



# News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXVI Number 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2007

## 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  
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A facility of the Maryland-National  
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## MARIETTA HOUSE TOURS

Friday, 11 am to 3 pm

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Weekday & evening tours by  
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## MARIETTA HOUSE GIFT SHOP

Manager: Helen

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

Rosenwald School Program

Lecture by Peter M. Ascoli

Monday, Feb. 12 at 3pm.

Community High School,  
Lakeland & Monday, Feb. 12 at 7  
pm. Highland Park Elementary  
School

SEE Pages 4 and 5 for more info.



## *The Prince George's County Historical Society . . .*

was founded on September 15, 1952 at "Riversdale" by 12 citizens in County history. Goals of the Society are several: to generate interest in the County's past; to preserve books, paintings and documents in the Society library; to encourage restoration projects; to offer lectures and events to members and to the public; to disseminate information about the historic County; to continue an oral and video historical record; and to encourage young people to learn more about County history.

These 12 people were: **A. Gwynn Bowie** who served as States Attorney for Prince George's County for many years, and had a private law practice in Upper Marlboro. His mother, Effie Gwynn Bowie, authored *Across the Years in Prince George's County*, a very well-known genealogical history of the County. **Oden Bowie** was the grandson of Gov. Oden Bowie. Mr. Bowie lives at his family's home, "Fairview," built in the early 19th century in Bowie. Mr. Bowie served as Secretary of the Maryland State Senate for many years. **Rhoda Christmas** was a newspaper columnist for the *Times-Herald* and also an avid horsewoman. She lived with her husband, John Bowling at "Bellefields," an historic 18th century house in Crook. **Susanna Cristofane** lived in one of the oldest and most prominent houses in Prince George's County, "Bostwick," an 18th century house in Bladensburg and subsequently was avidly interested in County history. **T. Howard Duckett** was a prominent attorney who had a law practice in Washington, D.C. and also Prince George's County. He was also a Past President of the Maryland Bar Association, Past Present of the Maryland Bankers Association and Suburban Bank, and served on the WSSC Commission for many years. **M. Hampton Magruder** was a Collector of the Internal Revenue under President Franklin Roosevelt. He was also a prominent attorney for the State of Maryland along with being Past President of the Maryland State Bar Association and Past President of the 1st National Bank of Southern Maryland.

**Kent R. Mullikin** was a businessman and one of the principal founders of Historic Annapolis Inc. **Mrs. G.W.S. Musgrave** was an attorney who practiced law in Laurel, Maryland. **Leroy Pumphrey** practiced law in Washington, D.C. and Maryland and was also a member of the Maryland House of Delegates from Prince George's County. Later he was Speaker of the House of Delegates. **John Snowden Stanley** was a well-known attorney who practiced law in Washington, D.C. and Prince George's County. His father was Rector at Holy Trinity Church in Collington for many years. **Robert M. Watkins** became a member of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1939 and died in 1954 while serving at its Chairman. He also founded and was President of the Prince George's County Real Estate Board. **T. Hammond Welsh** was a prominent businessman and a Past President of the Hyattsville Building Association.

There were also 13 Charter Members of the Society in 1952. They were: Edith Bagot, James Boss, Charles T. Clagett, Jr., Page B. Clagett, Stephen Conger, Baron Henry DeWitte, Forest S. Holmes, Jr., Margaret Kelly, Bernard Nees, Nicholas Orem, Jr., Ralph W. Powers, Mrs. Davis Ray, and Ralph Powers.

The Prince George's County Historical Society is now in its 55th year and hopefully will continue on as strongly long into the future and that it's future is as illustrious as its past.

## *Presidential Musings . . .*

When restoring an historic structure, how does one decide what to save, what to return to its original state and what to update for 21st century living? The obvious answer lies in what the intended purpose of the building will be following the restoration. In November, the Baltimore Cathedral was reopened after an extensive two-year restoration and infrastructure rehab. This basilica, built between 1806 and 1821, was designed by Benjamin Latrobe with advice from Bishop John Carroll. Latrobe had drafted two designs for the building, one Gothic in style, the other Neo-Classical. He opted for Roman style. Over the years, parishioners had added a number of Gothic characteristics to the structure, including stained glass windows. Much to the chagrin of many faithful worshippers, the restoration returned the building to Latrobe's original vision.

Over the last 35 years in our own county, decisions had to be made on restoration efforts on many buildings in the public domain. At Marietta, the decision was fairly simple as the basic structure was little changed from 1816. A few 20th century walls were removed in the 1832 addition, but that addition was kept as it assisted in telling the story of the inhabitation of the Duvall family. At Darnall's Chance, the decision was made to remove the Buck House Victorianization to return the house to its 18th century roots. This resulted in a 95% reconstruction. At Belair, the decision was made to keep many second floor 20th century changes as the Woodward tenancy of that period continued the storied racing history of the estate's builders. Similar decisions had to be made about Montpelier, Riversdale, and the Surratt House and more recently, Mt. Calvert, Snow Hill and Billingsley. While not in the public domain, Bowieville presented the restoration team with many decisions of what to do with interior spaces and exterior finishes. Many other privately held properties in the county also faced the dilemma of accurate restoration vs. practical habitation. Most have blended the two choices well.

Many questions should be explored in restoration decisions. What happened in the structure over building's lifetime? If structural changes were made, what may have been the reason for making the changes? What was the impact of the inhabitants of the structure on the area and the community at large? How is the structure to be used following restoration?

At present, in this county, we are more often faced with the question, to what period of the structure's history do we return the building and how do we best do it, rather than, do we restore and save this building? While there are some noteworthy exceptions, many of the county's historic properties are in restoration planning and/or consideration and, while we can be pleased with this, we should continue to be vigilant.

## *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: Lynn Roberts  
Secretary: Dusty Rhoads  
Treasurer: Donna Schneider  
Historian: Susan G. Pearl  
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Directors: Wallis Cain, Elizabeth Dougherty, Joyce Dowling, Charles Hendricks, Jane Dodd, Dan Louck, Nathania Branch-Miles, William Uber, Andrew Wallace, Elizabeth Lingg, Jack Thompson Jr., Lawrence Winston  
Newsletter contributors: Susan G. Pearl, John Petro, Jim Wolfe, Wallis Cain, 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 - **January 6 and February 3.** (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 March-April edition is February 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!

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### *Society Sponsors*

The Historical Society would like to thank all of its 2006 sponsors for their support and to welcome our 2007 sponsors.

**Bronze Level:** D. J. Cover Plastering Co., Elizabeth Funk, Mr and Mrs James McCeney, Judy and Ken Schneider, and Peter Shapiro.

Louise Tatspaugh for her donation to the Frederick DeMarr Library of County History in memory of her brother Fred DeMarr.

# News & Notes Bulletin Board



**CAN ANYONE IDENTIFY THIS PICTURE?** If you can, please contact the Society. Thank You!

**T**he Prince George's County Historical Society had their annual meeting and voting for 2007 officers on Monday, November 6, 2006 at the Belair Mansion in Bowie. A most delicious buffet was served by Main Street Caterers (no rubber chicken tonight!). Thank you to Elizabeth Dougherty, Jim Wolfe, Dusty Rhoads and everyone else who helped make this a wonderful evening. Please see Page 2 for all Society information, Officers and Directors. There are not enough thanks to be said to Jim Wolfe for all the time, work, sweat (and maybe tears) he has put into the Society over the years. We will dearly miss him and Susan when retirement arrives and they leave Marietta for the last time. We wish them all the best. Anna Holmes and Hannah Cox also served the Society well during their term as Directors and we thank them also for all they have done and we wish them well also, as we welcome our new Directors. We also most heartily thank Stella Uber for all the years she has served as Manager of the Gift Shop.

**T**he Prince George's County Historical Society is implementing a new Memorial Publications Program. To help augment the Frederick DeMarr Library collection, the Society's Board of Directors is setting up a system so that members and interested parties may donate publications to the Library. These donations to the Library may be made in honor of or in memory of an individual or family, or they can just be a plain donation. This is a splendid opportunity to honor a friend or family member on birthdays, anniversaries or other special occasions. An inscribed bookplate listing the honoree will be placed in the book or publication and the person honored will be notified by the Library.

**B**ecome 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*. 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, an social events. In addition, as a member of the Society along with receiving **News and Notes** six times a year you will receive invitations to attend Society functions which are not open to the general public.

There are four levels of sponsorship: Platinum (\$1000 donation), Gold (\$500 donation), Silver (\$250 donation), and Bronze (\$100 donation). Your name, as a Sponsor of the Society, will be noted in each edition of **News and Notes**. If you have any questions, please call Elizabeth Dougherty at 301-680-3986.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## *Rosenwald Lecture, February 12, 2007*



The Historical Society is proud and delighted to be one of a group of history-oriented organizations to co-sponsor a very special event in February of 2007 – a lecture by the grandson and biographer of Julius Rosenwald, the creator of the Rosenwald School Program. As many of you know, Rosenwald schools, established between 1917 and 1932 for African-American children in the for Historic Preservation listed them, as a class of buildings, among the Eleven Most Endangered Buildings in the United States. Prince George's County had already been studying Rosenwald schools since the beginning of the County's Black History Program was established in 1982. We had discovered that of the 27 Rosenwald schools built in this County,<sup>1</sup> nine still survived, preserved through conversions to a variety of uses, ranging from used car sales center, to American Legion post, to private residence. Two are still owned by the County's Board of Education, one of which is now fully renovated and in use as a Head Start Center.

The Rosenwald Fund was established in 1917 by Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, a self-made millionaire, and one of our country's most prominent philanthropists. Through planning with Booker T. Washington, Rosenwald set up his fund to contribute to the building of schools for African-American students. The fund's contribution was only a fraction of the total cost of the schools, the money accompanied by certain specific conditions. Each school was to be a common effort between state and county authorities, which were thereafter to continue its maintenance. The Fund produced and distributed pamphlets of school plans, which standardized window size and placement to maximize available light, in effect creating modest but state-of-the-art school buildings. As was the experience with the Freedmen's Bureau schools (1865-1872, which the Rosenwald schools often replaced), the advent of the new Rosenwald school building tended to stabilize the community, providing incentives to local African-American communities that invariably led to further improvements. From its inception in 1917 until Rosenwald's death in 1932, the Rosenwald Fund contributed to the building of 4977 new schools (and hundreds more accessory school-associated buildings) for black children in 15 southern states.

Peter M. Ascoli, grandson of Julius Rosenwald, has just completed a biography of his grandfather: *Julius Rosenwald, The Man who built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South*, Indiana University Press, 2006. He has agreed to come to Prince George's County (**February 12, 2007**) and present a lecture on his grandfather's work, in particular the Rosenwald School program. The lecture will be sponsored by a consortium of history-oriented organizations, including the Prince George's County Historical Society, the Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust, the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society, M-NCPPC, the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and several offices of the Prince George's County government, and assisted by organizations in Anne Arundel, Montgomery and Howard Counties, and Washington, D.C. This should be a very special event for this year's Black History Month, and we encourage Society members and friends to spread the word and attend. In order to accommodate as many people as possible, with their myriad schedules and obligations, we have asked Mr. Ascoli to make his presentation twice – once in the afternoon and again in the evening - and he has generously agreed. We will, of course, hold these presentations in Rosenwald schools: the afternoon session (3:00 p.m.) will be at the Community High School in Lakeland (College Park), and the evening session (7:00 p.m.) will be at Highland Park School (near Seat Pleasant), both built as high schools in 1928. (They were only the second and third high schools built for African-American students in Prince George's County.) Please consult the accompanying flyer for details. We hope that many of you will volunteer to help with each session – we'll want to provide coffee and cookies for each session, and will welcome any baked goods you can provide. Please call (301-262-3367 or 301-464-0590) for further information or to volunteer your assistance

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<sup>1</sup>Originally we thought that there had been 23 Rosenwald Schools, until detailed research in the Rosenwald archives at Fisk University revealed four more.



# ROSENWALD SCHOOLS

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## *"JULIUS ROSENWALD AND THE ROSENWALD SCHOOL PROGRAM"*



Peter Ascoli



Julius Rosenwald

**Lecture by Peter M. Ascoli,  
Grandson of Julius Rosenwald and author of**

**Julius Rosenwald, The Man who built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black  
Education in the American South,  
Indiana University Press, 2006**

To be offered at two times,  
in two historic Rosenwald school locations

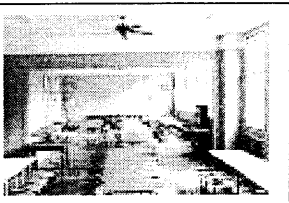


**3:00 p.m., Monday, February 12, 2007**

**Community (Rosenwald) High School, Lakeland  
(now Brazilian Seventh Day Adventist Church)  
8108 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Lakeland, College Park  
Prince George's County, Maryland**

**7:00 p.m., Monday, February 12, 2007**

**Highland Park (Rosenwald) Elementary School  
6501 Lowland Drive, Highland Park  
Seat Pleasant area  
Prince George's County, Maryland**



**Please call 301-262-3367 for further information  
And  
to volunteer assistance with this special event!**

**Presented by a consortium of historical organizations in Prince George's County, with  
assistance from historical organizations in Anne Arundel, Howard and Montgomery Counties,  
and Washington, D.C.**



# Calendar of Events

## January – February, 2007

**January 9** "Blooming in the Past" at Belair Mansion, a Robert Bowie Chapter NSDAR lecture by horticultural historian Mollie Ridout discussing 18th century gardening, 7:30 PM, fee, call 301-809-3089 or email [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

**January 13** Chocolate Workshop at Riversdale House Museum, historic foodways expert Susan McLellan Plaisted teaches participants how to prepare chocolate from the raw cacao beans, 9:30 AM, \$50, advance payment required by January 8, call 301-864-0420 for reservations

**January 13** Chocolate Lecture at Riversdale House Museum by Susan McLellan Plaisted, who explains the travel of transformation of the cacao bean from medicine to 21st century candy bar, 4 PM, \$5 at the door

**January 20** Nutcracker Tea at Marietta House Museum, 1 pm, \$20/Adult, \$ 15/ages 4-12, prepaid reservations required, call 301-464-5291 for reservations

**January 27** Negotiating Freedom at Montpelier Mansion, Sheila Arnold presents Oney Judge, 18th c. free woman and the personal maidservant to Martha Washington during the first President's term of office. She will tell us about her life with the Washingtons, her run for freedom and her life as a Free Negro; 2 PM and 3:30 PM, ages 10 and up, \$6 students and seniors, \$8 Bi-County/\$10 Non Bi-county; for more information call 301-953-1376

**February 1-25** Greetings of Love at Surratt House Museum, a special exhibit of over 75 antique cards from the Golden Age of Valentines, 1840-1900; during regular tour hours on Thursday-Sunday, regular tour admission; for more information call 301-868-1121 or [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org)

**February 3** Hands-On History Day at Montpelier Mansion, learn about 18th and 19th century courtship customs, learn an English country-dance, make an old-fashioned valentine and enjoy a sweet treat, 1-3 PM, \$7, no reservations required, call 301-953-1376 for more information

**February 11** Couples of Marietta Tour at Marietta House Museum, 12-4 PM, 2-for-1 admission

**February 12** Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald School Program by Peter M. Ascoli, grandson of Julius Rosenwald. Lecture offered at two times at two Rosenwald schools: 3 PM at Community High School, Lakeland, 8108 54<sup>th</sup> Ave., College Park and 7 PM at Highland Park Elementary School, 6501 Lowland Dr., Landover; for further information, call 301-262-3367

**February 13** "Digging up Prince George's" at Belair Mansion, a Robert Bowie Chapter NSDAR lecture looking at some of Prince George's County's historical archeology sites with County Archeologist Don

Creveling, 7:30 PM, fee, call 301-809-3089 or email [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

**February 13** Riversdale & Federal America Lecture #1 at Riversdale House Museum, Michael Olmert, Emmy-award winning documentary food writer presents Dairies and Other Outbuildings in the 18th Century Backyard, 7:30 PM, \$5 for each lecture or \$15 for the series of 4

**February 14** Sweetheart Tea at Belair Mansion, 4-6 PM, fee reservations/advance payment required, call 301-809-3089 or email [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

**February 17** Landsknecht Winter Camp at Marietta House Museum, 16th c. Holy Roman Empire re-enactors demonstrate camp life & weaponry, 9 AM-3 PM, free

**February 18** George Washington Musicale at Montpelier Mansion featuring the High Point High School Concert Choir, one of the premier high school choirs in the nation; 2 PM, ages 12 and up, \$5 per person, reservations required, call 301-953-1376 for reservations and more information

**February 19** Presidents' Day Shoreline Walk along the Potomac River, 1-4 PM, meet in visitors' parking lot at the Accokeek Foundation; fair weather only; ages 6 and up; free

**February 19** First Ladies Tea at Marietta House Museum featuring the favorite dishes of First Ladies, 1 PM, \$22, prepaid reservations required, call 301-464-5291 for reservations

**February 25** The Plummers' Kitchen at Riversdale House Museum, the Riversdale Kitchen Guild commemorates Black History Month by preparing foods common among Maryland's 19th century African-Americans, 12 PM, regular tour fees

**March 3** Digging Up YOUR Past -Beginning Your Family Genealogy Workshop at Belair Mansion/Prince George's County Genealogical Society Library; 9 AM-4 PM, fee, reservations requested by calling 301-809-3089

**March 6** Riversdale & Federal America Lecture #2 at Riversdale House Museum, C.M. Harris, Editor of the Papers of William Thornton, A Federalist Salon for Martha Peter: William Thornton's First Design for Tudor Place, 7:30 PM, \$5 for each lecture or \$15 for the series of 4

**March 10** 7<sup>th</sup> Md. Co. A U.S. Drill Day at Marietta House Museum. Civil War re-enactors demonstrate military drills, weaponry and tacticals; free

**March 17** Mad Hatter's Tea at Marietta House Museum. Junior docents dressed as *Alice in Wonderland* characters serve tea and entertain guests. Reservations and advance payment required. 1 PM. Minimum age: 4 years old. Adults \$22, \$15 children ages 4-12.



# 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.

\*Shipping & handling for books numbered 1, 2, & 3 is \$3.00 for each copy of the book because of size & weight, therefore they are shipped separately. Shipping & handling for all other books is \$2.50 for the first book & 50 cents for each additional book. Shipping & handling for international orders, please call the Historical Society at 301-464-0590 or email (pgchslibrary@aol.com) for current postage rates.

Make checks or money orders 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.

Book Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & Handling: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Prince George's County Historical Society

## Membership Application

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

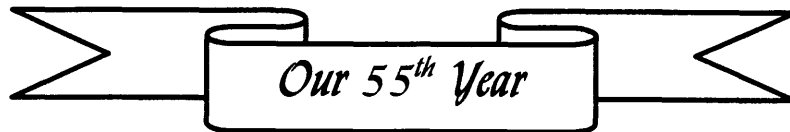
**Membership Category (Please check one)**

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 \$35 for individual or \$45 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:



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### HISTORY

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

## LECTURE SERIES



Marietta Mansion

## *St. George's Day, 2007*

### *St. Mary of the Mills Church, Laurel*

This year we will gather at St. Mary of the Mills Catholic Church, a very historic church in the very historic city of Laurel, to celebrate our 311th St. George's Day on April 22. St. Mary of the Mills is the oldest ecclesiastical structure in the town of Laurel in continuous use. Its story is historically linked to that of the people who lived, worked, and worshipped in the community that developed out of an early mill site on the Patuxent River.

Laurel was developed from part of a vast tract of patented in the late 17th century by Richard Snowden, a Welsh Quaker. One of Snowden's descendants, Nicholas Snowden (son of Major Thomas Snowden, builder of Montpelier), built a mill in 1811 on the Patuxent River, a short distance northwest of what would become the location of St. Mary's Church. Five years after Nicholas' death in 1836, two of his sons-in-law, Horace Capron and Dr. Theodore Jenkins, together with Edward Snowden, enlarged and incorporated the mill as The Patuxent Company. The mill produced cotton duck for Conestoga wagon covers and sails for Baltimore Clipper Ships, as well as other items.

(continued on Page 3)

## *2007 Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage*

Once again, Prince George's County will open its doors to feature three centuries of architectural and historical treasures for the 70th MARYLAND HOUSE & GARDEN PILGRIMAGE on Saturday, May 5, 2007, from 10 am to 5 pm. Every spring, since 1937, counties across the state have taken part in what has become a highly popular annual event; this year's Maryland House and Garden Tour highlights 10 private, semi-private, and public houses and sites located in parts of central and southern Prince George's County and includes an opportunity to take a guided pontoon boat trip on the marshes of the Patuxent River. Sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical Society, funds raised by this tour will benefit the Society's *Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History* and will help provide benches for use at *Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park*. To guide you on your way, this edition of **NEWS & NOTES** includes a special pull-out section of descriptions of the houses on the tour.

Tickets for the House and Garden Tour are \$25 for a full self-paced tour, available in advance, or at any of the 10 houses and sites on the day of the tour. Properties will be open Saturday, May 5 from 10 am to 5 pm, rain or shine. Those interested in the pontoon boat tour must reserve in advance to guarantee a seat. The pontoon boat rides are included with the Garden Tour, but are subject to limitations of the weather. For more information on the houses and/or boat tour, call 301-627-3677 or 301-952-3538.

(Continued on Page 3)

## *Presidential Musings*

Volunteerism has a significant impact on the quality of life of the volunteer as well as the beneficiaries of the services provided. All non-profit organizations employ the talents of thousands of volunteers. Our parks, schools, historical sites, nature centers, governmental agencies use legions of volunteers to accomplish tasks that would be impossible without the work of those volunteers.

To note that the public benefits from work of those donating time and talents to many projects is obvious. Society is enriched, safer and more complete through the philanthropy of these individuals. It should be noted, however, that the volunteer also gains from his/her gifts. The opportunity to assist others in many diverse ways is fulfilling, often satisfying and appreciated. No 501.c3 organization can function well, or, in many cases, function at all, without the tireless gifts of the few for the many.

The Prince George's historical Society is blessed by the countless hours given to it by our library volunteers. Without the dedicated efforts of Susan Pearl, Sarah Bourne, Diane Stultz and Dusty Rhoads, researchers of county history could not access our collections. This library staff is at Marietta every Saturday throughout the year assisting people from throughout the county and far beyond with questions about structures, former citizens and historical county events. We have a font of information in our collection which would be difficult, if not impossible, to navigate without the expertise of these very knowledgeable and dedicated people.

The Society has also been the beneficiary of the services of Stella Uber, who, for over a decade, managed the Society's Gift Shop. It was she who made this shop the place to go for books on county history and Maryland and tidewater books. She oversaw the expansion of the shops physical space and defined its mission.

In January, Stella retired from this volunteer position leaving the Gift Shop a far better place than when she took up the challenge many years also. The Society salutes these volunteers and encourages all its members to get more involved; it could benefit you, too.



## *The Prince George's County*

### *Historical Society*

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Newsletter contributors: Susan G. Pearl, John Petro, Jim Wolfe, Wallis Cain, Donna Schneider, Judy Schneider, and Betty Compton.

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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 - **March 3 and April 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 May-June edition is April 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!

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## *Society Sponsors and Donations*

The Prince George's County Historical Society would like to thank its 2007 Sponsors.

**Bronze Level:** D.J. Cover Plastering Co., Elizabeth Funk, Dan Louck, Mr. & Mrs. James McCeney, Douglass & Susan McElrath, Ken and Judy Schneider, Peter Shapiro, Andrew & Sondra Wallace.

A special thank you to Louise Tatspaugh, who donated \$100 for our library in memory of her brother, Frederick DeMarr, for whom the library is named.

(Continued on Page 6)



ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
Original Chapel

(St. George's Day continued  
from Page 1)

The new mill owners accommodated the increasing number of factory employee's economic, social and spiritual needs. They built workers' housing, a school and an Assembly Hall. Dr. Jenkins, who has married Nicolas Snowden's daughter, Juliana, at Montpelier Mansion in 1835, was

from a prominent, Baltimore Catholic family. He was a graduate of Georgetown College where Juliana's brothers also studied. In 1830, before there was any Catholic Church in Laurel, Dr. Jenkins arranged for Mass to be celebrated at Montpelier and alter also in the Assembly Hall. Jesuits from Georgetown traveled to Laurel to minister to the rapidly growing population — by horseback at first, and by train after the completion of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line in 1835.

It was through Dr. Jenkins' generous leadership that the original St. Mary's chapel was built. The massive stones were hauled by oxcart from nearby Guilford Quarries. In 1842, before the church was dedicated, the first baptism was recorded — that of Mrs. Juliana Snowden Jenkins. On January 22, 1843, the first mass was celebrated in the new St. Mary's Chapel by Father James Ryder, President of Georgetown College.

St. Mary's Chapel has been enlarged an changed over times, but the side walls of the original 1843 chapel can still be seen running 27 feet behind the bell tower, identifiable by the light color of the stones. The chapel was extended in 1890, adding a fourth bay to the length of the sanctuary; at the same time a decorative stone parapet was added to the main façade, as well as a wider bell tower to receive the gigantic 1846 Laurel Cotton Mill bell. A beautiful pressed tin ceiling was also added at this time. In 1886 the church received a large beautifully carved marble, onyx, and gold altar, and in 1899, a marble Baptismal font, still in use, was purchased with funds raised at a lawn party.

In 1893, a frame addition was built onto the rear of the south side of the church, providing a parish school. An then in 1959, the sanctuary was again enlarged; 750 persons may now be seated as a result of a large addition designed by John M. Walton of Walton and Madden Architects. The beautiful interior incorporates the original chapel as the west transept of a new cruciform plan. The altar was relocated in the enlarged sanctuary without jarring changes in design.

St. Mary of the Mills is a very historic church of the historic Laurel community, and represents the long story of the town's development. It will be a wonderful place to celebrate St. George's Day, 2007. You will receive your invitations in early April, and we look forward to seeing you there.

— Betty Compton and Susan Pearl

(House and Garden Tour continued from Page 1)

Please note also that there is an optional lunch stop at St. Thomas's Parish Hall; its "Southern Maryland" lunch for \$15 per person is in addition to the entrance fee for the tour, but you are not going to want to miss out! Plan on stopping there between 11 am and 2:30 pm. For groups of four or more, please reserve a table at least one week before the tour. Please call 301-627-8469 to make your reservations or for more information.

— Wallis Cain, Co-Chair

## *The Veterans History Project*

The College Park Aviation Museum (CPAM) has become an official partner of the Veterans History Project (VHP). On February 10, CPAM along with Congressman Steny Hoyer, one of the original co-sponsors of the legislation that created this program kicked off the VHP program at the museum. Congressman Hoyer also did an interview with a Tuskegee Airman to celebrate CPAM's participation in the project.

The Veterans History Project is an effort to document the histories and remembrances of our nation's war veterans and those civilians who served in the war effort. The mission of the VHP is to reach out to these veterans and civilians to record their stories and to document their involvement so that a more complete and richer history of these events are passed along to succeeding generations.

Every person's story is important, no matter what they did, how they served and what impact they made. We have committed ourselves to interview as many veterans, civilians, or Rosie the Riveters as we can. These interviews will be put on DVDs and sent to the Library of Congress. The DVDs will be cataloged and processed in the Veterans History Database where families, researchers, historians and the general public can access them.

This will be a multi-generational project. Teens from Eleanor Roosevelt and Parkdale High Schools will gather information on the VHP Biographical Sheets that are sent with the interviews and they will also be doing the filming. CPAM adult staff will do the interviews. If you know an interested teen, they are welcome to volunteer and get community service credits among other benefits.

If you are a vet, or I you can pass this on to the veterans you know, this would be of a great benefit to us. To contribute your story, call CPAM from 10 am to 5 pm daily at 301-864-6029 to schedule and interview. A VHP page will soon be on the CPAM website ([www.collegeparkaviationmuseum.com](http://www.collegeparkaviationmuseum.com)) The VHP page will include forms, sample questions, format and scheduling. For more information on the project as a whole, please visit [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets).

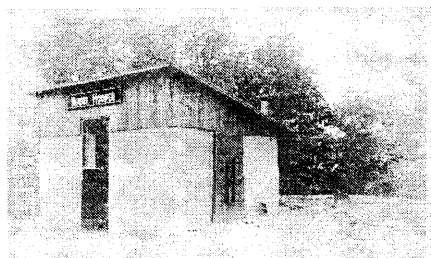
— Cathy Allen  
Director, CPAM



# News & Notes Bulletin Board

## Mount Hooper Mystery Solved!

In the previous (January-February 2007) issue of **News & Notes**, we ran a photo of a small structure labeled "Mount Hooper" and asked for any information that readers might have about it.



This unidentified photo was part of the extensive photo archives in the library at Marietta, and we hoped to

learn just what it was. We got two responses, from PGCHS members James Trent and Charles Day, letting us know that this little structure was part of the laboratory system of inventor James Harris Rogers (1850-1929). The principal laboratory of Dr. Rogers was located adjoining his home in Hyattsville, but his small "Mount Hooper" laboratory was located in Rogers Heights, near Bladensburg.

Dr. James Harris Rogers was born in Franklin, Tennessee, in July, 1850, and received his early education in Europe where, as a youth, he displayed exceptional inventive ingenuity. From 1877, when he came to Prince George's County, until his death in December 1929, he performed extensive experiments in the field of electrical science in the laboratory of his Hyattsville home. About 50 patents were received by Dr. Rogers; one of the most important was for a system of underground and underwater wireless communication, a major aid to the Allied effort during World War I. His underground radio experiments were conducted at the small laboratory that he called "Mount Hooper" in honor of Commander Hooper of the Navy, who helped to adapt the invention to the needs of the Navy Department.

An honorary Fellow of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, Dr. Rogers received degrees of Doctor of Science from Georgetown University and the University of Maryland in recognition of his lifetime of scientific achievement. In 1985, James Harris Rogers was inducted into the Prince George's County Hall of Fame.

Jim Trent, a ham radio enthusiast, referred us to the website for Rogers' radio inventions (<http://www.rexresearch.com/rogers/1rogers.htm#wx319>), which identifies the "Mount Hooper" laboratory; Jim will use our Mount Hooper photograph in his radio newsletter, citing

PGCHS for the find. Chuck Day told us that, as a child in Rogers Heights, he used to sled down the hill from the little laboratory structure, by then abandoned. It was located at the top of the hill where the water tower is now, just west of the location of Bladensburg High School. We thank both of our detective members, and will try this successful game again soon!

-- Susan G. Pearl

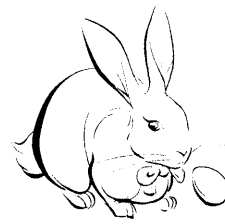
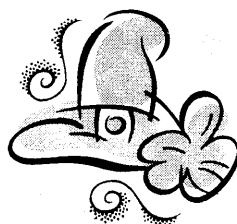
## Mistress of Riversdale

The Riversdale Historical Society and the Campus Club of the University of Maryland are co-sponsoring a performance of *Mistress of Riversdale* on Saturday, March 24, 2007. The show, performed by accomplished actress Cherie Weinert of Johns Hopkins University Theatre, is a dramatization of the life of Rosalie Stire Calvert, based on the extensive correspondence of the Prince George's plantation mistress and the European family in the 19th century.

The performance, based on Margaret L. Callcott's book, *Mistress of Riversdale*, uses Rosalie Calvert's own words to re-enact her life as wife, mother, business woman and political observer in the early years of the republic. Rosalie Calvert's life has special interest to residents of this area, for her plantation home in Riverdale Park is now open to the public. One of her sons was the principal founder of the University of Maryland.

The performance will take place March 24th at 2 pm at the University United Methodist Church, 3621 Campus Drive, College Park. Campus Drive is at the west end of the campus, just off Adelphi Road. There is a large parking area behind the church. A reception will follow the performance. Tickets are \$7.00 and may be purchased at the door. Reservation may also be made by calling Barbara Glover at 301-927-4182 or Pat Preston at 301-245-2302.

— Dan Louck



# *Maryland* HOUSE & GARDEN Pilgrimage

Prince George's County  
Saturday, May 5, 2007  
(no rain date)

**Please, No High Heels or Smoking  
No Pets, Food or Drinks In Houses  
No Photographs of House Interiors Allowed**

**\$25 per person (adults & children)**

**More Information Available from Co-Chairs  
or  
Prince George's County Historical Society  
*News & Notes* (March-April 2007 edition)**

**Co-Chairs:** Wallis Cain. Tel: 301-627-3677 / 301-651-7886, [wallis.cain@verizon.net](mailto:wallis.cain@verizon.net); Lynn Springer Roberts, Tel: 301-627-8622, [antiquelynn@hotmail.com](mailto:antiquelynn@hotmail.com); Donna Schneider, Tel: 301-952-8539, [donna.schneider@juno.com](mailto:donna.schneider@juno.com).

**Committee Chairs:** *Treasurer and Boat Tour*, Donna Schneider (above). *Luncheon*, Janice Diggs and Franklin Robinson Jr. *Road Marking*, Jim Wolfe. *Publicity*, Judy Schneider. *Patrons*, Jane Eagen Dodd. *Hosts/Hostesses*, Eleanora Buchheister.

**Special Project:** To provide funds for the preservation and treatment of books and the archives collection in the *Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History*, maintained by the Prince George's County Historical Society presently located at *Marietta House Museum* in Glenn Dale; and to provide benches for the public at *Mount Calvert*, located in Croom, in celebration of its place in the history of Prince George's County and its magnificent setting on the tidal marshes of the Patuxent River, one of Prince George's County's most beloved and important "gardens".

**Lunch:** A Southern Maryland buffet featuring baked chicken and honey baked ham will be served by the Hospitality Committee of St. Thomas' Parish, Showell Fellowship Hall, 14300 St. Thomas Church Road, Croom, from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM for \$15/person (includes dessert and drink). Seating is available at the hall. Reservations are required for groups of 4 or more and your check will be your reservation, to be sent by April 28. Please make the check payable to St. Thomas' Parish and write "Garden Tour Lunch" in the note section and mail to Janice Diggs, c/o St. Thomas' Parish, 14300 St. Thomas Church Rd., Upper Marlboro, Md., 20772. If you have any questions, please call Franklin Robinson, Jr., 301-274-4685.  
**RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE.**

*Now celebrating the 311<sup>th</sup> anniversary of it's founding as a British Colonial settlement, Prince George's County has, of course, a much larger past, with the earliest traces of human activity, representing thousands of years, residing in numerous prehistoric sites. In 1634, when the "newcomers" settled St. Mary's City, Native Americans were in residence throughout all of Southern Maryland. Prince George's County's archaeological sites seem to be everywhere today—chief among them is that seen at Mt. Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park. Situated atop a hill that permits one to survey vast stretches of the Patuxent River as it flows from the north towards the Chesapeake Bay, it is a vista not much changed over time. Happily, this river and its fragile ecosystems of salt marshes and waterfowl—nearby are bald eagles, osprey, blue herons and railbirds—are maintained and protected by the State of Maryland and Maryland National Capital Park and*

*Planning Commission. The county was created by the Maryland General Assembly on April 23, 1696, from two earlier settled counties, Calvert and Charles. At that time Prince George's County extended to the headwaters of the Potomac and to the Pennsylvania border (but in 1748 those Western Maryland lands became part of Frederick County.) Its name honored Prince George of Denmark, consort of Princess Anne who became Queen of England in 1702. The port of Charles Town on the Patuxent served as the first county seat, but after the establishment and growth of Marlborough (now Upper Marlboro) in 1706, the seat was moved there in 1721, where it remains. Marlborough and Nottingham (Magnolia Knoll) were two of the early county official ports of entry, trading tobacco for imported goods. The rivers and branches of these early towns functioned as the earliest "highways" and, from the beginning, linked the manors, plantations and farms along them (Mt. Calvert). Agriculture was the basis of the county's economy for over two centuries. Great plantations (Mt. Lubentia, Bowieville) as well as a strong yeomanry of independent farmers (West End Farm) developed in the county, producing a range of architecture from substantial, elegant country houses (Good Luck) to the modest dwellings of subsistence farmers. Eight governors of Maryland, prominent early churchmen such as Bishops Claggett and Carroll, and inventors and artists came from Prince George's County. Daniel Carroll was both a member of the U.S. Constitutional convention and a Signer. Gabriel Duvall of Marietta served twenty-three years on the Supreme Court. John Rogers was a delegate to The Continental Congress. And it was Prince George's County that ceded most of the land required to establish the District of Columbia in 1790. During the War of 1812, when British forces sailed up the Patuxent, marched through Upper Marlboro and onto Bladensburg where they routed the Americans, Commodore Joshua Barney and his men valiantly strove to defend Washington. The expansion of suburban living has greatly hastened the demise of agriculture in the county in the later twentieth century and at present, yet two of agriculture's greatest monuments stand in the northern tier of the county: The University of Maryland at College Park, founded originally as an agricultural college, and the nearby U.S. Department of Agriculture's Research Station and Library at Beltsville. Now, distanced from those early river highways, modern institutions such as The Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA), The National Archives and the Suitland Federal Center suggests that our interests in these modern times focuses not only on the past but in undiscovered worlds of the future, as well.*

**1. BOWIEVILLE, 522 Church Road.** Situated on a high point in the "Forest" of Prince George's County, *Bowieville* was built 1819/20 for Mary Bowie Wootton Bowie, twice-widowed daughter of Governor Robert Bowie. In establishing this grand home for her nine minor children, she created the most sophisticated late Federal period house in the County. The south entrance features two sets of engaged Doric columns surmounted by a semi-elliptical beaded fanlight. The interior is embellished with outstanding decorative detail; note particularly the fluted door and window surrounds, the acanthus-and-papyrus plaster medallions, the elegant interior fanlight in the dividing wall between the two formal parlors, and the fine marble mantels. Jib doors lead from the two parlors onto the dramatic semi-elliptical north porch, a 1940 replacement of the original porch. Architectural trim on the second story, now adapted for office use, is less formal, but echoes the decorative detail of the spaces beneath. Mary Bowie had only a short time to enjoy her masterpiece. She died in 1825, and her son was eventually forced to sell the property. In 1846 *Bowieville* became the home of William J. Berry, and remained in his family for three generations. During this period *Bowieville* was known as the social center of central Prince George's County. Several renovations were undertaken during the residence of the Knapp family (1935-68), but since that time the house has suffered more than 30 years of neglect and deterioration. Fully restored by Montgomery Development, its large landscaped setting the centerpiece of a developing golf-course community, *Bowieville*, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is once again restored to its former beauty and prominence.

**2. GROVEHURST, 14307 Delcastle Drive.** A local building supplier, Fred Watkins, and his wife Frances, built *Grovehurst* in 1961 in an earlier Federal style. The property abuts the famous Belt Woods, where the avian density is one of the highest observed on the East Coast, and where both the threatened Glade Fern and endangered Wister's Coralroot grow. Originally 55 acres of rolling farmland, John Petro purchased the property in 1979 for his landscape business and grew sod until establishing the neighborhood of *Grovehurst* in 1995. Secluded within five wooded acres, the house rises above "The Forest" of the county in a quiet eyrie. Special features include four fireplaces with special fire backs, the entry hall ceiling and trim and the dining room's corner cupboards, copied from *Tulip Hill* in Anne Arundel County. The interior style is an eclectic mix of 1930's and 1940's elegance and furnishings and features much earlier paintings - *St. Catherine of Alexandria* (circa 1670), and *Coronation of the Virgin* (circa 1740). A Smithsonian-quality peacock, "Harry", belonged to a neighbor. Antique Limoges fish-and-game plates grace the dining room walls and the library houses restored *Stations of the Cross* that formerly lined the woodlands, as well as antiques recovered from old churches. The basement houses a 1920's projection room and "speakeasy" for entertaining.

**3. MOUNT LUBENTIA, 603 Largo Road.** *Mount Lubentia* is one of the grand old houses of Prince George's County; it stands on a terraced hills above the old road from Upper Marlboro to Bladensburg. For well over 200 years it was home to many generations of the Magruder-Beall-Bowie families. In the years before the Revolution the property was rented by Jonathan Boucher, the Tory Anglican minister at *St. Barnabas' Church*, who preached to his Rebel congregation with loaded pistols at hand. George Washington's stepson, Jackie Custis, was Rector Boucher's pupil here (1772-73), and during this time Washington made several visits. During the British invasion in the War of 1812, State and County records were removed from the courthouse in Upper Marlboro and hidden safely in *Mt Lubentia's* attic. The house is a classic Georgian-Federal brick structure, its brick walls laid in Flemish bond; nearly square in plan, it has an attached kitchen wing. It has an elegant front entrance leading into a wide stair hall and an exceptionally handsome staircase. Most of the woodwork in the house, including seven Federal-style mantelpieces, dates to late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, but every generation has left its mark, e.g., spacious Victorian porches. *Mount Lubentia*, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is situated on five acres of landscaped grounds, all that remains of the original thousand-acre plantation. Many of the present plantings date to the first half of the twentieth century, reflecting what was once a showcase Colonial Revival garden.

**4. GOOD LUCK, 12502 Brooke Lane.** Built in 1790 and enlarged in 1840, *Good Luck* was known as *Oakland* when built by the Clagett family and later owned by the Brooke family. It is a two-story, gable-roof frame house in three telescoping sections. The larger main block, added in 1840, is a traditional side-hall double-parlor plan in the Greek Revival style. The earlier wing is of traditional 18<sup>th</sup> century vernacular style. The house was greatly improved by Robert Clagett, son of Thomas Clagett VI of Weston after purchasing the property in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Clagetts added the 1840's main block and doubled the depth of the 1790's original house. The handsome "new" house of Robert Clagett boasts marble mantels, pocket doors, large windows, and fine heart pine floors. The entry stair turnings are particularly interesting - still retaining original graining to imitate tiger maple. An original pane of glass still retains the inscription "L.Clagett," thought to have been inscribed by Lucy Clagett on her wedding day. The home is situated on a high hill surrounded by ancient oaks, chestnuts, sycamores and massive English boxwood.

**5. PATUXENT FARM, 4700 Old Crain Highway.** The core of this house - the one-room Patuxent Elementary School - built in 1903 to serve farm children east of Upper Marlboro, had neither electricity nor plumbing. The Robert Hall family, to whom it reverted in 1926, added three rooms to create a residence—an early example of adaptive-reuse. A second story expanded the house in 1933 and, in 1938, a Colonial Revival living room wing was added. A 1974 addition included a Neo-Classical dining room, garden room, and terrace. The smokehouse still functions and outbuildings have been adapted to modern life on these former farmlands of the 18<sup>th</sup> C. Clement Hill. Sixty-year-old boxwoods on both east and west sides of the house are descendants of old local boxwoods. The current owners live with an eclectic mix of European and American furnishings, including 19<sup>th</sup> C. Baltimore furniture.

**6. ST THOMAS' EPISCOPAL PARISH CHURCH, 14300 ST Thomas Church Road.** Built by Daniel Page between 1743-1745 as a chapel of ease for *St. Paul's Parish*, this brick cruciform church is in design an English Georgian "auditory" church. Known as *Page's Chapel* until it became its own parish in 1850, *St. Thomas' Church* was undertaken during the rectorate of John Eversfield who served 1728-1775. It was built on the same plan as its mother church, *St. Paul's* at Baden (1735), although subsequent additions to each church have made the two buildings distinctively different. A Gothic style update of *St. Thomas'* by architect J.W. Priest was accomplished during the 1850s and 1860s. A bell tower was added in 1888 in memory of Bishop Thomas John Claggett (first Episcopal Bishop of Maryland). In the 1950s the church was renovated under the direction of noted architect Milton Grigg, harmoniously incorporating Victorian (stained glass, altar, sanctuary) and Colonial (nave, pews, pulpit, arched ceiling, brick floor) elements. Members of the Calvert family of nearby Mount Airy are buried here. The most tranquilly picturesque church in Prince George's County, *St. Thomas'* is listed in The National Register of Historic Places. Rector: Dr. Hugh Eldridge Brown, III.

**6a. LUNCHEON AT ST THOMAS' PARISH, SHOWELL FELLOWSHIP HALL.** (For information, see description at beginning of Prince George's County Tour.)

**7. WEST END FARM, 10709 Croom Road.** Standing on a hillside on a 10-acre rural property, the *West End Farm* house still offers a glimpse of its history as the nucleus of a larger plantation. The house is representative of the County's most

typical mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century dwelling: a main block of wood frame construction, with side-hall-and-double-parlor plan and Greek Revival style decorative detail. In this case, the house is enlarged by a probably contemporary side wing, as well as a possibly older kitchen section and a modern (1960s) rear addition. The main block of *West End Farm* was built in the 1850s as the country residence of Caleb Clark Magruder (1808-1884), a local attorney prominent in civil and legal affairs. In 1854, Magruder had purchased from the estate of Robert W. Bowie 350 acres of *Mattaponi*, the plantation which Bowie had inherited in 1818 from his father, Maryland Governor Robert Bowie. Magruder's property was the westernmost part of Bowie's large plantation, and apparently took its name from that location. Magruder studied law with Justice Gabriel Duvall of *Marietta*, and maintained a law office and town residence in Upper Marlboro. After his death, *West End Farm* passed to his daughter, and remained in the Magruder family until 1936. The present owners have occupied and cared for this beautiful property since 1999.

**8. MAGNOLIA KNOLL, 17414 Nottingham Road.** *Magnolia Knoll*, also known as the *Turton-Smith House*, is a small early-to-mid-19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular dwelling, well situated on the picturesque Patuxent River in the former town of Nottingham. Once a thriving port town in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with a population of over 1,500, Nottingham is where the British camped, marching to Washington, D.C. in 1814. The only remnant of those early years, the house is located on what was once North and Water Streets. North Street, now part of the property, existed in the gully next to the house and is where the hogsheads of tobacco were rolled onto the ships. The house is of wood frame construction and rises a low 2-½ stories, with an extended west plane suggesting an old-fashioned saltbox roof line. A large L-shaped porch provides an exquisite view of centuries of undisturbed surrounding lands, marsh and river. From the house a brick path takes you a short distance through recently created gardens to the original 1-½ story gable-roofed summer kitchen (now guest quarters). The owner's collection of antique furnishings and paintings—including a sideboard and sofa by Baltimorean, John Needles—create a cozy atmosphere in this former waterman's dwelling.

*Adjacent to Magnolia Knoll is Nottingham School, one of the few surviving one-room schools in Prince George's County. It was built circa 1911 for \$744.50 and materials from earlier schools on that site were used in its construction. The building had a capacity for 40 students in grades 1 to 8. The school was closed in 1947 when the consolidation of county schools made one-room schools obsolete. Owner: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.*

**9. MOUNT CALVERT, 16302 Mount Calvert Road.** In 1658, Philip Calvert patented the 1000-acre Mount Calvert tract. In 1683, the Act for the Advancement of Trade established towns throughout the Chesapeake region to encourage settlement and commerce. One of these was Charles Town, located on the *Mount Calvert* tract; it became Prince George's first seat of government when the County was established in 1696. Charles Town remained the governmental and religious center until the County seat was moved to Upper Marlborough in 1721. Charles Town then gradually faded away as a population center, so that the only above-ground structure surviving today is the fine brick Federal-style house built by John Brown in the 1780s. At the present time, *Mount Calvert* is the centerpiece of *Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park*. The house now exhibits a trove of archaeological finds from the site, representing over 8000 years of Native American, Euro-American and African-American culture. Weather permitting, site work may be observed on the day of the tour. *Artifact collecting is strictly prohibited.*

**9a. A GUIDED PONTOON BOAT TRIP ON THE PATUXENT RIVER.** Naturalists and historians from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will take **pre-arranged groups** on a special narrated boat tour along the beautiful freshwater tidal marshes of the upper Patuxent River and nearby Western Branch. The Western Branch and Patuxent are home to a rich variety of aquatic plants and wildlife, including the Great Blue Heron, the Least Bittern, and the Sora Rail. Patrons may want to bring binoculars! Several boats will be operating and tours will depart approximately every half hour from 10:00 until 4:00. **Advance reservations are REQUIRED and may be made up to Saturday, April 28 through Donna Schneider 301-952-8539 or donna.schneider@juno.com.** Please confirm reservations at the greeting tent at *Mt. Calvert* at least 20 minutes before departure time. The landing for *Mt. Calvert* is just a very short walk away although there will be vans available for those who would like to ride in them. Those not checking in on time will forfeit their seats on the boats. Other patrons not holding reservations may be allowed to board, space permitting, if they inquire at the greeting tent at *Mt. Calvert* on the day of the tour. *Boat tours will take place weather permitting and may be cancelled without notice.*

# *Huntington City Maryland — History of a Name*

The oldest neighborhood of Bowie has long been known as the Huntington Section of Old Town, and yet there has been no apparent reason given for how or why the community first was called "Huntington." Theories that the area had been good hunting grounds, or even was an 1870s developer name scheme have floated around, but no clear answer emerged.

William D. Bowie began assembling the corporation that would lead to the creation of a rail line into Southern Maryland. The Maryland Legislature chartered the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad company in 1853, and ground was broken in 1861, but efforts to raise the capital necessary and continue the work became further complicated as the nation fell into the Civil War.

The nation's first commercial railroad, the Baltimore and Ohio, circumvented the Collington area with the branch line that ran from Baltimore through Prince George's to Washington, but far to the north, in Laurel. In the financial aftermath of the Civil War, the struggling B&P Company looked for financial help to create their line, and first consulted the mighty B&O. Oden Bowie sought financing from B&O President John Work Garrett, and was dismissed. However, he did meet with success with the B&O's great rival, the Pennsylvania Railroad. The PRR, blocked from Washington by the U.S. Congress in favor of the B&O, was eager to gain access through Maryland and on into Washington, DC. Stealthily, they financed the B&P's line to southern Maryland beginning in 1867.

The US Congress had permitted the B&P to build spur lines of up to twenty miles, and the PRR executives seized upon that loophole, and conveniently built a spur off the B&P — straight into Washington, DC. The B&O executives were furious, but the damage was done, and competition began to get even more intense.

The junction of the spur line to Washington and the mainline to southern Maryland on the B&P created a crossroad rail community. Junctions meant that passengers on one line would transfer to another; freight would be delivered to the station; hotels and businesses would be needed, and thus often a town will form at a rail junction. Our local junction mysteriously was given the name of "Huntington."

Advertising pamphlets for the new town of Huntington City appeared in 1870, two years before the first train was even operating. The town plan was laid out in rectangular blocks with numbered streets running east and west, and tree named streets running north and south (a plan similar, not surprisingly, to that of Philadelphia — home to the Pennsylvania Railroad). The first train from Baltimore to Washington passed through town on July 2, 1872, and the first train down the Pope's Creek line to southern Maryland commenced New Year's Day, 1873.

On March 3, 1874, the Maryland General Assembly officially recognized the town's incorporation as Huntington City. So, why Huntington? How in the world did they come up with such a name, or was this merely a real estate developer name pulled from the thin air? The answer lies within the explosive period of American railroad-building across the nation following the Civil War. Lines were consolidating left and right, and alliances forged to create powerful networks as the rail companies from the east sought connections to Chicago, Saint Louis, New Orleans, and the new cities of the west.

The most celebrated event of that period, of course, was the driving of the Golden Spike at Promontory Point, Utah, on May 10, 1869 as the Union Pacific Railroad from the east met with the Central Pacific as it drove from Sacramento in the West. One of the principal financiers of the Central Pacific, who later was president of the immense and powerful Southern Pacific Railroad, was none other than a Connecticut-born businessman named Collis P. Huntington.

Flush with success and money, Collis Huntington gained control of a new railroad company in Virginia that had consolidated a number of smaller lines, and thus on July 15, 1869 gained control of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. His plan was to link his western and mid-western lines to the coalmines of the Appalachians, and on to the deepwater ice-free port at Newport News, Virginia. The Pennsylvania Railroad's president, Thomas A. Scott, pushed through the Pennsylvania Legislature the incorporation of the Southern Railway Security Company to allow the consolidation of rail lines into the newly prospering south. The Pennsy's Scott and the Southern Pacific's Huntington appeared to be a match made in heaven. If the massive Pennsy could use it's Southern Railway holdings and collaboratively work with Huntington's C&O and the enormous Southern Pacific lines, the result would be a rail network spanning the nation from New York to Florida, west through to San Diego and north to Sacramento — the likes of which Cornelius Vanderbilt's New York Central would never be able to rival.

Like so many matches made in heaven, the devil was in the details. A financial panic and ensuing depression in 1873 and 1874 left Scott on the brink of bankruptcy, and quarrelling with Huntington; they would fight over the building the line into San Diego in 1874. By 1880 the Vanderbilt interests had taken control of the C&O and forced Collis Huntington out of the east. Though Tom Scott of the PRR was president of the Union Pacific by 1873, he was forced out of the west finally, selling his Texas and Pacific to Jay Gould, and ultimately losing his Southern holdings to J. P. Morgan. The result was that by the start of the 1880s, Scott's plans for the Pennsylvania's secure route to California had been dashed irrevocably, and we must wonder just how much currency the name of Huntington City could really have carried in the era? A city on the C&O, Huntington, WV, had come into being in 1869 and was thriving. Later came the city of Huntington Beach, CA.

The Maryland Legislature granted the appeal of the residents of Huntington, Maryland, and changed the name of Huntington City to the Town of Bowie in honor of the B&P president and hometown boy, Governor Oden Bowie on May 3, 1882. Collis Huntington never gained any further recognition or control in the state of Maryland, and President John Work Garrett of the B&O came to regret having ever given the brush-off to Oden Bowie.

Today we refer to the Huntington section of the City of Bowie with no idea that ever time we do so, we make reference to the great Collis Potter Huntington, a financier who made the Transcontinental Railroad a reality.

— Stephen Patrick, Director  
City of Bowie Museums

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MARCH – APRIL 2007



**March 1-April 15** – Women's History Month Exhibit: Best Foot Forward, 200 Years of Ladies Shoes at Belair Mansion, Wed-Sun, 12-4 PM, free

**March 1-April 1 (except March 3)** – Chesapeake Woodturners Guild Exhibit at Montpelier Mansion, over 50 unique, hand-turned pieces displayed and demonstrations will be given every weekend except March 3, weather permitting, free

**March 1-December 15** – The Road to Freedom: An Exhibition at Surratt House Museum traces the history of the struggle for freedom by enslaved people over a 200 year period, free with museum admission, open during regular tour hours

**March 3** – "Uncovering Your Ancestors" at Belair Mansion/Prince George's County Genealogical Library, 9 AM-4 PM, trained genealogists will get you started on your search for family of long ago, fee and reservations required, call 301-809-3089

**March 4** – Rib Basket Class by local artisan Byron Williams presented by the Accokeek Foundation, 12-4:30 PM, \$40 and registration is required, to register contact Annmarie Buckley at 301-283-2113, ext. 28 or email education@accokeek.org

**March 6** – Spring Lecture Series: Riversdale & Federal America at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM, C.M. Harris will present *A Federalist Salon for Martha Peter: William Thornton's First Design for Tudor Place*, \$5 or \$15 for series

**March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5** – Organic Gardening Classes by Shane Labrake of the Accokeek Foundation, 7-9 PM, a "hands-on" Saturday workshop is also offered, fee, to learn more call 301-283-2113 or visit www.accokeek.org

**March 10** – 7<sup>th</sup> MD Company – A U.S. Drill Day at Marietta House Museum, 10 AM-3 PM, civil war re-enactors demonstrate military drills, weaponry and tacticals, free

**March 10 & 11** – Hands-On History Days at Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM-12 noon, the Chesapeake Woodturners Guild will show how chairs are made on an old-fashioned treadle lathe. Visitors will help by sanding and polishing spindles and weaving seats, \$3, for details call 301-953-1376

**March 11** – Speaking of Flight Lecture at College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM, Edgar F. Raines will lecture on "observation aviation" used on the Western Front during WWI, free with museum admission, reservations recommended by calling 301-864-6029

**March 13** – Second Tuesday Lecture at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM, "The History of Witches", a look at a possibly misunderstood group of ladies... and men by Sandra Clunies, fee, for details email museumevents@cityofbowie.org or call 301-809-3089

**March 17** – Refuge System Birthday Bash at National Wildlife Visitors Center, 10 AM-3 PM, enjoy live animals, kids' activities, musical entertainment and wildlife habitat tram tours, free except fee for tram tours, for more details call 301-492-5763 or visit www.patuxent.fws.gov

**March 21** – Women's History Month Brown Bag Lunch at Old Town Bowie Welcome Center, 12 noon, President Garfield's assassination and Mrs. Garfield's adventure in Bowie, free, for details call 301-809-3089

**March 21** – History Lecture Series at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM, Chris Rowsom, Director of the USS Constellation, talks about the last all sail war vessel of the U.S. Navy, free and no reservations needed, ages 10 & up

**March 27** – Spring Lecture Series: Riversdale & Federal America at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM, Dr. Psyche Williams-Forsen will present *From the Marketplace to the Kitchen: African American Foodways in Early America*, \$5 or \$15 for series

**March 29** – Kids Kaboose at Bowie Train Station/Children's Heritage Center, 10-11:30 AM, a railroad morning of crafts, stories and fun for children, free, for more details call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org

**March 30-April 1** – Eight Annual Symposium, Lincoln's Assassination: The Little Details at Surratt House Museum, includes off-site bus tours and a dinner program, call 301-868-1121 for details, deadline for registration is March 20

**April 7, 14, 21, 28** – John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Tours from Surratt House Museum, bus tour from 7:30 AM-7:30 PM, call 301-868-1121 for details or visit www.surratt.org

**April 10** – Second Tuesday Lecture at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM, "A Peek in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Closet", Susan Anthony discusses the 19<sup>th</sup> century woman's wardrobe, fee, for details call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org

**April 14-15** – 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Marching Through Time at Marietta House Museum, 11 AM-5 PM, multi-period re-enactors, food and merchants, adults/\$8, ages 4-18/\$3, for more information call 301-464-5291 or visit www.pgparcs.com

**April 15** – Speaking of Flight Lecture at College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM, R.E.G. Davies will discuss the life and legacy of Howard Hughes, free with museum admission, registrations recommended by calling 301-864-6029

**April 17** – Spring Lecture Series: Riversdale & Federal America at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM, Matthew Mosca will present *Glimpsing a Colourful World: The Examination of Historic Paint Finishes*, \$5 or \$15 for series

**April 18** – History Lecture Series at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM, Sylvia George discusses the painting, *The Burning of Peggy Stewart*, which she restored, free and no reservations needed, ages 10 & up, for more information call 301-953-1376

**April 20-21** – Ladies' Regency Weekend at Riversdale House Museum, a variety of activities, informal amusements and meals, \$65/lady, \$25/gentleman for Saturday evening; payment required by April 16, for registration call 301-864-0420

**April 21** – History Weekend at Home Tours, 9:30 AM-4 PM, Prince George's County History Consortium offers: (1) Laurel -Town on the Fall Line, (2) Commerce and Technology and (3) Religion in Prince George's County, fee, includes transportation for tours 2 and 3, lunch, admission fees and guide, for registration and details contact Susan Wolfe at 301-464-5291

**April 22** – Good Neighbor Day at Darnall's Chance, 12-4 PM, celebrate the County's 311<sup>th</sup> birthday with free tours for county residents

**April 26** – Kids Kaboose at Bowie Train Station/Children's Heritage Center, 10-11:30 AM, a railroad morning of crafts, stories and fun for children, free, for more details call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org

Bus Tour Series – The Road to War presented by Darnall's Chance House Museum

The "war stories" of Darnall's Chance residents, James Wardrop, Captain John Hawkins and Liburn Williams, and John Hodges, are the basis for three bus trips. Tours 1 and 2 are overnight bus trips. All tours depart and return to Darnall's Chance. Reservations and payments required in advance. For details and fees call 301-952-8010.

**Tour 1: French and Indian War: Braddock's Road** – June 1 & 2 tour from Ft. Cumberland, MD to Ft. Duquesne in Pittsburgh, PA

**Tour 2: The American Revolution: The Philadelphia Campaign of 1777** – July 7 & 8 tour from the Chesapeake Bay to the capture of Philadelphia

**Tour 3: The War of 1812: The British Invasion of Prince George's County** – August 11 tour by Dr. Ralph Eshelman, 8 AM-6 PM

(Sponsors Continued from Page 2)

We would like to acknowledge the donations made to the Society by the following individual in memory of one of our former presidents, Paul Truman Lanham, who passed away in December 2006.

Sharon & Harry Bauer, Sarah & Richard Bourne, Alma M. Davis, William & Linda Edwards, Mary B. Hollinger, Hazel W. Ochs.





# 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.

\*Shipping & handling for books numbered 1, 2, & 3 is \$3.00 for each copy of the book because of size & weight, therefore they are shipped separately. Shipping & handling for all other books is \$2.50 for the first book & 50 cents for each additional book. Shipping & handling for international orders, please call the Historical Society at 301-464-0590 or email (pgchslibrary@aol.com) for current postage rates.

Make checks or money orders 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.

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# Prince George's County Historical Society

## Membership Application

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
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PHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (BUSINESS) \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

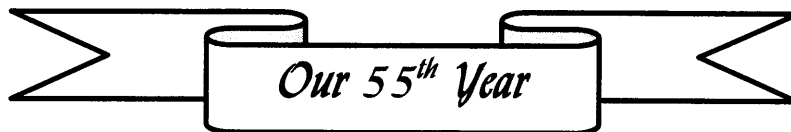
**Membership Category (Please check one)**

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 \$35 for individual or \$45 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

XXXVI Number 3

MAY-JUNE 2007

## **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: Helen Smith  
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**



Marietta Mansion

## *Preservation Week Reception*

This year's annual Preservation Week Reception will be held on Thursday, May 17 from 6 – 8 PM at Snow Hill Manor, 13301 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD 20708. The reception is hosted by Prince George's Heritage, Inc., Prince George's County Historical Society, Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust, and the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission.

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 historic preservation, to review the state of preservation in the county, and to look to the future. The evening's agenda will include a keynote address by Dr. William Kirwan, Chancellor of the University of Maryland system, awarding of preservation plaques to historic property owners, and announcing the County Endangered Sites List. Doug McElrath, President of Prince George's Heritage, will serve as master of ceremonies. Music will be provided by J. Scott Matejicka, chair of the Guitar, Harp & Percussion Department of the Peabody Preparatory of Johns Hopkins University. There will also be ample time to socialize and enjoy the unique setting of Snow Hill, one of the county's most significant sites.

Snow Hill is a 2 ½ story brick plantation house of late Georgian style located on 15 acres of land in Laurel. Situated on a knoll overlooking the Patuxent River, the original dwelling was built in 1755 alongside a main road which connected it to the highway leading to Philadelphia and New York. The house was originally built by Samuel Snowden on 500 acres that he received as a wedding present from his father. In 1764, the house was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt later in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The brick walls of the current structure are laid in Flemish bond and the bricks are believed to have been salvaged from the earlier building.

The interior of the house features fine Federal-style trim and possesses some unusual architectural features. On the ground floor, the corner cupboards have unique keystone arched openings. A brick on Snow Hill's exterior with the inscription "GW 1786" is thought to have been engraved by George Washington or his wife Martha. The property now belongs to the MNCPPC and is rented out for public and private functions.

All Society members are invited to the reception, but must make a reservation. Please call M-NCPHC, Natural & Historical Resources Division, (301) 627-2270 to make a reservation, or you may notify Pam Cooper of Prince George's Heritage by email at [pamelakcooper@verizon.net](mailto:pamelakcooper@verizon.net) by May 9.



Snow Hill Manor, Laurel MD

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP INCREASE**

As of May 1, 2007, the Prince George's County Historical Society's Life Membership increase to \$500. The Society's Board decided that due to the increasing costs of publishing and mailing its bi-monthly newsletter as well as subsidizing events and activities sponsored by the Society that it would be fiscally responsible to support this increase.

We greatly appreciate the continued patronage of our members and sponsors!

## *Presidential Musings*

At this time of the year, long-time residents of the County remember the bustling loose leaf tobacco auction houses of Marlboro readying last year's crop for sale. For the current year's crop, tobacco farmers would have prepared beds for the tiny seeds in January and February, planted in mid-March and transplanted seedlings in late April and May. Countless hours of work with the crop would absorb these farmers over the next four months. Even with mechanization of the late 19th and 20th centuries, tobacco was an extremely labor-intensive crop. It was, however, a far cry from the 17th and 18th centuries technique of planting 3,000 to 4,000 hills per acre where an adult worker could be expected to tend an acre and a half (6,000 hills) a year and produce a yield of 450 to 600 pounds of marketable Orinoco tobacco. Maryland's air-cured Orinoco crop was valued than as was its variety, Type 32, of the 20th century.

Tobacco was the currency of our colonial state and Prince George's County's economy rose and fell with those sale prices. While tobacco prices varied widely over all of its cultivation, the last quarter of the 20th century saw a decline from which the market would not recover. Tobacco Planters' Associations were the power brokers of the county in the 1800s and the vast majority of the county's population, rich and poor, were directly or indirectly tied to the price of tobacco. Even the established church's vestries had an important role tobacco packing and shipping in the 1700s. But by 1906, cultivation had declined to where the planters of the five counties of Southern Maryland formed the Maryland Tobacco Growers Association to try to enhance the role of this crop in state matters. By the end of 2004, even this association was abandoned.

In 1978, on 3,800 acres of tobacco were harvested in the county; in 1990, the number fell to 700 acres. Today, there are very few farms still raising tobacco. While we don't rue the loss of tobacco or the state's dependence on it, we should not forget its role in our county's history or the warehouses built for its storage and sale or the slat-sided barns built for air curing of sot weed.

## *The Prince George's County*

### *Historical Society*

5626 Bell Station Road  
Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120

Phone: 301-464-0590

Email: [pgchslibrary@aol.com](mailto:pgchslibrary@aol.com) or  
[info@pghistory.org](mailto:info@pghistory.org)

Website: [www.pghistory.org](http://www.pghistory.org)

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Newsletter contributors: Andrew Wallace, John Petro, Jim Wolfe, Charles Hendricks, Nathania Branch-Miles, Dusty Rhoads, 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 12 and June 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 July-August edition 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!

## *Society Sponsors and Donations*

The Prince George's County Historical Society would like to thank its 2007 Sponsors.

**Gold Level:** ezStorage Lanham, Petro Design/Build, Inc., Pineapple Alley Catering, Inc.

**Bronze Level:** Nicholas and Carolina Bahr, D.J. Cover Plastering Co., E.H.T. Tracerics, Elizabeth Funk, Edward and Evamaria Hawkins, Dan Louck, Mr. and Mrs. James McCeney, Douglass and Susan McElrath, Ken and Judy Schneider, Peter Shapiro, Andrew and Sondra Wallace.

## *St. George's Day 2007*

The Prince George's County Historical Society presented its St. George's Day Awards on Sunday, April 22nd at St. Mary's of the Mills Church in Laurel, Maryland. These awards are to honor those persons or organizations that have made a difference in Prince George's County. Contributions range from celebrations of our rich history, preservation and restoration of historic sites and buildings, production of written works that report our history and educate ourselves and our children, and volunteer efforts that enhance communities and the sense of history that the Society supports and encourages.

After a delicious buffet dinner provided by Main Street Catering, a short presentation was made by Michael Herman, Chief of Staff for Jack Johnson, Prince George's County Executive. The awards were then presented to:

**Carsondale 50th Reunion Committee (Eloise Hall, Virginia Williams, Lula Beatty)** for envisioning, planning and carrying out the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Carsondale community.

**Senator Leo Green** for his long career of public service, and his constant support of historic preservation funding in the Maryland legislature that included Belair and Marietta.

**Michael Kauffman** for research and publication of the story of John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln assassination in *American Brutus*.

**Benjamin McCeney** for his dedicated efforts for the bowie-McCeney family research and restoration in the restoration of the family cemetery of his ancestors at Thorpland.

**Prince George's County Genealogical Society** for the dedicated pursuit, analysis, translation, transcription, and publication of the early records of the Catholic church at Whitmarsh.

**Anne Turkos** for her outstanding contributions to the sesquicentennial celebration of the University of Maryland at College Park.

**Cherie Weinert** for promoting local

history and the story of Rosalie Stier Calvert and Riversdale Mansion through her dramatic interpretation as Mistress of Riverdale.

Following these awards was the Hall of Fame Induction. The Hall of Fame honored Dr. Adam Thomson (1718-1767), a Scot immigrant who settled in Upper Marlborough and developed the American Method of smallpox inoculation that became the preferred method of inoculation until Edward Jenner's vaccination became the standard.

## *Endangered Maryland*

In April, 2007 the Preservation Maryland released their "Endangered Maryland" list in partnership with *Maryland Life* magazine. The following 11 buildings topped their list.

1. St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Cemetery (Baltimore City)
2. Lonaconing Silk Mill (Allegany County)
3. Wallace K. Harrison office building (Dorchester County)
4. former Baltimore & Ohio train station at Aberdeen (Harford County)
5. Bond-Simms tobacco barn at Greenwell State Park (St. Mary's County)
6. **Ridgeley School (Prince George's County)**
7. Bucktown Village Store (Dorchester County)
8. Comsat Laboratories (Montgomery County)
9. Barnes Road Bridge at Keedy House (Washington County)
10. Sellers Mansion (Baltimore City)
11. Doughoregan Manor (Howard County)

For more information, please visit the Preservation Maryland website at: [www.preservationmaryland.org](http://www.preservationmaryland.org).

# News & Notes Bulletin Board

## *Celebrating Juneteenth*

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Prince George's County Maryland Chapter (AAHGS-PGCM), the Prince George's Historical Society, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will host a Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 16, 2007 from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5300 Auth Road, Temple Hills, MD. The theme of this seminar is *Footprints and Roots* which symbolizes the ancestry footprints by tracing their roots.

Juneteenth is celebrated throughout the United States. It symbolizes for what many African Americans what the Fourth of July symbolizes for other Americans. This year AAHGS-PGCM, will present a series of workshops and a panel discussion for beginning genealogists to commemorate this historic event. This year's Juneteenth celebration will serve as a historical milestone to remind Prince Georgians and all those in attendance of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelties of slavery.

Participants will have an opportunity to meet authors, educators and guests to exchange thoughts and ideas. Author and lecturer Carroll R. Gibbs, illuminating the rich contributions of African Americans to our society and its culture through his lectures, exhibits and films, will serve as the keynote speaker. Experienced historical and genealogists will provide lectures geared for the beginning researcher and for the hobbyist. Representatives from the National Archives and Records Administration, the Maryland State Archives, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and AAHGS' members will conduct the workshops and participate in a panel

discussion. The workshops will focus on resources, research methods and historical events.

For additional information, visit the website: <http://www.aahgs.org>, or contact the planning committee co-chairs: Lyndra Marshall at 301-808-6240 or Nathania Miles at 301-322-9409.

## *Become 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 Prince George's County*. 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. In addition, as a member of the Society along with receiving **NEWS AND NOTES** six times a year you will receive invitations to attend society functions which are not open to the general public.

There are four levels of sponsorship: **Platinum** (\$1000 donation), **Gold** (\$500 donation), **Silver** (\$250 donation) and **Bronze** (\$100 donation). Your name, as a Sponsor of the Society, will be noted in each edition of **NEWS AND NOTES**.

If you have any questions, please call Elizabeth Dougherty at 301-680-3986.

## *Save the Date !*

The Prince George's History Consortium is sponsoring bus tours on July 21, 2007 to various historic sites around the county. Look for additional information of the **July-August edition of News and Notes**.

## **New Book Documents Local Debacle in War of 1812**

**By Charles Hendricks**

The story of the British seizure and burning of Washington, D.C., in the War of 1812 has been told many times, often very well. Anthony S. Pitch's *The Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814*, a book first released by the Naval Institute Press in 1998 and issued in a paperback edition in 2000, provides a detailed narrative of the campaign that involved these unfortunate events and ended with the valiant defense of Baltimore from a similar fate. That book received a favorable notice in this newsletter in 1999. Retired Lt. Col. Joseph Whitehorne's *The Battle for Baltimore, 1814*, a book published in 1997, gives a broader account of the many assaults made by British forces on Maryland and Virginia communities in the Chesapeake Bay region during the War of 1812. Carole L. Herrick's book *August 24, 1814: Washington in Flames* (Falls Church, Va., 2005) now offers us something new, a documentary history of the August 1814 raids on Washington, D.C., and Alexandria, Virginia, that provides substantial excerpts from contemporary sources to give a more intimate and personal flavor to these events.

A majority of the British route of march to Washington from the site of the troops' landing at Benedict on the Patuxent River in Charles County passed through Prince George's County, and a number of key military events of the campaign, including the critical battle of Bladensburg, were fought in Prince George's. The destruction of all but one of U.S. Commodore Joshua Barney's seventeen shallow-draft gunboats at their Patuxent River anchorage at Pig Point near Upper Marlboro on August 22, 1814, had been the apparent goal of the British fleet's ascent of that river, as these light American craft had been harassing the heavy British sailing vessels in the Chesapeake and lower Potomac for months. But the dispatch of a sizeable force of British soldiers and marines overland in pursuit of these gunboats placed this British force within manageable striking distance of the American capital.

It was in the pre-dawn hours of August 24, outside a shepherd's hut in which they had been sleeping on the grounds of the Melwood estate of the widow Mary Digges near Upper Marlboro, that Rear Adm. George Cockburn convinced Maj. Gen. Robert Ross, the British land force commander, to continue their attack to the capital, contrary to orders to pull back that they had just received by courier from the expeditionary force's commander, Vice Adm. Alexander Cochrane. By the end of that day they had defeated a hastily disposed American force at Bladensburg and set fire to the unfinished but finely decorated capitol building and other government structures in Washington.

Herrick's book prints two accounts of how that fateful decision to attack the capital was made, one written years later by the senior admiral's aide, who had delivered the orders to return directly to the fleet. The book documents as well many details of the march to Bladensburg and the one-sided battle there. It even discusses the earlier burning of the parliament building in York, Upper Canada, while that city was occupied by American forces, an event to which the British pointed as justification for their destruction of non-military targets in the American capital.

Herrick justly points to Secretary of War John Armstrong, who never believed the British would bother to attack the new national capital, as the man most responsible for the lack of adequate military preparations that made the debacle possible. She is more generous to the American battlefield commander at Bladensburg, Brig. Gen. William Winder, and to the indomitable Commodore Barney, whose cannon blew gaps in the British lines at this battle and whose sailors and marines mounted an hour-long counterattack. Even Barney's daring men, however, could not halt the dispersal of the American militiamen who had already begun streaming away from the dogged British regulars they faced, veteran soldiers visibly unwilling to slacken their attack.

As reasoned as is Herrick's presentation of the military developments, the true strength of her book lies in the accounts it presents of the impact of the attack on the U.S. government's leaders and on representative citizens of the capital area. The author provides a very detailed relation of the flight of James and Dolley Madison, separately, to a series of refuges in Fairfax County, Virginia, and in the president's case, on to Brookeville in Montgomery County, Maryland. Dolley appears truly fearless in making arrangements as the British advanced into the capital to save a portrait hanging in the White House of George Washington painted by Gilbert Stuart and an associate.

Among the characters whose response to the attack Herrick illumines is Dr. William Beanes of Upper Marlboro, who graciously hosted the invaders upon their arrival, expressing pride in his Scottish upbringing and opposition to the war when helpless among the invaders, only to arrest several straggling British soldiers a few days later. For this the British would return to the Prince George's County seat to arrest the doctor and would continue to hold him aboard their flagship, the *Tonnant*, even after one of Beanes's neighbors had arranged the soldiers' release. Only after Georgetown lawyer Francis Scott Key came aboard the *Tonnant* with testimony from wounded British soldiers left behind at Bladensburg praising the care they had received from the Americans did General Ross agree to release Beanes. By then the attack on Fort McHenry was ready to begin, so Key and Beanes were obliged to wait aboard another British ship in Baltimore harbor. Key used the occasion to write his paean to the American flag and nation, the Star Spangled Banner.

There is much more in this 250-page book to interest the Prince Georgian about a brief campaign in which his county and region were the focus of events that tested the nation. The reader will enjoy witnessing these events through the eyes and words of contemporary observers but, I fear, will frequently find Herrick's commentary less rewarding. Those unfamiliar with the basic outline of the campaign will find that Patch and Whitehorne better introduce many of the leading actors and more clearly describe the train of events. I suspect that only those who have read one of the earlier narrative and wish to learn more about the human side of this campaign will be truly satisfied by Herrick's book, which is available at a list price of \$28.95. Patch's and Whitehorne's books are also still in print.



# Calendar of Events

## May-June 2007



**May 1-December 15** – The Road to Freedom: An Exhibition at Surratt House Museum traces the history of the struggle for freedom by enslaved people over a 200 year period, free with museum admission, open during regular tour hours

**May 5** – Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Tea and the Arts at Montpelier Mansion; 10 AM-4 PM; stroll among vendors, listen to live music, activities for children, lectures, food available, tours of the Mansion; free

**May 5** – Children's Day featuring early 19<sup>th</sup> century amusements at Riversdale House Museum; 1 PM; refreshments and children's delights available; \$1/child, \$3/adult, children must be accompanied by adults

**May 6** – Bark Basket Class by local artisan Byron Williams presented by the Accokeek Foundation, 12-4:30 PM, \$40 and registration is required, to register contact Annmarie Buckley at 301-283-2113, ext. 28 or email [education@accokeek.org](mailto:education@accokeek.org)

**May 6** – Civil War Artillery Demonstrations at Fort Washington Park, 1 PM, 2 PM and 3 PM. Volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; \$5 per car

**May 12** – Children's Day at National Colonial Farm; 12-4 PM; participate in 18<sup>th</sup> c. games, hands-on activities, make and take treasures and more; rain or shine; admission \$2, members are free

**May 16** – History Lecture Series at Montpelier Mansion; 7:30 PM; Cathy Pringle of the Rush Light Club and London Town Public House will speak on early lighting in America; free and no reservations needed, for more information call 301-953-1376

**May 19** – Colonial Foodways Schedule by Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park; demonstrations of colonial foods, preparation and cooking tools, representative of "middling" sort tobacco growing families. Costumed interpreters will talk about cookies, tarts and things sweet; rain or shine; adults \$2, children \$0.50; for more information call 301-283-2113

**May 19** – The Rules of Play: A Colonial Gaming Night at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 7-9:30 PM, tickets are \$45 per person includes admission and hors d'oeuvres and drinks, reservations required by calling 301-952-8010

**May 19** – Rachel Carson Celebrations at the National Wildlife Visitor Center; 10 AM-12 PM; experience the sense of wonder of wildlife ceremony, live animals and activities; for more information call 301-497-5887 or visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

**May 19 & 20** – Annual Spring Open House with free tours at Surratt House, 12-4 PM

**May 20** – Robert Ware Straus Lecture Series, "A Riverkeeper's Patuxent Journey" at National Colonial Farm Educational Building; Riverkeeper Fred Tutman will share pictures and personal reflections about his 25 years of activism and engagement with the people, problems and issues of Maryland's longest intrastate waterway; 3 PM coffee and pastries, 4 PM speaker; free

**May 20** – Annual Bowie Heritage Day at Belair Stable Museum; 12-4 PM; pony rides, music and fun highlight Bowie and Prince George's County History; free

**May 24** – Rachel Carson Play at National Wildlife Visitor Center featuring Kaiulani Lee and sponsored by the Newton Marasco Foundation and the Maryland Women's Heritage by calling 301-497-5887.

**June 3** – Civil War Artillery Demonstrations at Fort Washington Park, 1 PM, 2 PM and 3 PM. Volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; \$5 per car

**June 3** – Riversdale Park Historic Home & Garden Tour, 1 PM; starts at MARC Train Station, Riversdale Park; last Riversdale House Museum tour is at 4 PM; \$10 in advance, \$12 on June 3

**June 4** – "So What's This Stuff...And What's It Mean?" at Belair Mansion; 10 AM-3 PM; workshop by Dr. Jean Russo about reading and interpreting 18<sup>th</sup> century probate inventories; \$20/person, advanced payment required and reservations can be made by calling 301-809-3089; bring brown bag lunch, morning snack and beverages provided

**June 9** – Rosalie's Pantry at Riversdale House Museum; 10 AM; spend the day doing hands-on activities that replicate Rosalie's c.1810 pantry, including make and take crafts; \$10, advanced registration suggested by calling 301-864-0420

**June 10** – Wild Vine Basket Class by local artisan Byron Williams presented by the Accokeek Foundation, 10-4 PM, \$40 and registration is required, to register contact Annmarie Buckley at 301-283-2113, ext. 28 or email [education@accokeek.org](mailto:education@accokeek.org)

**June 16** – Colonial Foodways Schedule by Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park; demonstrations of colonial foods, preparation and cooking tools, representative of "middling" sort tobacco growing families. Costumed interpreters will demonstrate open hearth cooking; rain or shine; adults \$2, children \$0.50; for more information call 301-283-2113

**June 19-21** – Children's Workshop: Native American Life at National Colonial Farm; 9 AM-3 PM; ages 8-12; children will learn about Native American life through storytelling, forest walks, foodways and crafts and will greet the crew of John Smith's Shallop; \$150/child, to register contact Annmarie Buckley at 301-283-2113, ext. 28

**June 21** – Captain John Smith Voyage at National Colonial Farm Visitor Center; 10 AM-5 PM; a crew of modern explorers will board an open-boat, or shallop, at First Landing State Park and embark on a 121-day adventure retracing Captain John Smith's 1608 expedition; rain or shine; \$2/adult, \$0.50/children ages 4-11, member free

**June 24** – Robert Ware Straus Lecture Series, "Over This Earth: Native History at Accokeek Reconsidered" at National Colonial Farm Educational Building; Dr. Gabrielle Tayac, Ph.D., will engage in an overview of Piscataway post-contact history that explores the question: What happened to us?; 2 PM coffee and pastries, 3 PM speaker; free

**June 24** – Senior Sunday at Surratt House Museum. Did you just graduate from high school or college or are you a card-carrying senior citizen? Bring proof of either status and receive a free tour; 12-4 PM

**June 27** – Jazz on the Portico at Riversdale House Museum; 7 PM; bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy the free summer concert; made possible with support from the Maryland State Arts Council

**Save the date!** The Prince George's History Consortium is sponsoring bus tours on July 21, 2007 to various historic sites around the county. Information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.



# 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.

\*Shipping & handling for books numbered 1, 2, & 3 is \$3.00 for each copy of the book because of size & weight, therefore they are shipped separately. Shipping & handling for all other books is \$2.50 for the first book & 50 cents for each additional book. Shipping & handling for international orders, please call the Historical Society at 301-464-0590 or email (pgchslibrary@aol.com) for current postage rates.

Make checks or money orders 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.

Book Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Tax: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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# Prince George's County Historical Society

## Membership Application

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
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PHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (BUSINESS) \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

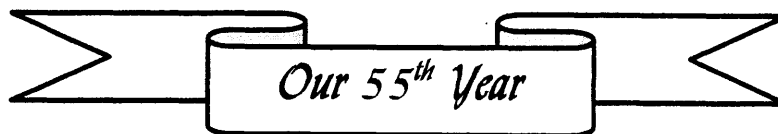
Membership Category (Please check one)

Sponsor: ☐ Platinum Level \$1000 ☐ Gold Level \$500 ☐ Silver Level \$250 ☐ Bronze Level \$100  
☐ Member/Family \$25 ☐ Sustaining Member \$50  
☐ Institutional Member \$50 ☐ Life Member \$500 ☐ 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 \$35 for individual or \$45 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

XXXVI Number 4

JULY-AUGUST 2007

## **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: Helen Smith  
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

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

8/12 — Picnic at Watkins Park  
9/16 — Prince of a County at  
William Early House  
Sept—Oct — Day trip to Smith  
Island  
11/5 — Annual Dinner Meeting at  
Mt. Airy in Upper  
Marlboro, MD  
12/8 — Annual Holiday Party at  
Marietta House

## *Fond Farewell*

The Prince George's Historical Society has lots of dedicated members, however certain individuals always seem to stand out ... and you, **Susan and Jim Wolfe**, have been pivotal in the society's growth. Through the years you have made Marietta one of the most prominent historic sites in Maryland. Additionally, your orchestration of Marietta's numerous events, the seasonal decorations of the house, all the set-ups and takedowns for every event during all types of weather, and of course your willingness to help whenever necessary has been invaluable to the Society.

Your involvement in the Historical Society and friendship has truly been one of the key inspirations for my dedication and continued involvement. Jim, I've always considered you my closest ally. You know how to keep things in perspective and light. I'm not sure who will be able to take your place as my confidant and sounding board. Fortunately, you and Susan won't be far away and I hope you won't mind my frequent calls and "updates" on the Society and future collaborations.

I will miss you both and wish you great adventure in your "new life!"

—John Petro

## *Bring the Family to a Picnic at Watkins Park*

The Historical Society is inviting its members and their families to join us for a picnic at Robert M. Watkins Regional Park on Sunday, August 12 from 12-4 PM at Picnic Area #11, which is near the playground. The Society will provide the drinks, paper products and utensils. We ask that you bring a main dish such as sandwiches or fried chicken for you and your family plus a side dish or dessert to share with the other picnic goers. Kids of all ages can spend the afternoon eating, taking rides on the train and carousel, playing miniature golf and visiting the animals at the Old Maryland Farm and Nature Center. The rides on the train and carousel are \$1.25 per person and a round of miniature golf is \$3.50 per person. There is no entrance fee for the Old Maryland Farm or Nature Center. If you want to feed the animals or take a hayride at the Old Maryland Farm there is a charge.

There is no cost for the picnic other than your side dish or dessert contribution. However, we do ask for you to RSVP to Donna Schneider at donna.schneider@juno.com or 301-952-8539 with your name and how many guests will be attending. If you have any questions or need directions, please contact Donna. Watkins Regional Park is located at 301 Watkins Park Drive (Route 193), Upper Marlboro, MD 20774. We hope to see you there!

## *Presidential Musings*

With the ceremonial opening of the \$2 billion National Harbor project last month, and the large housing development at Bowieville and Fairwood to name just two of many large county projects, one cannot help but to reflect on earlier developments in the Prince George's County history. Following the Civil War, an expanding national government bureaucracy created a growing Washington population which needed to have access to affordable housing in a healthy atmosphere. It was at this time that the county's "railroad suburbs" were born. Hyattsville, Glenn Dale, Seabrook, Riverdale Park, College Park, Berwyn, Lanham and Berwyn Heights were created by developers in the 1880s and 90s. By the end of the 1890s developers had other avenues on which to build — the streetcar lines. Mount Rainier, Brentwood, Seat Pleasant, Capitol Heights, Fairmont Heights, Glenarden and Ardmore are among the small towns developed during this time.

Highway construction and reliable automobiles gave a new group of developers the opportunity to start or greatly expand the settlements of Suitland, Oxon Hill and Forestville as well as expanding the developments which were begun in the previous 50 years. By the mid-1920s the growth of developments in the county leveled off until after WWII with the notable exception of Greenbelt in the mid-1930s. The post-war boom from Laurel to Fort Washington transformed the character of the county from rural to mostly suburban.

Large housing developments in the county have had an impact here for nearly 150 years. When thinking of the names of places previously mentioned, one thinks of "communities." A hundred years from now, will people see the new growth as community centers or has the concept of community become a thing of the past?

## *The Prince George's County Historical Society*

5626 Bell Station Road  
Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120  
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Secretary: Dusty Rhoads  
Treasurer: Donna Schneider  
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Newsletter contributors: John Petro, Jim Wolfe, Dusty Rhoads, Jane Dodd, Wallis Cain, Joyce Dowling, Lynn Roberts, Nathania Branch-Miles, Donna Schneider, and Judy Schneider.

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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 7 & August 4.** (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 edition 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!

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## *Society Sponsors and Donations*

The Prince George's County Historical Society would like to thank its 2007 Sponsors.

**Gold Level:** ezStorage Lanham, Petro Design/Build, Inc., Pineapple Alley Catering, Inc.

**Bronze Level:** Nicholas and Carolina Bahr, D.J. Cover Plastering Co., E.H.T. Tracerics, Elizabeth Funk, Edward and Evamaria Hawkins, Dan Louck, Mr. and Mrs. James McCeney, Douglass and Susan McElrath, Ken and Judy Schneider, Peter Shapiro, Andrew and Sondra Wallace.

## *Prince of a County Reception*

### *Early's Late Queen Anne*



On  
S u n d a y ,  
September 16  
from 2 to 5 PM,  
the Historical  
Society will be  
celebrating our  
annual *Prince  
of a County*  
event at the  
William W.

Early house in Brandywine, Maryland. The Early house was placed on the National Register due to its excellent example of Queen Anne Victorian style domestic architecture. The railroad manager, William W. Early, who was also the grandson of the man who named the town of Brandywine, built it in 1907, late for this style. Race & Joyce Dowling have some stories to tell about its restoration and history and will be dressed in costume for the tour as we celebrate the century anniversary of this house.

With its wrap-around porch, octagonal tower, bay windows, and gingerbread trim, this frame dwelling resembles several mail order plans of the 1890's Queen Anne style, though one has never been found to match it. The exterior has been painted in the colors of its era with body, trim and shutters of contrasting hues. It sits in downtown Brandywine surrounded by trees so that in spite of its grand structure, it can barely be seen from Brandywine Rd., the main thoroughfare. The property includes the original well house, the base of the former windmill that provided running water in the kitchen, and a small pond that was restored by Mr. Dowling.

Two of the original three entrances from the veranda remain. One was for business and entered into the office of William W. Early. This room still has the original fireplace with coal insert intact. The exterior door to this room was removed after William Early retired as railroad manager in 1917. The two other veranda entrances remain and were designated separately for family and guests.

Entering through the guest entrance, which is now considered the front door, there's a small foyer with double doors that lead into the great hall. There is a large inglenook with a fireplace leading to the wide winding staircase. The woodwork had been painted, but the Dowlings have restored it to its original wood surface, using finishing techniques from the period that highlight its beauty.

William H. Early, grandfather to William W., was a businessman and merchant who at one point owned over 1000 acres of land that he had intended to become Brandywine City. A facsimile of an 1878 map of the area including the plan for the city hangs on the wall of the former parlor. William W. Early's father, James, inherited land from his father, which is where William W. was raised. William W. was a conductor on the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and when promoted to the general manager of the Southern Maryland Railroad, later called the Pope's Creek Railroad, was held in high esteem. That's when he built this house on the property of his childhood home, across the street from his uncle's house that faces the railroad tracks.

A second cousin to William W. Early's son, Margaret Bean Blandford, who was born in the upstairs apartment of the general store, which is now an antique store around the corner on Brandywine Rd., lives across the street in the house her parents build in 1914 when she was 2. She has shared photos of the family and genealogy. John Early of Clinton donated a 19th century photograph of the first train at Pope's Creek after the purchase by Philadelphia, Wilmington, & Baltimore Railroad from Baltimore & Potomac in ~1895 to the house where it once hung.

The Dowlings were interviewed for the House and Garden Network's previous "Old Homes Restored" program during the restoration of this house. The four-minute video, which you can view during the tour, shows the demolition of the interior walls and ceilings to restore it after extensive water damage. If you're a current or prospective old-house owner, you may be interested in their story that led up to this demolition. The reconstruction was based on what they found beneath those walls to take it back to the original appearance as much as possible, including plaster walls and window frames milled to match the original. All of the window glass remains original. The pocket doors are also still intact and working. Additionally, the video shows the old gas pipes that lit chandeliers in the ceilings throughout the first level, which had been removed by a prior owner. The kitchen restoration, which took place later, was designed to fit the era while still allowing them to use it in the modern context.

The tour will take you upstairs to see the four bedrooms, which have mantles with heatilators restored. The upstairs includes former servant quarters and a balcony that was added in the 1940's. The attic, which is the size of a small apartment, may also be seen.

Your invitation and other information will be sent to you in mid to late August.

## *Thank You For A Successful Tour!*

It is with great appreciation that the Prince George's County Historical Society thanks the owners of the houses and sites that were on tour in Prince George's County, on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, for the Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage: Elizabeth and Paul Dougherty, Kathleen Litchfield and John Petro, Helen and Joe Milby, Lynn and Eugene Roberts, Sondra and Andy Wallace, Jack Thompson, the parishioners of Saint Thomas Church, Montgomery Land Development, and the Department of Natural Resources/M-NCPPC.



The Prince George's County Tour was reported by many to be a highlight of this year's annual spring event in Maryland. Featured houses and sites included a wonderful range of architecture, history, flowers, gardens and even music! Visitors were able to turn back the clock by touring some of the County's earliest houses and sites as well as, if even for a very short time, to travel on one of its original highways, the Patuxent River. Those persons taking the tour were also treated to a feast of color and the delicious scents of roses, peonies, lilies and many other flowers in the magnificent flower arrangements throughout the homes. Music and some refreshments were even provided at many houses as many friends of homeowners served cookies or brownies while others even played musical instruments. A string quartet, composed of four music students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School, played works by Mozart, Bach and Haydn, in the morning hours at *Bowieville*.

It was indeed an honor for us to be able to have some of the loveliest homes in the County on tour to help us not only to highlight Prince George's County but also to raise funds for the *Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History*. Benches were also purchased for the public to use at *Mount Calvert* and to commemorate the 2007 Tour. We would also like to thank the archaeological staff and the naturalists at *Mount Calvert* who gave wonderful tours and added another whole dimension to the day. In addition we thank all of the Society volunteers, especially Jim Wolfe, the Roadmarking Chairman, our wonderful docents, members of the Forest Garden Club and other gardening groups and the friends and family members of the home-

owners and the society who gave us the larger part of their day(s).

—Co-Chairmen: Wallis Hall Cain, Lynn Springer Roberts and Donna Schneider

## *Time To Say Goodbye*

As the old saying goes, "All good things must come to an end." It is with mixed feelings that the Society will say goodbye to **Jim and Susan Wolfe**. We are sad they are leaving, but we will try to be consoled and hope that they will enjoy their retirement in Smyrna, DE.

Among the many unique and delightful events they have been holding at Marietta are: Alice in Wonderland Tea, First Ladies Tea, Marching Through Time, Roman Days, Sunday Afternoon Musicales, Teacher Education Courses, Summer Camps, WWI and WWII Encampments, Campfires and Ghost Stories, and Candlelight Tours. They have been instrumental in putting Marietta on the top of the List of Places to Visit in Maryland. In addition, Jim and Susan have brought prominence to the career and life of Justice Gabriel Duvall and his family. Susan, in particular, has been persistent in her efforts to get additional funding from M-NCPPC, the State Legislature, the Duvall Society, and all bodies living or dead who could promote Marietta. Their loving care and attention to authenticity have made the property and buildings an attraction of the first order.

Jim and Susan's partnering with the Prince George's County Historical Society had led to many accomplishments that otherwise would have fallen by the wayside. Jim has served as vice president of the Society for several years along with his other duties of tent and chair procurer, van driver, program developer, library volunteer, and committee member. Jim should be particularly congratulated for his artistic efforts as a painter, flower arranger, and Christmas decorator.

Our loss is certainly Smyrna's gain and you will be dearly missed, but you are also wished all the very best that life has to offer in the future.

—Dusty Rhoads and Jane Dodd  
P.S. Map directions and overnight accommodation schedules will be available in the library.

## *Used Books For Sale*

On an ongoing basis the staff of the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History sort through and organize the books and periodicals that have been contributed to the library. Duplicate publications and those not related to the library's mission are available for sale, with most books being \$1 or \$2. Stop by the library any Saturday from 12-4 PM and browse through our collection to see what treasures you can find to add to your library.



## *Juneteenth Update*

On Saturday, June 16, 2007, more than 70 adults and children joined the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, the Prince George's County Maryland Chapter (AAHGS-PGCM), the Prince George's County Historical Society, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — Suitland Ward at the Second Annual Juneteenth Celebration of "Footprints and Roots." The Honorable Senator C. Anthony Muse of the 26th Legislative District provided a Proclamation in observance of Juneteenth as well as a gift from the Senator and Pat Lawson Muse.

The opening session began with keynote speaker Carroll R. Gibbs who set the tone for the day's activities with a stirring lecture and slide presentation of the history surrounding the events of June 19, 1865 in Texas, now commonly known as Juneteenth. Mr. Gibbs, an author, lecturer, and historian, spoke about what freedom meant to the former slaves. He revealed the actual length of time it took the great state of Texas to acknowledge the fact that the enslaved individuals had been freed and the insidious tactics used to limit the freedom and movement of the newly freed slaves who continued to live there. Mr. Gibbs' speech motivated the attendees to want to learn more about the meaning of Juneteenth and to eagerly get started with the planned agenda.

The celebration included 12 workshops which included genealogy, history, photography, computers, slavery, research depositories, archeology, historical resources, Rosenwald Schools, using a Family History Center, and military records. The sessions were designed for the beginner, intermediate, and advanced historians and genealogists. The most popular workshop, "Slavery in Maryland," conducted by John Gartrell and Ryan Cox, researchers from the Maryland State Archives, mesmerized the audience with a slide presentation showing the type and range of documents from the slavery era

available at the state archives. Donna Wells, Prints and Photographs Librarian, from the Howard University Moorland Springarn Research Center informed the audience about the care and dating of old photographs. Several members of the AAHGS' James Dent Walker and Prince George's County Chapters led workshops on the Rosenwald Schools, genealogy and computers, interview techniques, introduction to genealogy, and research depositories.

Patsy Fletcher, a community development consultant and an independent historian, shared her research on the "Underground Railroad in Prince George's County," provided additional resources on military research, and Donald Creveling and his assistant from the M-NCPPC of Prince George's County lectured on the archaeological findings on old plantations in Prince George's County. Bianca Foyd, Museum Director at Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness highlighted the workings of an old plantation in Clinton, MD. Penny Seacord, and employee of the Daughters of American Revolution Genealogy Library, gave a wonderful demonstration on "Using a Family History Center."

Julia Porter, an AAHGS-PGCM member, led a special children's session, designed to introduce them to the world of genealogy and history through games, puzzles, and the creation of a paper quilt. An exhibit of the chapter members' family histories, books, and reunion paraphernalia was on display for the attendees to examine.

In addition to the workshops, small gifts, magazines, refreshments, and other materials were provided for the participants. The attendees enjoyed the day's events and thought the workshops were informative and helpful, and felt well equipped to start researching their family histories.

— Nathania Branch-Miles

# Calendar of Events

## July-August 2007



**July 1-December 15** – *The Road to Freedom: An Exhibition* at Surratt House Museum traces the history of the struggle for freedom by enslaved people over a 200 year period, free with museum admission, open during regular tour hours

**July 1** – *Civil War Artillery Demonstrations* at Fort Washington Park, 1 PM, 2 PM and 3 PM. Volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; \$5 per car

**July 7** – *Hands-On History Day for Kids* at Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM to Noon. Ages 3 and up learn what it was like to be a Patriot in the Revolutionary War army; fee and reservations recommended by calling 301-953-1376

**July 8** – *Family Summer Fun* at Marietta House Museum, 2-5 PM. Fun for all ages featuring 19<sup>th</sup> century hands-on activities, crafts and homemade ice cream; \$3/person, reservations required by calling 301-464-5291

**July 10-12** – *Children's Workshop: Colonial Child* at National Colonial Farm, 9 AM-3 PM. Children ages 8 to 12 experience the daily routines of an 18<sup>th</sup> century child including crafts and nature hikes; \$150/child; register by calling 301-283-2113

**July 17** – *Seniors Aviation Adventure Day* at College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM. Ages 60 and up are invited to create paper airplanes and compete to see whose design is the best; supplies provided with regular museum fee

**July 21** – *History Weekend at Home Bus Tour sponsored by the Prince George's County History Consortium*, 9 AM; \$35/person; see article for details or for more info call 301-464-5291

**July 22** – *History Weekend at Home* at Marietta House Museum, 1-4 PM. An afternoon of 19<sup>th</sup> century games and hands-on activities; free admission

**July 21** – *Colonial Cooking* at National Colonial Farm, 12 PM, rain or shine. Interpreters demonstrate preparation of foods representative of "middling" sort tobacco growing families; \$2/adult, \$0.50/child; no reservation needed

**July 22** – *Robert Ware Straus Lecture Series. "Views and Visions"* at National Colonial Farm Educational Building; Dr. Denise Meringolo talks about the unique views that inspired the preservation of the Accokeek Foundation's landscape; 2 PM coffee and pastries, 3 PM speaker; free

**July 25** – *Jazz on the Portico* at Riversdale House Museum featuring jazz guitarist Dani Cortaza and band, 7-8 PM; inside if raining; free, bring lawn chair or blanket

**July 29** – *Chaplain Henry Vinton Plummer's 163<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration* at Riversdale House Museum, 12-4 PM; free

**August 4** – *African American Heritage Day* at National Colonial Farm, 12-6 PM, rain or shine; showcase of African-American culture and history; \$3/person, no reservations required; for more information call 301-283-2113

**August 5** – *Civil War Artillery Demonstrations* at Fort Washington Park, 1 PM, 2 PM and 3 PM. Volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; \$5 per car

**August 5** – *Family Summer Fun* at Marietta House Museum, 2-5 PM. Fun for all ages featuring 19<sup>th</sup> century hands-on activities, crafts and homemade ice cream; \$3/person, reservations required by calling 301-464-5291

**August 11** – *The War of 1812: The British Invasion of Prince George's County*, Darnall's Chance House Museum; Dr. Ralph Eshelman will accompany a bus tour with stops along the invasion route; all day; fee and reservations are required, call 301-952-8010 for details

**August 11** – *12<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of Bladensburg Encampment* at Riversdale House Museum, 12-4 PM; free admission to grounds, fee for house tour

**August 12** – *Prince George's County Historical Society Picnic at Robert M. Watkins Regional Park*, 12-4 PM; see article for details or call 301-952-8539

**August 12** – *Air Mail Day* at College Park Aviation Museum, 12-4 PM; celebrate the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first U.S. Postal Air Mail Flight; regular museum admission

**August 18** – *Colonial Cooking* at National Colonial Farm, 12 PM, rain or shine. Interpreters demonstrate preparation of foods representative of "middling" sort tobacco growing families; \$2/adult, \$0.50/child; no reservation needed

**August 21** – *Seniors Aviation Adventure Day* at College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM. Ages 60 and up are invited to learn about the evolution of air mail; regular museum fee

**August 22** – *Jazz on the Portico* at Riversdale House Museum featuring vocalist Sandra Johnson; 7-8 PM; inside if raining; free, bring lawn chair or blanket

## History Days at Home

On Saturday, July 21, 2007, the Prince George's County History Consortium is sponsoring its History Days at Home tours. The Consortium is offering these tours to highlight Prince George's County's incredible historic legacy and diversity. For \$35 per person, each tour has transportation provided by The Bus of Prince George's County, commentary by a local historian, payment of admission fees and delicious box lunches. The tours are:

### The Other Half: Prince George's Women in History

- Patuxent Wildlife / Rachel Carson
- Belva Lockwood Declaration Site
- Grigsby Station / Belva Lockwood
- Darnall's Chance / Lettice Lee
- Marietta House Museum / Women who lived and worked at Marietta
- College Park Aviation Museum / Early Aviatrices

### Commerce & Technology: From Arrowheads to Aerospace

- College Park Aviation Museum
- Hot Air Balloon Field
- Bostwick / Port Town Bladensburg
- Radio & TV Museum
- Bowie Railroad Museum
- Goddard / NASA Visitor Center

### A Town Built on the Edge: Laurel Town Tour

- Laurel Museum / Cotton Mill
- St. Mary of Mills Church
- St. Philip's Episcopal Church
- Ivy Hill Cemetery
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- Laurel Railroad Station

So escape the hustle and bustle of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and register for one of these tours no later than July 13, 2007. Send your name, address, phone, email address, name of tour and check payable to PGCHC or money order to: PGCHC, PO Box 856, Riverdale, MD 20738-0856. Please indicate whether a vegetarian lunch is needed. Tour itineraries will be mailed upon receipt of registration. For more information please call 301-464-5291. Look for more tours in 2008.



# 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.

\*Shipping & handling for books numbered 1, 2, & 3 is \$3.00 for each copy of the book because of size & weight, therefore they are shipped separately. Shipping & handling for all other books is \$2.50 for the first book & 50 cents for each additional book. Shipping & handling for international orders, please call the Historical Society at 301-464-0590 or email (pgchslibrary@aol.com) for current postage rates.

Make checks or money orders 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.

Book Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & Handling: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Prince George's County Historical Society

## Membership Application

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

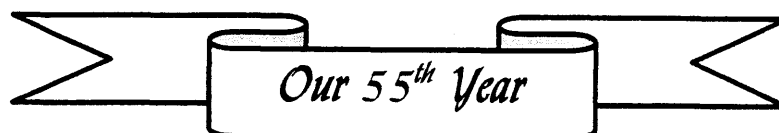
**Membership Category (Please check one)**

Sponsor: ☐ Platinum Level \$1000 ☐ Gold Level \$500 ☐ Silver Level \$250 ☐ Bronze Level \$100  
☐ Member/Family \$25 ☐ Sustaining Member \$50  
☐ Institutional Member \$50 ☐ Life Member \$500 ☐ 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 \$35 for individual or \$45 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.

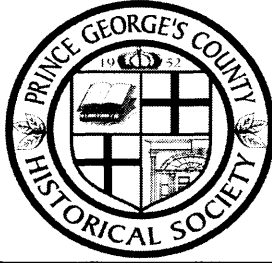


Prince George's County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 14  
Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

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TO:



# News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXVI Number 5

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007

## **MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM**

*Home of the Prince George's  
County Historical Society*

Facility Manager: Susan Reidy

5626 Bell Station Road

Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120

(Off Route 193, near Route 450)

301-464-5291

TTY 301-699-2544

*A facility of the Maryland-National  
Capital Park and Planning Commis-  
sion*

## **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: Susan Reidy

301-464-5291

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

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

9/16 — Prince of a County at  
William Early House

9/29 — Day trip to Smith Island

## **Prince of a County to be held at William W. Early House**

This year's *Prince of a County* reception will be held on September 16, at the William W. Early House in Brandywine. We will be celebrating the centennial of the construction of this beautiful house, and hope to see all of you there! If you have not received your invitation, or if you need some extras, please call Donna Schneider at 301-952-8539.



The *Early House*, built in 1907, is a two and one-half story, hip-and-gable-roof frame dwelling of Queen Anne style. It is distinguished by asymmetrical gables, projecting bays, an octagonal corner tower and wraparound porch, all decorated with fine jigsawn and shingle detail. It was built for William W. Early, manager of the Southern Railroad, and prominent in the railroad village of Brandywine. Featuring many exuberant Queen Anne style decorative elements, both exterior and interior, the *Early House* is one of the best example of its type in Prince George's County.

The annual *Prince of a County Reception* is a fundraising effort designed to support the Society's goals while showcasing a private historic residence.

The present owners of the *Early House*, Joyce and Race Dowling, have many stories to tell and videos to show of their recent restoration work. The Historical Society wishes to thank them for graciously opening their home to members and friends of the Society, and for sharing with us the centennial celebration of their beautiful house.

## Presidential Musings

As many of you know, we have been searching for a new headquarters for our Historical Society. Our hopes for such a location included:

- ♦ A 'new' and larger space to house the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of Prince George's County History, currently located on the lower level of Marietta.
- ♦ An attractive country setting large enough for social events and gatherings.
- ♦ A location in a somewhat dense population in order to gain more exposure for volunteers, members and guests.
- ♦ Selection of an historic site in order to set an example for adaptive use.

After years of evaluating many properties, the board has decided to relocate the Frederick S. DeMarr Library in the Greenbelt Branch of the Prince George's County Memorial Library system. There are many advantages to our decision:

- ♦ The new space is close to twice the size of our current library
- ♦ It has Convenient and free parking
- ♦ Heating and air conditioning system is conducive to the housing of an historic collection of books and papers.
- ♦ The facility is more secure and safe against water and fire damage.
- ♦ The facility is maintained by Prince George's County (snow and ice removal)
- ♦ This relocation allows the opportunity to build a professionally designed space including new shelves, files and cabinets.

So, for now, our headquarters will remain at Marietta; a space that we are all very fond of and familiar with, and that has served us well for many years. There will be expanded reception and meeting spaces in the near future. In the near future you will see some new renovations undertaken at Marietta, resulting in enlarged and improved reception and meeting spaces.

Plans are in the works for a fundraising campaign in order to help finance for the relocation of our Frederick S. DeMarr Library.

## 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: Lynn Roberts

Secretary: Dusty Rhoads

Treasurer: Donna Schneider

Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Membership: Donna Schneider

Newsletter: Vicki Styles

Directors: Wallis Cain, Elizabeth Dougherty, Joyce Dowling, Charles Hendricks, Jane Dodd, Dan Louck, Nathania Branch-Miles, William Uber, Andrew Wallace, Elizabeth Lingg, Jack Thompson Jr., Laurence Winston

Newsletter Contributors: John Petro, Dusty Rhoads, Jane Dodd, Lynn Roberts, Susan Pearl and Donna Schneider, Charles Hendricks

Printer: Train Printing 301-864-5552

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 8th and October 6th.** (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 November-December edition 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!

### Society Sponsors and Donations

The Prince George's County Historical Society would like to thank its 2007 Sponsors.

**Gold Level:** ezStorage Lanham, Petro Design/Build, Inc., Pineapple Alley Catering, Inc.

**Bronze Level:** Nicholas and Carolina Bahr, D.J. Cover Plastering Co., E.H.T. Traceries, Elizabeth Funk, Edward and Evamaria Hawkins, Dan Louck, Mr. and Mrs. James McCeney, Douglas and Susan McElrath, Ken and Judy Schneider, Peter Shapiro, Andrew and Sondra Wallace.

# News from the Maryland Historical Society

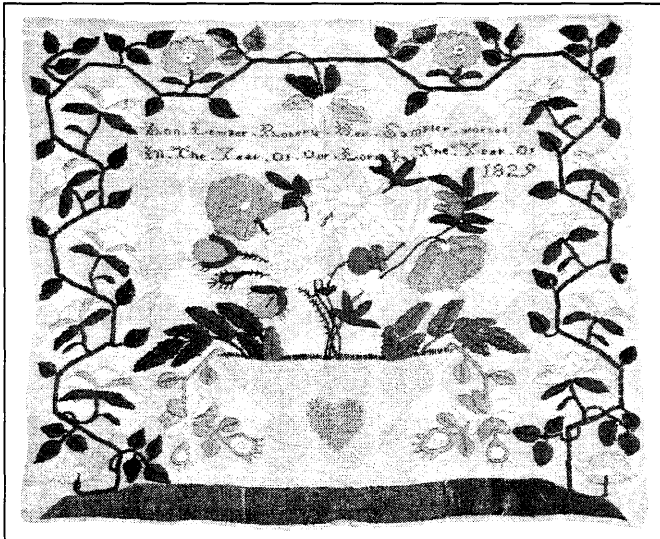
By Lynn Roberts

## Fiscal and Board News

At the 2007 annual meeting in June, the Maryland Historical Society Board announced that the deficit under which the organization had been operating in recent years has been brought under control through careful fiscal management. Under the budget proposed for the current fiscal year, the society will be operating in the black. Henry Hodges Stansbury, selected as the new Chairman of the Board, replaces Barbara Katz; Alex G. Fisher will serve as the new Board President. It was noted that a major gift of \$300,000 from Henry and Judy Stansbury has enabled this year's budget to be balanced.

## Special Exhibitions

"At Freedom's Door: Challenging Slavery in Maryland" continues in two sections at the Maryland Historical Society campus (201 West Monument Street, Baltimore) and at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture (830 East Pratt Street, Baltimore). The exhibit will remain at these venues until October 28, 2007. This extensive two-part collaboration between the staffs of the MdHS and the Lewis Museum and students and teachers at Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) explores both historical and contemporary work, including an unforgettable narrative Baltimore album-style quilt produced for the exhibition by artist Joan Gaither.



"Maryland Schoolgirl Samplers and Embroideries, 1738-1860," will remain on view through November 15, 2007, at the Maryland Historical Society. The book, *A Maryland Sampling: Girlhood Embroidery, 1738-1860*, by Dr. Gloria Seaman Allen, guest curator of the exhibition, serves as a catalogue of this exhibit. Prince Georgians will enjoy the section devoted to their county. This is a remarkable gathering of over 100 Maryland samplers

that allow glimpses into the world of girls, both black and white.

## Ongoing Exhibitions

If you have not yet visited the new Carey Center with its three floors of gallery space devoted to revealing Maryland's rich and diverse history through its archives and artifacts, it is time to make a visit. Having invested 162 years in collecting paintings, sculpture, miniatures, furniture, silver and other metals, glass, ceramics, and textiles, the MdHS has the sheer breadth of collections of remarkable quality that enables it to tell Maryland's story so effectively. On the ground floor, "Looking for Liberty" is not to be missed! If you haven't seen it, Francis Scott Key's original manuscript for "The Star Spangled Banner" is riveting. And the story of how and why it was written has EVERYTHING to do with Prince George's County!

On the second floor, one can come face to face with Marylanders as well as places and activities from the historic past in "Maryland Through the Artist's Eye".

"Furniture in Maryland Life" on the third floor, presents a selection of three centuries of Maryland furniture and allows the visitor to see why Maryland artisans and craftsmen produced some of this nation's most significant furniture. There is even a nineteenth century cabinet made for a family in southern Prince George's County. See if you can find it!

## H. Furlong Baldwin Library

One of the great historical libraries in the country, the Baldwin Library provides an astonishing resource that is available to members and the public, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Its rich trove of 7 million items includes manuscripts, extensive genealogical resources, early Maryland newspapers and archives, and a fine collection of books. The library serves a growing audience of genealogical researchers. An allied organization, the Maryland Genealogical Society, operates alongside the MdHS.

## Visit the MdHS Web Site

Let the Web site of the Maryland Historical Society, <http://www.mdhs.org>, be your introduction to the riches within. There is an on-line library catalogue, so you may delve into your interest area. A selection of the schoolgirl samplers with tales of their stories will tempt you to visit. Times, events, other exhibitions, membership terms—all of these and more await you on the Web site. But a Web site is a tool. There is no substitute for the real thing—works of art and artifacts that played a part in the unfurling of Maryland's and her citizens' stories. These are a true embarrassment of riches. Baltimore is nearby and easy to reach—only 37.5 miles separates Upper Marlboro from Monument Street. There is now a spacious and safe parking lot in the center of the MdHS campus. Do visit.

# Smooth Sailing to Smith Island

Reserve the date of September 29th for your cruise to *Smith Island*. A delightful cruise has been scheduled leaving Point Lookout at 10:00 o'clock. We have ordered fair weather and fine fellowship! You will have a typical Eastern Shore lunch at the Bayside Inn and then you will have time to explore the quaint island community. Walk around or rent a bike or golf cart and see how tranquil life can be.

There is a wildlife refuge, a museum and a gift shop for browsing. Bring your camera! This is a wonderful trip for the whole family. Bring the grandkids!

We will carpool to Point Lookout and go aboard at 10:30 AM and return to Point Lookout about 3:30 PM. The price for adults is \$50.00 and children under 11 are \$25.00. Reservations can be made by calling 301-249-6409. Please make your reservations early because we need a minimum of 30 to hold our reservation.

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## ***Some Things to Ponder IF You Lived on Smith Island***

Suppose a family member became ill.

How would you get gas in your car?

How would you get your car inspected?

What church would you attend?

How big are the schools?

How convenient is the nearest convenience store?

Does Pizza Hut deliver?

Should you belong to Costco?

What are your resources for last minute science projects?

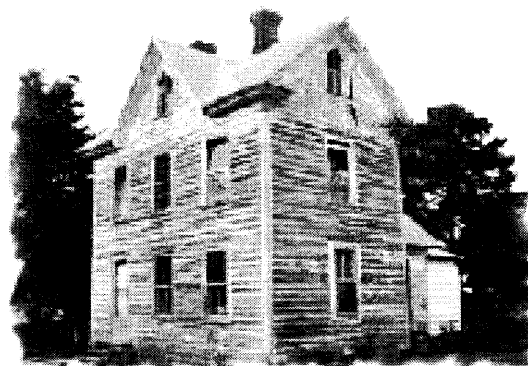
What employment opportunities are there?

Formulate your own questions and let's see how they are answered!

## **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 four levels of sponsorship: Platinum (\$1,000 donation), Gold (\$500 donation), Silver (\$250 donation), and Bronze (\$100 donation). If you have any questions, please call Elizabeth Dougherty at 301-680-3976.



*An original "Old House" on Smith Island*

**The Prince George's County Historical Society wishes to send our sincere thanks to Judy Schneider who, as Editor of News and Notes, published two years of very handsome newsletters for the Historical Society. Judy has retired as Editor, and we wish her the best.**

**Thanks again, Judy!**



## FROM THE LIBRARY

We've had lots of activity at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of Prince George's County History in recent months. There is always the occasional Saturday afternoon when we have no visiting researchers, but lately we have had standing-room-only Saturdays, as well as several other specially arranged weekdays – when our library staff of four is kept very busy assisting people who are doing research on a wonderful variety of topics. Here are a few of them!

There will soon be two new books on Prince George's County towns. Members of the Hyattsville Preservation Association have begun preparing a book on historic Hyattsville, to be published through Arcadia Press. Andra Damron and Miriam Howe have been coming every week to search for anything about Hyattsville in the library's photo archives, and in the process have been a great help to us in sorting out and filing our large collection of historic photographs. George Denny has also been searching our archives for photos for his planned book on the town of Brentwood, and has provided much appreciated volunteer assistance in the library.

We have been working with a student intern from the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture; he is researching background information about the journal of Adam Francis Plummer, now among the holdings of the museum. We've also been working with Ralph Eshelman who is preparing a book on significant sites of the War of 1812. Our photo archives, we are happy to say, include some photos pertinent to the Battle of Bladensburg that he had not been able to find anywhere else, and we are happy to be able to help with some of the documentary history of properties in Bladensburg.

We've also had a visitor interested in *Green Hill*, now the Pallottine Seminary at Green Hill, in West Hyattsville. We were able to provide her with lots of information about the mansion, and the (former) chapel, as well as the charming little overseer's house, and we look forward to hearing, through her, from individuals who once lived in the overseer's house (built 1923).

One of the most interesting and challenging inquiries that has come to the library is from a writer who is working on a biography of Francis Scott Key. She is particularly interested in Key's connections with the West family of *The Woodyard*, here in Prince George's County. We have been searching our plentiful supply of information about the Wests and *The Woodyard*, and both sides have learned a great deal, but we haven't solved any of the mysteries yet – which of course makes the quest that much more interesting.

Our assistance was requested from the University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore, as part of their study of the early career of Thurgood Marshall. We were able to provide them with information on Judge Alan Bowie, of the Brandywine line of this prominent Prince George's County family – State's Attorney and trial magistrate, and son of the Robert Bowie who surveyed and laid out the design (never realized) for the village of Brandywine.

And we have another new volunteer, who in his first three weeks has been a great help in organizing our obituary files. Lee McKnight has just moved with his wife into the Collington Life Care Community. Having worked in libraries and Historical Societies in New Jersey, he volunteered at our library before he even got unpacked. We welcome his interest and assistance!

During the last month a brand new computer system has been installed in the library, and it is helping a great deal with the regular responsibilities of the library. And library staff continues labeling and accessioning all of the books in the collection, a mammoth job but one that is progressing steadily.

Of course the subject most on the minds of our Library Committee (Dusty Rhoads, Sarah Bourne, Diane Stultz and myself) has been the relocation of our unique and very special library. Although we will regret leaving beautiful Marietta, the establishment of the library within the County system will give us many new advantages, including security, public accessibility, and increased hours of use (see *Presidential Musings*).

Marietta will remain the much loved headquarters and frequent meeting place of the Historical Society. We will keep you informed as things progress!

Susan G. Pearl, Historian (for the Library Committee)

August 2007

## Calendar of Events — September and October 2007

**September 1-December 15** – *The Road to Freedom: An Exhibition* at Surratt House Museum traces the history of the struggle for freedom by enslaved people over a 200 year period, free with museum admission

**September 9** – *Civil War Artillery Demonstrations* at Fort Washington Park, 1 PM, 2 PM and 3 PM. Volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; \$5 per car

**September 9** – *200 Years! A Celebration of Riversdale Architecture* at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM. A toast, a special tour highlighting the architecture of the house and special children's activities; \$5, ages 12 and under \$1; for more information call 301-864-0420

**September 11** – *Second Tuesday Lecture* at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM. History underground, a look at buried history by archaeologist Don Creveling, fee, call 301-809-0389 or email [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) for details

**September 15 & 16** – *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland Lighthouse Challenge* sponsored by the Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society, 8 AM – 6 PM; visit Fort Washington Lighthouse at Fort Washington Park along with other Maryland land-based lights; fee at each lighthouse, call 301-763-4600 for information

**September 15 & 16** – *Roman Legion XX Encampment* at Marietta House Museum, 10 AM – 4 PM. Visit a Roman army camp and learn about the daily life of Roman soldiers, battle tactics and weaponry; free

**September 16** – *Prince of a County Reception at William Early House*, 2-5 PM, \$40, see front page article for details

**September 19** – *Fall Lecture Series* at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM. Hector Diaz speaks on the little known but important contributions of Spain to the American Patriots during the American Revolution; 18 and over, free, call 301-953-1376 for more information

**September 23** – *Hunting & Fishing Day* at Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract, 1-4 PM. Learn about wildlife conservation and hunting and fishing opportunities; for details call 301-776-3090

**September 27** – *Kids Kaboose* at Bowie Train Station/Children's Heritage Center, 10-11:30 AM, a railroad morning of crafts, stories and fun for children, free, for details call 301-809-3089 or email [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

**September 29** – *Day trip to Smith Island* sponsored by PGCHS, \$50 for adults, \$35 for children under 12, see article on page 4

**September 29** – *National Public Lands Day* at Fort Washington Park – Old Fort, 9 AM – 12 PM. The major repair work is completed now little touches need to be done. Join in helping to clean up the historic fort, removal of vegetation and painting of historic cannons, call 301-763-4600 for details

**September 29** – *World War I and World War II Encampment* at Marietta House Museum, 10 AM – 4 PM. Living History Units will demonstrate and display battle tactics, weaponry, uniforms, and life during the wars; \$3/person

**September 29** – *Jane Austen in Bath: An Afternoon in the Pump Room* at Riversdale House Museum, 1:30 PM. Dr. Elizabeth Child will speak about Jane Austen's Bath and food and fashion of the period will be highlighted; \$10 resident, \$12 non-resident, advanced registration required by calling 301-864-0420

**September 30** – *Fall Fest in Old Bowie*, 10 AM – 4 PM. Enjoy food, fun, crafts, trains and history in the autumn glory, free, call 301-809-3089 or email [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) for more information

**September 30** – *A Star-Spangled Program* by The Laurel Historical Society, 10 AM – 2 PM. A 4-hour cruise of the Patapsco and Baltimore Harbor, including Bear Creek — site of the battle of North Point, Ft. McHenry (from the sea the way the British saw it), a stop at the buoy marking the location where Francis Scott Key watched the bombardment of Ft. McHenry and Baltimore Inner Harbor; \$30, including lunch, space extremely limited (adult or child over 12), for reservation details information go to: [www.laurelmuseum.org](http://www.laurelmuseum.org)

**October 6** – *Restoration Facility Open House* at College Park Aviation Museum, 12-4 PM. See the building of a reproduction 1911 Curtiss Pusher and learn about the process of creating a museum-quality reproduction and restoration

**October 6** – *Evening Tour of Fort Washington – Old Fort*, 6:30-8:30 PM, tours every ½ hour. Volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will interpret history of Fort Washington

**October 6** – *Hands-On History Day Scavenger Hunt* at Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM – 12 PM. Learn about life in 18th century Maryland while you solve the mystery of the clues, \$7/child, reservations recommended by contacting 301-953-1376

**October 6** – *Colonial Day* at National Colonial Farm at the Accokeek Foundation, 12-4 PM, rain or shine. Experience life on a middle class tobacco farm, hands-on activities, colonial demonstrations and chat with re-enactors; \$2, call 301-283-2113 for more information

**October 6** – *Mr. Stier's Bulb Sale* at Riversdale House Museum, 12 PM. Riversdale Historical Society is selling bulbs for fall planting; for more information call 301-864-0420

**October 7** – *Civil War Artillery Demonstrations* at Fort Washington Park, 1 PM, 2 PM and 3 PM. Volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery; \$5 per car

**October 9** – *Second Tuesday Lecture* at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM. "How the Prince George's Genealogy Library Can Help You Discover Your Past", fee, call 301-809-0389 or email [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) for details

**October 13** – *Model Rocket Workshop* at College Park Aviation Museum, 1-3 PM. Join the National Association of Rocketry Headquarters Astro Modeling Section for the workshop; \$8, register through SMARTlink barcode 104417

**October 13** – *Mrs. Sowers Tea Lessons for Young Ladies* at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 1-2:30 PM. Mrs. Sowers invites young ladies ages 8-12 years for 18<sup>th</sup> c. tea and instruction and the finer points of 18<sup>th</sup> c. dancing; \$20, reservations required by calling 301-952-8010

**October 13** – *Patuxent Wildlife Festival* at National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10 AM – 3 PM. Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week and Earth Science Week; for details call 301-497-5763 or visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

**October 16** – *Wright Aeroplane Rib-Making Workshop* at College Park Aviation Museum – 12-1:30 PM for adults and 2-3:30 PM for teens only. Make your own full-sized wooden aeroplane wing rib using the same techniques and materials the Wright Brothers used in 1909. Program in association with the Wright Experience/Discovery of Flight Foundation. \$8, register through SMARTlink Barcode 104415 for adults and 104416 for teens

**October 17** – *Fall Lecture Series* at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM. Betty DeKeyser will present Scottish ancestral homes of early Maryland families; 18 and over, free, call 301-953-1376 for more information

**October 26 & 27** – *Mayhem in Marlborough Ghost Walk* at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 7-9 PM, tours every 20 minutes. Take a spooky tour of historic Upper Marlboro and meet colonial spirits and mischief-makers who once lived and worked in the county seat; fee, call 301-952-8010 for more information

**October 26** – *Gothick Evening* at Riversdale House Museum, 7 PM. An evening of eerie tales and macabre happenings from early 19<sup>th</sup> century literature throughout the house. Lantern guided tours depart every 15 minutes; last tour is 8:15 PM; \$10, for more information call 301-864-0420

For additional events and details visit these websites: [www.pgarks.com](http://www.pgarks.com), [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org), [www.laurelmuseum.org](http://www.laurelmuseum.org), <http://patuxent.fws.gov>, and [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.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.

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

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# Prince George's County Historical Society

## Membership Application

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (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

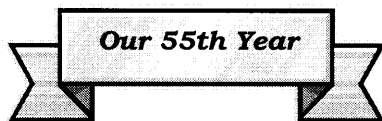
☐ Additional Contribution

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

☐ For membership in the *Maryland Historical Society*, include an additional \$35 for individual or \$45 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



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**To:**



# News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXVI Number 6

November-December 2007

## **Marietta House Museum**

*Home of the Prince George's County  
Historical Society*

Facility Manager: Susan Reidy  
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 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: Helen Smith  
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

## **Historical Society Upcoming Events**

Annual Dinner – Mount Airy  
Monday, November 5, 6:00 pm

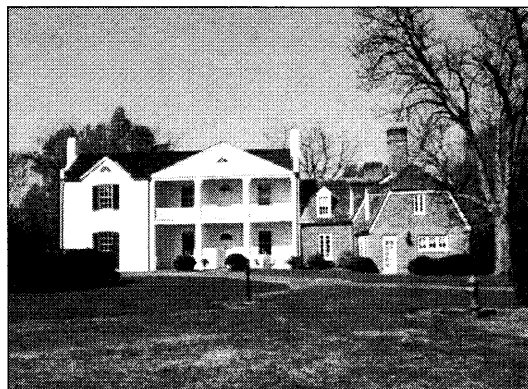
Planning Meeting – November 17, 9:00  
am, at the home of Jane Eagan Dodd

Christmas Party – December 8, 1:00  
pm, at Riversdale Mansion

## **ANNUAL MEETING AT BEAUTIFUL MOUNT AIRY!**

This year's annual meeting of the Prince George's County Historical Society will be held at Mount Airy, one of Maryland's most architecturally and historically significant properties. This should be a very special meeting in one of the County's most beautiful settings, with dinner prepared and served by the outstanding Pineapple Alley caterers.

Mount Airy is the only building in the County known to have been the home of the family of the Lords Baltimore during the Provincial period. The site was associated with the Calvert family during the 17<sup>th</sup> century; the present building was begun in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. It became the permanent home of Benedict Calvert, natural son of Charles Calvert, Fifth Lord Baltimore. George Washington's diary records many visits to Mount Airy during Benedict Calvert's residence, including the wedding of Washington's step-son, John Parke Custis, to Eleanor, daughter of Benedict Calvert, on February 3, 1774. Eleanor's younger brother, George Calvert, who married Rosalie Stier in 1799 and thereafter became proprietor of the Riversdale plantation, also grew up at Mount Airy.



After the death of Benedict Calvert in 1788, Mount Airy passed to his eldest son, Edward, whose family remained in residence there until the last of Edward's children died in 1902. In the following year, Mount Airy was purchased by Mrs. Mathilda Roome Duvall, who renovated the mansion and renamed it "The Dower House."

## Mount Airy, continued

Part of the mansion was opened to the public as a tearoom, and Mrs. Duvall entertained many of Washington's most prominent individuals, including Presidents William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, and Herbert Hoover, as well as conductor Leopold Stokowski.

On February 1, 1931, a fire destroyed much of the east wing and some of the central section of the Mount Airy mansion. In April of that year, Mrs. Eleanor "Cissy" Medill Patterson, editor of the *Washington Herald*, purchased the 844-acre estate. She hired local artisans and proceeded to rebuild the damaged mansion, incorporating fine decorative details from other historic buildings, and making it her country home. Cissy Patterson died in 1948, leaving the property to her friend, Ann Bowie Smith, a Calvert family descendant. The Smith family sold their Mount Airy home to the State of Maryland in 1973; this mansion is now the centerpiece of the Rosaryville State Park.

The Mount Airy mansion is a complex structure that has undergone many changes. The oldest section is the easternmost, a picturesque 1 ½-half-story brick structure with gambrel-roof. Here, its' central space dates from about 1740, with clipped-gable end sections added somewhat later. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the westernmost wing had been constructed, and it was raised to its present 2-story height and stuccoed early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At the same time, the 2-story stair passage (also stuccoed) was built to connect the two earlier structures, and to present a formal columned entrance. Beneath the 2-story colonnade is an underground brick vault, used today, as it probably was originally, as a wine cellar.

With the renovation of Mount Airy as a country inn and rental facility, the rear courtyard, opening from the entry colonnade, was glass-enclosed to form the largest of the dining spaces. Behind it is an open and airy pavilion to accommodate additional guests. The original living spaces have been converted into small dining rooms and guest rooms, with evocative names (the Lord Baltimore, Parke Custis, Calvert, and Bowie-Smith Rooms) reflecting Mount Airy's history.

The entrance to Mount Airy is from Rosaryville Road, approximately one mile

west of its intersection with U.S. 301. Follow the entrance drive past the Dower House Pond, approximately ¾ mile, and look for signs to the parking lot next to the mansion. Your invitations are in the mail, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Susan G. Pearl

## The Prince George's County Historical Society

5626 Bell Station Road  
Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120  
Phone: 301-464-0590

Email: [pgchslibrary@aol.com](mailto:pgchslibrary@aol.com) or  
[info@pghistory.org](mailto:info@pghistory.org)  
Website: [www.pghistory.org](http://www.pghistory.org)

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Newsletter Contributors: John Petro, Dusty Rhoads, Jane Dodd, Lynn Roberts, Susan Pearl and Donna Schneider, Charles Hendricks

Printer: Minute Man 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 3 and December 8) (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 edition is December 14.

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!

## Presidential Musings

How enlightening our Prince of a County tour and reception to the home of PGCHS Board Member and Webmaster, Joyce Dowling, and her husband Race, and son Trevor was! Members and guests were treated to one of this county's great turn-of-the-century Queen Anne style houses. The Dowlings furnished their home to complement the era in which it was built, and the tour participants were able to see their amazing progress and final results that were achieved in restoring this expansive house. The Dowlings also shared some fascinating videos documenting the progress of the restoration.



*Members and friends of the Historical Society enjoyed a very special Prince of a County reception, in perfect weather, at the century-old William W. Early House in Brandywine on Sunday, September 16, 2007. Joyce and Race Dowling, pictured here at their front door, were the perfect hosts, letting guests know many details of the history and the restoration of their beautiful home!*

Because of the perfect end-of-summer day, we were able to abandon the need for a tent and have our reception and program beside the pond and fountain which Race had unearthed and restored. Visitors to the pond and fountain were treated to a simple and beautiful environment with the calming sound of trickling water. Our visit to the William W. Early/Dowling Family House made all of us aware of the difference a single family can make in and for its' community.

The Dowlings have made a difference to their community; they have invested much time, effort, money—and love—in enhancing an historic residential dwelling. Their careful study of historical records and photographs

informed their restoration processes, both inside and out, and they have taken special care to preserve artifacts found on the site. They are to be commended not only for many years of hard work, but also for seeing and understanding the value of preserving a focal point in their Brandywine community. Well done, Dowlings and thank you for sharing it with all of us!

Your Board is pleased to announce that the Prince Georges County Library Board has approved and we have signed the papers to take over two rooms in the lower level of The Greenbelt Public Library for the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History, as outlined in my Sept/Oct '07 column. All Board members and the Volunteer Library staff are beginning the serious planning for the design, packing and move and reinstallation of our library collections some time in 2008. We will need funds for the acquisition of professional quality library shelving and storage as well as for computer stations. We urge you to help us identify anyone who might contribute toward these goals. Because we are a 501-(C)-3 non-profit organization, gifts are tax - deductible.

Don't forget to join your Board and other guests at the Annual Dinner to be held November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Mount Airy Plantation, ancestral home of the Calvert family in Prince George's County on Rosaryville Road. Co-Chairs, Elizabeth Dougherty and Laurence Winston are sending invitations and Pineapple Alley Caterers will provide a delicious dinner in a wonderful historic setting. Joan Chaconas will be the keynote speaker—keeping our topic light and suitable for the post-Halloween season "Haunts in Maryland and Nearby Places Laced with History". It will be a lot of fun so invite a guest or two. This is a great opportunity to get others involved with the Society.

John Petro

## NEW RAILROAD HISTORY LIBRARY OPENS!

On Saturday, September 22, 2007, a new library opened in one of Prince George's County's Historic Sites. The Martin F. O'Rourke Memorial Library is devoted to railroad history and is housed in the former Pennsylvania Railroad tower at the Bowie Railroad Station and Huntington Museum. It will be operated by the Washington, D.C., chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, in partnership with the City of Bowie museums.

The new library is named for the late Martin O'Rourke, a railroad historian, and longtime member and officer of the society. He was instrumental in beginning the chapter's collection of books, maps, timetables and other railway memorabilia. The partnership between the Railway Historical Society and the City of Bowie was conceived and facilitated by Stephen Patrick, Bowie's former Museum Director. His recent death has left a void in the history museum and preservation community.

The Bowie Railroad Station and Huntington Museum consists of a complex of three buildings (tower, freight station/ticket office, and passenger waiting shed) as well as a caboose. The museum is located at 8614 Chestnut Avenue in Old Bowie, next to the Amtrak's high-speed northeast corridor tracks at the junction of the CSX Pope's Creek branch. The new railroad library will be open for researchers and the interested public between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. every day, except Monday. Inquiries should be directed to the Old Town Bowie Welcome Center, next door to the Museum, at 301-575-2488.



## A CHARLES DICKENS CHRISTMAS

Mark your calendars! 1:00 pm, Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007, for the annual Prince George's County Historical Society HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, this year to be held at RIVERSDALE, the Calvert Mansion, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park.

This year's theme will be a "God Bless Us, Everyone" Tiny Tim array.

Even in the most humble Victorian household, Christmas dinner was the most lavish meal of the year. While the British Royal Family in the 1840s sat down to turtle soup, roast beef, roast pheasant, mutton, oysters, turkey, boar's head, and mince pies, the lower classes saved their farthings and pence for "Christmas goose".

Many poor households could afford the Christmas goose only by contributing throughout the year to "Goose Clubs," usually run by the local tavern keepers. Many families also did not have the facilities for cooking their goose, so on Christmas morning long lines would form outside the nearby bakers, who charged a small fee for use of their ovens.

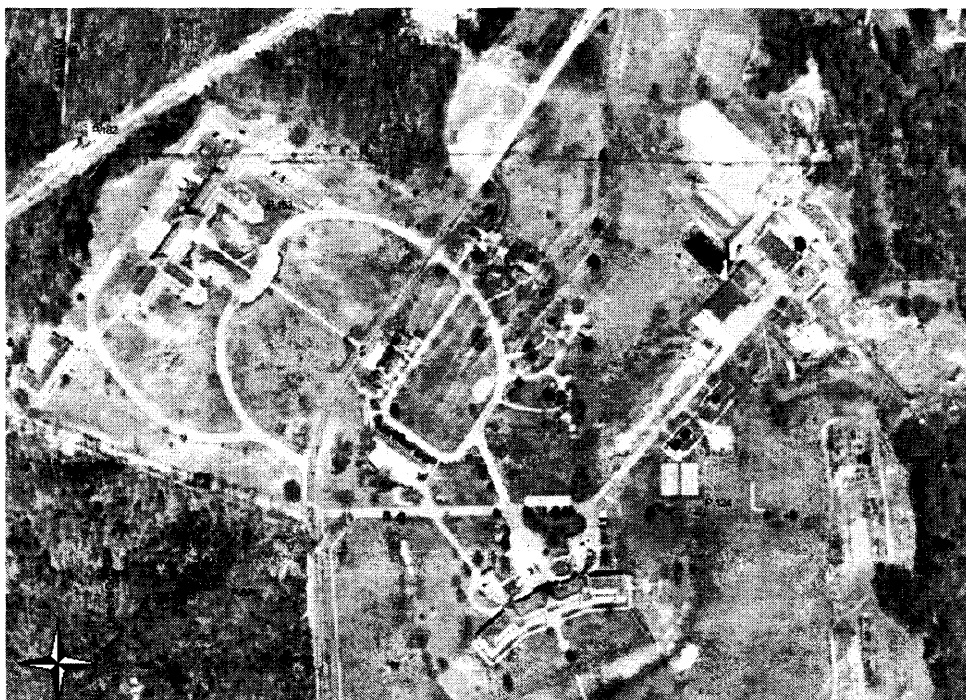
In addition to the goose, some of the other foods available included potatoes with gravy, applesauce, sausages, an assortment of fruits (apples, oranges, grapes, pears) and nuts (chestnuts, filberts, almonds) and of course, coffee and tea.

So come and join us at Riversdale, and if you feel in the holiday mood, prepare one of the above food choices, or just bring a sample of your favorite family dish.



## GLENN DALE HOSPITAL

Many Historical Society members will remember the very poignant article about Glenn Dale Hospital that ran in the *Washington Post Magazine* last December. The author, Leah Latimer, told the story of her mother, who had been a patient at the hospital in the 1950s. Ms. Latimer is still conducting research on Glenn Dale Hospital, and the PGCHS Board of Directors is working with her in planning a public meeting on the subject of the hospital, possibly in the spring of 2008. She has submitted the following:



*"When I began my research on the old Glenn Dale Hospital, I could find little but a folder of worn news clippings at the Bowie Library, and internet sites calling the abandoned tuberculosis sanatorium 'the scariest place in America.' Since then, I have learned volumes about Glenn Dale. In its heyday from the 1930s through the 1960s, it was 'a self-contained community of contagion' for TB's sick and dying in the Washington area. My article about my mother's experience at Glenn Dale in 1954 ran on the cover of the Washington Post Magazine last year (Quarantined, "Dec. 10, 2006). As a result, I have heard from dozens of former sanatorium staff, and patients and their family members who told me their experiences were seldom discussed, much less documented. So I am continuing my research on Glenn Dale, and the many other TB hospitals that were once commonplace. As the state considers what to do with Glenn Dale's 216-acres of rolling hills and neo-Georgian buildings just off Route 450, I would like to hear from former staff and patients and others who can help capture the history of a time and place that is so important to our community, social and medical history, and those who lived or worked in the shadow of TB. Contact: [leahlatimer@comcast.net](mailto:leahlatimer@comcast.net) or call 301-499-3574."*

If you have information about the hospital and its history, please contact Ms. Latimer, and let us at the PGCHS library know of your interest (301-464-0590).

## Calendar of Events November – December 2007

**Thru December 9** - "Stories from the Attic: 10 Years of Collecting" at Laurel Museum; Wed. & Fri. 10 AM-2 PM and Sun. 1-4 PM

**November 3** - Hands-On History Day at Montpelier Mansion, make gifts the old-fashioned way while you learn how kids spent their winters two centuries ago; 10 AM-12 PM, all ages, \$7/child and reservations recommended by calling 301-953-1376

**November 3** - Lincoln Book Signing at Surratt House by Edward Steers, Jr., who will discuss and sign copies of "Lincoln Legends: Myths, Hoaxes and Confabulations Associated with Our Greatest President"; 12-4 PM, books available in gift shop, for details call 301-868-1121

**November 5** - "Key Ingredients From the Past" day-long historic foodways symposium at Belair Mansion, lunch included, fee, call 301-809-3089 to make a reservation

**November 5** - Prince George's County Historical Society Annual Dinner and Elections at Mount Airy Mansion; 6 PM, see article for details

**November 10** - Victorian Scrap Booking at Marietta House Museum, learn the history of and create a traditional Victorian scrapbook; 1-3 PM, light refreshments, \$7/person, reservations required by calling 301-464-5291

**November 10-11** - Annual Fall Open House at Surratt House Museum, free guided tours and learn the home's role in American history; 12-4 PM, all ages

**November 11** - Traditional Irish and Celtic Music featuring tunes sung by Dr. Elizabeth Barber at Marietta House Museum; 4 PM, light refreshments, \$5/person, reservations required by calling 301-464-5291

**November 12** - Hands-On History: An Early American Thanksgiving at Riversdale House Museum, children ages 8 and up learn Native American foodways in preparing the feast; 10 AM, \$20/resident, \$24/non-resident, reservations required by November 5 at 301-864-0420

**November 13** - Second Tuesday Lecture at Belair Stable, Character interpreter Mary Ann Jung presents "Julia Child: America's Favorite French Chef"; 7:30 PM, free

**November 14** - Fall Lecture Series at Montpelier Mansion, Paul Bridge of the B&O Railroad Museum will discuss early construction of the railroad in the Laurel area; 7:30 PM, 18 and over, free

**November 15** - "Food Lore: Folklore's Fascinating Role in Regional Cuisine" by Ed Oconowicz at Bowie Library; 7 PM, free

**November 17** - Aviation Posters: You Design It! at College Park Aviation Museum in conjunction with new traveling exhibit "Fly Now!", a collection of Aviation Posters from 1865 to present, posters may reflect Art Deco, Contemporary or Art Nouveau styles; 11 AM-2 PM, \$5/person

**November 17** - Colonial Cooking Demonstration at National Colonial Farm, involving meat and fish preservation for winter, use of smoke house and rack set up over open fire; \$2/adult, \$.50/child

**November 17-January 5** - "Key Ingredients" a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit and "Out the Window and Under the Ground: Foodways Archaeology At Belair", at Belair Mansion; Tues-Sun, 12-4 PM, free; also visit: "What Horses Eat for Dinner" at Belair Stable, "Dinner in the Dining Car" at Bowie Train Station Museum, "Cooking on the Radiol" at Radio and Television Museum, "Key Ingredients on Your Table" student art gallery at Belair Mansion & Stable and Bowie City Hall and "Cooking by the Book" cookbook exhibit at Belair Mansion and Bowie Branch Library

**November 23-December 9** - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Gingerbread Contest and Show at Darnall's Chance House Museum; visitors can vote for Viewer's Choice Awards for their favorite adult and child entries, daily, 12-5 PM, \$1/person

**December 1** - "A Taste of the Past" sampling of antique recipes in the Belair Mansion Kitchen; 1-4 PM, free

**December 1** - "Inspecting Gadgets: The Making and Selling of Culinary Paraphernalia" by Charles Camp at Bowie Library; 2:30 PM, free

**December 1** - Hands-On History Day at Montpelier Mansion, see how winter holidays were celebrated in the early 1800s including games, dancing, making a tree ornament and holiday refreshments; 10 AM-12 PM, all ages, \$7/child, reservations recommended by calling 301-953-1376

**December 1** - Sint Niklaas Day: A Winter Afternoon for Children at Riversdale House Museum includes gift bag for children and a craft to make and take home; 2:30 PM, refreshments, \$6/child, \$2/adult, advance registration required by calling 301-864-0420

**December 1-3** - Holiday Candlelight Tours at Marietta House Museum, enjoy decorations and customs from Federal, Civil War and Victorian eras, live music and children's storyteller; 6-8:30 PM, light refreshments, \$5/adult, \$3/ages 4-18, under 3 is free

**December 6** - "Sacred Foodways: Food and Religion" by Kara Rogers Thomas at Bowie Library; 7 PM, free

**December 6-8** - Candlelight Tours at Montpelier Mansion, see the mansion decorated in traditional 18<sup>th</sup> century style, area performers entertain nightly, light refreshments; 6-9 PM, \$3/adult and \$1/child

**December 8** - "Food in Film" by Warren Belasco at Bowie Library; 2:30 PM, free

**December 8** - Laurel Museum's Holiday Open House; 11 AM-4 PM, free, light refreshments

**December 8** - Laurel Historical Society's Holiday House Tour beginning at Laurel Museum; 5-7 PM, tour, tickets \$15 before Dec. 8 or \$18 at door, reservations recommended by calling 301-725-7975

**December 8** - Winter's Eve at National Colonial Farm with carols and refreshments; 5-8 PM, fee \$2 is waived in lieu of a canned food donation, one per person, to support the Maryland Food Bank, visit [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.org) for details

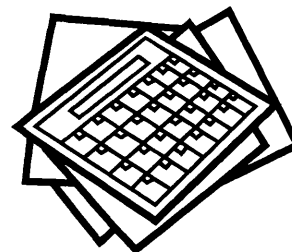
**December 8** - Prince George's County Historical Society Holiday Party at Riversdale House Museum, 1-4 PM

**December 9** - Belair By Candlelight at Belair Mansion glimpses an 18<sup>th</sup> century Holiday Dinner; 4-7 PM, donation requested

**December 15** - Kids Kandlelight at Belair Mansion provides a kids' eye view of holidays past and a craft to take home, 3-6 PM, donation requested

**December 27 & 28** - The Calverts By Candlelight at Riversdale House Museum including children's activities and refreshments; 7 PM, \$5/person, free for children 12 & under

For details and additional events, please visit [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com), [www.citvofbowie.org/museums](http://www.citvofbowie.org/museums), [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.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.

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

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# Prince George's County Historical Society

## Membership Application

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (HOME): \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (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 \$500  
☐ 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 \$35 for individual or \$45 for family

Please make checks payable to PGCHS. 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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