



News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXVII Number 1

January—February, 2009



A "crown stone" boundary monument on the Mason-Dixon Line. Shown is the coat of arms of Maryland's founding Calvert family. On the opposite side (originally to the north) is the crest of the Penn family.

Marietta House Museum

Headquarters of the
Prince George's County Historical Society
5626 Bell Station Road
Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120
(off MD 193, near MD 450)
Facility Manager: Susan Reidy
301-464-5291

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Open during tour hours and special events

Frederick S. DeMarr

Library of County History

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

Hours: Saturdays Noon to 4 pm
and by appointment

JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009, FOR OUTSTANDING LECTURE AND EXHIBITION

MASON AND DIXON and THE DEFINING OF AMERICA

*An important exhibition, **Mason and Dixon and the Defining of America**, currently at the Maryland Historical Society (MdHS), running through the end of February, 2009, features some of the institution's most important documents in its Library's Calvert Collection from the iconic Mason-Dixon survey, along with artifacts employed in it as well as those that illuminate it. Jeannine Disviscour, Deputy Director and Curator, and David S. Thaler, PE, LS, F.ASCE, F.NSPE, organized the exhibition at MdHS, with collection materials owned by MdHS, the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, and Independence Hall, Philadelphia.*

It has recently been suggested by a professional surveyor and engineer, that one of the greatest scientific and engineering achievements of all time was the survey of the so-called Mason-Dixon Line. Selected for this endeavor in 1763 were surveyor Jeremiah Dixon, and Charles Mason, an astronomer from the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England. Their task was to mark a boundary between the Colonial provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland, and thereby settle the dramatic and rancorous boundary disputes that had been waged for eighty years between the Calverts of Maryland and the Penns of Pennsylvania. The effort was an enormous one, requiring five years to drive the line for 312 miles from Delaware on the eastern shore, pursuing a constant latitude westward from a point 15 miles south of Philadelphia, all the way to what was

Mason and Dixon, cont.

known as the “Great Warrior Trail” in the Native American territory of the Six Nations.

Every student learns the term “Mason-Dixon Line,” not only as the boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland, but as the boundary between North and South, which demarcated the free and slave-owning states. The Mason-Dixon Line is invested in our national consciousness with a depth of meaning, emotion and scarring that still resonates. Yet few Americans have truly understood the astonishing scientific process and feat that Mason and Dixon achieved.

“Their achievement was monumental,” said David S. Thaler, PE, LS, President of D.S. Thaler and Associates, Inc., of Baltimore, a trustee of the Maryland Historical Society and an organizer of this exhibition. “How to determine longitude had just been discovered by John Harrison at about the same time as Mason and Dixon did this survey, and a degree of latitude had never been measured in the New World before.” (See Point of Beginning Magazine, December 2008 issue, “The First Footsteps,” www.pobonline.com)

The exhibition focuses on an extensive and remarkable cache of original documents, which detail the 80-year-old boundary dispute between the proprietors of Maryland—the Lords Baltimore, the Calverts—and the brothers Thomas and Richard Penn, proprietors of Pennsylvania. These are but a portion of an even larger archive of about 1300 original documents known as The Calvert Papers, discovered in two large crates in 1839 in the British Museum, and acquired in 1888 by The Maryland Historical Society where they have remained ever since. The Calvert Papers are a treasure trove of inestimable importance to Maryland’s history, and their fine condition and freshness allow them to be seen today practically in the same condition in which they were created. The subject matter of the papers



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

All members of the Prince George's County Historical Society are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet one Saturday each month (next meetings will be January 10 & February 7). Dates are subject to change. Call 301-249-9000. If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the Historical Society in any capacity, please call us. All ages are definitely welcome!

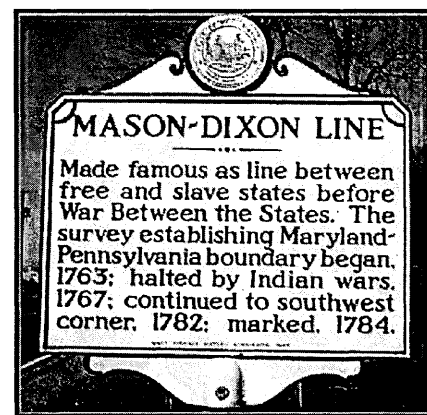
pertaining to the Mason and Dixon survey is riveting, indeed! Particularly exciting is the original parchment of 1763 of The Articles of Agreement between the Pennsylvanians, Thomas and Richard Penn, Frederick Calvert, Lord Baltimore, of Maryland, and both Jeremiah Dixon and Charles Mason who surveyed the territory. Visitors can clearly read their signatures and see the original red wax seals on this official document. The process was long and arduous and, over the five years required to complete the survey, virtually hundreds of men were employed to lay the imported English carved stone markers every mile along the route. In an adjacent gallery is an actual Mason-Dixon crown stone that has belonged to the Historical Society since 1886. One can see, on the side that would have faced south, the carved Calvert crest with crown, while on the opposite side, originally facing north toward Pennsylvania, is carved the Penn family crest.

Also included in the exhibition is Mason's hand-written journal, generously lent by the Maryland State Archives. Actual survey field notes and calculations are included in the exhibition, along with maps and various examples of survey equipment of the period, similar to instruments used by Mason and Dixon.

In preparation for the exhibition, David Thaler traveled to Independence Hall in Philadelphia with the idea of borrowing from that institution its transit and equal altitude instrument, since none of the original survey instruments was known to exist. The Mason and Dixon transit, last known to have been used in an observatory behind Independence Hall, had been lost in the intervening years. When Thaler examined the transit, an instrument used to plot true north by tracking stars as they crossed the meridian, he instantly recognized the inscription of John Bird—the very same London instrument maker commissioned by the Penn brothers to make the transit for the Mason and Dixon survey. "My hair stood on

end," remarked Thaler, who realized that "the little transit . . . [that used by Mason and Dixon] . . . may be the most historic American scientific instrument ever, having witnessed two of the seminal events in American history—the survey of the Mason-Dixon Line and the first reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1778, from the steps of the observatory."

The collections materials that form this exhibition are not only great Maryland treasures, but also items of great national importance. Please join us for David Thaler's lecture, and a visit to the exhibition.



Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited to hear David Thaler's exciting and amusing presentation in the Auditorium of the Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument St., Baltimore, MD, 21201-4674, on Sunday, February 8th, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. After the lecture we will visit to the exhibition, with refreshments to follow. For reservations, directions, car-pooling information or questions, contact Lynn Roberts, 301-627-8622 or Antiquelynn@Hotmail.com. Also, the Prince George's County Historical Society is considering providing transportation to the exhibition by van or small bus, so please let Lynn know whether, for a nominal charge, you would be interested in that service.

~Lynn Springer Roberts

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2009

The Board of Directors of the Historical Society met on November 22, 2008, to make plans for the coming year. Many very interesting possibilities were discussed and investigated, and we can now list the schedule of events (some still tentative) so that members and friends can mark their calendars.

January 18 – PGCHS participates in Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration, Sunday, January 18 at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Keynote Speaker will be Marian Wright Edelman. (See article, page 5.)

February 8 – Group visit to Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Sunday, February 8, for exhibit on *Mason and Dixon and the Defining of America*, with lecture by David S. Thaler. (See article, page 1.)

March (date to be announced) – Group visit to Lincoln Cottage, Soldiers' Home, Washington, D.C.

April 19 – St. George's Day, Sunday, April 19, dinner and program at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Parish House, Collington (Bowie)

May (date to be announced) – Historic Preservation Month Reception at Riversdale

June 20 – PGCHS is co-sponsor with Prince George's County Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society of Juneteenth workshop, Saturday, June 20, at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Suitland

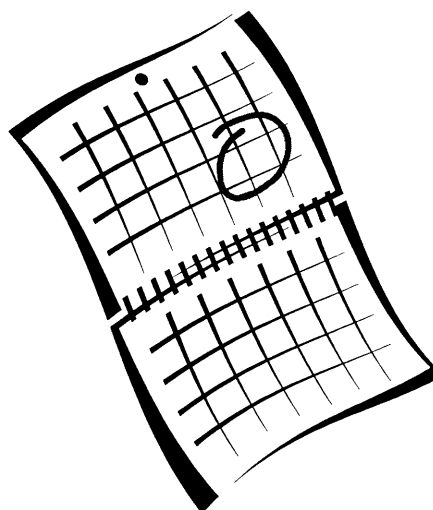
July/August (date to be announced) – Summer Social at Wilmer's Park, Baden

September (date and location to be announced) – *Prince of a County* annual reception and fundraiser

October (date to be announced) – Group visit to *National Park Seminary (Forest Glen)* in Montgomery County, presently undergoing restoration

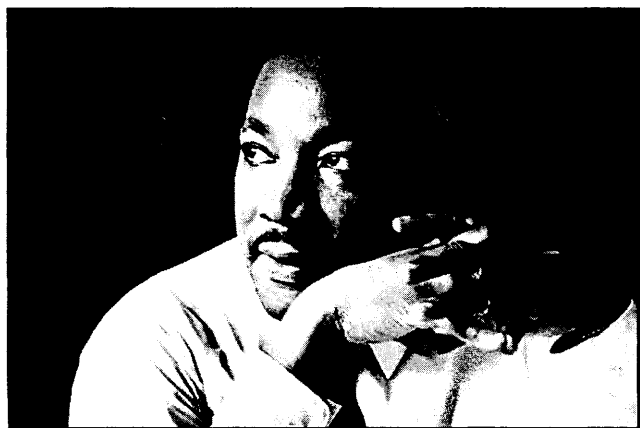
November 9 – Annual Dinner and Election of Officers/Board, Monday evening, November 9, at College Park Aviation Museum

December (date and location to be announced) – Holiday Party



The year 2008, with the May opening of the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History at the Greenbelt Library, and the October gathering at the Glenn Dale Hospital, will be a hard act to follow! But the Board members and officers are pleased with the plans for 2009, and eagerly look forward to these events. We hope that you will mark your calendars and plan on joining us for as many of them as you can!

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
CELEBRATION 2009
FEATURES KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN**



The celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday will be a very special one this year. Using the theme of "The Beloved Community" this third annual celebration will be held at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts (15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie) on Sunday, January 18, 2009, from 1:30 to 7:30 pm. The celebration and Pre-Inaugural Event will include an ecumenical service (2:30 to 3:30 p.m.) led by the Clergy Association of Bowie, workshops on several subjects, and a variety of choral and instrumental music. The highlight of the day's events will be the keynote speech (at approximately 3:30 p.m.) by Marian Wright Edelman, MacArthur Award recipient, winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award, and founder of the Children's Defense Fund. (The first 200 adult attendees will receive complimentary copies of Ms. Edelman's new book, *The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat is So Small*.) Ms. Edelman's talk will be followed by a question and answer session and book signing.

Requested donations in support of this special event will be \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors, and \$5.00 for students; children under 14 will enter free. The event will close with a concert beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The PGCHS Board of Directors supports and participates in the efforts of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemoration Committee of Bowie, and we hope that you will take part in this very special celebration!

Society Sponsors

The Society would like to thank our sponsors. Their generosity helps to fund the

Society's programs, events and general activities, as well as the

Frederick S. DeMarr

Library of County History.

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Musings from the President

Welcome to the New Year! The last quarter of this past year certainly has presented us—as individual citizens, as members of a local community and as Americans—with a broad range of events, emotions, challenges, results and reactions. “Change” was a theme that resonated this last year, and “change” has come into all of our lives, whether we sought it or not. The economic events of this country, as well as our global community, are providing a new perspective of our own world. Indeed, the world we live in now is NOT the world of a year ago. Many more individuals are far less financially secure than they could have imagined. All around us the institutions that we thought of as firm and secure—universities, museums, art and performance groups, non-profit charitable institutions—even local governments-- are feeling this change, with diminished endowments and funding sources, and reduction of various kinds of patronage.

Americans have long been characterized by their resilience. This may be the time in which many of us might come forward to help serve our institutions with either financial help, the gift of our time and talents, or both. We can encourage our children, our grandchildren, our neighbors, and our retired friends and colleagues to become involved. Something so simple as visiting our house museums, paying their modest admissions fees, going to art or history museums—joining any of these as members—becoming a docent, attending theater performances, symphonies and other concerts. Increasing membership levels in any of these groups will help even more.

Obviously, money is a major challenge for struggling non-profits. There are, however, lots of ways that you can benefit from what our County and State have to offer and support them at the same time:

- *Encourage friends and neighbors to participate in the activities of our treasured 501(c)(3) institutions.
- *Put together a group to attend a special event at Marietta, Montpelier, Darnall's Chance, Dorsey Chapel, Riversdale, or the Surratt House, or any of our County's other fine historic places.
- *Enjoy a drive to Baltimore to visit The Maryland Historical Society and see fantastic and important elements of YOUR Maryland history—amazing ‘antiques’ and artifacts of our shared history—with free parking inside their ‘campus’ of buildings—only 37.5 miles from Upper Marlboro—even less from Laurel! The “Mason and Dixon & the Defining of America” exhibition (open until Feb. 28th) is fantastic with truly great and inspiring surprises. The “Maryland Soldiers in World War II” is poignant, with artifacts of individual Marylanders and their stories confronting us all.
- *Even if financial support for these kinds of institutions is currently out of the question, the gift of your time to an institution that can use it is more important than ever before.
- *Begin to do your own family's genealogy—join the Prince George's County Genealogical Society (Bowie), the Afro-American Genealogical Society, and/or The Maryland Genealogical Society (at The Maryland Historical Society on Monument Place). Use their splendid libraries. Learn who all your antecedents are. Now, in the age of computers and available databases, you shouldn't put off the search for your own roots. Learn more about your OWN history! In doing so, you will SUPPORT OUR INSTITUTIONS!

It doesn't take much to get the ball rolling. As an old Chinese proverb states, “Things pass...Life is what you make it now, so let us put our energies into life”

In our recent planning session, your Board has orchestrated a year's activities that we hope will engage you, your family and friends. Keep an eye on our calendar for enjoyable trips or gatherings. Look for an improved website. Look for additional, exciting developments in the future!

~John J. Petro

ALAN VIRTÀ VISITS THE NEW FREDERICK S. DEMARR LIBRARY

On Saturday afternoon, December 20, 2008, Alan Virtà, former editor of the PGCHS *News & Notes*, and author of the popular *Prince George's County, A Pictorial History*, made his first visit to our relocated library. Raised and educated in Prince George's County, Alan had worked as an archivist at the Library of Congress, but left Prince George's County just over 20 years ago to become Archivist and Head of Special Collections at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. He still has family in Prince George's County, and made a point of coming to see our newly reinvigorated library while he was home for the holidays.



Virginia Beauchamp, PGCHS member and reporter for Greenbelt News Review, visits with Alan Virtà at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

"This is amazing!" and "What a great arrangement you've got here!" were some of Alan's remarks. He toured the public reading room and the staff work room, admiring the furnishings, pulling volumes from the shelves, and glancing through a few cases of our archived special collections. A group of Alan's friends and colleagues gathered to welcome him to the library, and then sat together for several hours, discussing the various projects that several of us are currently working on. Alan was particularly interested in seeing the diaries of John W. Burroughs, purchased by the Historical Society together

with the Burroughs desk earlier this year. (See *News & Notes*, Vol. XXXVII, No. 2, March/April 2008, *Presidential Musings*.) The transcribing of these very interesting diaries is proceeding slowly but surely, and I promise you some fascinating excerpts in future issues of *News & Notes*. For a glimpse of Alan's current work, see Boise State University's *Focus* magazine: <http://boisestate.edu/news/focus/pdf/FOCUS-Winter09.pdf> and look on pages 10-13.

~ Susan G. Pearl

CELEBRATING THE END OF ONE YEAR AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ONE

On Saturday, 6 December 2008, the Historical Society celebrated the holidays at Marietta, in the space that had for 22 years served as our library. This large room, in the ground level of the ell-shaped wing built by the Scherer family in 1968, was quite a surprise to the members as they entered. They remembered it as a space so full of bookshelves



John Pearl, John Kelly, Marieanna Kelly, Laurence Winston at the Society's Holiday Party

Holiday Party, cont.

and filing cabinets that one could scarcely find a place to stand. Now, with the relocation of the library to Greenbelt, this familiar space seemed nearly empty and unbelievably huge. Beautifully decorated for the holidays by Dusty Rhoads and his festive committee, it was an appropriate place to gather together for holiday cheer, and to mark another transition in the life and times of our Historical Society.



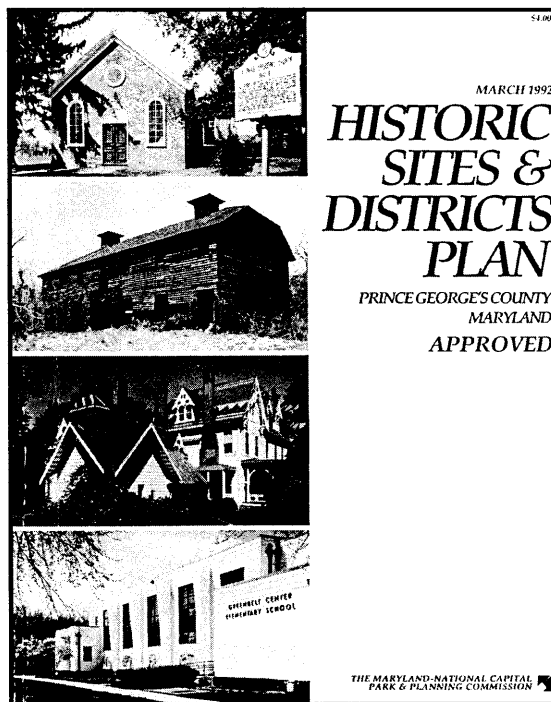
Jane Eagen Dodd, Dan Louck, Beth Lingg enjoying the beautifully decorated Marietta Mansion

M-NCPPC INITIATES UPDATE OF COUNTY'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has begun the amendment and updating of Prince George's County's Historic Preservation Plan, the *Historic Sites and Districts Plan*, first approved in 1981 and amended in 1992. The present amendment process, expected to be completed in 2010, will bring the Inventory of Historic Resources up to date to reflect the actions of the Historic Preservation Commission and District Council since 1992. The new plan will propose additions to the

Inventory of Historic Resources; it will identify preservation issues and propose future initiatives, preservation goals, policies, strategies, and guidelines.

The Historical Society has been involved with the County's preservation plan from its beginnings. Our Society's former president and historian, Fred DeMarr, served on the original advisory committee for the *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* of 1981. The Society's present historian, Susan Pearl, was a member of the M-NCPPC staff that developed the 1981 and 1992 plans, and will join the public participation in the present amendment process. We hope that other members of the Society will actively participate as well.



Historic Preservation staff conducted several public meetings in December 2008, at which questions and comments regarding the County's preservation program were answered and discussed. A second series of public meetings will take place in January:

(continued, next page)

Preservation Plan, cont.

Tuesday, January 13, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Oxon Hill Manor, 6901 Oxon Hill Road., Oxon Hill

Thursday, January 22, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Montpelier Arts Center, 9650 Muirkirk Road., Laurel

Saturday, January 24, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Union United Methodist Church, 14418 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro

The protection of historic sites and districts within Prince George's County accomplishes more than just providing reminders of the county's past. Their preservation provides a link to the County's past while recognizing their role in the County's present and future.

Calendar of Events – January and February 2009

Jan. 1 - Feb. 7 – Laurel Museum is closed.

Jan. 10 – Twelfth Night Ball at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM; come in period attire or black tie to celebrate the traditional end of the holiday season at this Regency-style ball; \$25/person, advanced registration is required by calling 301-864-0420

Jan. 13 – Second Tuesday Lecture “Edgar Allen Poe” at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, no reservations necessary; call 301-809-3089 for details

Jan. 15 – Remembering Mr. Lincoln exhibit honoring the Bicentennial celebration of the birth of Abraham Lincoln at Surratt House Museum, Thursday-Sunday during tours; fee, call 301-868-1121 for details

Jan. 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration and Pre-Inauguration Event at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 1:30 to 7:30 p.m., Marian Wright Edelman, keynote speaker; see article for details

Jan. 24 – First Ladies Tea at Marietta House Museum, 1-2:30 PM; celebrate inauguration weekend with First Ladies Martha Washington and Dolley Madison (a close friend of Mrs. Duvall); \$22/person, reservations required by calling 301-464-5291

Jan.30 – Hands-On History: Teddy Bear Tea at Riversdale House Museum, 2 PM; children ages 5-8, grab your favorite teddy bear and enjoy stories, crafts and a tea party; \$15/county resident, \$18/non-county resident; call 301-864-0420 for reservations

Feb. 7 – Life on the Plantation: African American History Tour at Marietta House Museum, 12, 1, 2 and 3 PM; a special tour that focuses on the daily lives of the slaves who lived and worked at Marietta Plantation; with regular museum admission, call 301-464-5291 for further details

Feb. 7 – Black History Month Lecture by John Gartrell at Montpelier Mansion, 2 PM (snow date, February 8 at 2 PM); John Gartrell of Baltimore's historic Afro-American Newspaper, will speak on his current research on African American history, as well as his research at the Maryland State Archives, where, for four years, he was Lead Research Archivist in the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland Department. He has been involved with numerous projects, including “Beneath the Underground: The Flight to Freedom and Communities in Antebellum Maryland,” a comprehensive study of the flight from slavery in Maryland from 1830-1860. His last research project for the Archives led to the discovery of the text of Dr. Martin Luther King's commencement address to the 1958 Class of Morgan State College; free, for ages 10 and up, reservations required by calling 301-377-7817

Calendar, cont.

Feb. 8 – *Mason and Dixon & The Defining of America* at Maryland Historical Society, 2 PM; lecture and tour sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical Society, see article for details

Feb. 8 – *Shake, Rattle and Roll: Laurel in the 1950s*, exhibit opens at the Laurel Museum

Feb. 8 – *Threads of Time: Profiles of African American Seamstresses* lecture at Surratt House Museum, 2 PM; Author Rosemary Reed discusses the role and influence of African American dressmakers over the centuries with emphasis on Elizabeth Keckley, seamstress and confidant to the Lincoln family; call 301-868-1121 for details

Feb. 10 – *Second Tuesday Lecture – TBA* at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, no reservations necessary; call 301-809-3089 for details

Feb. 11 – *“Who Were Ozzie and Harriett?: The Roots of the 1950s Childhood Ideal”* lecture at Laurel Museum, 7 PM; Why do many Americans point to the 1950s as a time that fostered an ideal American childhood? Was that the case, or did the origins of the 1950s childhood ideal spring from an earlier era? What about the parents of the baby boom generation? Did growing up in the decades that included the Great Depression and World War II influence their expectations for their own children? What can we learn from this history to help us understand American childhood as the nation again faces challenging times?; for details call 301-725-7975

Feb. 14 – *Sweetheart Tea* at Belair Mansion, 4 PM; \$24/person, reservations and advanced payment required, please call 301-809-3089

Feb. 14 – *Famous Couples of Marietta Tour* at Marietta Mansion, 5, 6, and 7 PM; treat your sweetheart to a candlelight tour highlighting famous couples who lived at or visited Marietta, light refreshments; \$8/person or \$15/couple; call 301-464-5291 for more details

Feb. 15 – *George Washington Musicale featuring the Maryland State Boychoir* at Montpelier Mansion, 3 PM; \$5/person, ages 12 and up, reservations required by calling 301-377-7817

Feb. 16 – *Hands-On History: The Confectioner's Apprentice* at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; in the early 19th century, young people learned crafts and trades through apprenticeship. Join us for the first in a series of hands-on apprenticeship programs with the craft of a confectioner, who made fancy baked goods and sweets; \$15/county resident, \$18/non-county resident, reservations required by calling 301-864-0420

Feb. 22 – *The Plummers' Kitchen* at Riversdale House Museum, 12 PM; see the Riversdale Kitchen Guild prepare foods common among Maryland's 19th century African-Americans; regular admission fees, for more details call 301-864-0420

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

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, 1993. 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: \$20.00.
- 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: \$20.00.
- 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: _____
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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.

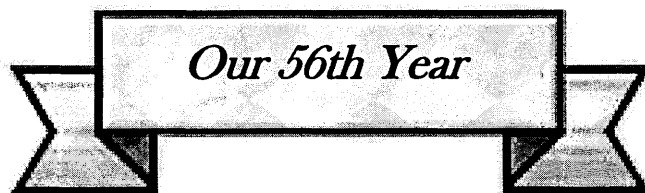
☐ For membership in the Maryland Historical Society, include an additional \$35 for individual or \$45 for family

Please make checks payable to PGCHS 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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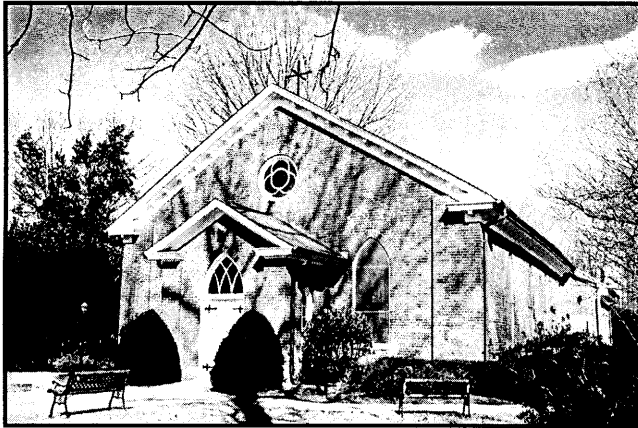


News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXVIII Number 2

March—April, 2009



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Collington

Marietta House Museum

Headquarters of the
Prince George's County Historical Society
5626 Bell Station Road
Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120
(off MD 193, near MD 450)
Facility Manager: Susan Reidy
301-464-5291

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

Marietta House Tours

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
12 noon to 4 p.m.

Weekday & Evening tours
by appointment only

Marietta Gift Shop

Open during tour hours & special events

Frederick S. DeMarr

Library of County History

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

Hours: Saturdays Noon to 4 pm
and by appointment

St. George's Day, 2009

This year the Prince George's County Historical Society will gather at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Collington (near Bowie), on Sunday, April 19, to celebrate the 313th anniversary of the establishment of Prince George's County. Holy Trinity has long associations with St. Barnabas' at Leeland, where we celebrated St. George's Day in 2004, on the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Barnabas' Church. This year, as in previous years, the Prince George's County Hall of Fame will join us for our annual St. George's Day dinner and program.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church was built in 1836 as a chapel-of-ease for Queen Anne Parish, whose main church was St. Barnabas' at Leeland. The first chapel-of-ease for St. Barnabas' had been built on this site early in the 18th century during the rectorship of Jacob Henderson. This original chapel was built (on land belonging to Henderson's wife) for residents of the northern part of Queen Anne Parish "in a convenient place of ye said Parish for ye Remote Inhabitants," and was known as Henderson's Chapel or the Forest Chapel. The chapel was connected, by the appropriately named *Church Road*, to St. Barnabas' which is about nine miles to the south.

The present Holy Trinity Church was constructed in 1836, just a few years after the present brick Rectory (which still stands just to the east of the church) was built. In March of 1834, the Vestry of Queen Anne Parish advertised for construction of a building to replace the early 18th-century chapel: "Proposals will be received by the undersigned committee on Friday the 28th instant, at Henderson's Chapel to build a brick church 40 by 50 in a plain and neat style." The brick chapel was completed by 1836, during the rectorship of George Machenheimer, and was

St. George's Day, cont..

consecrated in March 1842 by William R. Whittingham, Bishop of Maryland.

The new brick chapel and rectory were described first-hand by a visitor in the spring of 1844. Isaac Van Bibber of Carroll County was making a circuit of Southern Maryland, collecting donations toward the building of an Episcopal Church in Westminster. He described his travels in a journal – his entry for Saturday, 23 March 1844 reads:

“Mr. Machenheimer’s house is situated about 50 yards from a very neat little chapel, which is about 10 miles distant from the parish church . . . The situation of both house and chapel is very beautiful and some care seems to have been devoted to their decoration.”

Van Bibber attended the service at the chapel the next day, and commented: “The sun shone brightly, but the air was piercing cold, as, during the forenoon Mr. Machenheimer’s large and fashionable looking congregation assembled at the chapel. On either side of the building there was a row of handsome equipages, and fine looking riding horses were fastened in every direction around the Chapel yard. The interior presented more the aspect of a city gathering than a congregation from the bosom of a forest.” Van Bibber’s comment reflects that fact that this rural chapel served some of the wealthiest and most socially prominent of the County’s planters, including the Bowie, Duckett, Mullikin, Ogle and Duvall families.

In July 1844, just four months after Van Bibber’s visit, an official division was made in Queen Anne Parish; the Parish was bisected into a north and a south section, and the new chapel became the Parish church of the newly created Holy Trinity Parish in the north section.

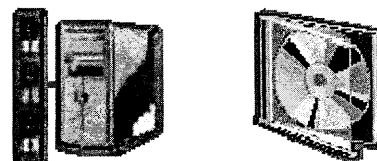
The chancel was added to the church in 1858 under the rectorship of Harvey Stanley (who is buried in the churchyard), and the church was reconsecrated in January 1859. Reverend Stanley died in 1885 after serving 34 years as rector of Holy Trinity. His rectorship saw the upheaval of the Civil War, and the tremendous changes brought by the construction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad through his Parish, including the establishment of a new mission

chapel in the railroad town of Glenn Dale. Memorials to Stanley’s children, who died in the 1850s, include the altar window and the marble baptismal font; a stained-glass window in the east façade commemorates Reverend Stanley himself.

Other physical changes came to Holy Trinity at the turn of the 20th century, including the addition of the small brick narthex at the south gable front. The present brick Parish Hall was built in the early 1960s, and has been enlarged in recent years; it houses the lower school of Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School. Our dinner (featuring a choice of Provencal Chicken or Brandied Beef Tenderloin) will be served in the large and comfortable room on the upper level of the Parish Hall.

Holy Trinity Church stands on a tree-shaded knoll, adjoined on two sides by an ancient burial ground that dates from the early years of the Parish. The site has played an important part in the history of Prince George’s County, and the church itself is an excellent example of early nineteenth-century ecclesiastical architecture. It will be a wonderful place to celebrate St. George’s Day 2009! You will receive your invitations soon, and we look forward to seeing you there.

~Susan G. Pearl, Historian



Library Looking for Volunteers

In an effort to continue bringing the DeMarr Library into the digital age, we are looking for volunteers to work on two projects either at home or at the library. One project is to convert VHS video tapes to DVDs. The library has the equipment for the conversion, and it can be connected to your computer or ours. The other project is converting audio cassette tapes to CDs. If you are interested in working on one of these projects, please call the library at 301-220-0330 or stop by the library any Saturday between noon and 4:00 PM.



The Prince George's County Historical Society

5626 Bell Station Road
Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120

Phone: 301-220-0330

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 Committee: Susan Pearl,
Vicki Styles

Directors: John Brunner, Elizabeth Dougherty, Joyce Dowling, Charles Hendricks, Elizabeth Lingg, Dan Louck, Nathania Branch Miles, Jack Thompson Jr., William Uber, Andrew Wallace, Sealani Weiner, Laurence Winston

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

All members of the Prince George's County Historical Society are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet one Saturday each month (next meetings will be March 7 and April 4). Dates are subject to change. Call 301-249-9000.

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

YOU CAN HELP THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY!

As you know, our Frederick S. DeMarr Library has an outstanding collection of books, journals, maps, photographs, vertical files and other ephemera, and we are delighted with the number of visitors who come to use them, including students, professional researchers, and ordinary folks with interests in various subjects of County history. The Library Committee keeps a constant list of publications that we would like to add to our collection, but we have a very limited budget.

Listed below are several publications that we would like to acquire for the library. If you have a copy of any of these books that you would like to donate, please bring it to the library. Or if you would like to donate funds for the purchase of any of these books, please send a check (payable to PGCHS, and marked for library acquisition) to P.O. Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014. The individual prices of these books range between \$20 and \$50. All book donations will be acknowledged.

*Gleanings from Maryland Newspapers
1776-1785* by Robert W. Barnes
*Gleanings from Maryland Newspapers
1786-1790* by Robert W. Barnes

Maryland Marriages 1634-1777
by Robert W. Barnes
Maryland Marriages 1778-1800
by Robert W. Barnes
Maryland Marriages 1801-1820
by Robert W. Barnes

*At the Crossroads: The Architectural History of
Wicomico County, Maryland* by Paul Touart

If you have any questions, please call Susan Pearl at 301-262-3367, or at the library at 301-220-0330.

Thank you so much!
The Library Committee



MUSINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Society had a **great** turnout for the *Mason and Dixon & The Defining of America* talk at the Maryland Historical Society on February 8th! Thank you to our host David Thaler, exhibition Co-organizer and Curator, Jeannine Disviscour.

It was a wonderful chance to see the actual Mason and Dixon maps, charters, contracts, letters, all in the Calvert Papers Collection, along with the recently re-attributed transit and equal altitude instrument used in the survey (lent by Independence Hall, Philadelphia).

Astronomer Jeremiah Mason's hand-written journal (lent by the Maryland State Archives) was a thrilling experience for all of us. It is a story of great drama and historical consequence, and few of us realized just how complex the over eighty year sequence of events was. As we chatted amongst ourselves afterwards, many of us came to that conclusion. The exhibition is scheduled to close on February 28th.

According to Rob Rogers, director of The Maryland Historical Society, we had 49 attendees. An additional cadre of Army Engineers (colleagues of David Thaler) swelled the day's number to at least sixty. We are in the process of developing a ride-share program that will surely make attendance easier and increase our numbers for future events.

We appreciate the generosity of Rob Rogers who not only provided six month free admission memberships to all non-members present, but who also provided a great assortment of drinks and refreshments for all.

If you are NOT a member of MdHS, your membership can be easily organized through our own efficient Treasurer/Membership Chair, Donna Schneider. She can bill you for both PGCHS and MdHS memberships and simply forward your money to The Maryland Historical Society. For anyone interested in the additional benefit of **Maryland Genealogical Society** Membership, that organization is based at MdHS in the H. Furlong Baldwin Library.

Thanks again to David Thaler and Jeannine Disviscour who spent the afternoon with us, answering questions and pointing out the other wonderful exhibitions and permanent installations. Some in our group had never been to the historical society, so all of us learned or were reminded again what a treasure house it is! Congratulations to those of you who took out actual annual memberships. Don't underestimate how important this is to the historical society—it really matters.

Society Sponsors

The Society would like to thank our sponsors. Their generosity helps to fund the Society's programs, events and general activities, as well as the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History.

We greatly appreciate your support!

Platinum: Main Street Catering

Gold: Minuteman Press of Crofton; Petro Design/Build

Bronze: Sandra Cross; JDS Associates, Inc.; Dan Louck; James McCeney; Douglas and Susan McElrath; Barbara Murphy; Susan and John Pearl; Donna Schneider; Judy and Ken Schneider; Andrew and Sondra Wallace; James and Susan Wolfe

DESCENDANTS OF FORMER OWNERS VISIT HISTORIC SPORTLAND

Sportland is the oldest house in Berwyn Heights; it stands on one of the highest points in the town, and now has 5933 Natasha Drive as its address. The oldest part of this frame house dates from the late 18th century, with its Greek Revival-styled main block built in the mid-19th century. Several notable families, including James Edmonston and Gen. Edward C. Carrington (who served as U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia under Presidents Lincoln, Johnson, and Grant), owned and lived in Sportland.



Sylvia Davis at Sportland, 1900

On January 24, 2009, Sportland's current owner, Pat Brown, graciously opened her home to a visit by descendants of the Davis family (owners of the property from 1897 to 1903) and the Waters family (who owned it from 1915 to 1951). Joining the group were Berwyn Heights historian and PGCHS Board member Ann Harris Davidson, and PGCHS Historian Susan Pearl.

John "Jack" Berwyn Carson II and his sister Lynn Gillingham (with her daughter and grandchildren) were delighted to view the home at which their grandmother, Sylvia Ellen Davis, had been photographed circa 1900; she had so enjoyed the place that she had named her son John BERWYN Carson.

Maria Waters Snoddy was also thrilled to revisit the home in which she had lived with her grandparents in the 1930s; her two



Visitors at Sportland, January 2009

daughters, who had never been inside the house, were especially pleased to be part of the group. This "homecoming" was a special event for everyone, reminding us of important connections - the role of historic places of our past and their significance in the County today.

GLENN DALE HOSPITAL UPDATE

In January 2009, the agenda of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission included a discussion of the proposed nomination of Glenn Dale Hospital to the National Register of Historic Places. The Board of Directors of the Historical Society addressed the following letter to the Historic Preservation Commission in enthusiastic support of this nomination:

The Glenn Dale Citizens' Association has addressed its request to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for the nomination of Glenn Dale Hospital (Prince George's County Historic Resource #70-50) to the National Register of Historic Places. The Prince George's County Historical Society would like, by this letter, to endorse and support that request.

Glenn Dale Hospital is a very significant property, both historically and architecturally. Its complex comprises 23 brick Georgian Revival style buildings, two of them monumental in scale. Sixteen of the 23 buildings were completed between 1932 and 1939, designed by the District of Columbia Municipal Architect's

Glenn Dale, cont.

office under the supervision of Nathan C. Wyeth; all of the buildings stand on an approximately 60-acre portion of the original 216-acre property.

Supported by Public Works Administration funds, the design and construction of the hospital was a long-term, publicly funded project during the Depression years, providing work for both privately and publicly employed architects and landscape architects. Glenn Dale Hospital is an important example of early 20th-century treatment of tuberculosis; it was constructed to treat indigent patients, as their existence in the general population without adequate care was seen as a serious public health threat. During this period, the widely accepted cure for tuberculosis was extended bed rest in a quiet country setting, exactly what the Glenn Dale campus offered. Contemporary accounts credit the hospital campus with having the most up-to-date equipment and practices for that time.

The Glenn Dale Hospital campus became a self-contained community, with doctors and staff living on the property, and patients who stayed for years, even decades. In the 1960s, Glenn Dale expanded its mission to treating the chronically ill, having already become a cottage industry that provided jobs and incomes for generations of families in the area. Closed at the beginning of 1982, the hospital property has been the subject of a variety of development proposals, none of which has been realized. It was acquired by the M-NCPPC in 1995.



Glenn Dale Hospital

In 1997, because of its historical and architectural significance, the Glenn Dale Hospital was determined eligible by the Maryland Historical Trust for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Prince George's County Historical Society has long been interested in the Glenn Dale Hospital, not only because of its associations with our headquarters at Marietta, but especially because of its unique history and its outstanding architecture. On 4 October 2008, the Historical Society hosted a gathering on the grounds of the Glenn Dale Hospital, with principal speaker Leah Latimer (author of the award-winning *Washington Post Magazine* cover story "Quarantined" about her mother's experience as a patient at Glenn Dale) and a large group of doctors, nurses, other staff, patients, and families of patients. The size and enthusiasm of this gathering made very clear the importance of the hospital in the history of our county, and many of the attendees expressed their hopes for the restoration and reuse of this outstanding resource.

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places will not guarantee the future of the Glenn Dale complex, but it will emphasize and publicize the historical and architectural significance of the facility. Most importantly, it will offer the possibility of substantial tax credits to any new owner/developer for its restoration, as opposed to the very substantial costs of demolition.

The Prince George's County Historical Society urges the Historic Preservation Commission and staff to begin the process of nomination of the Glenn Dale Hospital to the National Register. The first step, which can be taken immediately, should be formal designation of the Glenn Dale Hospital as an Historic Site (it certainly meets at least three of the historical and architectural criteria for designation). Then, with the cooperation of the Parks Department of the M-NCPPC, work should be undertaken on the nomination of an agreed-upon portion of the property for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important historic property.

PRESERVATION GRANTS ANNOUNCED FOR COUNTY'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS

At the end of January 2009, Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson announced that \$500,000 in grants money had been approved to help restore some of the County's historic buildings. The program, which was conceived four years ago, met final approval with 16 grantees and 2 alternates. This innovative program helps owners make historically accurate repairs in restoring these homes and other buildings.

"The Historic Properties Grants Program has come a long way from conception to reality," said Planning Board Chairman Samuel J. Parker, Jr. "Strong cooperation from the County, the M-NCPPC, and the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has resulted in an excellent partnership, and the ability to get funds out on the street to accomplish important historic preservation projects throughout the Prince George's County."

Grant awardees were selected from 37 applications. Each application was reviewed by a newly created Historic Grants Committee chaired by Henry Turner, a commissioner who serves on the HPC. Selection criteria included significance of the property to its neighborhood, urgency of need, readiness to initiate and complete the project, demonstrated community interest and support, educational and innovative value, retention of original materials in the project, provision for long-term preservation, and leveraging of other preservation activities linked to the structure.

The Black Swamp Schoolhouse near Brandywine, for example, was awarded a \$49,000 grant. Built in 1899, it is one of few surviving schoolhouses for African Americans



Black Swamp School, Baden

built between the periods of the Freedmen's Bureau and the later Rosenwald Fund. Although now badly deteriorated, it will be restored as an important reminder of another era.

Grant funds will also assist in the restoration of Kingston (in Upper Marlboro), a charming mid-18th-century wood frame home that was renovated in Gothic Revival style in the middle of the 19th century.

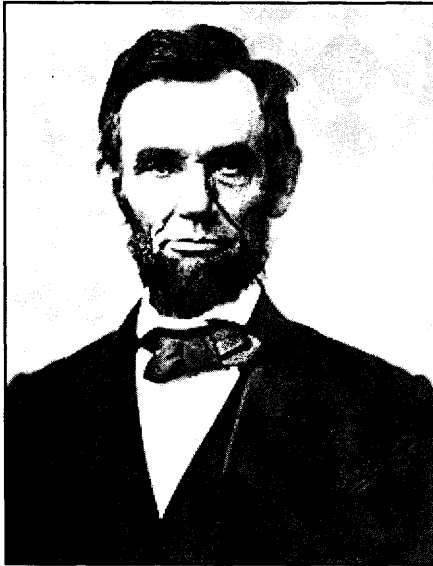


Kingston, Upper Marlboro

In addition to the Black Swamp School and Kingston (noted above), the following properties are successful recipients of the County's Historic Property Grants: Oaklands in Laurel; McEwen House and Hitching Post Hill in Hyattsville; Elwood J. Taylor House in Berwyn Heights; Taliaferro House in College Park; Cheverly United Methodist Church in Cheverly; the Bostwick Stable in Bladensburg; Fairmount Heights School, Isaac Brown House, and Sidney Pittman House in Fairmount Heights; St. John's Episcopal Church at Broad Creek; the Villa de Sales Stable in Aquasco; the Chapel of the Incarnation in Brandywine; and St. Thomas' Church, Croom. In addition, two projects were designated as alternates in the event an award is not accepted. They are the Woodville School, Aquasco; and Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness near Clinton.

Photos of the award-winning projects and additional information on the program are available at www.mncppc.org/county/hpc.htm.

Prince George's County Celebrates the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln



A program entitled *Standing Tall: Lincoln at 200* was held at Greenbelt Library on Saturday, 14 February 2009, part of The Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration of Suburban Washington D.C. The program included a re-enactment of Elizabeth Keckley, dressmaker for Mrs. Lincoln, and the U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps and 1st Maryland Cavalry Civil War Re-enactment companies served as Honor Guards. Highlights of the program were presentations by Elizabeth Brownstein, author of *Lincoln's Other White House*, and Allison Herrmann, lead historical interpreter at the Lincoln Cottage.

The Lincoln Cottage, where Lincoln and his family spent time away from the White House during his presidency, has been fully restored and opened to the public; after its opening just one year ago it has received rave reviews. The Prince George's County Historical Society hopes to organize a group tour of this very special place, but we encourage you to visit it as soon as you can. You can learn about the tours and exhibitions at the Lincoln Cottage by going to <http://lincolncottage.wordpress.com>

A Wonderful Evening With The Prince George's Philharmonic

On February 7th, several of us had the privilege of attending the Prince George's Philharmonic with guest pianist Thomas Pandolfi. We are embarrassed to admit that this was our first opportunity to attend. We are now disappointed that we have missed so many previous performances! It is as good and better than any Kennedy Center performance, at a fraction of the cost and right here in our own County!

World renowned pianist, Thomas Pandolfi, was spectacular. And for those of you who may not know, our own Susan Pearl is a Second Violinist!

We obviously look forward to future performances and encourage everyone to treat yourselves to this magnificent music. The Prince George's Philharmonic relies on our attendance and support.

For more information on upcoming concerts and other information, visit their website at www.pgphilharmonic.org or by calling 301-454-1462.

~John J. Petro and Kathleen Litchfield

A. Lincoln

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE
AT THE SOLDIERS' HOME

*An Evening at President Lincoln's Cottage
With Michael Burlingame*

Thursday, March 12

6:00 pm – Reception

6:30 pm – Program

7:30 pm – Program Concludes

President Lincoln's Cottage Members – FREE
General Admission - \$10

In the first multi-volume biography of Abraham Lincoln to be published in decades, Lincoln scholar Michael Burlingame has capped years of research into long-neglected manuscripts and newspapers to produce what Doris Kearns Goodwin describes as a

"profound and masterful portrait of our sixteenth president."

Join us for refreshments and a remarkable evening inside the Cottage as Burlingame shares his unique and fascinating insights into Lincoln's presidency and private life. *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* is a magisterial new work that has been praised by Lincoln scholar Gerald Prokopowicz as

"a book unlike anything else written about Lincoln"

To reserve a signed copy, email dawn_brady@nthp.org

Calendar of Events – March and April 2009

March 1-31 – Chesapeake Woodturners Guild Exhibit at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM – 4 PM, daily; opening reception, March 1 from 1-4 PM; see hand-made items in mansion; demonstrations on Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 PM, weather permitting; free, call 301-377-7817 for more information

March 1-April 12 – Television from the Past! with “Boomer Vision: Kids TV of the 1950’s” at the Radio and Television Museum, Saturdays and Sundays at 2 PM, free, for details call 301-809-3089

March 3 – Spring Lecture Series – “A Great Variety of Articles Both Elegant and Useful”: Antebellum American Agriculture Fairs by Ann Wass at Riversdale Mansion, 7:30 PM; \$5/person, call 301-864-0420 for details

March 7 – 7th Maryland Company A U.S. Drill Day at Marietta House Museum, 12-4 PM; Civil War re-enactors demonstrate military drills, weaponry and tacticals; free

March 7 and 8 – Hands-On History Day: Be a Woodturner’s Apprentice at Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM – 12 noon, same program both days of making chairs the old-fashioned way; all ages, \$7/child, reservations recommended by calling 301-377-7817

March 8 – Women in Aviation Lecture “Dashing German Girls”- German Women Pilots Until 1945 presented by Dr. Evelyn Zegenhagen at College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM; free with museum admission, call 301-864-6029 for details

March 9 – “Shake, Rattle and Roll” Exploring the History of Laurel in the 1950s by Lindsey Baker at the Maryland City at Russett Library, 7 PM; free, call 301-725-7975 for details

March 10 – Second Tuesday Lecture “An Evening with James and Dolley Madison”, recreation by interpreters John and Nancy Gardner at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, for details call 301-809-3089

March 13-14 – Hands-On History: Teen Immersion at Riversdale Mansion, 5 PM; girls ages 13-19 will experience life in early Federal America, including cooking, crafts, and other activities, during 24 hours in the historic house; \$75/resident, \$90/non-resident, reservations required by calling 301-864-0420

March 14 – Rain Gardens and Conservation Landscaping by horticulturist Alexia Savold at Accokeek Foundation Education Center, 10 AM – 12 noon; \$15/non-members, \$10/member

March 14 – Colonial Tavern Dinner at Darnall’s Chance, 7-9 PM; enjoy an 18th century tavern dinner and listen to Ship’s Company sing sea chanteys and tavern songs; \$55/resident, \$65/non-resident, call 301-952-8010 for reservations.

March 14 – Refuge System Birthday Bash! at National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10 AM – 3 PM; entertainment, kids’ activities and wildlife habitat tram tours; free

March 18 – Seed Starting at Accokeek Foundation Education Center (one in a series on organic gardening), 6:30-9 PM; \$30/non-members, \$25/members, call 301-283-2113 for details

March 18 – History Lecture – Maryland’s Rich Horseracing History by Pam Williams at Montpelier Art Center, 7:30 PM; free, call 301-377-7817 for details

March 19 – Joint Women’s History Program of “Margaret Brent, A Colonial ‘Gentleman’” by living history interpreter Mary Ann Jung at Montpelier Arts Center, 6:30 PM; \$28/person, for ticket information call Christine Whelehan at 301-262-0920

March 19 – Kids Kaboose at the Old Town Welcome Center, 10:30 AM; stories, crafts and Trainspotting for kids ages 2-10; free, for details call 301-809-3089

March 20-22 – Tenth Annual Symposium – Lincoln’s Assassination: All Things Considered at Surratt House Museum, where scholars explore various aspects of the Lincoln assassination, including the role of Mary Surratt, the reaction of her Catholic community, the history of Old Capitol Prison, and more. Also included are off-site bus tours and a dinner program; \$160/person with bus tours priced separately, reservation and payment required in advance, call 301-868-1121 for details

March 21 – Colonial Foodways at National Colonial Farm, 10 AM – 4 PM; view demonstrations involving seasonally available foods, colonial implements and methods; admission fee, members free

March 22 – Spring Children’s Program at Laurel Museum, 1-4 PM; \$5/child, call 301-725-7975 for details

March 22 – Seasonal Selections: Soup du Jour at Riversdale Mansion, 12 noon; drop by to see what the Riversdale Kitchen Guild will stir up; regular house tour fee

March 23 – Ladies and Lunch at Belair Mansion, 12 noon; bring a brown bag lunch for a discussion about “non-famous” women of the past; free, call 301-809-3089 for details

March 24 – Spring Lecture Series – “The 1853 William Sides Map of Charles Benedict Calvert’s Property and the Surrounding Area” by Dave Murray at Riversdale Mansion, 7:30 PM; \$5/person, call 301-864-0420 for details

March 28 – Women’s History Month Bus Tour starting at Darnall’s Chance, 10 AM – 4 PM; trip to downtown Annapolis to learn about 18th and 19th century women; \$37/person, call 301-952-8010 for reservations

March 28-29 – 20th Annual Wildlife Art Show & Sale at National Wildlife Visitor Center, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM on Saturday, 11 AM – 4:30 PM on Sunday; free

Calendar, cont.

March 28 – Tavern Night at Riversdale Mansion, 8 PM; entertainment by the Ship's Company Chanteymen and tavern-style food and beverages; must be 21 years of age, \$20/resident, \$24/non-resident, reservations required by calling 301-864-0420

April 4 – Rain Barrel Workshop at Accokeek Foundation Education Center, 1-3 PM; workshop will cover installation, maintenance and landscaping; free and rain barrels may be purchased; for more information call 301-283-2113

April 4 – Laurel Historical Society Annual Gala at the Laurel Racetrack, 6:30 PM; \$75/members, \$85/non-members; call 301-725-7975 for reservations

April 11 – Colonial Candle-Making at Accokeek Foundation Visitor Center, 1:30-3:30 PM; workshop about wicks, waxes, uses of candles in the 1700s and safety instruction; \$20/non-member, \$15/member, call 301-283-2113 for details

April 11, 18 and 25 – Wanna Take In A Flick? The Laurel Historical Society Presents a 1950s Film Series, 2 PM; suggested donation is \$1/members and \$2/non-members, call 301-725-7975 for details

April 14 – Second Tuesday Lecture – TBA at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, call 301-809-3089 for details

April 14 – Spring Lecture Series – "The Stier-Peeters Art Collection" by Susan Pearl at Riversdale Mansion, 7:30 PM; \$5/person, call 301-864-0420 for details

April 15 – Garden Preparation at Accokeek Foundation Education Center (one in a series on organic gardening), 6:30-9 PM; \$30/non-members, \$25/members, call 301-283-2113 for details

April 18 – Children's Day at Accokeek Foundation Visitor Center, 11 AM – 4 PM; hands-on activities for all ages; \$5/person, children under 2 and members are free

April 18-19 – Marching Through Time at Marietta House Museum, 11 AM – 5 PM; living history encampment that encompasses re-enactors from 1st century Rome through 20th century Gulf War, free parking at Glenn Dale Community Center with shuttle service; \$8/adult, \$5/ ages 5 & older, free/4 & under, call 301-464-5291 for details

April 18 – Open Hearth Cooking Class at Riversdale Mansion, 10 AM; the Riversdale Kitchen Guild will teach basic techniques using a variety of equipment and seasonal ingredients; \$38/resident, \$45/non-resident, reservations required by calling 301-864-0420

April 19 – Earth Day at Patuxent Research Refuge – North Tract, 1-4 PM, free

April 19 – St. George's Day Dinner and Awards presented by the Prince George's County Historical Society at Holy Trinity Church in Bowie, 2 PM; see article in this issue; \$45/person, call 301-952-8539 for details

April 19 – Seasonal Selections: The Cat's Run Away With the Pudding String: Steamed and Baked Puddings at Riversdale Mansion, 12 noon; the Riversdale Kitchen Guild will prepare two types of early 19th c. puddings; regular house tour fee

April 21 – Nature Nuts at Accokeek Foundation Visitor Center, 11 AM – 12 noon; explore the National Colonial Farm's museum garden, hear a story, create a craft; for ages 3-5, must be accompanied by adult; \$6/non-member, \$5/member, registration required by calling 301-283-2113

April 25 – "Not Your Mother's Packaged Gelatin: The How and Why of Calves' Feet Jelly" by Sophie Frederickson at Riversdale Mansion, 10 AM; learn how to prepare the jelly from scratch and see various ways to use it; \$5/person

Upcoming Events:

May 2 – Gabriel Duvall Bus Tour "Annapolis: The Early Years" from Marietta House Museum, 9 AM – 4 PM; visit Annapolis where Gabriel Duvall spent the early years of his law career; fee, for reservations call 301-464-5291

May 5 – Spring Lecture Series – "Investigation of the Role of African-American Slavery in the Early History of the Campus" by panel of faculty, staff and students from the University of Maryland, College Park, at Riversdale Mansion, 7:30 PM; \$5/person, call 301-864-0420 for details

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

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, 1993. 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: \$20.00.
- 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: \$20.00.
- 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 1696 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 301-220-0030 or email the Historical Society at pgchslibrary@aol.com for current postage rates.

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Prince George's County Historical Society

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Membership Category (Please check one)

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☐ Additional Contribution

Sponsor: ☐ Platinum Level \$1000 ☐ Gold Level \$500 ☐ Silver Level \$250 ☐ Bronze Level \$100

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

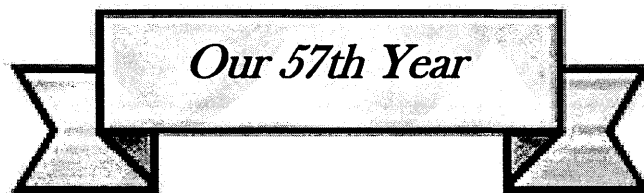
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News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

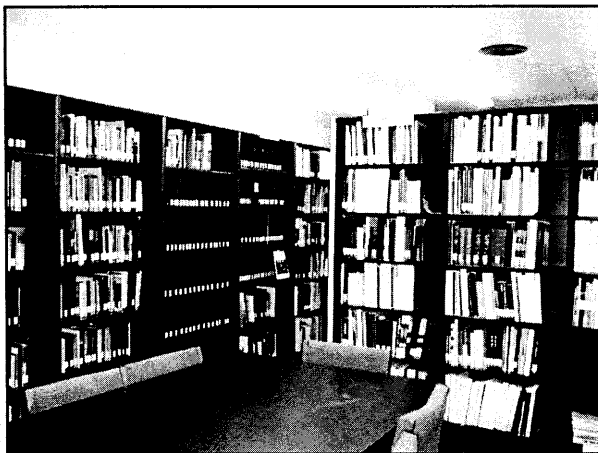
XXXVIII Number 3

May - June, 2009



Mount Calvert
The New Historical Society
Headquarters

Frederick S. DeMarr **Library of County History**



Greenbelt Library Building
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt
301-220-0330
Hours: Saturdays Noon to 4 pm
and by appointment

Grand Opening! **New Historical Society** **Headquarters At Mount Calvert**

Just one year ago at this time, we were busily finalizing the move of our library from Marietta, and setting it up for a major opening – which took place to great excitement and acclaim on May 31, 2008. In what seems, in some ways, like a repetition or continuation of this momentous effort, the Historical Society is preparing for the relocation of our Society headquarters from Marietta to Mount Calvert. Plans and negotiations for this move have been underway for the last year, and we can now finally announce that on **Thursday, June 4, 2009**, we will host an open house reception at the new Prince George's County Historical Society headquarters at Mount Calvert!

Mount Calvert is considered by many to be the most historic property in Prince George's County. The elegant brick house, which dates from the late eighteenth century, is the only historic structure still standing at the site of Charles Town, the first seat of the Prince George's County government. The County Court met at Charles Town from 1696 (when the County was established) until 1721 when the seat of government was relocated to Upper Marlboro. The Mount Calvert house stands at a very scenic location overlooking the confluence of the Western Branch and the Patuxent River. The property was acquired by the Maryland – National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1995, and M-NCPPC staff members have been conducting important archaeological investigations since that time. Known now as *A Confluence of Three Cultures*, the Mount Calvert property tells the story of 8000 years of

Mount Calvert, cont.

American Indian, then Euro-American and African-American culture.

M-NCPPC staff now operates the beautiful house at Mount Calvert as a museum, with handsome and informative exhibits on the findings from years of archival and archaeological research. Staff has welcomed the Historical Society to make its headquarters in the five second-story rooms above the exhibit rooms, and to use the first-story conference room for occasional meetings. (Monthly Board of Directors meetings will rotate between Mount Calvert and other M-NCPPC House Museums, in order to maximize convenience for all Society members – be sure to call 301-220-0330 in advance in order to confirm the time and location of Board meetings.) The grounds of the Mount Calvert house offer the perfect scenic



Marietta Mansion

location for lawn parties and other receptions.

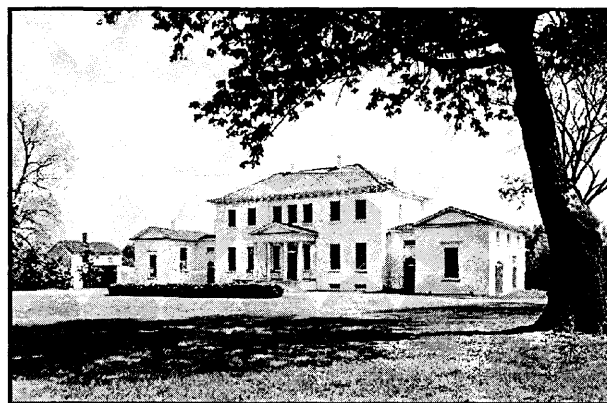
Marietta has been the Society headquarters since 1985, and it has been a privilege to have had it as our

home. But times change, and so do the needs of the Society.

With the relocation of the library to Greenbelt last year, and with the welcoming offer of the M-NCPPC Parks Department to use Mount Calvert, we have achieved all of the needs for a headquarters that we agreed upon more than two years ago: more space for the library in a populated area convenient to our members and other researchers, but at the same time an attractive country setting with space for social events and other gatherings, and in a very historic place! We will miss Marietta, but will still return there for Society meetings and events. Now we will enjoy a wonderful, cooperative adaptive use of a very historic building in an incomparable historic setting!

The Board of Directors of the Historical Society is very pleased to invite members and guests to the open house reception at Mount Calvert. Please join us on Thursday, June 4, 2009, at Mount Calvert from 6 to 8 p.m. The reception will include self guided tours of Mount Calvert, pontoon boat rides on the river, entertainment, food and beverages and much, much more. You will soon receive an invitation with details and directions. We look forward to seeing you at Mount Calvert as we celebrate this grand occasion!

Historic Preservation Week Reception Riversdale House Museum, May 21st, 2009, 6 p.m.



Historic Riversdale

This year's annual Preservation Week Reception will be held on Thursday, May 21st at 6:00 p.m. at Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, in Riverdale Park.

The reception provides an opportunity for those interested in Prince George's County's heritage to get together and celebrate the individuals and organizations that are working in historic preservation, to review the state of preservation in the county, and to look to the future. The evening's agenda will include a keynote address by Dr. Cheryl LaRoche, an archaeologist who specializes in the preservation and interpretation of African-American heritage sites. Dr. LaRoche will discuss the issues of

preserving the African-American heritage of Prince George's County. Preservation plaques will also be awarded to historic property owners, and the County's 2009 Endangered Sites List will be presented. Doug McElrath, President of Prince George's Heritage, will serve as master of ceremonies.

There will also be ample time to socialize and enjoy Riversdale House Museum and to see the new Visitor's Center that opened last year. Riversdale, a National Historic Landmark, is a restored, Federal style brick plantation house built between 1801 and 1807. Construction of this elegant mansion was begun by Henri Stier, a Flemish aristocrat, and was completed by his daughter Rosalie and her husband George Calvert, grandson of the fifth Lord Baltimore. Riversdale's significance is based not only on its outstanding architecture and the prominence of the family that developed it. It was in its early years the repository of a unique private collection of Old World master paintings, and it was also the home and work place of Adam Francis Plummer, a literate slave whose journal gives us a first-hand glimpse of plantation life from the eyes of an enslaved African American.

All Historical Society members and friends are invited to the reception, but must reserve a space by May 15th. To RSVP, please call the Riversdale House Museum at (301) 864-0420, or you may notify Pam Cooper of Prince George's Heritage by e-mail at: pamelakcooper@verizon.net.

St. George's Day, 2009

On April 19, 2009, members and friends of the Historical Society had a very enjoyable time celebrating the 313th anniversary of the establishment of our County at historic Holy Trinity Church, Collington. The afternoon began with a tour of the graveyard and the church led by Karen Sharp, representing the Holy Trinity congregation, and Society Historian Susan Pearl. A delicious dinner in

the Parish Hall was followed by the presentation of six St. George's Day awards:

to Ann Harris Davidson, for the preparation and publication of *Berwyn Heights: Then and Now*;

to George Denny, for the preparation and publication of *Brentwood: Town in Transition*;

to Andra Damron, for the preparation and publication of *Images of America: Hyattsville*

to Leah Latimer, for her dedicated research on Glenn Dale Hospital;

to Lee Schiek, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the College Park Airport;

and to Stan Meros, representing St. John Properties, Inc., for the restoration of historic Melford.



Leah Latimer
receives 2009 St. George's Day Award

After the presentation of these awards, the Hall of Fame of Prince George's County unveiled the portrait of its 2009 inductee, Gladys Noon Spellman. Ms. Spellman (1918-1988) was a teacher in the Prince George's County Public Schools, President of the Prince George's County Council of PTAs, member and chair of the Prince George's County Board of Commissioners, and three-term Democratic Congresswoman from the 5th Congressional District of Maryland.

Thanks to everyone who made this year's St. George's Day such a pleasant one. We are now looking forward to St. George's Day 2010 at Trinity Church in Upper Marlboro, on the occasion of this church's 200th birthday!



The Prince George's County Historical Society

Phone: 301-220-0330

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

Website: www.pghistory.org

President: John Petro
Vice President: Lynn Roberts
Secretary: Dusty Rhoads
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Jr., William Uber, Andrew Wallace,
Sealani Weiner, Laurence Winston

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

All members of the Prince George's
County Historical Society are invited
and welcome to attend Society Board
meetings. We meet one Saturday each
month (next meetings will be May 9 and
June 6). Dates are subject to change.
Call 301-249-9000 to confirm dates.

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

2009 Society Sponsors

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

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Farewell to Old Friends

The Historical Society lost two of
its stalwart members this spring.

W.C. "Bud" Dutton died on February
28. Bud had served on the Board of
Directors for several years before being
elected as the Society's president in 1989
and serving until 1992. **John Mitchell**
died on April 14. He had served on the
Board of Directors for nearly 20 years
until 2002. Both Messrs. Dutton and
Mitchell had been long-time enthusiastic
supporters of the Historical Society's ef-
forts, and the Society sends its best
wishes to their families.

4th Annual Juneteenth Seminar *Footprints and Roots*

The Prince George's County Historical Society is partnering with the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., Prince George's County, Maryland Chapter (AAHGS), and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Suitland Ward, to host the fourth annual Juneteenth Celebration, *Footprints and Roots*, on Saturday, June 20, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Seminar will be held at the Church of Latter-Day Saints, 5300 Auth Road, Suitland, Maryland. The Juneteenth celebration is an opportunity to celebrate African-American culture through educational seminars. It is also a time of reflection and remembrance and a chance to pay tribute to those who did not live to see Juneteenth. A full day of historical and genealogical workshops designed to help the beginner, intermediate, and advanced researcher includes but is not limited to: *How to Search Probate Records, Beginning Genealogy, Keepsakes and Heirlooms, Researching African-American Immigration, African-American Migration, Finding Women's Maiden Names, Military Records, DNA Testing, Using a Family History Center, Moorland-Spingarn Library Records, the Underground Railroad, and Research Repositories.*

A special workshop for children between the ages of 7-12 will be led by Mrs. Julia Porter. Other workshop leaders include AAHGS members Edwin Washington, William O.Q. Shelton, Charles Howard, Roland Mills, Nathania A. Branch Miles, and Donna Wells from the Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Library, Char Bah, Damani Davis, and John Deeben, as well as representatives from the Maryland State Archives, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives and Records Administration.

The key note speaker will be Dr. Hari Jones, the curator and Assistant Director of the African-American Civil War Museum. Dr. Jones is a retired Marine Corps Captain and has written and lectured extensively on the military service of African-Americans, including interviews with the History Channel and the Canadian Broadcasting Network.

The day's activities are free to the public, but you must register so that the planners will know how to set up the rooms for the various workshops. For information, visit www.pgcm.aahgs.org or contact Carolyn Rowe at 301-292-6987.

~Nathania Branch Miles

First Ladies Exhibit Reopens at Publick Playhouse in June



The exhibit "*First Ladies of Maryland: Prince George's County*" will be mounted for viewing at the Publick Playhouse, beginning on Thursday, June 11, 2009. This photo exhibit was created in 2001 by the Prince George's County Historical Society and the Parks Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. It was viewed at several different locations that year, showing the seven women from Prince George's County who have served as First Ladies of Maryland, their husbands the Governors, and the historic homes where they lived. On June 11, 2009, it will again be on display, this time in association with a concert by the Prince George's Philharmonic at the Publick Playhouse. The concert, which will be presented at 11:00 a.m. on June 11, is free of charge, but reservations are required by calling 301-277-1710. The exhibit, also free of charge, may be viewed between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays from June 11 through July.

Meet Susan G. Pearl, Our Historian



Susan G. Pearl holds a Bachelor's degree from Brown University and advanced degrees from the University of Michigan, including one year of graduate work at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece. She moved with her husband and two young sons to Prince George's County in the 1970s, and, although her degrees were in the history and archaeology of Classical Greece, began to work on archaeological investigations of several local historic sites. In 1978, she was contracted to conduct the County-wide survey of historic properties which led to the enactment in 1981 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance for Prince George's County. She continued work as research/architectural historian for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-

NCPPC) as a member of the Planning Department staff that implements the County's preservation program. In this capacity she conducted field survey work and documentary research on more than 500 historic buildings and numerous historic communities in the County. In late 2004 she retired from her position at M-NCPPC, but continued until mid-2007 working on contract with the Planning Department on specific projects. She now does contract research for other State, County, and private organizations on specific historic research and preservation projects, and serves as visiting lecturer for various architecture and preservation courses in the Washington area. She has served since 1998 as the elected Historian for the Prince George's County Historical Society, and in this capacity is responsible for research and writing on a variety of historical subjects, as well as response to the many inquiries that come to the PGCHS by telephone, letter and e-mail. As a member of the PGCHS Library Committee she assists researchers who use the Society's library.

Ms. Pearl is a frequent lecturer on historical and architectural subjects related to Prince George's County. She has a particular interest in Riversdale, and in particular the Stier family's outstanding collection of Flemish paintings that was housed at Riversdale at the beginning of the 19th century.

Ms. Pearl was co-manager in 1982 of M-NCPPC's original survey of African-American historic properties and communities; she continues her research on African-American historic places, in many cases effecting the protection of these fragile resources through the County's Preservation Ordinance. In 1996, she authored *African-American Heritage Survey*, a M-NCPPC publication that includes 14 historic African-American communities and 107 individual historic sites. Ms. Pearl is the local authority on Prince George's County's African-American historic buildings and communities, and in particular on the Rosenwald schools of Prince George's County. She has made presentations on the Rosenwald schools of Prince George's County at several national conferences, and serves on the Rosenwald Task Force for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Another area of her special interest is a group of pioneering African-American architects who practiced in the Washington, D.C., area early in the twentieth century. She has written and lectured frequently on one of them, William Sidney Pittman, and contributed the article on him to the Oxford University Press *American National Biography*, as well as to *African American Architects; A Biographical Dictionary, 1865-1945*, New York, Routledge, 2004.

Ms. Pearl is the author of a number of M-NCPPC publications on various aspects of the County's history, architecture and archaeology, including *Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites, Prince George's County, Maryland* (1993, expanded and republished 2006), *African-American Heritage Survey, 1996*, and "Broad Creek History" included in the *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study* (2002). She is co-author of *Landmarks of Prince George's County*, (published 1993) by Johns Hopkins University Press. Recently she has been working with other architectural historians in preparation of a volume on the *Buildings of Maryland*. Her current project is the State-funded study of Rosenwald Schools throughout Maryland. Ms. Pearl is also preparing a publication on the Riversdale painting collection, as well as an edition of letters from antebellum Prince George's County.

Ms. Pearl lives in Bowie with her husband, John Pearl, who is a planetary astronomer at Goddard Space Flight Center. Their two sons graduated from Prince George's County schools, but left this area for college and graduate school. They now live with their families on the west coast.

Historical Society Contributions to *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* Amendment Process

Historic Preservation staff of the Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) are hard at work on an amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation (the *Historic Sites and Districts Plan*) – to update, expand, and improve the plan that has since 1981 guided and mandated the preservation of our County's historic resources. The various historically oriented organizations of the County were asked to contribute suggestions for the Plan update. On February 7, 2009, at a meeting of these organizations with the M-NCPPC staff, the Board of Directors of the Prince George's County Historical Society presented the following suggestions:

- ♦ This Preservation Plan should create a special category within the Inventory of Historic Properties for **Cemeteries**. All known cemeteries should be listed in this Cemetery Inventory and protected by the Preservation Ordinance. As additional burial places are discovered, they should be added to the Cemetery Inventory as soon as they are definitively identified.
- ♦ This Preservation Plan should attempt to establish a special method of recognition of historic communities, for communities that (1) would not be eligible (architecturally) for listing in the National Register but that have a significant history, or that (2) are opposed to regulations. This non-regulatory recognition could be effected through signage, plaques, production of pamphlets/guidebooks, inclusion in historical publications, etc., or even something like the St. George's Day Awards that are given annually by the Prince George's County Historical Society. In any case, a new method of recognition should be recommended, promoted, and supported by this Preservation Plan, by M-NCPPC staff, and the Historic Preservation Commission.
- ♦ This Preservation Plan should recommend that a new position be added to the M-NCPPC Historic Preservation staff - a specific Historic Preservation inspector

to ensure that all of the requirements of Historic Area Work Permits, and all of the conditions placed on development approvals, are carried out, and maintained. The carrying out of these specific preservation-related requirements/conditions should not be left to the County's regular inspectors.

- ♦ The recently-announced grants to owners of historic properties are important and long needed. This Preservation Plan should include vigorous pursuit of future and regular grant programs from the County government.
- ♦ This Preservation Plan should provide for the printing of a handbook for all owners of historic properties, giving owners all of the information that they need about the restrictions on designated historic properties, the benefits from designation, and the processes with which owners may need to be familiar.
- ♦ The Historical Society would like to be kept informed of progress in the Preservation Plan amendment process, and be involved in a follow-up meeting with M-NCPPC staff as the amendment process continues.
- ♦ It is crucial that appointments and re-appointments of Historic Preservation Commissioners be carried out in timely fashion. It is simply unacceptable for decisions, approvals and denials to be made by a body whose members' terms have expired. The solution to this problem is probably outside the parameters of this Preservation Plan, and may require new legislation, but this Plan amendment must recommend and pursue methods of correcting this extremely weak link in the effectiveness of the Preservation Ordinance.

Other organizations also presented their suggestions for the Plan amendment. A follow-up meeting of "stakeholders" (i.e., historical and preservation oriented organizations) will be held at the Surratt House (9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton) on Saturday, June 13, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (continental breakfast and lunch provided). All interested members of the Historical Society are invited; please RSVP to 301-952-3680.

Calendar of Events – May and June, 2009

- May-June** – Heroes of the Turf at Belair Stable, 12-4 PM, Tuesday-Sunday; exhibit on the history of African American jockeys in Thoroughbred racing. A little known fact – 13 of the first 15 Kentucky Derbies were won by African-American jockeys; free
- May 2** – Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Tea and the Arts at Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM – 4 PM; experience the stories, songs and dance of China, vendors, lectures, games, art projects, artist demonstrations and more; free; for more details call 301-377-7817
- May 3** – Children's Day at Riversdale House Museum, 12 noon; children of all ages can enjoy old-fashioned fun and games, Maypole dance, Punch & Judy show, and make and take crafts; \$2/child and adult
- May 5** – "The Investigation of the Role of African-American Slavery in the Early History of the Campus" with the panel of faculty, staff and students from the University of Maryland, College Park; part of the Spring Lecture Series at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM; \$5/person, for details call 301-864-0420
- May 9** – Mother's Day Tea at Belair Mansion, 4 PM; \$24/person, reservations required by calling 301-809-3089
- May 9** – Colonial Candle-making at National Colonial Farm Visitor Center, 1:30-3:30 PM; learn about wicks, waxes, uses of candles in the 1700s, and safety instruction; \$20/non-member, \$15/member; call 301-283-1183
- May 10** – Free Mother's Day Tour at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 12-4 PM; complimentary tour for mothers and grandmothers when accompanied by paying child or grandchild
- May 10** – Free Mother's Day Tour at Marietta House Museum, 12-4 PM; complimentary tour for mothers and grandmothers when accompanied by paying child or grandchild
- May 14** – Peale Tour, 10 AM to 4PM; bus tour led by historian Susan Pearl to five special historic places associated with portraits painted by Peale family artists, including lunch at Mount Airy; fee; call 301-454-1450 for information
- May 16** – In Our Backyard Tour to the Carroll County Farm Museum, 9 AM; meet the Laurel Historical Society at the Laurel Museum to explore the Farm Museum; \$3/per person, call 301-725-7975 for details
- May 16** – Colonial Foodways at National Colonial Farm, 10 AM – 4 PM; view preparations of fashionable foods favored by the tobacco-growing gentry in Prince George's County; admission fee, for details call 301-283-2113
- May 17** – 41st Annual Bowie Heritage Day at Belair Stable, 12-4 PM; celebrate our horse history and heritage with free pony rides, music, tours, and fun; free, for more information call 301-809-3089
- May 17** – Seasonal Selections: Rosalie's Dairy: Butter Making at Riversdale House Museum, 12 noon; see Kitchen Guild volunteers churn cream into butter and wash it and prepare it for longer-term storage; included in regular admission fee
- May 18** – Collections Discoveries, part of Brown Bag Lunch History Lecture at Belair Mansion, 12-1 PM; bring your lunch and make some discoveries from the City of Bowie Museums collections; free
- May 19** – Nature Nuts at the National Colonial Farm Education Center, 11 AM – 12 noon; explore the garden, hear a story, create a craft project and go on an outdoor adventure, for ages 3-5; \$6/non-member, \$5/member, registration required by calling 301-283-1183
- May 20** – Spring History Lecture Series at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; Prince George's County historian Susan Pearl will discuss the history of roads and the post offices in the County in the 18th and 19th century; free, for more information call 301-377-7817
- May 21** – Kids Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; railroad fun, stories and train spotting for ages 1-10; free, for more information call 301-575-2488
- May 21** – Historic Preservation Month Reception at Riversdale House Museum, 6 PM; free, for more details see article in this issue, pages 2 - 3.

Calendar, cont.

- May 23** – Pirate Fest 09 at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 11 AM – 5 PM; music, food, costume contest, treasure hunt and more; \$5/person, under 4/free, for details call 301-952-8010
- May 23** – Have you M.E.T.? a night of Museum, Eats and Theater in Historic Laurel, 6 PM; join the Laurel Historical Society and the Laurel Mill Playhouse for a visit to the "Shake, Rattle 'n' Roll: Laurel in the 1950s" exhibit at the Laurel Museum, dinner at Main Street Bar and Grill, and a trip to see the late 1950s production of "Pillow Talk" at the Laurel Mill Playhouse; \$25/per person, reservations are required by calling 301-725-7975
- May 23** – Stitch n' Time Textiles Club at National Colonial Farm Museum Out Kitchen, 1-3 PM; learn about the cultivation of fleece, wool dying and colonial textiles, use wool from the farm's heritage breed sheep to card, spin and knit; free, for more details call 301-283-2113
- May 26** – Premiere of the Prince George's County Oral History Project, Publick Playhouse, Cheverly, 6-8:30 PM; showing of filmed oral interviews with pioneers of our County's African-American history; RSVP required, 301-883-4941
- May 30** – Ladies & Gentlemen, I Give You President Lincoln at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; spend time with one of our most endearing, if not controversial, presidents as portrayed by nationally recognized Lincoln interpreter, Jim Getty; free, for more information call at 301-868-1121
- June 4** – **Historical Society Headquarters Open House at Mount Calvert, 6 PM; Self-guided House tours, pontoon boat rides, entertainment and light refreshments; invitations to follow; free, but RSVP required by calling 301-952-8539**
- June 6-7** – Flower Show at Darnall's Chance House Museum; the Forest Garden Club of Upper Marlboro invites flower enthusiasts to their show; free, for more information call 301-952-8010
- June 8-14** – Off to the Land of Lincoln, a trip from the Surratt House Museum; walk the streets that Lincoln walked in Springfield, Illinois, visit the New Salem of his youth, the home that he and Mrs. Lincoln owned, his law office, the Old State Capitol where he was a member of the legislature, and his magnificent tomb, as well as other historic sites; for details and registration, call 301-868-1121
- June 11 - July 11** – **First Ladies of Maryland: Prince George's County; Prince George's County Historical Society exhibit presenting the seven First Ladies of Maryland from Prince George's County, showing their portraits, their husbands the Governors, and the historic homes where they lived; Publick Playhouse; free; call 301-277-1710**
- June 13** – Stakeholder's Meeting, Historic Sites and Districts Plan; 9 am - 2 pm, Surratt House; call 301-952-3680 for information and to RSVP
- June 13** – 1950s Fair at the Laurel Museum, 11 AM – 3 PM; a 1950s fair that will have you step back in time; free
- June 13** – Colonial Candle-making at National Colonial Farm Visitor Center, 1:30-3:30 PM; learn about wicks, waxes, uses of candles in the 1700s, and safety instruction; \$20/non-member, \$15/member; call 301-283-1183
- June 16** – Nature Nuts at the National Colonial Farm Education Center, 11 AM – 12 noon; explore the garden, hear a story, create a craft project and go on an outdoor adventure, for ages 3-5; \$6/non-member, \$5/member, registration required by calling 301-283-1183
- June 18** – Kids Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; railroad fun, stories and train spotting for ages 1-10; free, for more information call 301-575-2488
- June 19-August 30** – Dressed for Success: Clothing Fashions of the Early 19th Century at Marietta House Museum; exhibit explores the clothing early 19th century Americans wore to impress their peers; free with paid admission
- June 20** – Colonial Foodways at National Colonial Farm, 10 AM – 4 PM; view preparations of fashionable foods favored by the tobacco-growing gentry in Prince George's County; admission fee, for details call 301-283-2113

Calendar, cont.

- June 20** – 4th Annual Juneteenth Seminar at the Suitland Family Center, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM; a day of genealogy workshops sponsored by the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., Prince George's County Chapter, and the Prince George's County Historical Society; free, but registration required, for additional information visit <http://pgcm.aahgs.org> or contact Carolyn Rowe at 301-292-6987
- June 21** – Free Father's Day Tour at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 12-4 PM; complimentary tours for fathers and grandfathers when accompanied by a paying child or grandchild
- June 21** – Free Father's Day Tour at Marietta House Museum, 12-4 PM; complimentary tours for fathers and grandfathers when accompanied by a paying child or grandchild
- June 21** – Maryland Charter Day at Riversdale House Museum, 11 AM; celebrate the 375th anniversary of the founding of Maryland, refreshments, crafts and more; regular admission fee
- June 21** – Seasonal Selections: From the Ice House: Ice Cream, Creams & Jellies at Riversdale House Museum, 12 noon; Kitchen Guild volunteers will prepare early 19th c. style ice cream, custard creams and gelatins using isinglass, a gelling protein found in the air bladder of fish; regular admission fee
- June 23** – Tuesday Time Travellers at Belair Stable Museum, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; children ages 3-10 can explore Belair's horse history through stories, craft and tour; free, for details call 301-809-3089
- June 27** – Stitch n' Time Textiles Club at National Colonial Farm Museum Out Kitchen, 1-3 PM; learn about the cultivation of fleece, wool dying and colonial textiles, use wool from the farm's heritage breed sheep to card, spin and knit; free, for more details call 301-283-2113
- June 28** – Family Fun Days at Montpelier Mansion, 4-6 PM; explore the grounds, play games, do a craft, dress up and take a tour, even bring a picnic dinner to eat on the grounds; free, canned food accepted for donation to local food banks; call 301-377-7817 for details

For details and additional events, visit:

www.pgparcs.com, www.accokeek.org,
www.cityofbowie.org/museums, www.greenbeltmuseum.org,
www.laurelhistory.org, <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>
and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

Your Board Members at Work

The College Park Arts Exchange (<http://www.cpae.org/>) invited Ann Harris Davidson to give a local history presentation, "*Berwyn and Berwyn Heights: Conjoined Histories*", as part of its monthly "Cultural Connections" program. With maps, plats and old photographs, Davidson told the histories of these two neighboring communities to an appreciative audience at College Park's Old Parish House on Friday, March 13, 2009.

Amongst other things, the presentation covered the role of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad station (first Charlton Station, then Berwyn Station) in the development of these neighborhoods and the reason for the name changes from Charlton Heights and Central Heights to Berwyn Heights and Berwyn respectively.

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, 1993. 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: \$20.00.
- 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: \$20.00.
- 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 1696 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 301-220-0030 or email the Historical Society at pgchslibrary@aol.com 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)

☐ Member/Family \$25 ☐ Sustaining Member \$50 ☐ Institutional Member \$50 ☐ Life Member \$500
☐ Additional Contribution \$ _____

Sponsor: ☐ Platinum Level \$1000 ☐ Gold Level \$500 ☐ Silver Level \$250 ☐ Bronze Level \$100

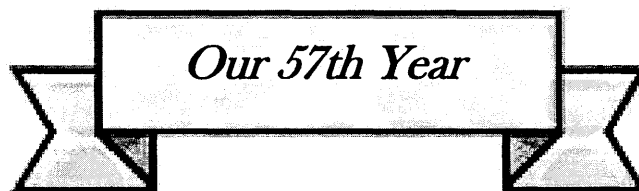
☐ I am also interested in helping the Society as a volunteer. Please contact me.

☐ 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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News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXVIII Number 4

July - August, 2009

Bladensburg Waterfront Park Tour and Concert

The Historical Society is continuing what has become a tradition of hosting a water-themed event during the year. This time we are staying closer to home and meeting at Bladensburg Waterfront Park on Sunday, August 9, 2009, for a boat ride and concert – both of which are free.

We will be departing at 4 PM for an

environmental tour of the scenic Anacostia River that will be narrated by a park naturalist. Seating on the pontoon boat is limited to 40 people, so please make your reservation early.

After the 45-minute boat ride, we will gather for an early dinner. Bring a picnic for you and your family to share before being entertained by an evening concert that begins at 6 PM. The concert features N2N Band, who will play soul and rhythm & blues music until 7:30 PM. There is some seating, but it is suggested that you bring a blanket or lawn chairs to sit on for the concert.



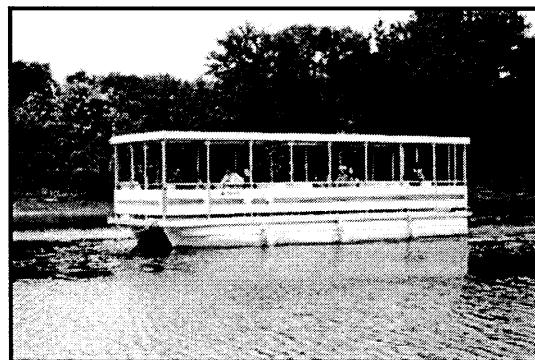
Mount Calvert

***Prince George's County
Historical Society Headquarters***

16801 Mount Calvert Road
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
Mount Calvert Historical &
Archeological Park
Maryland - National Capital
Park and Planning Commission

***Frederick S. DeMarr
Library of County History***

Greenbelt Library Building
11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt
301-220-0330
Hours: Saturdays Noon to 4 pm
and by appointment



Pontoon Boat on the Anacostia River

To make reservations, send an email to PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com or call Donna Schneider at 301-952-8539.

The Park is located at 4601 Annapolis Road in Bladensburg, MD 20710. Please arrive no later than 3:45 PM because the boat will leave promptly at 4 PM. Come early to view the interpretative historical displays and nature exhibits at the visitor's center.

See you there!



The Prince George's County Historical Society

Phone: 301-220-0330

Email: pgchslibrary@aol.com

info@pghistory.org

PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com

Website: www.pghistory.org

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

All members of the Prince George's County Historical Society are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet one day each month (next meetings will be July 6 and August 4). Dates and locations may vary. Please call 301-249-9000 to confirm.

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

2009 Society Sponsors

The Society would like to thank our sponsors. Their generosity helps to fund the Society's programs, events and general activities, as well as the Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History.

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We greatly appreciate your support!

MUSINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Neither threatening dark clouds nor rumbles of thunder deterred members, guests and invited speakers from attending the June 4th celebration at Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park, as those gathered celebrated the Prince George's County Historical Society's official opening of its new Headquarters. Through the great generosity of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), the PGCHS will use the second floor of this historic late 18th Century house set on a high bluff along the west side of the Patuxent River at what was once the seat of Prince George's County's earliest government, Charles Town, founded in 1696. Mount Calvert has the distinction of being the only historic structure that remains. Above ground, that is! Sequestered in the ground, however, are a wealth of artifacts that tell many stories about this astonishing site whose human history extends 8,000 years into the past.

All guests were welcomed to tour the site and grounds of Mt. Calvert where archaeologist, Don Creveling, and his many colleagues and volunteers have been painstakingly and systematically excavating the grounds since 1996. The Prince George's County Historical Society could not be in a place more uniquely suited to its mission. The combination of the 18th C. plantation house and the sheer wealth of artifacts which Creveling and his workers bring up to the surface, and many of which are included in remarkable exhibits on the first floor of Mount Calvert, allow this site to be interpreted as the confluence of three cultures: the indigenous Native Americans, the English Colonial settlers and the African-Americans. The ground floor rooms of Mount Calvert display some of the artifacts and some of the stories that can be interpreted there, and all visitors may witness this county's active status in the activity of field archaeology and its interpretation that allows us also to be eyewitnesses to this site's rich history.

Board Member Elizabeth Dougherty coordinated this evening's celebration and welcomed not only Historical Society members and M-NCPPC executives and staff, but also "Mike" Miller, President of the Maryland Senate, and a member of PGCHS who is also devoted to the study of his state's history, and Michael Herman, Chief of Staff for County Executive Jack Johnson. Along with Donald Creveling, Anthony Nolan, Division Chief, NHRD, M-NCPPC and our Society's Vice-President, Lynn Springer Roberts, they addressed the guests and allowed us to see how unified we all are in our belief of this particular site's importance for all of us. Behind the scenes, Donna Schneider did a wonderful job putting together even the smallest of details and also attended to the registration of the guests. Warren "Dusty" Rhoads was, as usual, the best at tending to everyone's thirst. Special thanks to Deputy Director/Facility Operations/M-NCPPC Chris Wagnon who has worked with me for many years in the effort to identify the perfect property for the Society's new home; to Anthony Nolan and to Acting Assistant Division Chief/NHRD/M-NCPPC Cathy Allen who were instrumental in finalizing the details and paperwork. We all share in the history of this stunning site.

In addition, the Society dedicated a bench at Mount Calvert to William Uber, who suddenly passed away in May, and his wife Stella, for their many years of service to the Society. Following a cocktail buffet and musical entertainment by the Ship's Company Chanteymen, all were invited to see the second floor that will thoughtfully be transformed into our new Headquarters. We will be able to establish an office/workroom, a parlor-style reading room, a "museum" to display donated items, and a photo gallery. It has taken PGCHS decades to arrive at this stage, so the months it might take to get this phase organized will be negligible in the scheme of things. We will be reaching out for financial support, donations of furnishings and interesting items related to our County's history.

We have just completed our one year anniversary at the new location of the Frederick DeMarr Library of County History. Thanks to a lot of hard work and dedication from our members and staff, the Library continues to be a jewel for the Society.

Through all of our volunteer efforts, we look forward to having many meetings, receptions, programs and other events at our new home, in conjunction with Mount Calvert's staff, in order to promote our County's rich and unique history.

Thank You to the DeMarr Library Volunteers

The Historical Society would like to acknowledge and show our appreciation of our new library volunteers.

Robert Carr – converts VHS tapes to DVDs

George Denny – scans our photograph collection

Ismaeel Faridi – organizes our subdivision plats

Clement Lau – scans our slide collection

Dan Louck – clips and prepares obituaries for filing

Patricia Reimer – organizes our maps, shelves books and computerizes our index of photographs

Virginia Pioso – identifies photographs and files obituaries

These are just a few of the many tasks our volunteers do. If you would like to help us keep the library running, come by any Saturday between 12 and 4 PM and speak with one of our staff about volunteering.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Stop by the DeMarr Library on a Saturday afternoon and peruse our gently used books.

Subjects include history, biographies, art, fiction and many more.

Hardcover books as low as \$1.00

Softcover books as low as \$0.50

Coffee table books slightly higher

WANTED

Prince George's County High School Yearbooks

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

If you have any yearbooks you would like to donate, please call Sarah Bourne, 301-277-5468 or email her at sarahbourne@juno.com

Farewell to A Very Special Friend

The Historical Society suddenly lost one of its board members, **William Uber, Jr.**, on May 4. Bill was asked to join the Board in 1995, and agreed, while working on the planning of the County's tricentennial celebrations.

Bill was active in the Society by coordinating bus trips and other programs for members. He also faithfully assisted his wife Stella in the gift shop at Marietta House Museum and invited his daughter-in-law Joyce Uber to become a board member. The Society sends its most sincere condolences to his family. He will truly be missed.

New Historical Society Membership Email Address

If you have provided the Historical Society with your email address when you became a member or renewed your membership, expect to begin receiving emails from us. A new email address has been established to send our members information about upcoming events, news and membership renewal notices. The email address is:
PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com.

If we do not have your email address or it has recently changed, please email us with the information. Also, if any of your other contact information has changed please feel free to send the update to this email address. In addition, you can use this email address to ask any questions you have about your membership or anything the Historical Society is doing. If you have any questions about the DeMarr Library or historical research, please continue to email us at pgchslibrary@aol.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Prince of a County ~ September 27, 2009

Once again, the Prince George's County Historical Society is fortunate to celebrate its annual fundraising event at a newly restored and important historical/architectural treasure. This year's *Prince of a County* event will be held at *Melford*, in the Bowie area, on Sunday, September 27th. Melford is the mid-19th century brick plantation house of the Duckett, Hardisty and Slingluff families, and has for more than two decades been the centerpiece of the Maryland Science and Technology Center, now known simply as Melford. Until very recently, the house and gardens had been unoccupied and in deteriorating condition, so the Historical Society was very happy to learn just about two years ago, that St. John Properties, the owners of Melford, had hired Ward Bucher (of Bucher/Borges Associates) to plan and carry out the restoration of the beautiful Melford house. (Mr. Bucher is the architect who completed the outstanding restoration of *Bowieville*, where we celebrated our *Prince of a County* event in 2006.) The restoration of the beautiful house at Melford has now been accomplished, and we are very pleased to celebrate its completion at this year's *Prince of a County* reception.

Melford is a two-part building; its main block is of the popular mid-19th-century side-hall-and-double-parlor plan, constructed of brick in the 1840s, and attached to a somewhat earlier section built of brick and stone. The building is distinguished by a handsome two-story semi-circular projecting bay at the south gable end of the main block, above which is a wide chimney stack with pseudo-Palladian window treatment; no other surviving building in Prince George's County has anything like this feature. The interior exhibits particularly fine trim in its staircase, mantels and moldings.

The main block of the Melford house was built for Dr. Richard Duckett in the 1840s on a tract of land called *Howerton's Range* that had belonged to the Dr. Duckett's father since the 1770s. After Dr. Duckett's death in 1854, Melford passed to his grand-nephew, also named Richard Duckett. After the second Richard Duckett's death only 10 years later, it was purchased by Richard Hardisty, a merchant who set up a general store and post office at Collington, on the line



Historic Melford

of the new (1872) Baltimore and Potomac Railroad. By the time of Richard Hardisty's death in 1908, he had amassed 686 acres of the old Duckett plantation, which were then divided among his widow and children. The dower lot, on which the house and principal domestic outbuildings stood, later passed to the Hardistys' daughter, Emma Florence Hardisty Slingluff. Melford remained the home of Mrs. Slingluff's children until 1984, and since that time has been the centerpiece of the developing Maryland Science and Technology Center.

The handsome semi-circular bay makes Melford a unique example of historic architecture in our County. Another interesting detail of the house is the inscription cut into a pane of one of the parlor windows by the young woman of the house: "*Florence Hardisty, Melford, January 11, 1881*" (Emma Florence Hardisty married Trueman Slingluff in August 1882). Melford is also important for the survival of several contemporary domestic outbuildings on its immediate grounds - according to family tradition, the farm office that stands immediately north of the house was originally a slave quarter, converted to its office use by Richard Slingluff in the 1950s. Another unique feature of Melford is its terraced garden, extending to the east of the house in three descending parterres. This garden was the pride of the Slingluff family, and will make an extremely beautiful setting for this year's *Prince of a County* celebration. You will receive invitations in August, and we look forward to seeing you at Melford on September 27!

Calendar of Events – July and August, 2009

- Through October-** *The Hunt for Abraham Lincoln: Our National Treasure* sponsored by the Surratt House Museum; join the hunt by grabbing your camera and getting clues for the chance to win a \$500 treasure; for more details, contact susan.proctor@pgparks.com or laurie.verge@pgparks.com
- July 14-** *Tuesday Time Travelers* at Belair Mansion, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; games and amusements from the past; ages 4-10, free; for information call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- July 15-** *Trouble Shooting/Plant Clinic* at Accokeek Foundation Education Center (one in a series on organic gardening), 6:30-9 PM; \$30/non-members, \$25/members, call 301-283-2113 for details
- July 16-** *Kids Kaboose* at Bowie Railroad Station Museum, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; railroad fun and Trainspotting; ages 1-10, free; for information call 301-575-2488
- July 18-** *Colonial Foodways* at National Colonial Farm, 10 AM – 4 PM; costumed interpreters prepare fashionable foods favored by the tobacco-growing gentry on the eve of the American Revolution; fee
- July 18-** *Hands-On History Day: A Day in the Life of a Soldier* at Montpelier Mansion; re-enactors of the American Revolution will show what it was like to be an 18th century soldier; ages 5 and up, \$7/child, reservations recommended by calling 301-377-7817
- July 18-26-** *Needleart 2009* at Montpelier Mansion, 11 AM – 4 PM; view an array of stitched art and vote for the “People’s Choice” Award, plus daily demonstrations of needleart techniques; \$6/adult, \$5/senior, \$3/child; for more information, call 301-377-7817
- July 18 & 19-** *Mid-Summer Open House* at Surratt House Museum, 12-4 PM; enjoy free guided tours and learn about this Civil War home’s role in American history; for more information call 301-868-1121
- July 19-** *Seasonal Selections – In a Jam: Putting Up Preserves and Jams* at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM; kitchen guild members make jams, preserves or jellies out of strawberries from the patch at Riversdale and other seasonal fruits; included in admission, \$3/adult, \$2/senior, \$1/student (ages 5-18) and under 5 is free; for more information call 301-864-0420
- July 21-** *Nature Nuts* at the National Colonial Farm Education Center, 11 AM – 12 noon; explore the garden, hear a story, create a craft project and go on an outdoor adventure, for ages 3-5; \$6/non-member, \$5/member, registration required by calling 301-283-1183
- July 21-** *Historic Preservation Commission Meeting* at the County Administration Building, 4th floor conference room, 5 PM; presentation of Preservation Plan amendment to history-oriented County’s non-profit organizations; for information call 301-952-3520
- July 25-** *Stitch n’ Time Textiles Club* at National Colonial Farm Museum Out Kitchen, 1-4 PM; learn about the cultivation of fleece, wool dying and colonial textiles, use wool from the farm’s heritage breed sheep to card, spin and knit; free, for more details call 301-283-2113
- July 27 & 28-** *“Can You Dig It”* at Belair Mansion; archaeology day camp for ages 11-14, \$25/child, reservations required by calling 301-809-3089
- July 29-** *Jazz on the Portico Series with Apothecary* at Riversdale House Museum, 7-8 PM; instrumentals featuring an electronic violin with inspiration from folk, jazz, classical jam-rock and Celtic music; bring a picnic or purchase dinner on the grounds courtesy of the Calvert House Inn; rain or shine, free
- August 6-** *A Trip Down Memory Lane with Elizabeth Leight* at the Maryland City at Russett Library, 7 PM; view photos and other memorabilia never seen before as Elizabeth Leight celebrates 10 years at the Russett/Maryland City/Laurel neighborhood correspondent for the West County Gazette; for more information call 301-725-2390
- August 8-** *Rain Barrel Workshop* at Accokeek Foundation Education Center, 1-3 PM; workshop on installation, maintenance and landscaping is free, rain barrel may be purchased for \$90; reservations requested by calling 301-283-2113
- August 9-** *Anacostia River Boat Tour, Picnic and Concert at Bladensburg Waterfront Park* sponsored by the Prince George’s County Historical Society; 4 PM, free, see article on page 1 for details
- August 15-** *Colonial Foodways* at National Colonial Farm, 10 AM – 4 PM; costumed interpreters prepare fashionable foods favored by the tobacco-growing gentry on the eve of the American Revolution; fee
- August 15-** *14th Annual Battle of Bladensburg Encampment* at Riversdale House Museum, 12-4 PM; costumed interpreters portray American and British War of 1812 troops, cannon firing, gunnery drills, children’s activities, camp and kitchen displays, and refreshments will be on the grounds; events on the ground are free, house tours are \$3/adult, \$2/senior citizen, \$1/student, under 4 years of age are free
- August 15-** *In Honor of the President: Mr. Lincoln’s Music* at the Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; listen to the music written for and enjoyed by Abraham Lincoln as performed by the ensemble of music historian Doug Jimerson; free; for more information call 301-868-1121
- August 18-** *Nature Nuts* at the National Colonial Farm Education Center, 11 AM – 12 noon; explore the garden, hear a story, create a craft project and go on an outdoor adventure, for ages 3-5; \$6/non-member, \$5/member, registration required by calling 301-283-1183
- August 19-** *Seed Saving and Winterizing Your Garden* at Accokeek Foundation Education Center (one in a series on organic gardening), 6:30-9 PM; \$30/non-members, \$25/members, call 301-283-2113 for details
- August 20-** *Kids Kaboose* at Bowie Railroad Station Museum, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; railroad fun and Trainspotting; ages 1-10, free; for information call 301-575-2488
- August 23-** *Seasonal Selections – In a Pick: Putting Up Vegetables* at Riversdale House Museum, 12-3:30 PM; kitchen guild members will pickle carrots, cucumbers, beets, peppers and summer squash; included in admission, \$3/adult, \$2/senior, \$1/student (ages 5-18) and under 5 is free; for more information call 301-864-0420
- August 22-** *African American Heritage Day* at National Colonial Farm, 12-6 PM; musicians, museums, entertainers, artists, foodways demonstrators, craft and food vendors, hands-on activities and storytelling; \$5/person, children under 2/free, rain or shine
- August 26-** *Jazz on the Portico Series with MSG- The Acoustic Blues Trio* at Riversdale House Museum, 7-8 PM; a stripped down blues combo that plays songs with meaning, fullness of heart and sometimes humor, featuring Riverdale Park’s own Miles Spicer; bring a picnic or purchase dinner on the grounds courtesy of the Calvert House Inn; rain or shine, free

For details and additional events, visit:

www.pgparks.com, www.accokeek.org, www.cityofbowie.org/museums, www.greenbeltmuseum.org, www.laurelhistory.org,
<http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>, and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

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, 1993. 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: \$20.00.
- 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: \$20.00.
- 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 1696 until the beginning of the Civil War. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 10. Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. Price: \$10.00.

*Shipping and handling for books numbered 1, 2, and 3 is \$3.00 for each copy of the book because of size and weight. They are shipped separately. Shipping and handling for all other books is \$2.50 for the first book and 50 cents for each additional book.

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Prince George's County Historical Society

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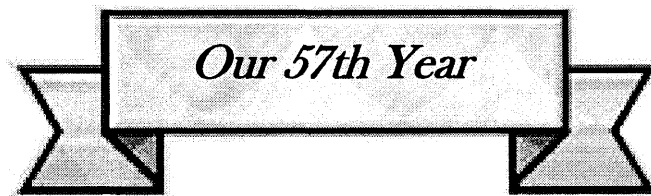
☐ I am also interested in helping the Society as a volunteer. Please contact me.

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

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News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

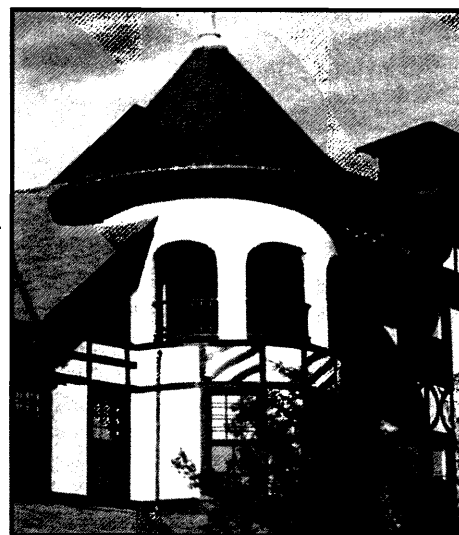
XXXVIII Number 5

September - October, 2009

Tour of National Park Seminary (Forest Glen)

Built originally by the Architect T.F. Schneider in 1894, this fantastic structure was a resort hotel, *Ye Forest Inne*, way out of the city in the cooler Forest Glen. Within a few years, it had become a girls' finishing school, the National Park Seminary (seminary meaning, of course, a single-sex school). It grew in fantastic patterns until the onset of the Second World War, adding buildings like the Japanese Pagoda, the Swiss Chalet, the Indian Mission, the Dutch Windmill, the Italian Villa, and much more.

Under the Army's sad maintenance program, when the complex of buildings was known as the Forest Glen Annex, the buildings deteriorated to the point of collapse, but an intrepid developer bought the property in an innovative program put together by local preservationists, and the whole fantastic complex is being restored!



Forest Glen

Come join us for a tour on Sunday, October 18th, at 3:00 PM, and you can even check out PGCHS Board member Kent Abraham's ca. 1900 house that was part of the seminary. Kent will be leading the tour, and it should be a wonderful afternoon!

Call Donna Schneider at 301-952-8539 or send an email to PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com to reserve a spot on the tour.

Upcoming Society Events

Invitations have been mailed for our annual Prince of a County Reception and Fundraiser at Melford on **September 27, 2009** at 2 PM. If you have not been to Melford for a very long time, you will be delighted to see the work that has been accomplished there. If you have any questions about Melford or the event or if you didn't receive an invitation, call Susan Pearl at 301-262-3367 or Donna Schneider at 301-952-8539. Guests can be dropped off at Melford's front door and there is plenty of parking along both sides of Melford Boulevard.

November 9, 2009 is the Society's Annual Meeting at the College Park Aviation Museum starting at 6 PM. Join us and the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission in celebrating the College Park Airport's 100th Anniversary. Officer elections will also be held that evening. Catering provided by Main Street Catering.

Belair Mansion will join us in hosting the Society's Holiday Party on **December 14, 2009** at 6 PM. Members and their families are invited to attend our pot-luck evening. Bring your favorite holiday dish to share and have the opportunity to tour the mansion decorated in all of its holiday glory.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Phone: 301-220-0330

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

Website: www.pghistory.org

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

Newsletter Contributors: Margaret Callcott, Jane Dodd, Kathleen Litchfield, Nathania Branch Miles, Susan Pearl, Lynn Roberts, Donna Schneider

Directors: Kent Abraham, John Brunner, Ann Harris Davidson, Elizabeth Dougherty, Joyce Dowling, Charles Hendricks, Elizabeth Lingg, Dan Louck, Nathania Branch Miles, Jack Thompson Jr., Andrew Wallace, Sealani Weiner, Laurence Winston

News & Notes is published six times a year.

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

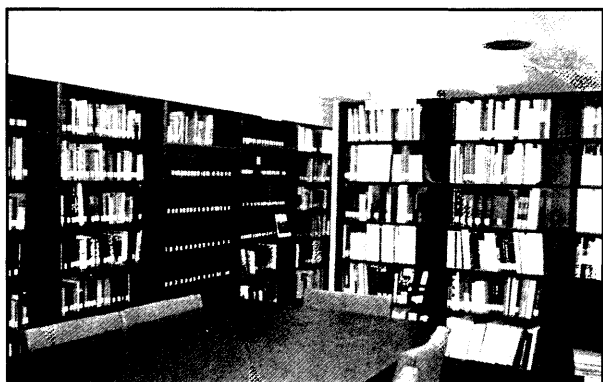
All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month (next meetings will be September 1 and October 3). Dates and locations may vary. Please call 301-249-9000 to confirm.

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

Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

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

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Resource Directory

As a new benefit to our members, we are offering you an opportunity to advertise your business to over 1,000 readers in our Resource Directory. Space is limited to advertisements in each issue. Each ad is a maximum of six lines and \$100 per issue or \$500 for one year (six issues). We reserve the right not to accept advertisements. For more information or to submit your ad please contact Donna at 301-952-8539 or PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com.

MUSINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the enjoyable things that the warm summer months allow is our Prince George's County Historical Society trips on the water. Two years ago we went to Smith Island; last summer we sailed on a skipjack on the waters off St. Mary's City. This summer's delightful event was the trip on the Anacostia River at historic Bladensburg that our former President, Jane Eagen Dodd, describes in full detail in this issue. These great adventures become learning experiences for all of us. No one goes away at the end of the day without having increased their knowledge and understanding of Prince George's County history.

Being able to visit Bladensburg and learn about its history and the Anacostia River, reminded me of an event coming up. The year 2012 will be the Bicentennial of The War of 1812, and all over the state, groups are gearing up to celebrate this momentous event which greatly impacted both our county and state as well as the Federal City—the District of Columbia. For those less familiar with the history of Maryland from 1812-1814 who might like to review the events that transpired, a wonderful book that brings the entire time period into focus is *The Burning of Washington, The British Invasion of 1814* by the distinguished historian Anthony S. Pitch, first published in 1998 by The Naval Institute Press, Annapolis. Members may remember Mr. Pitch being one of the honored local authors last year at the opening of our new facility, The Frederick DeMarr Library of County History at The Greenbelt Public Library. Pitch's telling of all the interwoven events is dramatic, indeed.



Photograph by Kathleen Litchfield

Another treasured event-- far more imminent--is our annual benefit. The Prince of a County reception will take place this year, Sunday, September 27th at historic *Melford*, at the nexus of Routes 3, 301 and 50-- just east of Bowie. I want to invite longstanding members as well as our newer members to attend. The Prince of a County event allows our members and their guests to visit an historic home in private ownership, meet other members, Board members and owners in a convivial setting, not to mention touring the site. Refreshments, tours and short talks allow all of us to learn more about the architecture, the families and the workers who lived on and maintained the property. **Consider** joining us and supporting this modestly priced event—a fund-raiser and a fun-raiser! This is the only event whose goal is to raise money for the PGCHS, not to mention increasing membership in the organization. Be a good citizen and invite friends and business acquaintances who share an interest in Prince George's County's history. This event provides a great opportunity to “show off” our county and increase our membership. And if you know any Ducketts, Hardistys or Slingluffs whose antecedents lived at *Melford*, or workers who helped farm there, either invite them or give a Board member their names and addresses so we can invite them. Meanwhile, see you there!

Temporary Closing of Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness

Poplar Hill, the beautiful 18th-century house museum located on His Lordship's Kindness, may have to close as of September 30. The Walton Foundation, which owns, operates, and maintains Poplar Hill, has suffered, as have many other non-profits, in the current financial downturn. Its endowment fund is currently unable to retain the museum's staff, support museum facility operation, or implement its interpretive programs. The Board of Directors has determined that the Foundation will need approximately \$100,000 to keep the museum open for one more year. This would give the organization time to raise the money needed to begin to replenish its endowment fund and plan for long-term financial growth. If this money cannot be raised in time, the museum will close at the end of September 2009, probably for at least one year.

The Foundation recently celebrated several milestones, including the complete restoration of Poplar Hill's historic roof. In 2008, the museum received a major grant from "Save America's Treasures," a program of the National Park Service; this funding, combined with a matching grant from the State of Maryland, allowed the completion of the roof work this year. The Foundation also received one of the County's new Historic Preservation grants for brick repair and repointing; this work has not been started, but even if the museum is closed, the brick work will go ahead, using the County grant matched by funds remaining from the "Save America's Treasures" grant.

After years of research on the plantation's African-American presence during the colonial and antebellum period, the Walton Foundation received a grant from Prince George's Heritage to fund a free lecture series that focuses on that history. The series, entitled "Breaking the Chains – Breaking the Silence: The African-American Presence at Poplar Hill" is currently being offered through September. If the Foundation is unable to raise the funds needed to keep the museum open, the staff will have to cancel its entire fall programming, with the last events being the "Breaking the Chains" lecture series.

We will keep you posted on the situation at Poplar Hill. More information about the museum and its services is available on its web site <http://www.poplarhillonhik.com>.

Juneteenth 2009



The 4th Annual Juneteenth Celebration, co-sponsored by the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., Prince George's Maryland Chapter, the Church of the Latter-Day Saints - Suitland Ward, and the Prince George's Historical Society held on Saturday, June 20, 2009, was a huge success. The event

was attended by more than 200 people from the metropolitan area that crowded into the Suitland Family History Center to listen to the keynote speaker, Mr. Hari Jones, curator and assistant director of the Afro American Civil War Museum. Mr. Jones is a retired U.S. Marine Corps captain, a noted historian, and a leading authority on African American military service throughout U.S. history spoke about the beginning of Juneteenth and the impact that it had then and now on the African American communities. Mr. Jones set the tone for a highly enlightening, motivating and intellectual discussion of life as a slave, freedman, Buffalo Soldier and then some. He quoted stories of debates between Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln on slavery and their emancipation. His rendition of the true events of African Americans in the Civil War as told in the movie, "Glory", Mr. Jones was a great orator as the audience was spellbound by his voice and knowledge of a time gone by.

The speakers who followed Mr. Jones included Dr. Donna Wells, author and lecturer from Howard University's Moorland Spingarn Library presented a workshop on Dating and Caring for old photos. Dr. Kareem Washington

Continued on page 8

A Hot Time in the Old Town

On one of the hottest days of the summer, a group of hardy souls ventured out for our annual water-related outing. The Bladensburg Waterfront Park was well populated; the scheduled boat ride left just after 4:00 and was most enjoyable. Our guide told us about the Anacostia River and particularly the cleanup efforts. Fish and birds are slowly returning to the area. We saw great blue herons, white egrets, ducks, and turtles as we made our way past Dueling Creek (flowing into the Anacostia from the Bladensburg Dueling Grounds), the Aquatic Gardens, the National Arboretum, and several groups of rowers and canoers. It was pointed out that both the University of Maryland and Catholic University, as well as several high schools, have their rowing teams practice on the Anacostia.

Those who brought a picnic enjoyed a second treat, an unannounced excursion which went further down the river. Jim Foster, president of the Anacostia Watershed Society, was our host and captain. This active ecological group is now housed in the historic George Washington House in Bladensburg. He was most gracious and told us even more about the plans for the restoration of this historic river. The sun was not as high, the river was calm, the temperature was going down and the breeze was cooling. An added attraction was spotting an osprey spreading its wings over its nest.



Photograph by Kathleen Litchfield

Enjoying dinner on the banks of the Anacostia

There was still more ... we pulled up alongside the Arboretum dock and there on a lovely green grassy knoll in front of the Japanese garden were two picnic tables waiting for us. The blue Igloo coolers were rolled up the slope and the feast began. The cooks and baker had outdone themselves. We lacked nothing. There were plates, napkins, utensils, tablecloths, cups, drinks, lots of delicious food and even a bottle opener. Needless to say the meal was sumptuous; the fellowship great, and a grand time was had by all.

Yes, there was a hot time in the old town of Bladensburg and it was wonderful!

From the Library

The DeMarr Library of County History is hoping to expand its collection of publications from the *National Intelligencer*, an important newspaper published in Washington, D.C., from 1800 to 1870. This newspaper contained much valuable information about people, places, and events in nearby Prince George's County, and is a source much cherished by historians and genealogists. Heritage Books, Inc. has printed abstracts from all issues of the paper, and the Library Committee has gradually been purchasing these abstracts for use by researchers at our library. The individual volumes are fairly expensive, and we hope that individuals may wish to purchase volumes as gifts to the library. Any assistance in filling out our collection will be much appreciated; if you enable such a purchase, a handsome book plate indicating your donation will be put into your volume of the collection.

We have 12 volumes of the *National Intelligencer* abstracts and would like to fill in our collection with the following additional volumes:

1814-1817 - \$28.50	1843 - \$46.00
1818-1820 - \$32.00	1845 - \$43.00
1821-1823 - \$42.00	1846 - \$48.00
1841 - \$44.00	1849 - \$43.00
1842 - \$50.00	1850 - \$44.00

If you would like to donate one or more of these volumes, just send us a check for the volume(s) of your choice; we will order it from Heritage Books. Your check should be payable to PGCHS and mailed to P.O.Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014. And thank you so much!

The Calvert-Carter Elopement

On November 11, 1830, Eugenia Calvert (born in 1806 at Riversdale) married Charles Henry Carter at her sister's Philadelphia home. The marriage took place in defiance of her father, George Calvert, who had vowed never to accept her choice. This act took courage on Eugenia's part, but she was her father's acknowledged favorite and she hoped eventually to overcome his opposition.

Now letters found in 2002 in an old steamer trunk in a vault of the Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust in Alexandria, Virginia, shed new light on the early days of the Calvert-Carter marriage. These letters are from Lt. Robert E. Lee, a cousin of Charles Henry Carter, to Lee's fiancée, Mary Randolph Custis, a cousin of Eugenia Calvert. The twenty-one letters were published in full in 2007 in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* (Vol. 115, No. 4), accompanied by an interesting article by Robert E. L. DeButts, Jr., entitled "Lee in Love." The author is grateful to Riversdale docent and board member Barbara Glover for calling this article to her attention.

Lt. Lee was on assignment in Georgia in 1830 and writing to Mary Custis at her Arlington House home in Virginia. Lee encountered Charles Carter and his wife Eugenia in Savannah in late November 1830, just weeks after their marriage. They had arrived by packet from New York and he helped them procure lodging. He commented that "Sweet Charles" could speak of nothing but "his wife," every other word attesting to how enamored and proud he was of his beautiful bride. Lee visited the Carters again on November 30 and found that Eugenia had already received "a letter of forgiveness from her father," Eugenia's gamble on her father's acceptance seems to have paid off quickly.

Eugenia's poor health, marked by a persistent cough, led to the Carters' honeymoon trip south. By early March, however, Lee reported that Savannah's mild climate had proven restorative and the couple was ready to depart. "Mrs E. looked very pretty & sweet, and said she was delighted at the thought of getting

home again. Her cough has entirely left her & her roses grown very bright during her visit to this warm country." They planned to return home by way of Charleston where they would stay a week and then go on to Shirley plantation in Virginia (seat of the Carter family) where they would spend the month of April. After that, Lee told Mary she could expect to see them in the District. There was no mention of a return to Riversdale, and undoubtedly there was an awkwardness between father, daughter, and new husband. George Calvert allowed the couple to live at his Mount Albion plantation, but he insisted on a marriage contract before he turned over Eugenia's inheritance, and he did not give her final control of the property until six years after her marriage. Forgiveness came with a price.



The Carters renamed their Mount Albion home *Goodwood*, and the Carters and Lees maintained a close relationship through the years. Robert E. Lee was a frequent visitor at *Goodwood*. Eugenia Calvert Carter, who had started her marriage in poor health, died of consumption in 1845, after only fifteen years with her adoring Charles. The couple had seven children.

-Margaret Callcott



Calendar of Events – September and October 2009

- September 1** – *Brown Bag Lunch Lecture “A-Peale-ing Art: Charles Willson Peale”* at Belair Mansion, 12 PM; free, no reservations required, 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- September 8** – *Second Tuesday Lecture – 18th Century Samplers* by textile historian Samantha Dorsey at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, no reservations required, 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- September 10** – *Separate But Equal Has No Place* a Maryland Humanities Council sponsored lecture by Dr. Janet Sims-Wood at Laurel Municipal Pool Room, 7 PM; free; for more information call 301-725-7975 or email info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org
- September 12** – *19th Century Fun and Games at the Mansion* at Belair Mansion, 10 AM-4 PM; enjoy fun and games for children and adults from the 1850s and 60s presented by the Atlantic Guard Soldiers’ Aid Society; free, no reservations required, 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- September 12** – *Colonial Candlemaking* at National Colonial Farm Visitor Center, 1:30-3:30 PM; learn about wicks, waxes and uses of candles in the 1700s; \$20/non-member, \$15/member, call 301-283-2113 for details
- September 13** – *Grandparents’ Day Tour* at Marietta House Museum, 12-4 PM; special tours highlighting the relationship between Gabriel Duvall and his grandchildren; regular tour admission price
- September 15** – *Nature Nuts* at National Colonial Farm’s Education Center, 11 AM-12 noon; explore the Farm’s Museum Garden, hear a story, create a craft; for ages 3-5 with an adult; \$6/non-member, \$5/member
- September 16** – *Early Roads and Post Offices of Prince George’s County* lecture by Susan Pearl at Camp Springs Senior Citizen Center, 6420 Allentown Road, 10 AM; free, but RSVP required, call Susan at 301-262-3367
- September 16** – *Laurel Historical Society Book Club discusses America’s Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines* at the Laurel Museum, 7 PM; free, light refreshments, for more information call 301-725-7975 or email info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org
- September 16** – *Fall History Lecture Series – Quakers and Slavery in Early Maryland* by Elizabeth Garrettson of Sandy Spring Museum at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, for details call 301-377-7817
- September 19** – *Historic Airports Tour* at College Park Aviation Museum, 10 AM-4 PM; tour the county’s aviation heritage; \$5/person, call 301-864-6029 for reservations
- September 19** – *Colonial Foodways* at National Colonial Farm, 10 AM-4 PM; costumed interpreters demonstrate preparation of foods favored by the tobacco-growing gentry on the eve on the American Revolution; fee required
- September 19** – *High Tea: Victorian Style* at Marietta House Museum, 3-5:30 PM; \$22/person, reservations required by calling 301-464-5291
- September 20** – *Seasonal Selections – Health Nut* at Riversdale House Museum, 12 PM; the Riversdale Kitchen Guild highlights recipes from the 19th century whole foods movement, including Graham crackers, the invention of dietary reformer Sylvester Graham; free but fee for house tour
- September 25** – *Hands-On History – Toymaker’s Apprentice* at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; children ages 8-12 make toys similar to those the Calvert children might have enjoyed; \$15/resident, \$18/non-resident, bring own bagged lunch, advanced registration required by calling 301-864-0420
- September 26** – *On the Way to Yorktown!* at Belair Mansion, 11 AM-4 PM; First Maryland Regiment and First Virginia Regiment encamp on their way to Yorktown to help Rochambeau defeat the British; free, no reservations required, 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- September 27** – *Prince of a County* sponsored by the Prince George’s County Historical Society at Melford in Bowie, 2-5 PM; \$50/person, RSVP required, contact Donna at 301-952-8539
- October 3** – *Riverdale Park Day, Mr. Stier’s Bulb Sale and Seasonal Selections – From Field to Forest* at Riversdale House Museum, 12 PM; join the town celebration with music, tours and food, buy bulbs for fall planting and the Riversdale Kitchen Guild demonstrates open hearth cooking using native game; admission is free, house tours \$2
- October 3** – *Harvest Fete Champêtre* at Marietta House Museum, 7:30-10 PM; celebrate the fall harvest with the Duvalls at an outdoor Regency-style ball, period attire or black tie; \$50/person, \$85/couple, reservations required by calling 301-464-5291
- October 6** – *Brown Bag Lunch Lecture* at Belair Mansion, 12 PM; free, no reservations required, for topic and details call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- October 7** – *A Public Symposium on the 1909 Wright Military Flyer* at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, 7:30 PM; focus on the history of this seminal aircraft and the beginnings of U.S. military aeronautics
- October 8** – *Free Genealogy Resources*, a lecture with Mike Boivin at Laurel Municipal Pool Room, 6:30 PM; free; for more information call 301-725-7975 or email info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org
- October 10** – *Colonial Candlemaking* at National Colonial Farm Visitor Center, 1:30-3:30 PM; learn about wicks, waxes and uses of candles in the 1700s; \$20/non-member, \$15/member, call 301-283-2113 for details
- October 13** – *Second Tuesday Lecture – “Tears and Laughter: Philip Freneau Reads his Works”* – Dr. Jack Gardner recreates an 18th century writer at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, no reservations required, 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- October 17** – *Hands-On History Day: Legends and Lore of the Piscataway Indians* at Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM – 12 noon; members of the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians will teach native dances, tell stories, lead nature walks and teach crafts using natural materials; \$7/person, reservations recommended by calling 301-377-7817
- October 17** – *Colonial Foodways* at National Colonial Farm, 10 AM-4 PM; costumed interpreters demonstrate preparation of foods favored by the tobacco-growing gentry on the eve on the American Revolution; fee
- October 17** – *Winter Container Planting* at National Colonial Farm Education Center, 10 AM-12 noon; learn how to use containers and create your own; \$35/non-member, \$30/member; call 301-283-2113 for details
- October 18** – *National Park Seminary Tour* sponsored by the Prince George’s County Historical Society, 3 PM; free, but RSVP required by calling Donna at 301-952-8539 or PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com, see article for details
- October 21** – *Fall History Lecture Series – Chocolate: Food of the Gods!* by food historian Pat Reber at Montpelier Mansion, 7:30 PM; free, chocolate samples; reservations required by calling 301-377-7817
- October 23** – *A Taste of Amontillado* at Riversdale House Museum, 7:30 PM; adults ages 21+ will enjoy macabre readings, including Poe’s short story “The Cask of Amontillado”, and food and beverages suitable to the season; \$25/resident, \$28/non-resident, capacity is limited, advanced registration is required, call 301-864-0420
- October 24** – *Colonial Day* at National Colonial Farm, 11 AM-4 PM; join the Bolton Family celebrating the annual harvest, observe demonstrations and snacks for sale; \$5/person, members free, call 301-283-2113 for details
- October 24** – *Follow the Leader: Birds and Airplanes* at the College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM; join John French from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who will discuss the whooping crane restoration program, which uses ultra light aircraft to guide birds on their migration; regular museum admission

- October 24** – *Follow the Leader: Birds and Airplanes* at the College Park Aviation Museum, 2 PM; join John French from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who will discuss the whooping crane restoration program, which uses ultra light aircraft to guide birds on their migration; regular museum admission
- October 24** – *Fall Campfire* at Marietta House Museum, 7 PM; enjoy the warmth of the fire, roasted marshmallows and ghost stories; \$1/person
- October 25** – *Fall Themed Kid's Sunday* at the Laurel Museum, 1:30-3:30 PM, \$5/child
- October 25** – *Victorian Spirits: Lincoln and the Mystical World*, a lecture on the 19th century's interest in spiritualism at Surratt House Museum, 4 PM; free, call 301-868-1121 for details
- October 30** – *Hands-on History: Edgar Allan Poe's Apprentice* at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; children ages 10-14 engage in crafts and other activities inspired by Edgar Allan Poe; \$15/resident, \$18/non-resident, bring own bagged lunch, advanced registration required by calling 301-864-0420
- October 30 & 31** – *Mayhem in Marlborough Ghost Walk*, at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 7-9 PM; meet colonial spirits and mischievous makers during a spooky tour of historic Upper Marlboro; tours last one hour and run every 20 minutes; not for children under 6, \$6/adult, \$4/child (6-15 years)

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

WANTED

Prince George's County High School
Yearbooks

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

If you have any yearbooks you would like to donate, please call
Sarah Bourne at 301-277-5468
or email her at sarahbourne@juno.com

BOOKS FOR SALE

Stop by the DeMarr Library on a Saturday afternoon and peruse our gently used books.

Subjects include history, biographies, art, fiction and many more.

Hardcover books \$1.00
Softcover books \$0.50
Coffee table books slightly higher



Juneteenth 2009 continued from page 4

from the National Institute of Health presented a wonderful workshop in DNA Genetics. Other lecturers include presentations on the Buffalo Soldiers, Exodusters: the Beginnings of the African American Migration, several AAHGS members from the D.C., Baltimore and Prince George's Chapters gave presentations on Beginning and Organizing Your Genealogical Research, Using City Directories, Census and Slave Records, Researching your Cape Verdean Roots as well as Military Records to name a few. Mrs. Julia Porter conducted a superb workshop with the children in helping them learn their genealogy. All in all, it was a magnificent day full of history, sharing, great dialogue and a few people who found out that they were related. The 2009 Juneteenth Celebration received a special appropriation from the Prince George's County Office of Management and Budget. In addition, special thanks go out to advertisers and contributors Mrs. Lynn Springer Roberts, Ancestry.com, Patricia Tyler from General Land Office Bureau of Land Management-eastern States, and Costco's, and Reggiano's Gourmet Market. Refreshments were served throughout the day and door prizes were plentiful.

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, 1993. 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: \$20.00.
- 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: \$20.00.
- 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 1696 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 301-220-0030 or email the Historical Society at pgchslibrary@aol.com for current postage rates.

Make checks payable to:

Prince George's County Historical Society. Maryland residents, please add 6% 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)

- ☐ Member/Family \$25 ☐ Sustaining Member \$50 ☐ Institutional Member \$50 ☐ Life Member \$500
☐ Additional Contribution \$ _____

Sponsor: ☐ Platinum Level \$1000 ☐ Gold Level \$500 ☐ Silver Level \$250 ☐ Bronze Level \$100

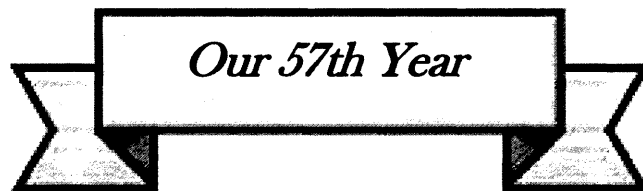
☐ I am also interested in helping the Society as a volunteer. Please contact me.

☐ 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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News & Notes

A Publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society

XXXVIII Number 6

November & December 2009

Up, Up and Away

**Join the Historical Society for its Annual Membership Dinner
at the College Park Aviation Museum
Monday, November 9, 2009 at 6 PM
\$45/person or \$80/couple**

The evening, co-sponsored with the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, includes a self-guided tour of the museum, election of officers, a talk by Catherine Allen about the 100th anniversary of the College Park Airport and dinner by Main Street Catering.



College Park Airport, the world's oldest continually operating airport, started in 1909 as a 160-acre field near the Maryland Agricultural College (now the University of Maryland) and became the location where Wilbur and Orville Wright taught military officers to fly. The airport celebrates its centennial year in 1909 and is also the home of several "Firsts" happening in aviation history:

- 1909 – Mrs. Sarah Van Deman became the first woman passenger to fly in the United States on a flight with Wilbur Wright
- 1909 – Lt. Frederick Humphreys became the first military pilot to solo a military aeroplane
- 1909 – Lt. George C. Sweet was the first U.S. naval officer to fly in an aeroplane as the passenger of Lt. Frank Lahm
- 1911 – First testing of a bomb-aiming device from an airplane
- 1918-21 – First regular U.S. Postal air mail service was inaugurated from College Park to Philadelphia to New York
- 1924 – First controlled helicopter flight was achieved by Emile and Henry Berliner

Slate of Officers for Election

President:	John Petro	Secretary/Treasurer:	Donna Schneider
Vice President:	Lynn Roberts	Historian:	Susan Pearl
Directors (term expires):	Elizabeth Lingg (2012)	Beverly Addison (2011)	
	Randie Reilly (2012)	Kevin Hall (2011)	
	Jack Thompson, Jr. (2012)		
	Andrew Wallace (2012)	Warren Rhoads (2010)	
	Laurence Winston (2012)		

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

To learn more about the aviation history at College Park Airport and attend the Society's annual meeting, please RSVP no later than Wednesday, November 4, 2009. Send your check payable to PGCHS, 4701 Colonel Ewell Court, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. For more information, please call Donna at 301-952-8539.

The College Park Aviation Museum is located at 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740.

The Prince George's County Historical Society

Phone: 301-220-0330

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

Website: www.pghistory.org

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

Newsletter Contributors: , Kathleen Litchfield, Susan Pearl, Donna Schneider, Laurence D. Winston, Sr.

Directors: Kent Abraham, John Brunner, Elizabeth Dougherty, Joyce Dowling, Charles Hendricks, Elizabeth Lingg, Dan Louck, Nathania Branch Miles, Jack Thompson Jr., Andrew Wallace, Sealani Weiner, Laurence Winston

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

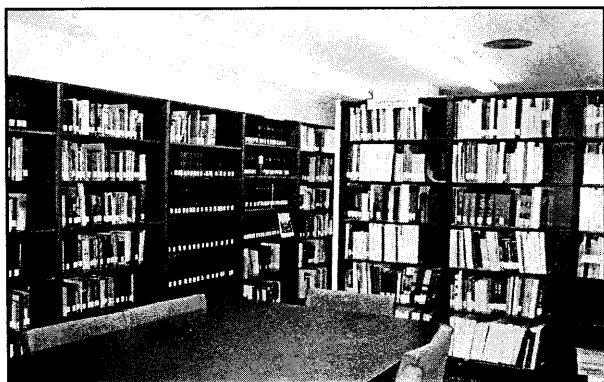
All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. We meet each month (next meetings will be November 7 and December 5). Dates and locations may vary. Please call 301-249-9000 to confirm.

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

Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History

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

Hours: Saturdays Noon to 4 pm
and by appointment



2009 Society Sponsors

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

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Gold

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John Brunner
Sandra Cross
Elaine and Willard Entwisle
Kenneth and Mary Gossett
Jean Lancaster
Dan Louck
James McCeney
Douglas and Susan McElrath
James and Joyce McMurtrey
Barbara Murphy
Shirley and Frank Nicolai
Susan and John Pearl
Donna Schneider
Judy and Ken Schneider
Victoria Thompson

Resource Directory

As a new benefit to our members, we are offering you an opportunity to advertise your business to over 1,000 readers in our Resource Directory. Space is limited to advertisements in each issue. Each ad is a maximum of six lines and \$100 per issue or \$500 for one year (six issues). We reserve the right not to accept advertisements. For more information or to submit your ad please contact Donna at 301-952-8539 or PGCHSMembers@hotmail.com.

MUSINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

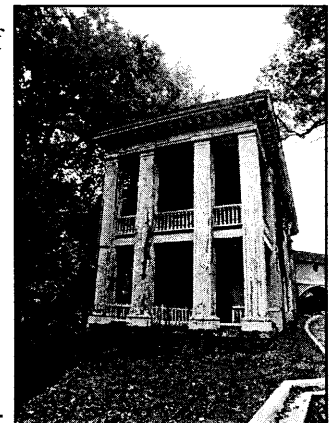
Prince George's County Historical Society opportunities constantly amaze me. There are so many incredible sites and events that there is not enough time to experience them all. Let me tell you about a few:

Kathleen and I recently had the pleasure of being invited to an incredible 100 + acre farm on the banks of the Potomac River for a private tour and delicious homemade lunch. **Hard Bargain Farm** overlooks Mount Vernon on the opposite shore. It is the headquarters of the **Alice Ferguson Foundation**, a non-profit organization, which partners with the National Park Service and area schools that offer secondary students opportunities to study real-world science in national parks. It is a 'hands-on' watershed studies program including field and classroom education and follow up activities. Alice and Henry Ferguson bought Hard Bargain Farm in 1922. They came to Prince George's County for a respite from city life and to establish a country home for entertaining and their varied interest in nature. The resulting cultural history is well documented by Alice and Henry Ferguson and stored on site along with numerous paintings and artifacts. Our Society will be working with the Foundation on their collections and gardens. We plan a reception to introduce our Society to the staff and numerous volunteers of the Alice Ferguson Foundation. For more information go to www.fergusonfoundation.org.

Historic Preservation Commissioner Jack Thompson, Jr. and I attended the BBQ and house tour at **Melwood Park**. Although a bit damp it was an encouraging experience. It is one of the most historically significant homes in our state. According to George Washington's diary, he reportedly visited the home many times. The new owners, from McLean, Virginia, have undertaken an aggressive stabilization and restoration plan. Our Society will be able to tour the home during this restoration.

Entertainment! Opening night of the **Prince George's Philharmonic** was October 17th. The talent of their guest soloist, along with the members of the Philharmonic itself, is always as good as and better than any high priced concert at the Kennedy Center for a fraction of the price *and a lot closer to home*. This opening night's guest violin soloist, Qing Li, began her violin studies at age 4, has performed throughout the world and is the recipient of numerous awards for her performances. It was an inspiring, warm (on a cold rainy night) and musically rewarding evening. Go to www.pgphilharmonic.org for this season's schedule. As a reminder; our Society Historian, **Susan Pearl**, is second violinist!

Society Board member **Kent Abraham** arranged a one-of-a-kind tour of **Forest Glen Seminary**...yet another example of what our Society has to offer. First developed in 1887 as a railroad-era hotel and retreat from the city, it transitioned to a finishing school for girls until the federal government took it over during the outbreak of World War II. Its **uniquely** designed architectural buildings and details were neglected during this period and severely damaged. In 1988 a preservation organization was founded to combat the neglect of the seminary buildings and landscape. A restoration project of the historic buildings has been underway since 2004 and the current results are spectacular. The site and building are reminiscent of an old story book and yet located just off the Capital beltway! The informative tour included a **first time look** at the newly completed ballroom and



Sorority House

Continued on page 8

Photograph by Kathleen Litchfield

Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures

We are embarking on an exciting new endeavor. The Historical Society is working with the Historical Publishing Network of San Antonio, TX, to develop a coffee table book focusing on the cultural history of Prince George's County.

Historical Society president, John Petro, has commented that "we intend to present a fascinating narrative dealing with the intriguing and influential people and businesses that made Prince George's County what it is today. It will also chronicle the events that have shaped the evolution of the community from her earliest Native American settlers to the modern era of government, industry, education and commerce."

Authors George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania Branch Miles, Donna L. Schneider and Laurence D. Winston, Sr., will also be researching and selecting images to enhance the narrative. The quartet of authors will explore the varied cultural events and activities that have influenced the residents of the county. A broad range of interests include, but are not limited to, entertainment and the arts, education, livelihoods, transportation and communities.

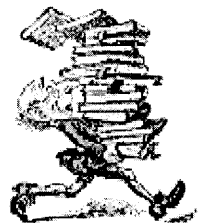
Which leads us to ask our members - do you have any stories or photographs you would be willing to share for inclusion in this publication? If you do, please contact Donna Schneider at 301-952-8539.

A unique part of *Historic Prince George's County* is the "Sharing The Heritage" section, which will include the histories of county businesses and organizations. If you would like more information about this section or would like your business or organization to be included, please contact the Project Manager, Lou Ann Murphy at 301-220-0330, and press 3 to leave a message.

We look forward to having the publication available in late 2010.

From the Library

Thanks to all the members who responded to our request for additional volumes of abstracts from the *National Intelligencer*. Thanks to your generosity, we now have eight new volumes of these very useful sources and are emboldened to request a few more.



We still need:

1842 - \$44.00	1852 - \$47.00	1858 - \$42.50
1843 - \$50.00	1853 - \$44.50	1859 - \$35.50
1844 - \$46.00	1854 - \$40.00	1860 - \$33.50
1847 - \$49.00	1855 - \$42.50	Civil War Series: 1861-63 - \$47.00
1848 - \$41.00	1856 - \$40.00	Civil War Series: 1863-65 - \$46.00
1851 - \$47.00	1857 - \$43.00	

Thanks so much! We of the Library Committee and all of our library researchers really appreciate your generosity!

If you would like to donate one or more of these volumes, just send us a check for the volume(s) of your choice; we will order it from Heritage Books. Your check should be payable to PGCHS and mailed to P.O.Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014.

Annual Holiday Party

In the Spirit of the Season,
the Prince George's County Historical
Society and the City of Bowie Museums
cordially invite you and your family to
join us in Celebrating the Holidays

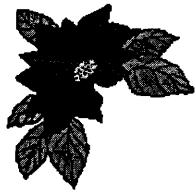
at

Belair Mansion
12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD

on

**Monday, December 14, 2009
6 to 9 PM**

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



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

DeMarr Library Closures

Due to the Prince George's County Memorial Library System closures during the holiday season, the DeMarr Library of County History will be closed from December 24, 2009 through January 3, 2010.

Also, there is the possibility of renovation work beginning in January 2010 to the Greenbelt Library. This work may necessitate the closure of the DeMarr Library. Before visiting the library, please call us at 301-220-0330 to find out if we are open.

Farewell and Bon Voyage!

The Historical Society wishes a fond farewell to Director Ann Harris Davidson, who is leaving Prince George's County to take up residence in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As a resident of Berwyn Heights, Ann has contributed much to the collected history of this town, conducting detailed research into the early development of the town, and publishing in 2008 the Arcadia book "Berwyn Heights - Then and Now." Owner for 20 years of a Sears and Roebuck "Argyle" pattern house, Ann has taken particular interest in historic architecture, and has produced a series of very handsome calendars, illustrated with photographs of some of Berwyn Heights' most interesting houses. Ann has been a productive and much appreciated member of the Board of Directors, and she will be missed. Bon Voyage!

BOOKS FOR SALE

Stop by the DeMarr Library on a Saturday afternoon and peruse our gently used books.

Subjects include history, biographies,
art, fiction and many more.

Hardcover books \$1.00

Softcover books \$0.50

Coffee table books slightly higher

WANTED

Prince George's County High School Yearbooks

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

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

Erratum

The painting that illustrated the story about Eugenia Calvert Carter in our September and October 2009 issue should have had the following caption: "Mr and Mrs. Charles Henry Carter, attributed to Nicholas B. Kittel, 1840s".

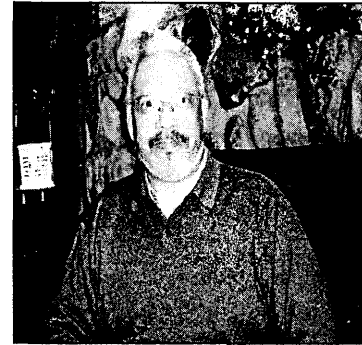
Meet Our Board of Directors: Laurence D. Winston, Sr.

Mr. Winston was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Prince George's County, Maryland. He is the proud father of four children and has been blessed with eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He graduated from Fairmont Heights High School, the fourth high school built in Prince George's County for African-American students, and the County's only school built for African Americans before *Brown vs. Board of Education* that is still in use as a high school. Life-long learning became his creed. Beyond high school fundamentals, this life-long learning process proceeded with the US Armed Forces Institute, and continued with the acquiring of professional skills at institutions of higher learning, including the University of Maryland, the University of New Mexico, Bowie State University, and the Maryland Police and Corrections Training Academy. His concentration was in the social sciences, public, business, union administration and management.

Mr. Winston's professional career was predominantly in service-connected positions. He served our country in the U.S. Armed Forces, worked at the Smithsonian Institution, Metropolitan Insurance Company, and most recently the Prince George's County Department of Corrections. His professional skills include records management, insurance underwriting, public safety, and corrections management. He is noted for always giving his best, and has received recognition in the form of awards and letters of appreciation. Mr. Winston has been the subject of newspaper articles and television interviews and has served in public relations activities and community service events, including a local community dialogue, "Glenarden ...A City on the Move".

Mr. Winston has been involved in many programs to assist his colleagues, the youth, and those in need. He has demonstrated a commitment to advance the corrections profession locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. His professional service was enhanced by his traveling as a Delegate to the South African Corrections Services, a highlight of his career. In addition to publishing articles in a profes-



sional magazine and newsletters, Mr. Winston was a certified Safety Officer and certified Training Officer; he selected and served on a professional association Affirmative Action Committee, on a Departmental Awards Committee and Departmental Crisis Intervention Stress Management Team, and designed a Departmental Public Relations Exhibit. Additionally, he served as a manager, services-coordinator, mentor, tour guide, recruiter, labor-management team member and peer assistant. As an expression of appreciation for his work performance, Prince George's County awarded him the "Exemplary Performance Award." At his retirement he received a letter of congratulations from the County Executive, a Proclamation from the County Council, and was awarded Citations and Certificates from the Maryland Senate and the Maryland House of Delegates. The City of Glenarden, in which he resides, presented him with "The Key to the City".

Since his retirement, Laurence Winston has been deeply involved in historical endeavors: research, preservation, and presentation activities. His parents were involved in the development of Glenarden during its formative years and he revels in the nurturing community spirit and wants that commitment to the community legacy to be preserved. He is the founder and president of the Glenarden Historical Society, Inc., co-chair of the Glenarden Pioneers, life-member of the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Prince George's County Historical Society. He is a member also of the Afro-American Historic and Genealogical Society, the Maryland Historical Society, the African American Heritage Preservation Group, and the National Trust for Historical Preservation.

Calendar of Events for November and December 2009

- November 1-30** – *What Is It? Exhibit* at Montpelier Mansion; see Montpelier filled with all sorts of gizmos, gadgets, thingamajigs and whatchamacallits. Your job is to figure out, “what is it?”; 11 AM – 4 PM daily, for all ages, free
- Thru December 15** – *Remembering Mr. Lincoln* at Surratt House Museum; exhibit honoring the Bicentennial celebration of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; open during regular museum hours; call 301-868-1121 for more information
- November 2** – *“Needles, Pins and Teacups”* at Belair Mansion, 9:30 AM – 4 PM; annual history lecture lunch day includes lunch and tea; \$60/person, advanced registration required by calling 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- November 6** – *Tea in the South Wing* at Montpelier Mansion, 2:30 PM; enjoy finger sandwiches, cakes, pastries, scones and tea; \$25/person, reservations required by calling 301-377-7817
- November 8** – *Second Annual Taste of Laurel* at the Laurel Museum, 1:30-3:30 PM; meet at the museum to get a taste of the variety of great local foods in Laurel; free, for more information call 301-725-7975
- November 9** – *Prince George’s County Historical Society’s Annual Membership Meeting at College Park Aviation Museum, 6 PM; \$45/person, \$80/ couple; see article on page 1 for details*
- November 10** – *“The Great Baltimore Fire” lecture* at Belair Mansion, 7:30 PM; free
- November 14** – *A Regency Ladies’ Day in the Country* at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; includes a variety of pastimes and amusements using herbs and flowers, lunch, afternoon tea, period costume optional; \$50/resident, \$60/non-resident, advanced registration required by calling 301-864-0420
- November 14** – *“Meet the Militia”* at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; meet members of the 18th c. Army; free
- November 14** – *Colonial Candlemaking* at National Colonial Farm Visitor Center, 1:30-3:30 PM; wicks, waxes and uses of candles in the 1700s; \$20/non-member, \$15/member, call 301-283-2113
- November 15** – *Seasonal Selections: Preparing for Winter: Sausages and Mincemeat* at Riversdale House Museum, 12 PM; Riversdale Kitchen Guild will turn pork into sausages and create mincemeat using suet; make your own mincemeat and take home recipes; free with museum admission
- November 16** – *Brown Bag Lunch Lecture* at Belair Mansion, 12-1:30 PM; topic to be announced; free, for more information call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org
- November 18** – *Early 19th Century Social Dances of Baltimore and Philadelphia* lecture and demonstration by Chrystelle Bond, Professor of Dance at Goucher College at Montpelier Arts Center, 7:30 PM; free
- November 20** – *Tea in the South Wing* at Montpelier Mansion, 2:30 PM; enjoy finger sandwiches, cakes, pastries, scones and tea; \$25/person, reservations required by calling 301-377-7817
- November 21** – *Colonial Foodways* at National Colonial Farm, 10 AM-4 PM; costumed interpreters demonstrate preparation of foods favored by the tobacco-growing gentry on the eve on the American Revolution; fee required
- November 27-29** – *10th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show* at Darnall’s Chance House Museum, 12-5 PM; \$1/person
- November 28** – *Taste of the Past* at Belair Mansion, 12-4 PM; sample holiday foods from the past; free
- November 28** – *Stitch n’ Time Textiles Club* at National Colonial Farm Museum Out Kitchen, 1-4 PM; learn about the cultivation of fleece, wool dyeing and colonial textiles, use wool from the farm’s heritage breed sheep to card, spin and knit; free, for more details call 301-283-2113
- November 29** – *Trainspotting Day* at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10 AM – 4 PM; watch unusual railcars fly by on Amtrak’s busiest day of the year; free
- December 3-6 and December 10-13** – *10th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show* at Darnall’s Chance House Museum, 12-5 PM; \$1/person
- December 4-6** – *Holiday Open House* at the Laurel Museum; see the 1950s decorations and enjoy light refreshments; visit www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org for more details
- December 4** – *Tea in the South Wing* at Montpelier Mansion, 2:30 PM; enjoy finger sandwiches, cakes, pastries, scones and tea; \$25/person, reservations required by calling 301-377-7817
- December 5** – *Breakfast with Sint Niklaas* at Riversdale House Museum, 10 AM; enjoy a Belgian-inspired breakfast with Sint Niklaas and receive a gift bag; \$5/adult, \$8/child for residents, \$7/adult, \$10/child for non-residents, capacity is limited and advanced registration required by calling 301-864-0420
- December 5** – *Snowflake Tea* at Belair Mansion, 4 PM; \$24/person, advance registration required, call 301-809-3089
- December 5 & 12** – *Once Upon a Time* at Marietta House Museum, 5-7 PM; see rooms transformed into scenes from fairytales, nursery rhymes and children’s stories; \$5/person
- December 5** – *Winter’s Eve* at National Colonial Farm, 5-8 PM; tour the farm, enjoy refreshments and singing by the fire; \$2/person or canned food donation to support a Maryland food bank
- December 6** – *A Season for Children* at Surratt House Museum, 1 PM; storytelling, music and crafts for ages 5-12; free, but reservations recommended by calling 301-868-1121
- December 6** – *Belair by Candlelight* at Belair Mansion and Stable, 4-7 PM; visit Bowie’s two most historic spots decorated for the holidays; donations gratefully accepted at the door
- December 9** – *Sweets, Tea and Music* at Oxon Hill Manor, 11 AM – 1 PM; listen to the festive sounds of the 7 Sopranos while sipping your favorite cup of tea; \$15/person, reservations required by calling 301-839-7782
- December 10-12** – *Holiday Candlelight Tours* at Montpelier Mansion, 6-9 PM; enjoy the decorations, holiday music and refreshments; \$3/adult, \$1/child
- December 11** – *Tea in the South Wing* at Montpelier Mansion, 2:30 PM; enjoy finger sandwiches, cakes, pastries, scones and tea; \$25/person, reservations required by calling 301-377-7817
- December 12** – *Hands-On History Day: Holiday Traditions of Maryland’s Early Immigrants* at Montpelier Mansion, 10 AM – 12 noon; experience historical holiday traditions from around the globe, make crafts, play games and enjoy holiday treats; \$7/person
- December 12** – *Bi-annual House Tour* in Laurel; join the Laurel Historical Society for a holiday tour of homes and businesses; visit www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org for more details
- December 12** – *“Santa’s Big Broadcast”* at Radio and Television Museum in Bowie, 1-5 PM; holiday radio fun for all ages; free
- December 12** – *Joyous Melodies* at Surratt House Museum, 1 PM; enjoy Henry Wixon and company as they perform seasonal 19th century music, light refreshments; free
- December 12** – *“Kids Kandlelight”* at Belair Mansion, 4-7 PM; holiday evening for youngsters including take home craft; please bring non-perishable food item for Bowie Food Bank
- December 14** – *Historical Society’s Annual Holiday Party at Belair Mansion, 6-9 PM; bring your favorite dish to share*

Continued on page 8

- December 19** – *The Legend of Santa* at Surratt House Museum, 1 PM; historian Kevin Rawlings (aka Civil War Santa) tells the story of Santa Claus through the ages, light refreshments; appropriate for ages 13 and up, free
- December 19** – *Hansel & Gretel Tea Party* at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 2-3:30 PM; ages 5 and up listen to the story of Hansel & Gretel, enjoy tea and dessert, children must be accompanied by an adult; \$12/resident, \$15/non-resident, reservations required by calling 301-952-8010
- December 27** – *Winter Wonderland Tea* at Belair Mansion, 4 PM; \$24/person, advance registration by calling 301-809-3089
- December 27** – *The Calverts by Candlelight* at Riversdale House Museum, 6 PM; pay an evening call on the Calverts, refreshments, live music and children's activities; \$5/adult, ages 12 and under are free
- December 30** – *Kristmas Kaboose* at Bowie Railroad Museum, 10:30 AM – 12 noon; railroad fun for ages 1-10; free

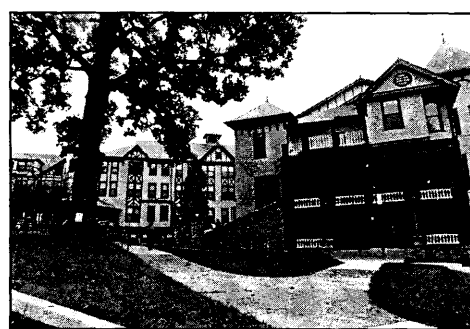
For details and additional events, visit: www.pgparke.com, www.accokeek.org, www.cityofbowie.org/museums, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/> and <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

Musings from the President, continued from page 3

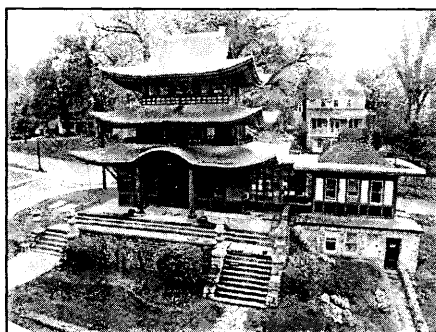
ended at the beautifully warm and cozy home, *within Forest Glen*, of Kent and Dianne Abraham who provided homemade desserts and wonderful tea and cider.



Restored Ballroom



President's House



Japanese Pagoda

Photographs Courtesy of Kathleen Litchfield

Looking Ahead - In 2011, Prince George's County will be included in the **Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage Tour**. We have been discussing several sites from National Harbor to Accokeek; an area of the County never included in past tours. Several possibilities include waterfront homes (from historic to modern) and extensive gardens from tropical atriums to historic farms (e.g. Hard Bargain Farm, Colonial Farm and the Accokeek Foundation). This could be the most interesting and diversified tour in the history of the Pilgrimage.

Great News!! The **St. Thomas Episcopal Parish Antiques Show** is back!! Although no longer in the historic tobacco warehouses of Upper Marlboro, it will be held in the beautifully restored Oxon Hill Manor. We have really missed this show and look forward to its return March 26 – 28th of 2010.

As you can see, there is a lot to look forward to!

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, 1993. 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: \$20.00.
- 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: \$20.00.
- 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 1696 until the beginning of the Civil War. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. Price: \$20.00.
- 10. Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. Price: \$10.00.

*Shipping and handling for books numbered 1, 2, and 3 is \$3.00 for each copy of the book because of size and weight. They are shipped separately. Shipping and handling for all other books is \$2.50 for the first book and 50 cents for each additional book.

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☐ 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

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