Victorian façade to a neo-classical temple with massive Ionic columns supporting a pedimented portico. (Since that time a series of additions has greatly enlarged the Courthouse, and reoriented it to face south toward Maryland Route 4; it was the oldest section, fronting on Main Street and rebuilt in 1940, that was severely damaged by fire on Wednesday, 3 November 2004.)

The Prince George's County Seat has been known since early in the 20th century by the shortened form of its name – *Upper Marlboro*. Following World War II, Upper Marlboro's traditional role as the center of commercial activity declined. It was during this time that the Town's role as the seat of County government emerged as the dominant force in the local economy. New commercial and service activities emerged to meet new market needs of an expanding daytime work force, residential subdivisions began to be developed all around the outskirts of the town, and large-scale entertainment returned to the town with the development of the Show Place Arena on the site of the old Fairgrounds.

Of the six towns established (and re-established) 300 years ago, Upper Marlboro is the only one that survives as a town.⁶ There have been several attempts over many years to relocate the County Seat to the more developed area close to the District of Columbia, and new governmental centers have been established in recent years in Largo and Hyattsville. But Upper Marlboro retains its position as the County Seat, and today remains a busy judicial and legislative center with a long and distinguished history of three centuries. Upper Marlboro will be celebrating its 300th anniversary in a variety of ways this summer. We can think back to the busy summer of 1706, and the negotiating, surveying, and planning for those first six towns in our County, while we celebrate the one that grew and thrived.

-- Susan G. Pearl, Historian

ENDNOTES

¹ Several years of archaeological investigation have been undertaken by the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission at the site of *Charles Town*, but the only building surviving from the 18th century is the *Mount Calvert* house. Limited excavation had been done by the National Park Service at the site of *Aire*, Broad Creek; the only buildings surviving from the 18th century at the site are *Harmony Hall*, *St. John's Church*, and parts of the brick end walls of *Want Water*. No 18th-century buildings survive at the sites of *Mill Town*, *Nottingham*, and *Queen Anne*.

² *Archives of Maryland, Assembly Proceedings 1732, Chapter XIX:27*

³ See *PGCHS News and Notes*, Vol. XXXIV, No. 1, Jan-Feb 2005 for more detail on Prince George's County's historic Courthouse.

⁴ *An Eye-Witness Account of the Military Events that Transpired Between the Landing of the British at Benedict and the Battle of Bladensburg, as Seen by G. R. Gleig, an Officer in Ross's Army*: Philadelphia, M. Carey & Sons, 1821

⁵ "Diary of Mrs. Thornton," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, Vol. 10, 1907.

⁶ Two other "towns" were officially established during the 18th century in Prince George's County. Piscataway, established on Piscataway Creek in 1707 by a supplementary *Act for Advancement of Trade*, was once a thriving port town but is now a quiet rural area with only a few remaining houses, two of which (*Piscataway Tavern*, and *Hardy's Tavern*) date to the period of the town's 18th-century commercial prominence. Bladensburg was established in 1742 on the Eastern Branch (Anacostia) of the Potomac, and was a thriving port town for the rest of the 18th century. Four of its 18th-century buildings survive: *Bostwick*, the *Market Master's House*, the *George Washington House*, and the *Hilleary-Magruder House*. Incorporated in 1854, Bladensburg developed with light industry during the 20th century.

UPPER MARLBOROUGH.

Scale: 400 feet to One Inch.

Upper Marlborough, G. M. Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878

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History At Home...Tour Gorgeous Prince George's!

Explore Prince George's County's gorgeous historic past on Saturday, July 22, 2006!

In the hustle and bustle of the 21st century, the rich history of Prince George's past is often overlooked! With roots firmly planted in the 17th century, Prince George's history continues to spread its branches into the 21st century. The County boasts more historic assets than any other in Maryland. You're invited to enjoy them!

History Day at Home, sponsored by the Prince George's County History Consortium (PGCHC), will offer four bus tours throughout the County on July 22, 2006...tours highlighting our county's incredible historic legacy and diversity. From the earliest occupation of the land to the present day, the story is fascinating, fun and full of surprises! Plan to enjoy a mini-vacation at home!

The tours are as follows:

- **Tilling Rich and Fertile Earth: Early Farm Life**
 - National Colonial Farm
 - Mount Calvert Archaeological Park
 - Patuxent River Boat Tour
 - Patuxent Rural Life Museum
- **Separate Lives & Shared Surroundings: African American History**
 - Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness
 - North Hampton Slave Quarters Archaeological Site
 - Belair Stables Museum
 - Dorsey Chapel
- **Choosing Sides: Prince George's County in the Civil War**
 - Fort Washington Park
 - Surratt House Museum
 - Marietta House Museum
 - Prince George's County Historical Society
- **Life Goes On: Continuous Use of Historic Homes**
 - Montpelier Mansion
 - Belair Mansion
 - Darnall's Chance
 - Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness

The tours are \$30 per person and include transportation, lunch and admission. The buses will depart at 10 AM for each tour. Details will be provided on where the bus pick-up and drop-off points are for each tour. For further information and reservations, call Susan Wolfe at Marietta House Museum at 301-464-5291 or visit our website at www.princegeorgesmuseums.org. Alternatively you can register by sending your reservation and check or money order to: PGCHC, PO Box 856, Riverdale, MD 20737-0856. **The deadline for reservations is Monday, July 10, 2006.**

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to discover the history, the beauty and the versatility of Gorgeous Prince George's!!



Picnic and Boat Tour on the Patuxent

You are invited to join the Historical Society for a picnic and boat tour on the Patuxent River on Sunday, August 13, 2006. The boat tour will provide the opportunity to see Great Blue Herons, Ospreys, ducks, turtles and the magnificent river views of historic homes. We will gather at Patuxent River Park starting at 4:30 PM for a late afternoon picnic. The one-hour pontoon boat tour along the Patuxent will start at 6 PM. Patuxent River Park is located at 16000 Croom Airport Road in Upper Marlboro.

Please bring a main dish for you and your family and either a salad or dessert to share with the rest of the picnickers. The Society will supply the ice and beverages. Don't forget the bug spray and sunscreen!

Even though this event is free, reservations for the boat tour are needed. Please RSVP no later than Sunday, August 6 to Donna Schneider at 301-952-8539 or Nathania Branch Miles at 301-322-9409.

2006 Preserve America Presidential Awards

Audrey E. Scott, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning and Chairman of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority was invited to the White House on May 1 to receive the 2006 *Preserve America* Presidential Award for The Maryland Heritage Areas Program, presented by President Bush and *Preserve America* Honorary Chair, Mrs. Laura Bush.

The Maryland Heritage Areas Program is the result of Maryland's recognition that heritage tourism is a key to economic development and is a sustainable preservation strategy. The State of Maryland encourages the creation of local preservation and tourism efforts and offers support through the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA). Since the program's inception nine years ago, there are now 10 Certified Heritage Areas representing 18 counties and 62 municipalities, with three more pursuing certification. Every county in Maryland now includes a heritage area within its borders.

This is the third year the awards have been presented. Each year, two awards are given for activities advancing heritage tourism and two awards are given for privately funded historic preservation projects or programs. The recipients are chosen through a national competition administered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in cooperation with the Executive Office of the President and in partnership with various government agencies, committees and councils. The other 2006 *Preserve America* Presidential Award recipients are Mission San Luis, Hampton Hotels' The "Explore the Highway with Hampton, Save-A-Landmark™" program and The Tauck World Discovery Yellowstone-Guest-Volunteer Program.

For further information about this and other aspects of the *Preserve America* program, please visit www.preserveamerica.gov.

Information for this article was taken from www.preserveamerica.gov/news-0501.html.

Maryland Preservation Interests Do Well for 2007

The 2006 General Assembly ended its session with continued support for preservation by passing the Rehabilitation Tax Credit and the introduction of the Barn Bill and Heritage Area Bill. Highlights are:

- \$30 million for commercial projects under the Rehabilitation Tax Credit program (the residential program remains a true tax credit and does not require a budget appropriation).
- \$3 million for the Maryland Heritage Area Authority (MHAA) to support the state's 13 Certified and Recognized Heritage Areas
- \$1.99 million for operation support for history museums through the Museum Assistance Program
- \$600,000 for capital grant funding for historic preservation projects
- \$458,000 for non-capital grant funding for historic preservation projects
- \$200,000 for IMPART grants to fund graduate level internships and assistantships for students in archaeology, museum studies and historic preservation.
- \$53,600 for support of the Maryland Humanities Council.
- Agriculture – Preservation of Historic Structures: HB 699 (Barn Bill) established a Maryland Advisory Committee on Historic Agricultural Structure Preservation and Maryland Barn Preservation Fund with expenditures up to \$300,000 per year.
- Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund – Time Limitations: HB 175 (Heritage Area Bill) will allow the MHAA to continue to use funds transferred to the program from Program Open Space to be used to support the operating expenses of MHAA.

Information for this article was taken from a Preservation Maryland Advocacy Alert!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JULY AND AUGUST 2006



- July 2** – Artillery Demonstrations by the Fort Washington Guard at Fort Washington Park; 1, 2 and 3 PM; fee; for details call 301-763-4600
- July 9** – Family Summer Fun at Marietta House Museum; 2 – 5 PM; reservations required by calling 301-464-5291; \$3/person
- July 9** – An Afternoon of Mystery at Riversdale House Museum; authors will read from their works and books will be available for purchase and signing; 1 PM; \$5, includes house tour and refreshments
- July 15-23** – 10th Annual Needleart 2006 exhibit at Montpelier Mansion; open daily; fee
- July 19** – Concert on the Portico by jazz violinist Susan Jones at Riversdale House Museum; 7 PM; free; grilled dinner available for purchase, call 301-864-0420 for details
- July 22** – Hands on History Day for Young Time Travelers at Belair Mansion; 12 – 4 PM; free; call 301-809-3089 for details
- July 22** – History Day at Home sponsored by the Prince George's County History Consortium; begins at 10 AM; \$30/person; see separate article for details
- July 23** – History Weekend at Home at Marietta House Museum; 1 – 4 PM; free
- July 29** – Hands-On History Day for 9 to 12-year olds at Montpelier Mansion; 10 AM – Noon; reservations required by calling 301-953-1376; \$5/child
- August 5** – 6th Annual African-American Heritage Day sponsored by the Accokeek Foundation at National Colonial Farm; 12 – 6 PM, rain or shine; \$3/person
- August 6** – Artillery Demonstrations by the Fort Washington Guard at Fort Washington Park; 1, 2 and 3 PM; fee; for details call 301-763-4600
- August 6** – Family Summer Fun – "Ice Cream Social" at Marietta House Museum; 2 – 5 PM; reservations required by calling 301-464-5291; \$3/person
- August 12** – Battle of Bladensburg Encampment at Riversdale House Museum; 12 – 4 PM; free admission to the grounds, fee for house tour
- August 13** – Air Mail Day, celebrating the 88th anniversary of the first U.S. Postal Air Mail flight at College Park Aviation Museum; 12 – 4 PM; regular museum admission
- August 19** – British Invasion of Prince George's County Bus Tour sponsored by Darnall's Chance House Museum; 8 AM – 5 PM; reservations and advanced payment required, call 301-952-8010 for details
- August 23** – Concert on the Portico at Riversdale House Museum; 7 PM; free; grilled dinner available for purchase, call 301-864-0420 for details
- August 26** – Hands-On History Day at Montpelier Mansion; 10 AM – Noon; reservations required by calling 301-953-1376; \$5/child
- Thru August 31** – Favorite Sons of Upper Marlboro exhibit at Darnall's Chance House Museum; open during normal tour hours; regular tour admission
- Thru November 26** – The Crime of the Century exhibition at Surratt House Museum; included in regular tour admission price
- Thru May 2007** – Rub the Oils and Strew the Powders: The Legacy of European Herbs in Early American Medicine and Cuisine exhibit at Montpelier Mansion

For more information about these and other events, please visit www.pgparcs.com and www.princegeorgesmuseums.org.



Publications For Sale

1. **Landmarks of Prince George's County*** – 125 black and white photographs of the rich architectural legacy of Prince George's County by Jack E. Boucher. Arranged chronologically, the photos and captions offer a panoramic overview of the county's architectural and historical development. Indexed. Hard-cover, 144 pages. Price: \$18.00.
2. **Prince George's County: A Pictorial History*** – The history and essence of Prince George's County come alive in words and pictures in this beautiful collector's edition. Written in a fascinating narrative with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Many of them are in full color and are previously unpublished. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. Price: \$42.95.
3. **Journey Through Time – A Pictorial History of the Prince George's County Police Department*** – A history of the county police department covering over 200 years. Author: Lt. Dennis Campbell. Indexed. Printed 1991. Hardcover, 304 pages. Price: \$40.00.
4. **Calvert of Maryland** – This fact-based novel shows the home life of the colonists from a child's viewpoint. This story is told in the first person by young George Calvert, godson of the first Lord Baltimore, George Calvert. Reprint of James Otis Kaler's 1910 publication. Hardcover, 166 pages. Pen and ink illustrations. Price: \$6.95.
5. **Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
6. **Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland 1861** – Atlas was adapted from Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland, with information from 1860 federal census for each election district. Indexed. Reprint 1996. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
7. **Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume I - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. Price: \$18.00.
8. **Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume 2 - Protestant Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Parish, and Prince George's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. Price: \$18.00.
9. **Out of the Past – Prince Georgians and their Land** – Chronicle of everyday life in Prince George's County, Maryland from the time of its founding in 1676 until the beginning of the Civil War. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. Price: \$20.00.
10. **Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. Price: \$10.00.

*Shipping and handling for books numbered 1, 2, and 3 is \$3.00 for each copy of the book because of size and weight. They are shipped separately.

Shipping and handling for all other books is \$2.50 for the first book and 50 cents for each additional book.

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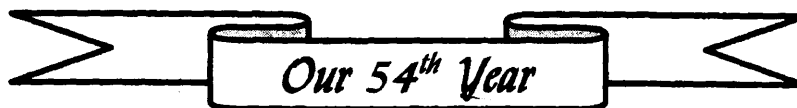
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News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXV Number 5

September-October 2006

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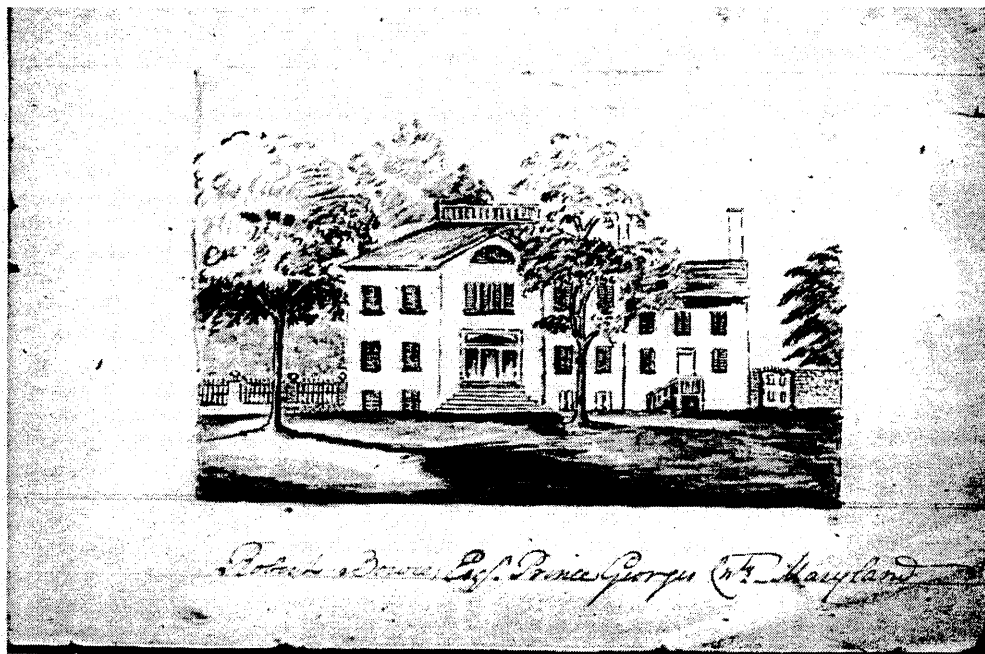
October 28th — St. Ignatius
Church in Port Tobacco. See
article in newsletter for more
information.

Visit Bowieville!

For the Prince of a County Reception

Sunday, September 24, 2006

2 pm to 5 pm



(Please see Page 3 for the story of Bowieville and more pictures)

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NIGHT CONCERT
PRINCE GEORGE'S PHILHARMONIC, OCTOBER 14, 2006
SEE ARTICLE FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION

Presidential Musings . . .

In July, over 50 people participated in one of three tour programs established by the Prince George's County History Consortium. Each tour took visitors to four sites in the county which were used to interpret the specific topics of "Tilling Rich and Fertile Earth: Early Farm Life", "Separate Lives & Shared Surroundings: African American History" or "Life Goes on: Continuous Use of Historic Homes". In addition to the visitations, historians accompanied the tourists on the bus ride between sites to expand upon the information provided at each site. As the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants, the Consortium (a confederation of the county's historic sites and the DeMarr Library) is making plans to reprise this event next year if not expand it to other times during the year.

In September, our historical society will host the annual 'Prince of a County Reception' at the newly restored Bowieville. The attention to detailed restoration at this 1819 site is absolutely breathtaking. From its restored plaster moldings to its faux grained finishes to its restored marble and glass, from the entry stairs to the widow's walk, every aspect of this building is a renewed work of art.

October 14 is a night out to attend the Prince George's Philharmonic Sponsored by the Historical Society and on October 28th our lecture series takes us to St. Ignatius Church in Port Tobacco.

Next May, our historical society will co-sponsor the Prince George's County portion of Maryland's Home and Garden Pilgrimage. This will encompass 8 historic homes and/or gardens which are not ordinarily open to the public.

Many opportunities to visit historic structures are available. Each offers a part of the book of our collective past. Each unique chapter allows us to appreciate from whence we've come and to what we've become. Don't miss a page of this story -- visit an historic site!

Thank You Sponsors!

The PGCHS would like to say thank you again for your generous donation to the Society this year.

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Newsletter contributors: Susan G. Pearl, John Petro, Jim Wolfe, Jane Dodd, Donna Schneider, and Judy Schneider

Printer: MinuteMan Press, 410-451-0218

All members of the Prince George's County Historical Society are invited and welcome to attend Society board meetings. We meet at the Marietta Mansion one Saturday each month at 9:30 am - **September 9 and October 7.** (Dates are subject to change. Call to confirm the date if you would like to attend.)

News & Notes is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations). The deadline for the **deadline for the November-December issue is October 15.**

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

(Sponsors Continued)

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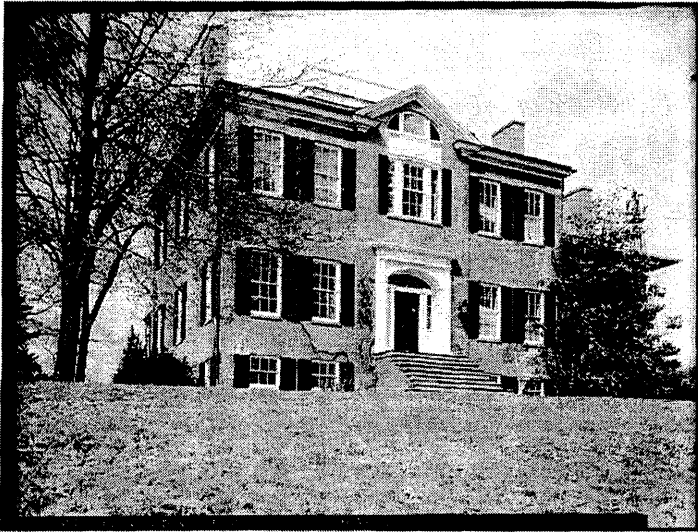
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Bowieville, exterior, 1936

The Prince George's County Historical Society is exceedingly fortunate to celebrate our annual *Prince of a County* event at *Bowieville*, one of the County's most outstanding historical and architectural gems, on **Sunday, September 24, 2006 from 2-5 pm.** *Bowieville* has been inaccessible for more than 35 years, but after all of these years of neglect and deterioration, the house has finally been restored, and will be the centerpiece of a developing residential community. The Historical Society is pleased that Montgomery Development, the company that has effected *Bowieville's* restoration, has invited us to have our annual reception and fundraiser at the beautiful plantation house.

Bowieville is an elegant plantation house of the late Federal style, built of brick and covered with stucco. The entrance is in the central bay of the five-bay principal south façade through a double door with formal classical enframing: two sets of engaged Doric columns, surmounted by a semi-elliptical leaded fanlight with and full entablature. The interior plan of *Bowieville* is formal, embellished with outstanding decorative detail. The door and window surrounds replicate fluted Doric columns and the bullseye corner blocks echo the same fluted profile; plaster medallions in the foyer and parlors are composed of acanthus leaves and papyrus stalks. There is an elegant interior fanlight in the dividing wall between the two formal parlors, which are further embellished by two fine marble mantels. Jib doors lead from these two north parlors onto the semi-elliptical north porch, a 1940 replacement of the original porch. The second story of the main block is composed of bed chambers, now adapted for use as offices. A two-story wing extends to the east.

Bowieville is located in east central Prince George's County, in that rich agricultural area known as "The Forest." The land on which it stands was part of the extensive landholdings of Governor Robert Bowie (1750-1818) early in the nineteenth century. Robert Bowie was elected Governor of Maryland and served 1803-06 and 1811-12. He resided at *The Cedars* in Nottingham, and, in addition to his lands in "The Forest," he maintained a large plantation known as *Mattaponi* in the rural area between Nottingham and Croom.

Governor Bowie died in 1818, and by his will he left his various lands to his wife and children; to his eldest daughter, Mary, by then twice widowed, he devised the lands he had recently purchased in "The Forest" of Prince George's County north of St. Barnabas' Church at Leeland. Mary Bowie had been born in 1776, and had married Turner Wootton in 1794; the young couple resided at *Essington*, the Wootton family plantation near Queen Anne Town. Turner Wootton died in 1796, and Mary was left with an infant son; in 1801 she married for a second time, this time to a cousin, Thomas Contee Bowie, who, according to family tradition, had wooed but not won her the first time around. The second marriage was more successful and certainly more productive; they had nine children in 13 years, while continuing to reside at *Essington*. This marriage also was cut short by the death of Thomas Contee Bowie in 1813.

It is likely that Mary Bowie Wootton Bowie had contemplated the building of a grand mansion on the land that she expected to inherit from her father; she no doubt wanted to establish a home for herself and her nine younger children after her eldest son attained his majority (1816). Soon after her father died in January 1818, and she came into legal possession of the property,



Bowieville, interior, 1936

she acquired adjoining land, and, on the combined acreage (850 acres which she thenceforth called *Bowieville*), began the design and construction of this extraordinary house.

The new house was begun before the end of 1818, and completed within a few years. From contemporary descriptions, it is clear that this was from the beginning an expensive and unusually elegant dwelling, constructed of the best materials. *Bowieville* may also be unique in that it was apparently conceived, planned and carried out by a single woman, most unusual for that period in our history.

The widow Bowie had only a very short time to enjoy her masterpiece. In May 1824, the financing of the building project was being managed by her friend and agent, George Calvert of *Riversdale*, and she was still paying for the last 150,000 bricks for the finishing of the house. In October of the same year, she purchased one dozen walnut trees for the grounds. But she died after a short illness, at age 55, in August of 1825. Upon her second son, Robert Bowie, whose 21st birthday had occurred in April of 1825, fell the burden of administering his mother's estate. The settling of the estate proved to be difficult, and young Robert Bowie went considerably into debt in attempting to buy out the individual interests of his siblings. Eventually he was forced to sell *Bowieville*, but he continued to manage the plantation until the sale was completed in 1846. It was during this 20-year period that a sketch was made of the *Bowieville* mansion; it shows the original configuration of the building (with one central door in the south façade of the wing), a garden fence on the west, and a gate into the terraced gardens on the east.

In January 1844, the *National Intelligencer* (published in Washington, D.C.) recorded the offer for sale of "... that valuable plantation ... called *Bowieville*, containing 754 acres of land. It abounds in wood and meadow land and is well watered. The dwelling, built at great cost, and out of the best materials, stands on a commanding eminence, overlooking a beautiful country. It has every necessary outbuilding, with tobacco houses sufficient to cure 80 hogsheads of tobacco ... The plantation lies in the center of that delightful region of country known as The Forest of Prince George's County which for beautiful scenery, salubrity of climate, natural fertility of soil, present high state of agricultural improvement, as well as for the respectability of the inhabitants, and elevated and refined state of society, cannot be surpassed by any section of the country in the United States. When all these advantages are considered, together with its vicinity to the three great marts for all agricultural productions, viz., Baltimore, Annapolis, and the District of Columbia, ... it is deemed one of the most desirable country seats that has ever been offered either to the speculator or lover of rural life." In January 1846, *Bowieville* was purchased by William J. Berry, with the help of his father-in-law, Thomas Clagett VI of Weston (Upper Marlboro). *Bowieville* became the plantation home of Sarah Eliza (Clagett) and William J. Berry and their family for three generations. Local tradition records many notable social occasions at the mansion during this period. Later, as the home of their son, Jeremiah Berry, *Bowieville* was magnificently maintained, and continued its reputation as the social center of central Prince George's County.



Bowieville, exterior, 2006

It is important to document not only the wealthy proprietors and their families, but also the total population of this large plantation, i.e., the labor force at *Bowieville*. The 850-acre plantation was worked by between 27 and 31 enslaved people during the few years that Mary Bowie lived there with her family. In 1846, when William J. Berry took over the plantation (recorded at that time as 617 acres), his labor force was made up of 36 slaves. Both his land holdings and his slave force increased over the years, so that by the time of the Civil War, he had a slave force of 63 individuals, working both at *Bowieville* and at his somewhat smaller *Chelsea* plantation about a mile to the west.

Survey of the entire *Bowieville* acreage has revealed no information on the location of slaves' quarters, although it is possible that some of the late 19th/early 20th-century

tenant houses that stood on the larger acreage were built on the foundations or the approximate locations of those quarters.

After the death of Mary Lawrence Berry (third generation of the Berry family), *Bowieville* was sold in 1935 to Harold and Mary Knapp, who undertook some renovations of the more than 100-year-old mansion. One was the replacement of the original rectangular north porch with the present handsome semi-elliptical porch. In the master (northwest) bed chamber, they built in a wall of closets, carefully replicating the original trim on the newly installed doors, and preserving original details such as chair-rail and baseboards. Once again, *Bowieville* was lovingly tended and maintained by its owner-residents.

After the deaths of Harold and Mary Knapp, a long dark period began for the *Bowieville* property. Purchased by a developer in 1970, the house and grounds were for decades minimally cared for while a series of contract purchasers tried to initiate plans for development of the large property. Inevitably, the house began to deteriorate, and suffered not only serious water damage, but eventually some vandalism. During this period, the Historical Society was actively involved in attempts to preserve the house, as were other members of the preservation community, in particular Prince George's Heritage and the architecture staff at the University of Maryland. For many years, little progress was made, but early in the new century, the property was acquired by Montgomery Development and plans were made for a large residential golfcourse community. We were worried, of course, but we need not have been, for the principals of Montgomery Development must have fallen in love with *Bowieville*, as so many of us already had. They elected to restore the mansion to serve as their offices and as the centerpiece (with a 14-acre landscaped setting) of the development. They have taken an interest in the history of the plantation and all who lived and worked there. They hired an outstanding restoration architect, and in the last four years have lavished an abundance of time, money and expertise on the house, and they have come out with a true gem! Now, after years of neglect, *Bowieville* is again restored to its former beauty and prominence, and the Historical Society is delighted to be able to have its annual *Prince of a County* reception and fundraiser there. You should have probably already received your invitation. Call 301-464-0590 if you need more invitations or if you haven't received your invitation.

—Susan G. Pearl, Historian

SAVE THE DATE AND BE SURE TO ATTEND

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2006

8:00 p.m.

**THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE JOINING
THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PHILHARMONIC**

at the first

Prince George's County Historical Society Night Concert

**Hallam Theater, Queen Anne Fine Arts Building
Prince George's Community College
301 Largo Road (MD 202), Largo**

**Offenbach: *Orpheus in the Underworld Overture*
Haydn: *Cello Concerto in C Major*
Dvorak: *Symphony No. 8***

**Charles Ellis, Conductor/Music Director
Narek Hakhazaryan, Cello,
Winner of 2006 Johansen International Competition**

(For information about tickets, etc., call Susan Pearl at 301-262-3367.)

The Prince George's County Historical Society is pleased to support
the Prince George's Philharmonic.

ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH IN PORT TOBACCO

The Historical Society's lecture series/tour will take you to visit St. Ignatius Church in Port Tobacco.

DATE: Saturday, October 28

TIME: Vans will leave Marietta Mansion House at 9 am sharp and will return mid afternoon

COST: Free to Society Members, \$5 for Non-Members

LUNCH: Captain Billy's Crab House. You may order off their complete menu.

Everyone will be responsible for payment for their lunch

For more information, call or leave a message for Jane Dodd at 301-249-6409—Reservations are required

St. Ignatius was founded by Father Andrew White in 1641 and is the oldest church with continuous pastorate in Maryland. The site chosen for this very significant church is one of the most beautiful in our state. It sits high above the Port Tobacco River on Chapel Point with a magnificent view. You can imagine the feelings of the early worshipers after years of persecution in England. There is a miracle story of Father White and an injured Indian. The design of the Old Chapel was changed to conform to the laws of suppression of Catholics when "no one may enter a Roman Catholic Chapel except through a private residence." The docents are very knowledgeable and share their deep feelings of affection and respect for this historical house of worship. There is no set fee, but a donation is appreciated.

There is a slave house and an attached tunnel that is not fully explored. The cemetery dates from 1860 and suffered damage at the hands of the Union Army. This area has many interesting stories from that time.

We would like to know how many will be going with us to enjoy this day, so please call Jane. It will help us plan for transportation and lunch reservations. We hope to have several ten-passenger vans on that day.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 3** – Artillery Demonstrations by the Fort Washington Guard at Fort Washington Park; 1, 2 and 3 PM; fee; for details call 301-763-4600
- Sept 4** – Third Anniversary Party at the Ice Cream Factory & Café in Brandywine. Call 301-782-3444 for more information
- Sept. 9** – Belair on the Civil War Homefront at Belair Mansion; 10 AM-4 PM; free
- Sept. 9-10** – Roman Legion XX Encampment at Marietta House Museum; 10 AM-4 PM; free
- Sept. 9-10** – Hands-On History Day at Montpelier Mansion; 10 AM – Noon; reservations required by calling 301-953-1376; \$7/child
- Sept. 12** – "Best Foot Forward" at Belair Mansion; Costume historian and collector Mary Doering explores shoes...and other things!; 7:30 PM; donation requested; for more information call 301-809-3089
- Sept. 16** – The Incredible Prince George's History Challenge! Teams of 4 will travel around Prince George's County to perform tasks based on clues. The team that completes all the tasks in the least amount of time will receive a fabulous grand prize. Register your team by calling 301-952-8010; fee is \$30 per team and must be paid in advance; teams must provide own transportation
- Sept. 16-17** – 4th Annual Maryland Lighthouse Challenge The Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society invites you to visit 10 of Maryland's land-based lighthouses. This is the only weekend that Fort Washington lighthouse is open to the public. Fort Washington Park, 8 AM-6 PM, fee; call 301-763-4600 for details
- Sept. 20** – Fall History Lecture Series at Montpelier Mansion; Earl Eisenhart will discuss the exploits of Captain W.W.W. Bowie and his adventures with Mosby's Rangers during the War between the states; 7:30 PM; free
- Sept. 23-24** – World War I Encampment at Marietta House Museum; 10 AM-4 PM; fee
- Sept. 24** – Prince of a County Reception at Bowieville, 2-5 PM; \$40/person; mail check payable to PGCHS to 4701 Colonel Ewell Ct, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
- Sept. 24** – Fall Fest at Bowie Train Station; 10 AM-5 PM; free; call 301-809-3089 for details
- Sept. 30** – John Carroll Catholic Heritage Bus Tour to Western Maryland sponsored by Darnall's Chance; 8 AM-6 PM; fee; advanced registration required, call 301-952-8010 for details
- October 1** – Artillery Demonstrations by the Fort Washington Guard at Fort Washington Park; 1, 2 and 3 PM; fee; for details call 301-763-4600
- October 7** – International Festival in Bowie; 11 AM-5 PM; call 301-809-3078 for details
- October 7** – Colonial Day at National Colonial Farm; 12-4 PM; rain or shine; \$2/person
- October 10** – "Sex with Kings" at Belair Mansion; a discussion of the current best seller with the author Eleanor Herrman; 7:30 PM; donation requested; for more information call 301-809-3089
- October 14** – Prince George's County Historical Society Night Concert at Prince George's Community College, 8 PM (See article in this Newsletter)
- October 18** – Fall History Lecture Series at Montpelier Mansion; Elizabeth Stabler Garrettson will speak about the history of the Sandy Spring community; 7:30 PM; free
- October 20-21** – Mayhem in Marlborough Ghost Walk at Darnall's Chance House Museum; 7-10 PM; tours every 20 minutes; ages 6 and older; fee
- October 22** – Tales of Spirits at Surratt House Museum; "Songs and Stories of Halloween" with Matthew Dodd; 7 PM; free
- October 28** – Fall History Lecture Series sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical Society. St. Ignatius Church in Port Tobacco. (See article in this Newsletter.)
- October 28** – Campfire and Storytelling at Marietta House Museum; bring flashlight for nighttime scavenger hunt; light refreshments; 7 PM; \$3/person (Rain date October 29 from 5:30-7:30 PM)
- October 28-29** – Hands-On History Day at Montpelier Mansion; 10 AM – Noon; reservations required by calling 301-953-1376; \$7/child
- Thru August 31** – Favorite Sons of Upper Marlboro exhibit at Darnall's Chance House Museum; open during normal tour hours; regular tour admission
- Thru November 26** – The Crime of the Century exhibition at Surratt House Museum; included in regular tour admission price
- Thru May 2007** – Rub the Oils and Strew the Powders: The Legacy of European Herbs in Early American Medicine and Cuisine exhibit at Montpelier Mansion

For more information about these and other events, please visit www.pg parks.com and www.princegeorgesmuseums.org.

VETERANS HISTORY REPORT

The College Park Aviation Museum is participating in the Veterans History Project, a nationwide program documenting the stories of war veterans and civilians involved in war efforts. If you would like to share your experiences, please call the museum to set up an appointment for an interview at 301-864-6029.

Prince George's County Historical Society

Membership Application

DATE _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
PHONE (HOME) _____ (BUSINESS) _____
EMAIL _____

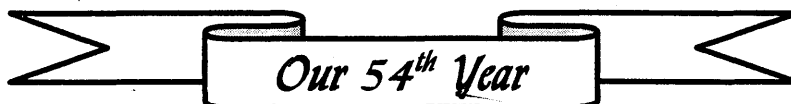
Membership Category (Please check one)

Sponsor: ☐ Platinum Level \$1000 ☐ Gold Level \$500 ☐ Silver Level \$250 ☐ Bronze Level \$100
☐ Member/Family \$25 ☐ Sustaining Member \$50
☐ Institutional Member \$50 ☐ Life Member \$300 ☐ Additional Contribution

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

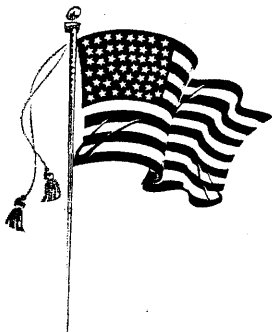
☐ For membership in the *Maryland Historical Society*, include an additional \$30 for individual or \$40 for family. Please make checks payable to PGCHS and mail your check and this form to: Prince George's County Historical Society, P. O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

We are funded through your dues and contributions. Contributions are tax deductible. We appreciate your support.



Prince George's County Historical Society
P.O. Box 14
Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

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TO:



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXV Number 6

November-December 2006

MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM

(Home of the Prince George's
County Historical Society)

Facility Manager: Susan Wolfe
5626 Bell Station Road
Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120
301-464-5291
TTY 301-699-2544
(Off Route 193, near Route 450)

A facility of the Maryland-National
Capital Park and Planning
Commission

MARIETTA HOUSE TOURS

Friday, 11 am to 3 pm
Saturday & Sunday, 12 noon to
4 pm

Weekday & evening tours by
appointment only

MARIETTA HOUSE GIFT SHOP

Manager: Stella Uber
301-464-0590
Open Friday, 11 am to 3 pm,
Saturday & Sunday, 12 noon to
4 pm (also open during special
events)

FREDERICK S DeMARR LIBRARY OF COUNTY HISTORY

Historian: Susan G. Pearl
301-464-0590
Open Saturday, 12 noon to 4 pm
LECTURE SERIES

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY
PARTY
DEC. 9TH — 2-5 PM
AT MARIETTA**



PGCHS Annual Meeting

The 2006 annual meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society will be held on the evening of Monday, November 6 at the Belair Mansion in Bowie. Following dinner and the election of the Society Officers and Board of Directors, historian and Society member Virginia Beauchamp will speak about Maryland women living in the 19th century.



Belair is an elegant five-part Georgian brick mansion, built in the 1745 for Samuel Ogle, provincial Governor of Maryland. It passed to his son, Benjamin Ogle, who himself served as Governor of the State of Maryland (1798-1801), and maintained Belair as his country seat. A third generation of the Ogle family made Belair their home until after the Civil

War. At the end of the nineteenth century, after a series of short term owners, the Belair estate was purchased by James T. Woodward. Succeeding generations of the Woodward family enlarged the mansion, built the stone stable building, and developed the estate into a thriving farm famed for the breeding of thoroughbred race horses. The Belair farm was purchased in 1957 by William Levitt who began the development of the residential subdivision of "Belair at Bowie," which is now a major part of the City of Bowie. The mansion and stable were later restored and opened to the public as museums and rental facilities.

A separate invitation is being sent to all Historical Society members. If you have not yet received your invitation, please contact Jim Wolfe at 301-464-3442 ASAP. This promises to be a very enjoyable evening and we look forward to seeing you there.

-- Susan Pearl, Historian

Presidential Musings . . .

Selecting our leadership through the ballot box is taken for granted by most of us, but reflection indicates a far different reality. The majority of the world's population do not have the opportunity to select who leads them as they live in countries with governments which are far from democratic and the people's voice in how they are governed is weak or non-existent. Not being able to elect persons to lead them was the main impetus compelling our forefathers to fight the American Revolution to correct these wrongs. They subsequently established a state constitution in 1776 declaring Maryland free and independent of British tyranny and England's undemocratic system. This Maryland Constitution of 1776 did not take the giant leap to full democratization. Power was placed in the hands of the counties of the state, not the people. Each county, regardless of population, had equal power in the legislature and Baltimore and Annapolis were allowed special equal power even though they were far from equal in population. Future constitutions and amendments changed these inequities but the *one man, one vote* concept was not fully realized until the 1970's.

Lack of respect for the common man and reluctance to place any power in their hands led these governmental founders to place restrictions on the right to vote by: property ownership, religion, race, gender and age. These limitations were eliminated or altered in 1803, 1826, 1870, 1920 and 1971 respectively.

Since governors had been appointed by the colonial Proprietors or the king, weak executives were a necessity of our early government. Governors were elected by the legislature for one year terms. In the mid 19th century the term was lengthened to three years and the people gained the right of selection but governors were rotated among three regions of the state: the Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland and Western Maryland. Popularly elected four year gubernatorial terms were finally established by the Constitution of 1851.

The ascent to democratization in Maryland has been lengthy and arduous. On the 6th of November, the Society will convene for its annual election dinner meeting at the home (Belair) of two of seven Maryland governors connected to our county. After voting for Society officers on Monday, you are encouraged to exercise your franchise by voting in the state election on Tuesday the 7th.

Thank You Sponsors!

The PGCHS would like to say thank you again for your generous donation to the Society this year.

Platinum Level

Robert M. DeMarr

Gold Level

ezStorage

Petro Design/Build, Inc.

Silver Level

The Wixon Family

Bronze Level

Hannah C. Cox

The Prince George's County

Historical Society

5626 Bell Station Road

Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120

Phone: 301-464-0590

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

Website: www.pghistory.org

President: John Petro
Vice President: James Wolfe
Secretary: Dusty Rhoads
Treasurer: Donna Schneider
Historian: Susan G. Pearl
Editor: Judy Schneider (410-721-2183)
email: panamfa@comcast.net
Membership: Donna Schneider and Anna Holmes

Directors: Anna Holmes, Lynn Roberts, Andrew Wallace, William Uber, Joyce Dowling, Wallis Cain, Elizabeth Dougherty, Hannah Cox, Charles Hendricks, Jane Dodd, Dan Louck, and Nathania Branch-Miles

Newsletter contributors: Susan G. Pearl, John Petro, Jim Wolfe, Wallis Cain, Diane Stultz, Dusty Rhoads, Lynn Roberts, Donna Schneider, and Judy Schneider

Printer: MinuteMan Press, 410-451-0218

All members of the Prince George's County Historical Society are invited and welcome to attend Society board meetings. We meet at the Marietta Mansion one Saturday each month at 9:30 am - **November 4, December 9.** (Dates are subject to change. Call to confirm the date if you would like to attend.)

News & Notes is published six times a year. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations). **The deadline for the January-February issue is December 15.**

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

(Sponsors Continued)

Edward and Evamaria Hawkins

Kenneth F. Hodges

Dan Louck

Douglas and Susan McElrath

Barbara M. Murphy

Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust

Robinson and Associates

Judy and Ken Schneider

Victoria Thompson

Prince George's County

Historical Society

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2006—2007

Join us for our Annual Meeting on
Monday, November 6, 2006 at the Belair
Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive,
Bowie, for a wonderful dinner and a
presentation on 19th century women in
Maryland

President: John Petro
Vice President: Lynn Roberts
Secretary: Dusty Rhoads
Treasurer: Donna Schneider
Historian: Susan G. Pearl
Newsletter Editor: Judy Schneider
Membership: Donna Schneider

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1 Year Term

Wallis Cain
Elizabeth Dougherty
Joyce Dowling
Charles Hendricks

2 Year Term

Dan Louck
Nathania Branch-Miles
William Uber
Andrew Wallace

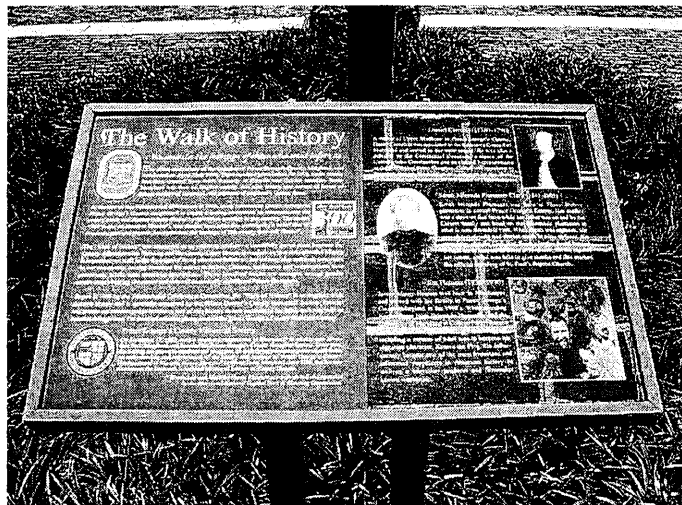
3 Year Term

Elizabeth Lingg
Jack Thompson, Jr.
Lawrence Winston

*** Nominations will be accepted
from the floor ***

Thank you to James Wolfe, Anna
Holmes, and Hannah Cox for serving on the
Board for the past three years.

Additional details about the Annual
Meeting will be mailed to you.



*We walk in the footsteps of those who went before us; but we may also
make our own mark in our community, leaving footsteps for others to follow.*

The "Walk of History" interpretive sign is now in place near the base of the Clock Tower located at the walkway between the County Administration Building and the Courthouse in Upper Marlboro. Members and friends are highly encouraged to stop by and see it! Sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical Society, the sign explains the "Walk of History" program to the public. It is colorful, informative and could not have been so beautifully and successfully done without the assistance of Chris Wagon, Division Chief, Natural & Historical Resources, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, who originally suggested that this sign was very much needed. The Board and membership would like to thank him once more, along with Jan Turner, Kathleen Addario and other members of his staff for their advice, creative design and the final installation of the sign.

Begun in 1996 by the Tricentennial Celebration Committee, the "Walk of History" was conceived as an enduring artifact to commemorate the County's rich and diverse culture and the contributions of its residents, past and present. Located in the County Seat of Upper Marlboro, the brick walkway contains sections with granite center stones honoring past Prince Georgians who have contributed to the culture of the County and these are surrounded by inscribed bricks contributed by present citizens and groups in honor of their family, friends or businesses. So far, the sections that have been completed contain names of Prince Georgians from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The recently completed fourth section, sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical Society commemorates its founders.

Who are these Founders? Successive **News and Notes** articles will give some brief biographies. In the meantime, visit the County Seat and see the new sign. The Prince George's Historical Society is pleased to continue to be a part of this project and its collective history.

— Lynn Roberts and Wallis Cain

*Shopping, Holidays, Shopping,
Gifts, Shopping, Eating, More
Shopping, etc., etc.*

Hate shopping? Do you leave it til the last minute? Well — the Prince George's County Historical Society can make your shopping fast, easy, painless, and can be done all at once!

1. Purchase a membership to the Society for a family member or friend.

2. They already have a member-ship? Upgrade them or yourself and become a Sponsor. There are four levels of sponsorship — one for every pocketbook. Need more info? Call Elizabeth Dougherty at 301-680-3976.

3. Consider making a donation to the library in their name — or again do it for yourself.

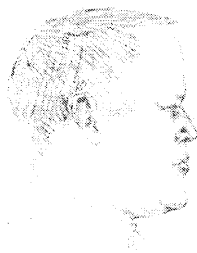
4. Do you or they like to read? Check out the Society's book list on page 7.

5. Visit our Gift Shop. There are tons of things for both adults and children. The Gift Shop is open on Friday (11 am to 3 pm), Saturday, Sunday, (12 to 4 pm) and during special events at Marietta such as the Holiday Candlelight Tours (December 2-4, 6 to 8:30 pm).

6. And the easiest of all gifts to buy — a gift certificate — for the Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage. The certificate is good for any 2007 tour. Cost: \$25. Make your check out to PGCHS and mail to PGCHS, PO Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014.

*Maryland Historical Trust
2007 Preservation Awards*

The Maryland Historical Trust is accepting nominations for their 2007 Preservation Awards. Nomination forms can be found at www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net under "What's New." Completed forms must be postmarked by December 15, 2006. Questions? Contact Scott Whipple at 410-514-7635 or swhipple@mdp.state.md.us.



From The Library

The Library Staff has had the opportunity to assist several interesting groups of researchers in the last few months. We have assisted staff of the City of Bowie in conducting research on *William Plains*, the 19th century plantation house of the Johnson and Mulikin families located in Whitemarsh Park and recently acquired by the City. Assistance has also been given to a group of research professionals, contracted by the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, with methods of developing a predictive model for plantation layout — necessary to carry out the County's directive for learning as much as possible about the dwellings and burials of enslaved African Americans before the land is compromised by development. We have also introduced research sources and methods to an intern developing an on-line presentation on slavery in Prince George's County for the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum of African-American History and Culture.

The library has received of Carole L. Herrick's new book, *August 24, 1814: Washington in Flames*. This book includes quotations from an unusually large number of primary source materials. We look forward to including a review of Ms. Herrick's book in a future edition of **NEWS AND NOTES**.

— Susan G. Pearl, Historian
PGCHS Library Staff

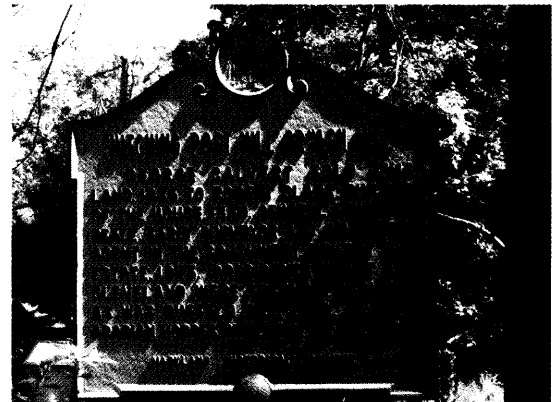
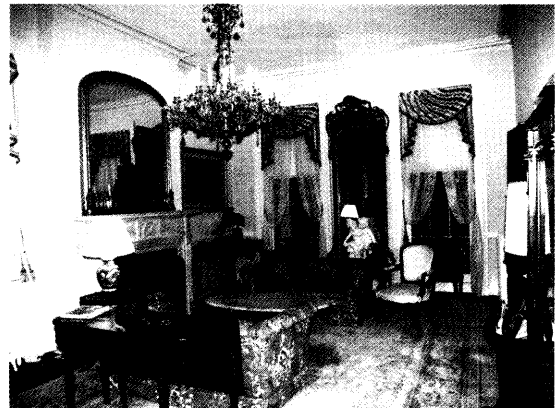
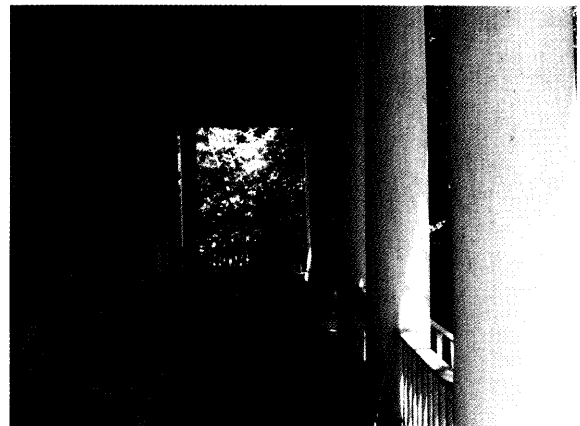
Veterans History Report

The College Park Aviation Museum is participating in the Veterans History Project, a nationwide program documenting the stories of war veterans and civilians involved in war efforts. If you would like to share your experiences, please call the Museum to set up an appointment for an interview at 301-864-6029.

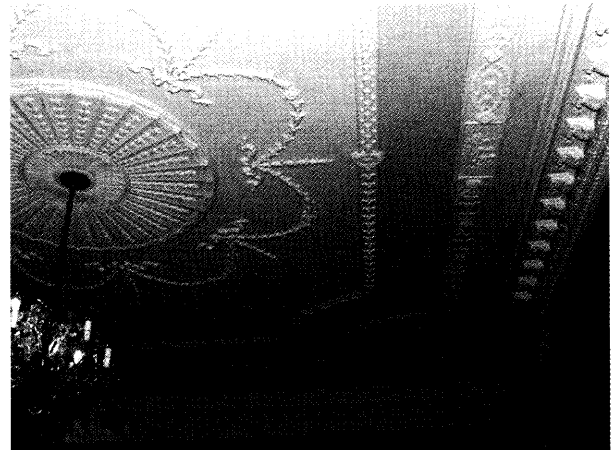
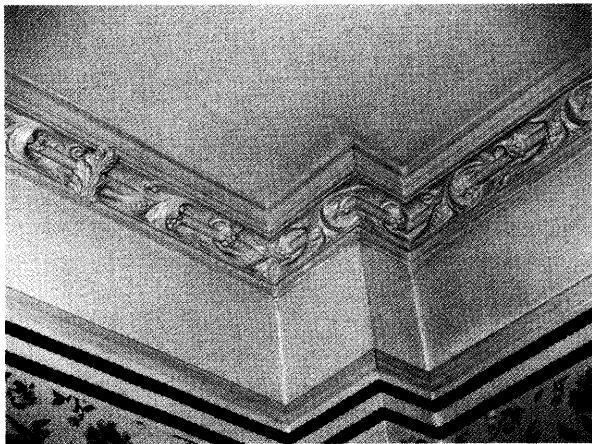
Giannetti Home -National Historic Register Built 1840
Hitching Post Hill (Ash Hill), University Hills, Maryland
11 fireplaces, 1.8 acres, 120' wrap around porch with 18 columns.
Virtual Tour at www.gordonking.com

This mansion is offered for sale at
\$899,000.

For details contact
Gordon & Pamela King
Long and Foster Realtors
Direct 301-417-9200
Office-240-497-1700



Giannetti Home-Priced Below Appraisal-\$899,000.
Features Giannetti Studios Ornamental Plaster Details





Book Notes and Reviews

Early Records of the White Marsh Church, Prince George's County, Maryland. Author: Rob Roy Ratliff. (Bowie, MD: Prince George's County Genealogical Society, 2005.) Paperback, spiral bound, 8 ½ by 11, 402 pages. \$24.95 (plus \$2.60 shipping), Maryland residents add 5% sales tax.

The White Marsh Church, now Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bowie, was called "a sort of Catholic capital in the United States in the first days of its independence" and "the cradle of Catholicity in Maryland" in articles describing an 1874 pilgrimage there by Baltimore and Washington Catholics. It began as a chapel on the private property of White Marsh Plantation where the Jesuits had established a mission by 1722. The Plantation, 14 miles from Annapolis, grew to 4,000 acres and in 1832 had 104 slaves.

The history of the church, which defied Maryland's religious and social laws, is summarized in the preface. A fire in 1853 destroyed many records. The late Msgr. John F. Hogan, to whom the book is dedicated, worked to preserve those that survived. He provided copies of manuscripts, most in Latin, to our Society in 1995 and led the translation. The introduction acknowledges the many individuals who worked with the Prince George's County Genealogical Society's dedicated Publications Committee to produce this book.

This volume is divided into four books: two of diaries kept by pastors 1853-1892 and 1897-1904; baptismal records 1853-1872 (including confirmation records of 16 Sep 1860); and a catalogue of members in 1819, baptisms 1819-1833, marriages 1818-1857 (incomplete), burials 1819-1822 and 1874-1897 and communions 1819. These scattered records reveal much about the church and the people it served. Each of the books has a name index.

Diary entries cover a wide variety of topics, the weather, picnics (for white and colored), travel, deaths (George Beall, 83, buried in a Protestant graveyard "By some mistake"), visitations, making root beer and cider ("Two raisins were put in each bottle to give life and strength"), expenses, collections, garden seeds, tree planting, horses, making "arrangements" for a new calf, etc.

The vital records are a source of invaluable information to genealogists—especially for African Americans. They often provide details beyond the basics of names, dates, ages, events, etc. For example, an entry on 1 May 1890 records the baptism of Hanson Clarke, 65, "in point of death" and "married him at the same time to Annie Allan." Individuals may be identified as "white," "black," "colored," "free" "slave" "legitimate" or not and as "converts," "non-Catholic" and "Protestants" and by associations with others. The 12 May 1821 baptism, for example, of "Thomas Henry Bristol, 9 mo. old, son of John (free) and Rachel (servant of Mrs. Herriot Smith)." C. Clark Magruder, 76, was buried 7 Apr 1884 "in private cemetery" (as was Richard H. Magruder, 42, 24 Sep the same year). The remains of Charles Hill, 59, who was buried 27 Nov 1879, were "removed to Marlborough Nov. 21, 1887." Some entries cite locations of birth, death or residence. In short, this is a treasure of information.

The Prince George's County Genealogical Society volunteers whose dedicated work produced this book view it as "the most important work the Society has published that contributes to African American ancestral research."

This book review is reprinted by permission of the author.)

— Diane Stultz



CALENDAR OF EVENTS – NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2006

Nov. 4-5 – World War II Encampment at Marietta House Museum; 10 AM-4 PM; fee

Nov. 12 – "An Afternoon of Mid 19th Century Songs" featuring Henry Wixon at Marietta House Museum; 4 PM; light refreshments; \$5/person, reservations required, call 301-464-5291

Nov. 13 – "Crossing the Threshold: Into the 19th Century" with five speakers taking a look at different aspects of 19th century life at Belair Mansion; 9 AM-4 PM; fee, lunch included and reservations required by calling 301-809-3089

Nov. 14 – "Decking the Halls: A Look at Holiday History", a look at how we've arrived at Christmas presented by Pam Williams, Asst. Director, City of Bowie Museums; 7:30 PM, \$3 donation requested, no reservation required

Nov. 15 – Fall History Lecture Series presented by Ms. Douglas Dekeyser using slides on the British ancestral homes of early Maryland settlers at Montpelier Mansion; 7:30 PM, free

Nov. 18-19 – Hands-On History Day for Kids to learn about Native American history and culture at Montpelier Mansion; 10 AM – 12 noon; \$7/child, no reservations required; all ages welcome

Nov. 18 – Une Fete Federale at Riversdale House Museum; 1 PM; \$65, reservations required by calling 301-864-0420, capacity is limited

Nov. 18-19 – Fall Open House at Surratt House Museum; 12-4 PM; free guided tours and gift shop sale; no reservations required

Nov. 24 – Dec. 10 – 7th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show at Darnall's Chance House Museum; 12-5 PM daily; \$1/person

Nov. 26 – Trainspotting Day at the Railroad, watch as dozens of unusual trains whiz by on AMTRAK's busiest day of the year at Bowie Train Station and Welcome Center; 10 AM-5 PM; free

Dec. 2-4 – Holiday Candlelight Tours at Marietta House Museum; 6-8:30 PM; music, storyteller, refreshments; \$5/adults, \$3/ages 4-18, free/ages 3 & under

Dec. 2 – Winter's Eve Celebration at the National Colonial Farm; 5-8 PM; rain or snow; refreshments; free; details call 301-283-2113 x37

Dec. 2 – Sint Niklaas Day: A Winter Afternoon for Children at Riversdale House Museum; 2:30 PM; gifts and refreshments; \$6/child

Dec. 3 – Candlelight at Belair Mansion & Stable; 4-7 PM; \$3 donation for ages 15 and older

Dec. 7-9 – Holiday Candlelight Tours at Montpelier Mansion; 6-9 PM; music and refreshments; \$3/adults and \$1/children

Dec. 9 – Annual Holiday Open House at the Laurel Museum; 11 AM-4 PM; refreshments

Dec. 15 – Holiday Broadcast Fun! by watching and listening to classic Christmas television and

radio programming at Radio and Television Museum; 10 AM-5 PM

Dec. 16 – Kringle Kids Kandlelight with special holiday activities and tours for ages 2-11 at Belair Mansion; 3-6 PM; crafts and refreshments; no reservation needed; donation requested

Dec. 16-23 – Holiday Trains and Planes! at College Park Aviation Museum; train exhibit by the National Capital Trackers; 10 AM-5 PM; free with museum admission

Dec. 16-17 – Hands-On History Day for Kids to learn about how 19th century kids experienced holidays at Montpelier Mansion; 10 AM – 12 noon; \$7/child, no reservations required; all ages welcome

Dec. 17 – We Were Marching on Christmas Day with Civil War Santa and historian Kevin Rawlings recounts the history of Santa Claus and his influence during 1861-1865 at Surratt House Museum; Santa visits with children after program; 2 PM, free, no reservations required

Dec. 28-29 – Winter Evenings at Riversdale House Museum; 7 PM; refreshments and children's activities; \$5 adults, children 12 and under free

Thru November 26 – The Crime of the Century exhibition at Surratt House Museum; included in regular tour admission price

Nov. 3-Dec. 30 – Hot-Air Balloons of Handmade Paper exhibit at College Park Aviation Museum; free with museum admission

Thru December 31 – Triumph, Tragedy, and Taking Flight: The College Park Photographs of Charles MacCartee exhibit at College Park Aviation Museum; free with museum admission

Thru May 2007 – Rub the Oils and Strew the Powders: The Legacy of European Herbs in Early American Medicine and Cuisine exhibit at Montpelier Mansion

For more information about these and other events, please visit www.pgparcs.com and www.princegeorgesmuseums.org, www.accokeek.org, www.cityofbowie.org, www.laurelhistory.org and www.poplarhillonhik.com.





Prince George's County Historical Society

Publications For Sale



- 1. Landmarks of Prince George's County*** – 125 black & white photographs of the rich architectural legacy of Prince George's Co. by Jack E. Boucher. Arranged chronologically, the photos & captions offer a panoramic overview of the county's architectural & historical development. Indexed. Hard-cover, 144 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 2. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History*** – The history & essence of Prince George's County come alive in words & pictures in this beautiful collector's edition. Written in a fascinating narrative with more than 350 photographs, maps, & illustrations. Many of them are in full color and are previously unpublished. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised & updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. Price: \$42.95.
- 3. Journey Through Time – A Pictorial History of the Prince George's County Police Department*** – A history of the county police department covering over 200 years. Author: Lt. Dennis Campbell. Indexed. Printed 1991. Hardcover, 304 pages. Price: \$40.00.
- 4. Calvert of Maryland** – This fact-based novel shows the home life of the colonists from a child's viewpoint. This story is told in the first person by young George Calvert, godson of the first Lord Baltimore, George Calvert. Reprint of James Otis Kaler's 1910 publication. Hardcover, 166 pages. Pen & ink illustrations. Price: \$6.95.
- 5. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn & published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 6. Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland 1861** – Atlas was adapted from Martenet's Map of Prince George's Co., MD, with information from 1860 federal census for each election district. Indexed. Reprint 1996. Soft cover, 32 pages. Price: \$10.00.
- 7. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume 1 - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, & Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 8. Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume 2 - Protestant Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Parish, & Prince George's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. Price: \$18.00.
- 9. Out of the Past – Prince Georgians and their Land** – Chronicle of everyday life in Prince George's County, Maryland from the time of its founding in 1676 until the beginning of the Civil War. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, & private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 10. Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled & edited by Dorothy Rainwater & the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. Price: \$10.00.

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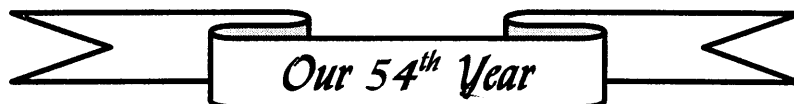
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