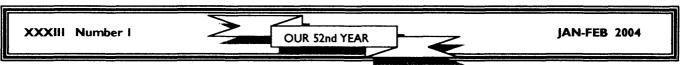


## Prince George's County Historical Society News and Notes



#### Prince Georgeans in the Old West By Alan Virta

When I told my friends and colleagues in Idaho that I was going to talk about Prince Georgeans in the Old West—they gave me funny looks and more than one asked me—How could I ever find them? How would I know who they were?

Well, finding them was the least of my problems—because everywhere I think I've ever gone—in the United States, at least—I've found traces of Prince Georgeans.

In the ancient cemetery in the village of Roseville, Ohio—home of my grandparents, great grandparents, and two generations before them—there is a huge gravestone with the name "Grafton Duvall" carved on it, as Prince George's a-sounding name as ever there could be. When I checked Harry Wright Newman's bible of Duvall genealogy I found that this Grafton Duvall—one of a number of men to bear that name over several generations—was indeed a native of Prince George's County.

When I moved to Mississippi, one of the first places I went to visit was Natchez—for near there is a historical marker denoting the site of what was known as the "Maryland Colony"—an early settlement of Prince Georgeans from the Aquasco area who moved to the old Southwest in the early years of the 1800s to take advantage of the fertile soil and opportunities there.

Prince Georgeans have been heading West since the very beginning. Prince Georgeans were, indeed, some of the first Westerners—because in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, this unorganized, lightly-settled land between the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers **was** the West. It was Maryland's frontier, where European settlement bumped up against the original Indian inhabitants. Stories of Indian raids on the Anacostia River settlements; of Ninan Beall's Rangers who patrolled the frontier line beyond the river—are as dramatic as any stories from the 19<sup>th</sup> century West of the Apache and the Sioux.

But that's the West I'm going to talk about tonight—the West beyond the Mississippi, beyond the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian. The West of Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kid, 20-mule team Borax, the '49ers. Geronimo, Crazy Horse, Lewis & Clark, Pike's Peak, Astoria, and the OK Corral. The Far West where I live now.

Why did men and women from Prince George's County head West? The same reasons anyone else did—Opportunity, adventure, land, freedom, new beginnings.

And from the time of the Revolution up to the Civil War there was a great economic incentive to leave Prince George's County. During those eighty-five years, the population of our county did not grow. Those of us who remember the extreme growth of the post-World War II era, that might seem incredible, but it was true. The population numbers remained steady for 85 years.

The tobacco and slave plantation system had developed to a point where further division of the land—was not sustainable. The tobacco planters knew from a practical point of view they could not divide their plantations among eight, five, or even three children and expect them to sustain themselves economically. So most native-born sons and daughters had to leave. Few immigrants came. The old society of plantations and great houses and tobacco was one that only a minority of the children of even the most favored families could expect to stay and enjoy. Most everyone else had to move on, or

sink into poverty. So the great West beckoned. This evening I'll tell the story of just a few of the thousands who heeded the call.

Were there any Prince Georgeans on the Lewis and Clark expedition? I don't know—I've looked at the list of names and don't recognize any. But adventurers from Prince George's County were among the first to rush to the Gold Fields of California in 1849.

"Ho for California—the Washington City and California Mining Association" was the headline in the Baltimore Clipper on March 31, 1849. From Washington it reported that "we have, on several occasions, noticed the preparations in this city of the company....Every member is armed with a revolver, belt knife and hatchet, and a rifle....The Association will assemble in Lafayette Square, fronting the President's House on Monday afternoon..." and from there they would head West, first by rail, then by muledrawn wagon. The paper printed the names of the company, including these men from Prince George's County— B.B. Edmonston, Daniel R. Wall, J.W. Marden, Fielder Magruder, Augustus Capron, and Henry Vermillion. So when the great rush to the West began in earnest—Prince Georgeans were in it. Now, some stories about a few others who went West in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The first story is that of a native of Upper Marlboro named William Horace Clagett. Clagett was one of the outstanding national statesmen ever to come out of Prince George's County.

He helped establish two states in the West, mid-wifed the birth of America's first national park, and wrote, in part, through law and litigation, the basic mining law of the United States, a law of immense economic significance to all the states of the West. Clagett is of special interest to me because, like me, he ended up in Idaho.

Although William Horace Clagett moved to Idaho about 100 years before I did, he was waiting for me, in a sense, in the person of his grandson, Fred Clagett, of King City, Oregon. Even before I moved out West, I had gotten to know Fred Clagett during his genealogical research visits back to Prince George's County, when he visited the Historical Society Library, so when he learned I'd moved out to Idaho, he and his wife Dorothy gave me a call and then drove over from Oregon to visit.

Fred was justly proud of his grandfather William Horace Clagett, because he had a wide-ranging and distinguished career in the West, and is counted among the founding fathers of the State of Idaho. Fred spent more than twenty years researching his grandfather's life story and told me a few stories about him I will tell you tonight.

William H. Clagett was born in 1838 at his grandfather's home, Weston, the family's ancestral estate a few miles from Upper Marlboro. His father, Thomas William Clagett, was a lawyer and tobacco planter who was elected twice to the Maryland legislature. His grandfather Thomas Clagett, in whose home he was born, was a well-known and influential man not only in the Marlboro vicinity but county-wide.

Fred Clagett related to me one of the stories that was passed down through the years from William H. Clagett's childhood. Let me quote it directly as Fred told it: "When he was about ten, [William H. Clagett's] grandfather sent him on horseback to Upper Marlboro, the county seat...with money to pay a debt. In town, before completing his errand, Billy...stopped to see a slave auction in progress. A young boy of his own age—a boy he apparently knew came up for sale, and Billy decided the debt could wait. He made the winning bid, and back they went on the horse together to face an irate grandfather." Young Billy Clagett could not bear to see his friend sold.

Now Fred himself questioned whether the auctioneers in Marlboro would have really let a ten-year old boy bid on a slave, but true or not, the story brings to light a rift that had developed not only in the Clagett family, but in Prince George's County, the state of Maryland, and the nation as a whole over the great issue of slavery. For there is evidence that young Billy Clagett's father, Thomas William Clagett, was growing uneasy over the question of slavery, and beginning to question some of the basic tenets of the tobacco-growing, slave-holding society in which he was raised.

So in 1850, Thomas William Clagett uprooted his family, including young Billy, from the ancestral home and moved west a thousand miles to Keokuk, Iowa. There young William H. Clagett grew up, in a free state opposed to slavery. As he matured, he went away to law school in New York, and then, just as the Civil War was breaking out, headed West with his brother George to the gold fields of Nevada.

Nevada then was the wildest of the wild frontiers. Discoveries of immense lodes of precious gold and silver caused a rush into the territory. The demand for those versed in the law was immense—to organize territorial and county governments, to litigate and resolve mining disputes, and to formulate local law to fit the peculiar circumstances of an economy based almost solely on mining. It was often said that after the miners, the first professionals to arrive were the prostitutes, and the second were the lawyers. William H. Clagett was part of that second wave of professionals. And he did very well.

Clagett set himself up in law practice in Carson City, Nevada's capital, and very shortly was elected to the territorial legislature. As a legislative leader, he was instrumental in Nevada's quest for statehood in 1864. He campaigned statewide, and, though still in his twenties, he earned the title, "The Silver Tongued Orator of the West."

While in Nevada, William H. Clagett and his brother George became good friends with a young reporter named Samuel Langhorne Clemens.
Clemens—better known to history as Mark Twain—came to Nevada because his brother, Orion, had been appointed secretary of the Territory. The two sets of brothers became fast friends. When George Clagett was killed in an accident in Dayton, Nevada, it was Samuel Clemens who came to the aid of William H. Clagett. A number of letters from Mark Twain to William H. Clagett survive as testimony to their friendship.

Within a few years, however, the need for mining lawyers in Nevada began to wane. So William H. Clagett and his wife left Nevada and headed by wagon for the booming mining fields of western Montana. Along the way, while encamped by the Snake River, Mary Clagett gave birth to their second child, a daughter they named Idaho. They arrived in the Montana Territory in May of 1866 and established themselves in the town of Deer Lodge, their home for the next ten years.

William H. Clagett threw himself into the politics of the Montana territory. In 1871 he won a special election to serve as the Montana Territory's delegate to Congress. Though he served only one term—he was a Republican in a heavily Democratic state—he had two major accomplishments in Washington: He was instrumental in the passage of the Mining Law of 1872, which finally codified federal policy governing the extraction of minerals from public lands in the West—a law that still stands 130 years later--and he introduced the bill to Congress that established Yellowstone National Park, the first national park in the United States. The New York Times reflected it would be likely that the park "may become the Baden...of America, and that strangers may flock thither from all parts of the world to drink the waters, and gaze on picturesque splendors only to be seen in the heart of the American continent."

But a few years later, Clagett was ready to move on once again. The family's next stop was Deadwood, South Dakota, in the gold-rich Black Hills, where again he distinguished himself as a mining lawyer. But Deadwood was not hospitable to the now-large Clagett family. The weather was brutal, the amenities of civilization, even compared to Nevada and Montana, were few.

Public sanitation was non-existent and the water supply was contaminated, contributing to an extremely high mortality rate for children, including one of William H. Clagett's own. Mary Clagett would not have any more of it, and the family moved to the Pacific coast, to Portland, Oregon.

But that was not William H. Clagett's final stop. In the words of one Idaho historian, "After the discovery of gold in the Coeur d'Alene country in the winter of 1884-85, [William H.] Clagett, then a resident of Portland, stampeded into the new bonanza field. [His] cabin was the first one put up in Murray [Idaho]. Here ample opportunity was afforded for him to show forth the rich kindness and generosity of his nature, and many a sick frontiersman owed his life to the tender mercies and hospitable care received at his hands. Possessing some practical knowledge of medicine, Mr. Clagett was the first to extend a helping hand to sufferers of that winter, and in their hearts tender memories will ever dwell."

But Mrs. Clagett was not with him. She had had enough of frontier mining life and stayed in Portland. Though they never divorced, the Clagetts never lived together again, and their children divided their time between them in Oregon and Idaho.

So William H. Clagett established a new life in Idaho. He was not alone; his eldest daughter Mary chose to live with him, and he was joined by a nephew from Prince George's County. The younger Clagett was elected to the legislature; William Horace Clagettt campaigned vigorously for Idaho statehood and was elected president of the state convention that drafted Idaho's

constitution in 1889. He ran twice for the U.S. Senate, but was defeated both times. He died at the home of his daughter in Spokane, Washington, in 1901, at the relatively young age of 63.

William H. Clagett's life in the West exemplifies the region: its boom and bust economy, its dangers, its hazards, but also its opportunities. "I have helped to bring more than one State into the Union," he once boasted; and that in itself is quite an achievement for any man. In the long view of history, he may be remembered most for his sponsorship of the Yellowstone park bill, though his lifelong contribution to the development of mining law, through legislation and litigation, is no small accomplishment either.

In the Illustrated History of North Idaho, published just two years after his death, it was written: "He will always be remembered as a historic character in the upbuilding of the great Northwest and when in future years, the West shall build a Hall of Fame for her immortals, in a niche where the sunlight falls softest, there should be placed a statue of William H. Clagett." One hundred years after his death, William H. Clagett is certainly not forgotten in Idaho. In fact, his figure still strides the corridors of the state capitol in Boise. Last January, a professor of law addressed the opening session of the Idaho State Legislature on the history of the Idaho state constitution. Rather than appearing as himself, he dressed up in 19<sup>th</sup> century garb and impersonated William H. Clagett, a son of Prince George's County.

Now, during the ten years William H. Clagett lived in Deer Lodge, Montana,

another Prince George's County family lived in nearby Phillipsburg, in the same county. These were the Bowies, the family of Clifford Napoleon Bowie, who was born on a plantation near Nottingham just a few months before William H. Clagett was born a few miles away at Weston. Clifford Bowie was a professional man like Clagett, but he was a physician instead of a lawyer. The son of Allen Perrie Bowie and Melvina Berry, Clifford Bowie served in the Confederate army during the Civil War, but left Prince George's County after the war and arrived in Deer Lodge County, Montana, in 1868, just two years after Clagett. He and his wife raised a family of six children in Montana, and there Clifford Bowie died in 1899. Whether the Bowies and the Clagetts in Deer Lodge knew each other I do not know, but it is interesting to contemplate two sons of Prince George's County so close to each other, so far from home.

But now let's change locales, from the great Northwest to the American Southwest, from the land of the Ponderosa Pine to the land of mesquite and cactus, and leave William H. Clagett's world of law and legislation, statecraft and politics, for military adventure.

In the annals of the American West, there are groups of men and women who collectively, if not individually, have gone down in history and legend: the defenders of the Alamo, the riders of the Pony Express, the original '49-ers, the female sharpshooters like Calamity Jane and Annie Oakley, and even members of the outlaw gangs—the James brothers, the Youngers, the Daltons for example. And there is another group who have achieved mythic proportions: the Buffalo

soldiers. The Buffalo soldiers were the members of the cavalry and infantry regiments of the United States Colored Troops—African-American men who served their country on the Western frontier in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of them were veterans of the Civil War who achieved their first taste of freedom wearing the uniform of the United States Army. When the war was over, their regiments were sent out West, for the grim and dangerous war of attrition against the Indians, the original inhabitants of the land. And nowhere was the protracted warfare bloodier than the American Southwest. The Apache there were a particularly fearsome and persistent foe. Cochise, Geronimo, Victorio—these are all names that still resonate today as reminders of the grim struggle. And it was the Buffalo Soldiers—so named by the Indians because they seemed to be as Black as the Buffalo-who did much of the fighting. One of those Buffalo Soldiers, a native of Prince George's County named Thomas Boyne, earned the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award, for heroism in that struggle.

From the distance of 2500 miles away in Idaho, I've not been able to learn much about his family background. Military records and census records say he was born in 1849, but there were no free blacks of that name listed in the 1850 Maryland census, so it is possible that he was born a slave. Despite his youth—if that 1849 birth date is correct—Thomas Boyne served in the U.S. Colored Troops during the last years of the Civil War, and was mustered out of service in Brownsville, Texas. There in Texas he re-enlisted and began his Western service as a Buffalo soldier. The 1870

census finds him stationed at Fort Clark, though his census record for some reason says he was born in Virginia rather than Maryland. I could not find him listed in the 1880 census.

It was in 1879 that Thomas Boyne won the Medal of Honor for heroism. He was then a sergeant with the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, pursuing the Apaches under Chief Victorio in New Mexico. For two separate actions—in the Mimbres Mountains in May, and near Ojo Caliente in September, he received citations for "bravery in action." Wrote Major Albert P. Morrow: "I have seen him repeatedly in action and in every instance he distinguished himself." Lieutenant Henry Wright, whom Boyne rescued on one occasion, also recommended him for the honor.

Thomas Boyne was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1889 after nearly a quarter century of service in the West. He entered the Old Soldiers Home in Washington, and there he died seven years later, in 1896. I understand that several people are doing research on Thomas Boyne; and we look forward in the future to the reports of their research.

In 1849, an Italian priest assigned to a parish in Alexandria, Virginia, crossed the Potomac River and founded St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Oxon Hill. His name was Joseph Maria Finotti. He was a native of Ferrara, Italy, on the Po River, in northern Italy, and Prince George's County, Maryland, must have seemed a long way from home for him.

But he was soon joined here by his older brother, Gustavo. Gustavo was not a priest, not bound by a vow of celibacy, and on June 16, 1851, he married a local girl—Emily R. Hill, daughter of Joesph Benedict Hill and Sarah D. Heiskell, of Piscataway. Together, Gustavo Finotti and Emily Hill founded what was the first Italian-American family I know of in Prince George's County—a family that traveled back and forth across the continent—several times.

Gustavo Finotti made himself at home in Prince George's County. Although in Italy he had made his career in commercial and banking firms, he bought a plantation in Oxon Hill, very close to what is now Rosecroft Raceway and St. Ignatius Church, and became a planter. By the time the 1860 census was conducted, he and Emily had had 5 children, and he owned ten slaves. Both the Planter's Advocate and the mapmaker Martenet styled him "Captain Finotti," a title he had earned during the wars of Italian unification in his homeland. He became active in local politics, and in 1860 the primary election voters in his district chose him to be a delegate to the county Democratic convention.

Captain Finotti did not fare well during the Civil War, however. To quote his unpublished autobiography, preserved at Georgetown University: "A great many servants ran away from their masters and after President Lincoln's Proclamation giving freedom to those in the District of Columbia, everyone who was near enough to the District of Columbia...left their masters. Used all my life to a life of study and of mental occupation, I could not adapt myself to the work of farming." After the death of Emily Hill Finotti's parents in 1864, the family left Prince George's county.

They did not head West—yet—but instead, went North, to Massachusetts.

His brother Father Finotti was there, ministering to the large and growing Roman Catholic population in the city of Boston, and Captain Finotti joined him. He went into business, produce and other items, and he also became the first consul in Boston for the newly united Kingdom of Italy. His eldest son Frank, who had been born in Prince George's County, became a clerk in the consulate, and along with Father Finotti, they all lived in the Boston suburb of Brookline, later the birthplace of President John F. Kennedy.

This transformation from a Prince George's County tobacco planter to the consular representative of the Kingdom of Italy in Boston was quite a dramatic career change, but his circumstances would change once more. His business failed in Boston, and with next to nothing, he and Emily and the entire family—now numbering ten children—moved West, to Yankton, South Dakota, in the 1870s.

Why to Yankton? I can't say for sure, but Gustavo's brother Father Finotti went out West too, so it is likely that one followed the other. The 1880 census shows Gustavo's entire family—he, his wife, and ten children, plus one daughter-in-law and three grandchildren—on a farm in Mission Hill, Yankton County, just a few miles outside the city of Yankton, then the capital of the huge and sprawling Dakota Territory.

By this time the Finottis had been gone from Prince George's County for about fifteen years—but their ties to Maryland were not broken. Emily Hill—Mrs. Finotti—and her six eldest children—had been born here, and we know that at

least four of those six Maryland-born children returned to find their wives or husbands in Maryland. Eldest son Frank married Pauline Edelen. Son John married Ella Brooke. Gustavo Finotti, Jr., married Susan Heiskell of Kildare—the plantation that adjoined St. Ignatius Church—and his sister Sarah married Susan's brother James Alexander Heiskell. So there was quite an extended family from Prince George's County, all united in their Roman Catholicism—and a good many of whom moved out to Yankton, South Dakota.

This was not yet the idyllic Dakota of "Little House on the Prairie," this was still contested Indian country. The Finottis went out there just a year after Custer's last stand, and a full thirteen years before Wounded Knee, the last major battle with the Sioux in the Dakota Territory.

Of their life in South Dakota beyond the few words found in the census I cannot say, Gustavo Finotti does not say much about Yankton in his autobiography. Some of his family stayed there for many years. The 1920 census finds Gustavo Finotti Jr. and his wife Susan Heiskell still there—He was the postmaster of Mission Hill, and one of the principals in the Finotti & Brothers mercantile firm.

But several of the Finottis came back to the Washington DC area. The eldest son Frank, who had served as a clerk for his father in the Italian consulate in Boston, returned from Yankton with his wife Pauline Edelen to Anacostia, D.C., and worked for more than 25 years at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, much of the time as its chief clerk. He testified before Congress about conditions at the institution. Son John and his wife Ella Brooke also came back, living in Washington as well. Daughter Sarah, who had married James Heiskell, is buried in St. Ignatius Cemetery. She died in 1944, living in her widowhood with her brother Jesse and family at Kildare.

I'll close tonight with the story of one of the most dramatic incidents of the Old West, an event that symbolically brought to an end one era of the West and ushered in a new one. A Prince Georgean was central to that incident—and I don't think it's too much of a stretch to say that his actions, on October 5, 1892, can be viewed, retrospectively, as symbolizing a turning point in Western American history.

The 1890s were a time of great transition in America. There was great technological change: the introduction of new inventions—the telephone, electric lights, the automobile, even the beginnings of the movies. There was social change: emancipation of women, their winning of the right to vote in many states, and entry, in large numbers, into the industrial and office work forces in the big cities. Demographically, the largest waves of immigrants ever to come to our shores arrived, introducing new languages, new customs, new people into the American mix.

And in the 1890s the Old West changed too. The historian Frederick Jackson Turner declared the frontier closed in 1890, and in that same year, the U.S. Army defeated the Sioux in the last great battle of the Indian wars. And two years later, in 1892, a Prince Georgean helped

bring an end to the age of the Western outlaw and vigilante justice.

Along with the cowboys and the Indians, the outlaws of the Old West and the lawmen who pursued them, from Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett on down, defined the West in the popular imagination. They were the stuff of legend, in the popular press of the day and in the movies and on television for decades more.

But at the same time the frontier was closed and the last Indian wars were being wrapped up, the age of the Outlaw came to an end, too, with the last great shootout of the West. Jesse James was dead, Cole Younger was in prison, but the infamous Dalton gang still roamed free. Their specialty was train robberies, and in 1891 and 1892 they went on a robbing spree in California, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. Bob Dalton, the leader of the gang, was ambitious to earn himself a place in history. He boasted he would do something that Jesse James never had done: rob two banks at the same time, in broad daylight. And the place he chose was his hometown, Coffeyville, Kansas.

So on the morning of October 5, 1892, the Dalton brothers and their gang rode into Coffeyville. They split up and swarmed into two banks. But the word quickly got out amongst the townspeople—and the marshal and a hastily assembled band of citizens confronted them, cornered them, and earned for Coffeyville the reputation as the "Town that Fought Back."

The shootout was horrific—and when the dust cleared, eight men lay dead—4 outlaws, 4 citizens. And many more

wounded. Only one of the Dalton brothers survived, that was Emmett Dalton—and he was gravely wounded. He was taken to the town's drug store, where a doctor attended him.

That doctor was Walter H. Wells, a physician who had come to Kansas from Prince George's County, Maryland, two decades before. Dr. Wells was born in Bladensburg in 1843, educated at the Bladensburg Academy that stood at the corner of Annapolis and Edmonston Roads, earned a medical degree at Georgetown University, and practiced in Washington DC a few years before heading West to Kansas. He had a brother who was also a physician--Dr. Charles A. Wells of Hyattsville, a wellknown and beloved figure in that community for many decades. Wells' drug store stood near the railroad tracks in Hyattsville, where the overpass is now.

But at the same time Dr. Charles Wells was practicing medicine in Hyattsville, his younger brother was treating a seriously wounded outlaw in Coffeyville, Kansas—and facing a lynch mob at the door.

To get the flavor of the day, let me read directly from a history of the Dalton gang, by Harold Preece [The Dalton Gang: End of an Outlaw Era]:

(p. 255) "Dr. Wells, a polished citizen from Maryland, called in two colleagues...to help patch the bandit's shattered guts. Emmett was lying across a table and the physicians were busy with their surgical instruments when a mob charged into the improvised operating theater. The leader was a town character who had been nowhere in view

during the fight, but who was now swinging a rope with an ominous noose.

"Hand the son of a bitch over, Doc," he demanded. "We're gonna make Emmett Dalton kiss rope." "No use, boys," the Marylander answered. "He will die anyway." The rope swinger looked doubtfully at the groaning outlaw on the table. "Doc, are you certain he'll die?"

Dr. Wells's laugh was a forced one. "Hell, yes! He'll die. Did you ever hear of a patient of mine getting well?" Somebody in the mob haw-hawed. That broke the tension. The doctor turned back to his patient while the mob scattered down the stairs.

Within a very few hours, the substantial residents who had borne the brunt of the battle were insisting that Emmett Dalton must be tried, through regular judicial process, if he lived."

Emmett Dalton was indeed tried, he was convicted, and went to jail. The last of the outlaw gangs of the West had been subdued. And the cool, quick response of Dr. Walter Wells—the "polished Marylander"-- insured that the rule of law would prevail over Vigilante justice. Whether anyone recognized it at the time or not, who can say—but on that day, the Old West of outlaws and vigilantism passed into history and a new day was born, with a physician from Prince George's County attending at its birth.

Presented by the Author at the Historical Society dinner on November 10, 2003.

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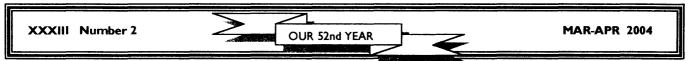
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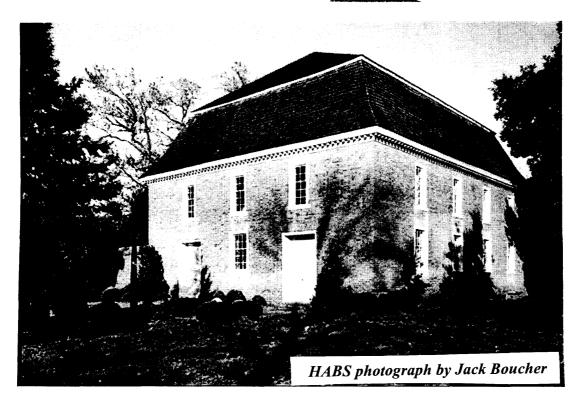
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## Prince George's County Historical Society News and Notes





ST. GEORGE'S DAY, 2004 at St. Barnabas' Church, Leeland

St. Barnabas' Church, the third church on its site, is the parish church of Queen Anne Parish. In 1704, Queen Anne Parish was established by Act of Assembly, out of the northern part of St. Paul's Parish, one of the two original parishes of Prince George's County. This year, therefore, is the tricentennial of the establishment of Queen Anne Parish, and we are fortunate to join in the celebration as part of our St. George's Day observance.

Services began at this site in a small log structure, which was replaced in 1710 by a brick church. Being the first "brick church" building in the County, it was called by that name long after other parishes had erected brick church buildings (e.g., St. Thomas' and St. Paul's, where we celebrated St. George's Day in 2002 and 2003).

One of a series of interesting rectors who served at St. Barnabas' was Jacob Henderson, whose wife was responsible for the establishment of the Queen Anne Parish chapel-of-ease (now Holy Trinity at Collington). Henderson served at St. Barnabas from 1718 to 1751; it was he who in 1718 ordered from England the marble baptismal font and the silver communion service still used in the present church. And it was during Henderson's tenure that artist Gustavus Hesselius was commissioned by the Vestry to paint the "Last Supper" which now hangs on the gallery.

The most colorful of St. Barnabas' rectors was Jonathan Boucher, and it was during his tenure, 1771 to 1775, that the present church was built. Before his appointment to Queen Anne Parish, Boucher had served a church in Virginia where he also ran a school for young men. When he came to Queen Anne Parish late in 1771, he brought with him several of his pupils, including John Parke (Jacky) Custis, stepson of his friend, George Washington, and continued his school at his rented home (we know it today as Mount Lubentia). Boucher was a passionate Tory, and soon alienated the revolutionary Patriots in his congregation. His memoirs indicate that he preached some of his last sermons with loaded pistols close at hand. Boucher broke with his friend, General Washington, ("You are no longer worthy of my friendship; a man of honour can no longer without dishonour be connected with you. With your cause I renounce you . . . ") and sailed for England in September 1775.

The present church was begun during Jonathan Boucher's tenure at St. Barnabas'. The Vestry minutes include the contract between Rector Boucher and Christopher Lowndes (of Bostwick in Bladensburg) to build "a new brick church near the place

where the old Brick Church now stands." The new church was to be "60 feet in length and 46 feet in width." The long sides of the church were to have two stories of windows, four windows in each story; the ends of the church were to have "two large neat tenpanelled folding doors"... and a window between them, then three windows on the second story. There was to be a gallery at the west end of the church, and the roof was to be covered with cypress shingles. The work was to be completed "in workmanlike manner" by the end of August 1774. The Vestry records after 1773 are lost, but it is believed that the building was not quite finished by the contract date. There is, however, an inscribed brick at first-story level in the east elevation which reads "AD July 3, 1774."

After the Revolution, and the Declaration of Rights which put an end to the Established Church in Maryland, the Episcopal Church in Prince George's County experienced widely varying swings in attendance and support. After a low point early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Queen Anne Parish began to flourish to such an extent that in 1844 the parish was divided, with the "Henderson Chapel" (Collington) becoming the Parish Church for the newly created Holy Trinity Parish to the north. In the 1850s, during the tenure of Rector J. A. McKenny, St. Barnabas' Church was renovated and Victorianized. In 1855, the *Planters*' Advocate, published in Upper Marlboro, printed "a description of the recent improvements by which the old church edifice has been so much adorned." The exterior was painted the color of brown stone, the ceiling was lowered and the pews grained in imitation of oak. It was during this period, also, that stained glass began to be substituted for the original colonial clear glass panes.

In preparation for the bicentennial of the present St. Barnabas' Church, it was decided to restore the building to its original colonial appearance. Under the direction of M. Walter Macomber, resident architect for Colonial Williamsburg, the church building was restored, and the Canterbury chapel was built adjoining the church to the north. The stained glass memorial windows were removed into the chapel, and windows were restored according to the original 1770s contract. The restored St. Barnabas' Church was dedicated in October 1974.

Today St. Barnabas' Church stands in a quiet and beautiful setting, adjoined on two sides by its ancient burial ground containing tombstones of many prominent County families. To the south and west of the church are the buildings of the Queen Anne School (established in 1964). St. Barnabas' is one of the most beautiful and active Episcopal churches in Prince George's County today. We at the Historical Society are happy to celebrate our annual St. George's Day at St. Barnabas', and to join with this very historic church in celebrating the tricentennial of Queen Anne Parish.

#### Submitted by: Historian Susan G. Pearl

Editor's Note: Invitations to the April 25<sup>th</sup> St. George's Day celebrations will be in the mail shortly.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

Long-time Historical Society member Guy C. Barron passed away on February 7, 2004, following a struggle with cancer. Memorial contributions may be directed to Hospice of the Chesapeake, 8424 Veterans Hwy., Millersville, MD 21108.

#### Planter's Guard Flag

The Prince George's County Historical Society (PGCHS) is the proud owner of the flag of the Planter's Guard. Dating from 1861, the flag is in fragile condition and it is the hope of the Historical Society to restore it to its original condition. The following information on the Planter's Guard was collected by *Jim Wolfe*, PGCHS Vice-President.

Restoration and Conservation of the Planter's Guard Flag: The events of the 1850's caused many Americans to fear for the future of the Republic. Rhetoric raised in the presidential election year of 1860 heightened those fears, hardened positions and led many to step forward to defend the lives and liberties they deemed threatened. The Romantic notions of the glories of war and the ultimate success of righteousness coupled with the notion that the times were analogous to the 1770's fight against "unjust intrusion from outside forces" encouraged the formation of militia units throughout Maryland. Prince George's County produced at least seven of these militia groups: the Planter's Guard of Upper Marlboro, the Vansville Rangers of Beltsville, the Piscataway Rifles, the Mounted Rifles of Upper Marlboro, the Independent Guards and the Patuxent Rifles, both of Nottingham, and the Potomac Riflemen. While we know little about most of these groups, we do have some information about the Planter's guard from notices and articles printed in the *Planters*' Advocate.

10/24/60 - "A meeting of the Planter's
Guard was held at the court house in this place on Thursday, 18th October.
The meeting was called by Captain Contee(1) in the Chair, who, after thanking the members of the company for the honor done him by his election, stated the object of the meeting to be the election of officers." Noting the absence of members it was moved to adjourn the meeting to Friday, October 26th at 11 a.m. All members were to encourage all members to attend this meeting.

12/26/60 - "At the meeting of 'Planters Guard' held on Friday 21st, ...we are gratified to note the progress of this company. They meet regularly every week for drill and, we understand, will appear on Friday 28th in their uniforms. The uniform consists of a blue coat, scarlet pantaloons and felt hat - somewhat after style of the French Chaseurs."

Principal information comes in the following entry: Wednesday, April 24, 1861 *Planters'* Advocate and Southern Maryland Advertiser:

"Flag Presentation - Friday last was more of a gala day in our village than any had witnessed for a long period - it having been arranged for the presentation to the Planter's Guard, Capt. John Contee, of a flag, by the ladies of the county. At an early hour the different military companies who had been invited began to enter the village, and gave it quite a martial appearance. One of the first to arrive was the "Piscataway Rifles", Capt. George R. Marshall (infantry) in a gray uniform of Viginia cloth, handsomely trimmed, and armed with Minie muskets. ... The other infantry companies present were the "Independent Guards, Captain John K. Pumphrey, (armed with Muskets) and the "Patuxent Rifles", captain John H. Skinner,

both of Nottingham district and both presented a most creditable appearance. Captain N. Snowden's fine cavalry company, The "Vansville Rangers" were also present and were greatly admired for this substantial and soldierly appearance. There were two visiting companies from Anne Arundel, the "West River Guard" and the "South River Guard". ... Lastly the Planter's Guard itself was out in full force, and received, as was to be expected, a large share of complimentary attention. Its novel and attractive uniform and its drill and discipline, enabled it to make a brilliant appearance. Indeed, taken all together, the whole military display was in the highest degree credible to the officers and soldiers.

This occasion drew together a large assemblage of citizens, and was particularly graced by the unusually full attendance of the ladies. The latter occupied carriages for the most part. The horses having been detached, the vehicles were drawn up into line on one side of the large lawn where the ceremonies took place. At about noon, the military formed in procession and marched around the village, to the music from the band from Washington, and, upon returning, filed onto the lawn, and formed a hollow square, facing the ladies, the Planter's Guard occupying the central position. Opposite the Guard, the Marshals of the day and the Second Lieutenant and Ensign of the Guard took position, accompanied by Edward W. Belt, Esq., who had been selected by the ladies to made the presentation, and who held the flag to be presented. It is of silk, about four feet long by two and a half in width, heavily fringed with gold. On one side, in the center, upon a blue field, is the Coat of Arms of Maryland - being the usual shield, supported by two figures, one bearing a spade and the other a fish. On the reverse side is the motto of the "Guard" -"DEUS ET PATRIA - AUT VICTORIA AUT MORS" (God and Our Country, or Victory or Death.) The flag is very rich, tasteful and appropriate, and it is handsomely mounted. After the several companies had assumed their positions, Mr. Belt advanced and spoke to the following purport: "Captain Contee- a portion

of the women of this county, grateful for the formation of the efficient company which you command, and in compliment to the gallant gentlemen who comprise it, have procured a flag to be made suitable for you to bear, which they desire you to accept as the permanent ensign of the corps. It would seem that the modesty of these fair donors is equal to their public spirit, for, instead of being able to induce one of themselves to perform what would have been a most graceful and appropriate duty, they have requested me, at the eleventh hour, to present the flag, in their name to yourself, in the name of the Planter's Guard. This duty I have assumed, as well out of a spirit of loyalty to the fair hands imposing it, as because it was never yet written that a gownsman could properly disdain to serve as spokesman from a woman to a soldier." Edward Belt then spoke: "It was in peaceful times that your company was formed and it was then that these fair donors conceived the purpose of tendering this beautiful gift. Of its appropriateness, as coming from their hands, I need not speak - for Woman, in all times, has been at once the solace of the soldier and his inciter to renown. ... We give you, sir, a banner on which you will find drawn the armorial devices of our native state, whose honor, welfare and history you are to defend and become worthy of. It is the flag under which our forefathers marched to victory and has waved over as brave and better men than we, in more trying times than we are likely to encounter. It also bears the inscription which you have chosen for yourselves, and which you stand pledged to the defense of the people in the name of "God and your County" even though the path may lead to "Victory or Death". ... "The flag was then received by the Ensign, Wm. F. Berry, when Capt. Contee briefly responded on behalf of his company. At the conclusion of the address, there was music and at other intervals the troops spent considerable time in deploying and manoeuvering upon the lawn greatly to the satisfaction of the crowd present. The day was one of much interest and excitement, not only on account of the miliary display, but of imminent civil war of which every one expected hourly to hear the din of in our own section. Early in the

day some private gentleman of the village displayed a large Confederate States flag from the Court House, which waved during the day and attracted much notice."

(1) "Captain" Contee - John Contee - born at Pleasant Prospect in 1816; died there in 1864. His mother was a Duckett; stepmother (at 4 years old), a Snowden. He was a graduate of the Naval Academy and served a number of years in the navy as a Lt.

While there is no indication that the Planter's Guard entered into battle as a unit, it is certain that some members went into Virginia to volunteer during the war. The flag, therefore, probably never flew above troops in battle. It is, however, an example of the deep feelings held by many county residents at the time and a priceless artifact of the era. The Planter's Guard flag, now in the possession of our Society, is in good condition for a silk flag which is 143 years old but it does need the attention of a professional conservator. The painting on the flag which was done by R. Jeffries, a noted artist of the period, is in need of cleaning. The treatment of the flag itself will include humidification, flattening, and pressure mounting in a custom frame. An analysis, photographs (before and after) and a treatment report will be provided to the Society by Textile Preservation Associates and Nancy Pollack, the Paintings Conservator. The conservation will cost \$5,000. We intend to seek grants to help with the costs, but need members and other friends of historic preservation to help with a special donation for this effort. Contributions can be sent to the Society's mailbox or to the Society in care of Marietta, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, Maryland, 20769. We thank you in advance for your generous contributions.



# MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IT'S TIME TO FINISH A NEW SECTION OF THE "WALK OF HISTORY"!



During our Tricentennial year, the Celebration Committee paved the brick plaza in Upper Marlboro between the County Administration Building and the County Courthouse. This heavily traveled thoroughfare was selected not only as a beautification and improvement project but also as a site to commemorate our anniversary. Sections within this "Walk of History" have been filled with engraved bricks that celebrate the richness and diversity of Prince George's County citizens past and present. There are still some sections to complete!

Now, in celebration of the founding of the Prince George's County Historical Society, we would like to dedicate and complete a new section by the end of this year. Surrounding the center block in this section, on which will be inscribed the Prince George's County Historical Society and it's founding date, will be personalized bricks with the names of members and sponsors of the Historical Society and other families, friends and groups.

There is still much to celebrate! Please support the Prince George's County Historical Society!

#### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COMMEMORATIVE BRICK ORDER FORM: Please send this form with a check made payable to: Prince George's County Historical Society or PGCHS Address: Mail information to: COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS Please print information exactly as you wish it to appear. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL Use all capital letters: 15 characters per line, including SOCIETY spaces and punctuation marks: **POST OFFICE BOX 14 RIVERDALE, MARYLAND 20738** (\$30) Line 1: If you have any questions or need more information (\$60) about this brick project, please call: Line 2: Wallis Cain **Lvnn Roberts** (\$90) Line 3: 1-301-627-3677 1-301-627-8622

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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..

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Atlas of fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland Compiled, Drawn & Published from Actual Surveys by G.M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed.

Reprint 1975. Soft cover 47 pages. Price \$10.00

#### 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

#### Prince George's County, Maryland Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885

Volume 1 Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish & Queen Anne's Parish by Helen W. Brown Reprint 2000 Soft cover 200 pages. Price \$18.00

#### 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 by Helen W. Brown Reprint 2000 Softc over 196 pages. Price \$18.00

#### Out of the Past - Prince Georgeans 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 from information gleaned from public records, newspapers and private papers.

by R. Lee Van Horn Reprint 1996 Hardcover 422 pages. Price \$20.00

#### Tricentennial Cook Book

Contains recipes collected from county residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled & Edited by Dorothy Rainwater & Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound 150 pages. Price \$10.00

Journey Through Time - A Pictorial History of the Prince George's County Police Department A history of the county police department coving over 200 years. Indexed.

by Lt. Dennis Campbell Printed 1991. Hardcover 304 pages. Price \$40.00 Shipping \$3.00\*

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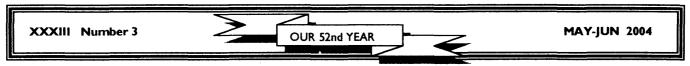
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## Prince George's County Historical Society News and Notes



## Prince George's County Celebrates the National Trust for Historic Preservation and extends Preservation Week through the Merrie Month of May

On October 26, 1949, President Harry Truman signed "'An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of National significance, and for other purposes,' and to facilitate public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings, and objects of national significance or interest, there is hereby created a charitable, educational and nonprofit corporation, to be known as the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, hereafter referred to as the 'National Trust.' The purposes of the National Trust shall be to receive donations of sites, buildings, and objects significant in American history and culture, to preserve and administer them for public benefit, to accept, hold, and administer gifts of money, securities, or other property of whatsoever character for the purpose of carrying out the preservation program, and to execute such other functions as vested in it by this Act.'"

Three benchmarks in the history of the Trust are particularly noteworthy: in 1969, the Preservation Services Fund began to provide local financial assistance; in 1952, the first issue of the Historic Preservation magazine was published, and in 1973, an annual nationwide celebration called Preservation Week, was first observed. More historical bits: "Is this building worth saving?" is the most frequently asked question related to the Trust. "Historic preservation is simply having the good sense to hang on to something – an older building or neighborhood or a piece of landscape, for instance -- because it's important to us a individuals and/or the nation." In this issue we will explore our County's interaction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation by looking at listed properties and resources around the County. We will begin with the larger more encompassing entities, the National Register Historic Districts. The requirements and benefits of these districts and some activities related to them will be discussed. And finally, individually designated sites within the County will be listed. Prince George's is very fortunate to be so well represented on listings of the National Trust and we look forward to the preservation of more buildings, vistas and green space.

One of the County's oldest National Register Historic Districts is Hyattsville (1982). Surveyed initially in the early 1980s, the community is currently bringing that designation up to contemporary standards and applying for an expansion of the District. This large inner-beltway suburb was incorporated in 1886 and on Sunday, May 16th, 2004, Hyattsville will sponsor its 25th Annual House Tour. Begun even before the official National Register Historic District nomination was approved in 1982, this tour has continued through the auspices of the Hyattsville Preservation Association (HPA). One-hundred-thirty separate buildings have been shown over the past 24 years. The Frederick A. Holden County Designated Site at 4110 Gallatin Street has appeared on eight tours (it was the home of founding HPA members and prior to that from the late 1960s, it was owned by Dale Hutton, Associate Dean of the newly established School of Architecture at the University of Maryland). This fine example of the Carpenter Gothic style built in 1883 will appear on this years tour under the third set of owners. Another popular residence at 4209 Jefferson Street has appeared seven times under five different owners. This stunning property, rebuilt after a disastrous fire, is full of exquisite Asian antiques acquired by the globetrotting owners and will open again this year. Fifteen non-residential sites and ten different gardens have been featured over the last 24 years. Important individual Hyattsville National Register Sites such as the Armory and the U.S. Post Office with interior WPA wall paintings have appeared on previous tours. The Marche House, another local landmark, has been rescued with loving care and will be open for this special 25th annual celebration. The Harriet Ralston House at 4206 Decatur (directly behind the Marche House) and another County Designated Site will also be on the tour. Dr. David Driskell, a prominent local African American artist and curator of the Bill Cosby collection and his wife Thelma, have agreed to participate in this special tour. This house and the two Holden houses on Gallatin Street have appeared previously on the Maryland Pilgrimage and Garden tour. Ticket information for the Historic Hyattsville House Tour can be obtained by calling 301-927-4514.

On November 25, 1980, two years before Hyattsville's listing, the Greenbelt Historic District was designated by the Trust as a National Historic Landmark. Greenbelt, conceived during Roosevelt's New Deal initiatives, sought to create jobs and demonstrate that garden-city planning techniques could be combined to create modestly priced housing. "The building of historic Greenbelt took advantage of the natural topography in the form of a crescent-shaped plateau, or 'green belt.' Houses encircle the center, where stores, the post office, and community building/school are located. The apartment buildings form an inner circle. At a lower level, in a natural bowl, is the athletic field and the rec center. 574 rowhouse and 306 apartment units were originally created. ... The government purchased a total of 3,371 acres for the community and surrounding 'greenbelt.' In 1941 the Federal Government constructed 1000 frame houses for workers engaged in the national defense effort. Greenbelt's 'defense homes' were one of 43 such housing projects built throughout the Untied States to relieve the acute shortage of housing for persons engaged in wartime activities. The frame houses are located mainly to the north of the original planned community." Of the original "green towns" (one in Ohio and one in Wisconsin), Greenbelt is the only one to retain many of the original features such as the buildings and sections of the surrounding 'greenbelt.' Greenbelt also continues the concept of community responsibility as the majority of the housing is owned by a cooperative.

The *Mount Rainier Historic District* was listed in the National Register on September 7, 1990. The District has the varied and picturesque character of an early-20th century town or suburb. The district's street grid is laid over a gently rolling, formerly rural landscape. The district's streetscapes were developed over a period of more than 40 years from c. 1900 to 1940. The vast majority of the district's more that 1000 buildings are modestly scaled, detached, single-family, frame houses sited closely together with common setbacks. While the single-family house is the prevailing building type, other residential types are present. Included among these are the small apartment buildings, the

occasional duplex, and the single family residence that incorporates a small storefront, usually located at the corner of an intersection. With the exception of five churches and a bank building known to have been designed by local architects, the remainder of the district's buildings are vernacular in inspiration. The vast majority of residential buildings are constructed and sheathed with wooden materials, but there are a small number built of brick or covered in stucco. Brick and cast and poured concrete are the most common foundation materials, particularly for houses from the 1920s and 1930s. Mount Rainier Historic District's period of significance, 1900-1940, represents a time of substantial suburban growth for the western portion of Prince George's County as part of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area.

Six years later, on October 10, 1996, the *University Park Historic District* was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This District is significant as a large and essentially intact example of an early-20th century, middle-class automobile suburb. The historic district represents the transformation of the western edge of Prince George's County into part of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area by the development of suburban communities in Prince George's County specifically designed to accommodate the automobile. Also significant is the fact that the district was platted and developed largely by the developer. The district derives additional significance for its noteworthy collection of vernacular buildings demonstrating the evolution of early 20<sup>th</sup> century American domestic architecture. Examples of common styles of the period found in the historic district include the Mediterranean and Tudor Revivals, variations on the Craftsman Aesthetic, and numerous examples of the Colonial Revival including interpretations of Dutch, Georgian, and Federal period substyles.

In the years since the turn of the century, four National Register Districts have been added to the list for Prince George's County. The first, *Calvert Hills*, *College Park Historic District* dates from December 2002. Calvert Hills is a cohesive residential neighborhood located in the City of College Park in northern Prince George's County, Maryland. It is located between the Town of Riverdale Park to the south and Old Town College Park to the north. The residential community is nestled between Baltimore Avenue (U.S. Route 1) to the west and the WMATA metrorail/B&O Railroad right-of-way to the east. These major thoroughfares provide access to commercial and employment centers in the surrounding county and nearby Washington, D.C. Baltimore Avenue, in particular, ties the neighborhood to the commercial and educational center of College Park. The first portion of the neighborhood, platted in 1907 and re-platted in 1921, featured a grid-like plan of rectangular blocks and straight, intersecting streets. Calvert Hills is defined by a variety of architectural styles and building types ranging from early-20th-century style to vernacular interpretations of the elaborate styles traditionally erected decades earlier. Architectural styles presented in Calvert Hills were often diluted, illustrating modest examples of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Tudor Revival styles.

The Riverdale Park Historic District was also approved in December 2002. The historic character of Riverdale Park has been documented in such secondary sources as The Past is Prologue, Town of Riverdale Maryland 1920-1970 and The Riversdale Story: Mansion to Municipality, Town of Riverdale 75th Anniversary Book. Six properties within the District are regulated under the county's Historic Preservation Ordinance and include the Harry Smith House, the Warren House, Riversdale/Calvert Mansion and Slave Quarter which is also a National Historic Landmark, the Read-Low House, and the Wernek House. The Calvert Family Cemetery is a historic resource. The Mansion at 4811 Riverdale Road was designated Landmark status in 1998. "Riversdale is a five-part mansion of Federal style, built of brick and covered with stucco; it is made up of a two-story, hip-roof main block, flanked on each side by a 1½-story hyphen and wing. Riversdale is distinguished by the

European influences in its decorative features. Entrance is in the central bay of the seven-bay north facade through a double panelled door with semicircular fanlight, sheltered by a one-story gable-roof porch with Tuscan columns. If you have not read the *Mistress of Riversdale*, we highly recommend it. The current exhibit on chairs called "*Please be Seated*" is also exceptional. See the notice in this issue for details.

The third district approved in December 2002 was the *West Riverdale Historic District*. The cohesive neighborhood of West Riverdale is seven miles northeast of Washington, D.C., and thirty miles southeast of Baltimore City. West Riverdale is bordered by Baltimore Avenue (U.S. Route 1) to the east and East-West Highway to the north. The City of Hyattsville wraps around the western and southern sides of the neighborhood. The neighborhood was appended to Riverdale Park soon after it was laid out and platted in 1906. West Riverdale was enlarged in 1937 by the platting of "Dr. R.A. Bennett's Residue Riverdale" and presently consists of six blocks with Queensbury Road as the primary east-west corridor. The emergence of the automobile as a dominant form of transportation during the second quarter of the twentieth century firmly established a commercial corridor along Baltimore Avenue, which later became the main north-south route for the entire Riverdale community. The busy automobile corridor physically and visually separates West Riverdale from Riverdale Park. In 1966, East-West Highway was laid out parallel to the community's east-west roads in response to the growing need for mobility throughout the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

Most recently, in November 2003, the North Brentwood Historic District was added to the National Register. Formerly called Randalltown, North Brentwood is a small residential neighborhood located between the City of Hyattsville on the north, and the Town of Brentwood on the south. "The first houses in this community were built by members of the Randall family, beginning in 1892, and they represented all of the house forms that were popular in that period. The first two houses were built for Henry Randall and his son, Peter, in 1892 and 1893 respectively. Both were of wood frame construction, in the I-house form, a form that had been used for much of the nineteenth century, particularly in rural settings. (Only Peter Randall's 1893 house survives. Henry Randall's house was damaged by fire in 1994, and demolished the following year.) Peter Randall's house at 4508 Rhode Island Avenue is 2-1/2-story frame house with central cross-gable on the main facade, a two-story semi-octagonal bay lighting one gable end, and a kitchen ell wing extending to the rear. Similar to the modest rural farmhouses of the 1890s, the form was translated in this case onto a small lot in a suburban setting. North Brentwood is of particular significance in the African-American history of Prince George's County for a number or reasons. The community was planned specifically for black families by a veteran commander of the U.S. Colored Troops. It was settled beginning at the end of the nineteenth century by black families seeking, through home ownership, some control over their lives in a segregated society. An outstanding new book called "Minding Our Own Business; An Oral History of North Brentwood's Entrepreneurs" is available at the Marietta House Museum shop for \$10.00.

The National Register also lists two Prince George's County parkways as Historic Districts: the Baltimore-Washington and Suitland Parkways in addition to five Archeological Sites. In total, Prince George's County is home to ten National Register Historic Districts. A listing of sixty-seven individual County properties listed on the Register appears later in this publication.

Editor's note: Quotations used above indicate that the National Trust for Historic Preservation website was the source.

This seems like a good opportunity to dispel some of the erroneous notions about restrictions related to Historic Districts. On the national level, there are few if any restrictions. Property owners retain their rights to alter, demolish and preserve their buildings. However, restrictions may be applied on the local level. One of the primary benefits of National Register designation is the increase in neighborhood pride and currently, in Maryland, the financial benefit from tax credits related to approved renovations to properties within the district. Two local districts exist within Prince George's County and are located in Broad Creek and in Old Town College Park. (Laurel has a local district but since it has its own zoning authority it is not managed by the County.) The local historic designation for College Park is described in the Spring 2004 edition of *Friends of Preservation* (Volume XXII, No. 1). "While the county contains many National Register historic districts, this is essentially an honorary status, whereas a *local* historic district would apply design guidelines for reviewing major changes to building exterior and to help protect and to maintain the historic character of the area." This is the major difference between the two types of historic districts.

## Individual Prince George's County Properties Listed In the National Register of Historic Places

- 1. B & O Railroad Station, 101 Lafayette Avenue, Laurel
- 2. Avondale Mill, 21 Avondale Street, Laurel
- 3. Laurel High School, 707 Montgomery Street
- 4. Ammendale Normal Institute and St. Joseph's Chapel, 6011 Ammendale Road, Beltsville
- 5. Snow Hill, 13209 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel
- 6. Montpelier, 9401 Muirkirk Road, Laurel
- 7. Spacecraft Magnetic Test Facility, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt
- 8. College Park Airport, 6709 Corp. Frank S. Scott Drive, College Park
- 9. O'Dea House, 5804 Ruatan Street, Berwyn Heights
- 10. Hitching Post Hill, 3308 Rosemary Lane, University Park
- 11. Harry Smith House, 4707 Oliver Street, Riverdale Park
- 12. Riversdale, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park
- 13. Hyattsville Armory, 5340 Baltimore Avenue
- 14. Hyattsville Post Office, 4325 Gallatin Street,

- 15. George Washington House, 4302 Baltimore Avenue, Bladensburg
- 16, Magruder House, 4703 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg
- 17. Market Master's House, 4006 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Bladensburg
- 18. Bostwick, 3901 48th Street, Bladensburg
- 19. Mount Hope, 1 Cheverly Circle, Cheverly
- 20. Marietta, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale
- 21. D.S.S. Goodloe House, 13809 Jericho Park Road, Bowie
- 22. Bowie Railroad Buildings, 8614 Chestnut Avenue, Bowie
- 23. Williams Plains, 16200 White Marsh Park Drive, Bowie
- 24. Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive
- 25. Belair Stables, 2835 Belair Drive, Bowie
- 26. Melford, 17100 Melford Boulevard, Bowie
- 27. Beall's Pleasure, 7460 Landover Road, Landover
- 28. Addison Chapel, 5610 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant

- 29. Mount Lubentia, 603 Largo Road, Largo
- 30. Pleasant Prospect, 12806 Woodmore Road
- 31. Bowieville, 522 Church Road South, Upper Marlboro
- 32. Hamilton House, 16810 Federal Hill Court, Mitchellville
- 33. Hazelwood, 18611 Queen Anne Road, Oueen Anne
- 34. Concord, 8000 Walker Mill Road, Capitol Heights
- 35. St. Ignatius Church, 2400 Brinkley Road, Oxon Hill
- 36. The Cottage and Outbuildings, 11904 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro
- 37. Melwood Park, 10908 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro
- 38. Mount Pleasant, 3401 Mount Pleasant Road, Upper Marlboro
- 39. Kingston, 5415 Old Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro
- 40. Content, 14518 Church Street, Upper Marlboro
- 41. Traband House, 14204 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro
- 42. Buck House/Darnall's Chance, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro
- 43. Bowling Heights, 3610 Old Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro
- 44. Compton Bassett, 16508 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro
- 45. Ashland, 16109 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro
- 46. Oxon Hill Manor, 6901 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill
- 47. Fort Foote, Fort Foote Road, Oxon Hill

- 48. Fort Washington, Fort Washington Road, Fort Washington
- 49. St. John's Church, 9801 Livingston Road, Broad Creek
- 50. Harmony Hall and Want Water, 10511 Livingston Road, Broad Creek
- 51. His Lordship's Kindness, 7606 Woodyard Road, Clinton
- 52. Mary Surratt House, 9110 Brandywine Road, Clinton
- 53. Wyoming, 11810 Thrift Road, Clinton
- 54. Pleasant Hills, 7001 Croom Station Road, Upper Marlboro
- 55. Woodstock, 8706 S.E. Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro
- 56. Bellefields, 13104 Duley Station Road, Croom
- 57. Waverly, 8901 Duvall Road, Croom
- 58. Bellevue, 200 Manning Road East, Accokeek
- 59. William W. Early House, 13907 Cherry Tree Crossing Road, Brandywine
- 60. Brookefield of the Berrys, 12510 Molly Berry Road, Croom
- 61. Coffren House and Store, 10007 Croom Road, Croom
- 62. St. Paul's Church, 13500 Baden-Westwood Road, Baden
- 63. Old St. Mary's Rectory, 16305 St. Mary's Church Road, Aquasco
- 64. Villa de Sales, 22410 Aquasco Road, Aquasco
- 65. Sunnyside, 16005 Dr. Bowen Road, Aquasco
- 66. Chapel of the Incarnation, 14070 Brandywine Road, Brandywine
- 67. St. Thomas Church, 14300 St. Thomas Church Road, Croom

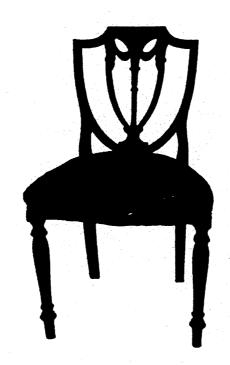
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April 4 - June 27, 2004

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Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the facility at least two weeks in advance of the program start date to request an accommodation (i.e. sign language interpreter, support staff, etc.).





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DUES CATEGORY (PLEASE CH	ECK ONE)
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Please contact me regarding volu	nteer opportunities.
For membership in the Ma	ryland Historical Society, include an
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## Prince George's County Historical Society News and Notes

XXXIII Number 4 OUR 52nd YEAR JUL-AUG 2004



#### 2004 Prince of a County Reception

On Sunday, September 26, 2004, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., we will be fortunate to celebrate our annual *Prince of a County* event at a beautiful private home not generally known to our membership. This year it is *Ashland*, one of the beautiful homes that belonged to members of the Hill family of Upper Marlboro.

Ashland is a two-and-one-half-story frame dwelling with fine Italianate decorative detail. Its nearly square plan is varied by a central crossgable in each of the four elevations. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay main east facade, sheltered by an ornate entry porch which has chamfered posts and deeply molded jigsawn brackets. The porch is flanked by two one-story semi-octagonal projecting bays; the south elevation is also varied by a one-story porch and a projecting bay. The wood siding of the house is now painted white; the hip roof is covered with patterned metal, and all cornices are decorated with jigsawn brackets.

Ashland is one of the finest examples in Prince George's County of Victorian Italianate domestic architecture. It was built in 1866/67 by William Murdock Hill, son of William Beanes Hill of Compton Bassett, on part of the Hill family's larger Woodland plantation just east of Upper Marlboro. The elder Hill had developed a 310-acre farm on a section of these lands, renamed it Ashland, and turned it over to his son at the time of his marriage. The younger Hill, together with two local builders, planned the design and construction of a fine Italianate dwelling. Construction began at the end of 1866 and was finished in the fall of 1867. The Ashland house (and the land on which it stands) has been continuously associated with the Hill family, a family that was prominent and influential in Prince George's County. It also derives unique significance from the associated family papers (contracts, bills, etc.) that give evidence of the planning and construction of the house, and thereby important information on building practices of the period.

In February 1867, William Murdock Hill, who had worked in produce importation in New Orleans, married Aimee Hopkins of that city. In preparing a home for his bride-to-be, the younger Hill contracted with builders from Anne Arundel County, to build for him a house on the developing Ashland plantation. Hill signed a contract in October 1866 with William H. Peake, Jr., and John H. Hunt, housebuilders and contractors of nearby Owensville in Anne Arundel County. For \$1000, the two builders contracted to build for Hill a framed house 42 feet by 32 feet, its roof to be finished with "four pediments." The contract specified details of the floor plan, the porches and projecting bays, closets, kitchen cupboards and water closet.

The design of the Ashland staircase gives us a glimpse of the information gained from the Ashland documents. Ashland has a particularly handsome staircase - an elegant curving stair with turned newel and balusters, unsupported above the first curve, and continuing, with the same decorative detail to the third story. It is clear that a lot of time and effort went into the design and building of this elegant staircase. As early as April 1867, soon after the newlyweds returned from their wedding trip to their unfinished house, William M. Hill requested an "improved stairway." The job of preparing the materials for the stair was subcontracted to John Thomas and Son of Baltimore. On the 19th of July, John Thomas wrote to Hill requesting more information about the "handrail spoken of by your carpenter . . . his explanation is not explicit enough for us to get the work out . . . [we] must ask for another sketch of the stairs . . . [we] must have the number of rizers [sic] and treads in each flight, also sizes of same, length of platform, width of opening between string and position of rizers in the well hole. By giving us these, we can make the rail to fit . . . Let your man make a little diagram of the stairs. He will understand, as he has ordered of us in that way before . . . As soon as you comply, the job will be put in hand and forwarded without delay."

and The diagram explicit instruction was apparently transmitted as requested, for the materials were prepared and shipped by Thomas by the end of August. The material included one seven-inch walnut newel and two four-inch walnut newels, two five-inch walnut (newel) caps, 150 oak balusters, 136 feet of walnut (handrail) and 21 handrail screws. The handsome staircase was probably fully constructed in September of 1867.

In the autumn of 1867, William Murdock Hill brought his bride to live at the new house at Ashland. Two sons were born to them there, the first died in infancy, while the second, James Hopkins Hill, grew to adulthood. William Murdock Hill himself died at an early age, however, in 1871, and his third child (a daughter, Anna) was born two months after his death. Aimee Hopkins Hill moved with her children to New Orleans, and did not return to Ashland until both children were William Beanes Hill had educated. never legally conveyed the Ashland farm to his son, and he continued to manage the farm for the family of his deceased son until his own death in 1890. In his will he devised the Ashland farm to his daughter-in-law and to her two children. The Ashland farm passed to Anna Hill (daughter of William Murdock and Aimee Hopkins Hill), who in 1893 married William G. Brooke. The Brookes continued to farm Ashland, residing in the handsome house which had been built for Anna Hill Brooke's parents. Although Mrs. Brooke died at an early age in 1905, her husband remained at Ashland, and brought up In 1945 their five children there. Ashland passed by agreement of all of the Brooke heirs, to one of the Brooke daughters, Anna Brooke Kelly, and members of her family (John and Marieanna Kelly) live at beautiful Ashland to the present day.

Ashland will be an outstanding site for this year's *Prince of a County* reception. The Historical Society thanks the Kellys for their hospitality, and we look forward to a very special day on September 26th!

#### St. George's Day Awards, 2004

Eight awards were given at the St. George's Day celebration that took place at St. Barnabas' Church, Leeland, on Sunday, 25 April 2004. The Society was pleased to present to individuals and groups recognition for their work in research, publications, celebrations and outstanding support to the aims of the Historical Society.

#### Honored this year were:

Virginia Beauchamp for her research and publication on subjects related to Prince George's County history;

Donald Creveling, Prince George's County archaeologist, for his many years of archaeological research on Prince George's County sites;

Carolyn Rowe, Beverly Woods and Jane Thomas for their publication of the Black America Series: Prince George's County Maryland;

Karen Miles, Diane Stultz, Mary Frazer, and Pricia Paulkovich for the

publication of Records of the Almshouse of Prince George's County, Maryland;

Helen and Joe Milby for their outstanding care for and hospitality at Oakland ("Good Luck" in Upper Marlboro:

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, Leeland, for its celebration of the tricentennial of the establishment of the Queen Anne Parish;

Alan Virta, for his continuing outstanding research and the presentation of "Prince Georgeans in the Old West"; and

Susan and Jim Wolfe for their constant and exceptional participation in all of the efforts of the Prince George's County Historical Society.

Congratulations to all!

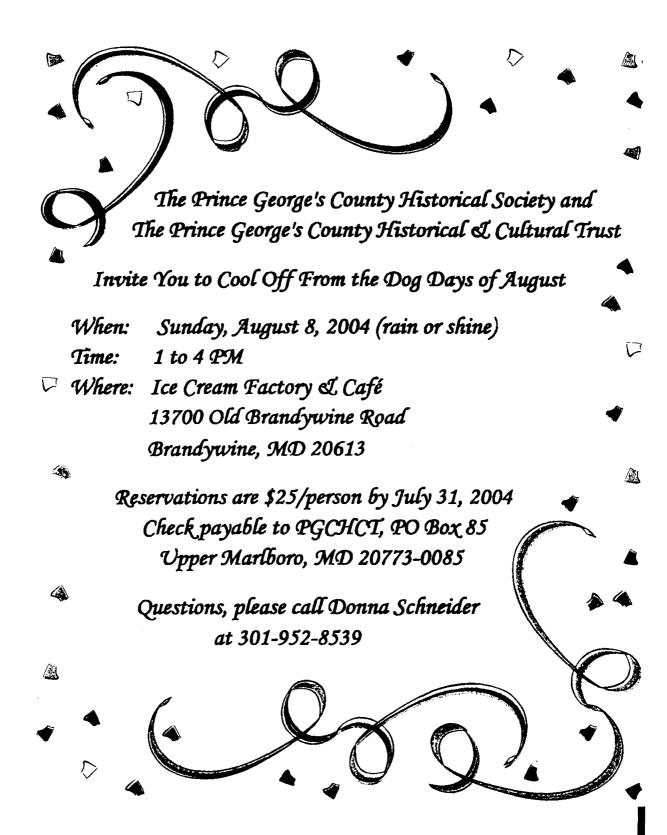
## GOOD NEWS AT RIDGLEY SCHOOL

Ridgley School, now used as the dispatch office for Prince George's County Public School buses, is one of the County's nine surviving Rosenwald schools. These were schools built in the 1920s for black students with support from the fund established by philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company. (For information on the history of Rosenwald schools, see *News and Notes*, March 2000, Volume XXVIII, No. 2.)

The Board of Directors of the Historical Society has been interested and involved in the history and preservation of Rosenwald schools (and

in particular Ridgley School) for many years. The Board supported the recognition and designation of Ridgley School as a County Historic Site and is pleased to report that plans are under way for the repair and maintenance of this historic building. The newly established Excellence in Education Foundation of the Board of Education has recently received a donation of \$10,000 from the Siena Corporation, to be devoted to the restoration and maintenance of the Ridgley School. On Tuesday, 29 June, the Siena Corporation's \$10,000 check was formally presented to the Board of Education. Among those gratefully accepting the donation was Mildred Ridgley Gray, whose family provided the land for the school in 1927, and who (as student, teacher, and principal) has been closely associated with the school ever since. We hope that this generous.

Professional structural analysis of the building (provided through the Historic Preservation office of the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission) indicates that stabilization of the building will cost approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000. The Board of Directors of the Historical Society hopes that the Siena Corporation's generous donation will inspire additional contributions to make the restoration of the historic Ridgley School possible. Accordingly, the Directors have taken the lead in closing this \$5000-to-\$10,000 gap; at their 10 July meeting the Society's Directors voted to make a \$1000 donation for the restoration of Ridgley School through contribution to the Mildred Ridgley Gray Charitable Trust.



#### Prince George's County Historical Society Heritage Calendar August 2004

\$\$

August				
	all month-This Fair Lady			
		Darnall's Chance House Museum 301-952-8010 \$\$		
		Women Airforce Service Pilots		
		College Park Aviation Museum 301-864-6029 \$\$		
		Fun in Flight: school age activities		
		Tuesdays 12-4 College Park Aviation Museum 301-864-6029		
	1&8	Summer Fun Ages 5-12		
		Marietta House Museum 301-464-5291 \$\$		
	7	Old Home Day Celebration		
		Dorsey Chapel 12-5 301-352-5544 free		
	7	Restoration Shop Open House		
		College Park Aviation Museum 12-4 301-864-6029		

- 8 Air Mail Day
  College Park Aviation Museum 12-4 301-864-6029 \$\$
- 8 Historic Homes Van Tour
  Billingsley 12-4 301-627-0730 \$\$
- 14/15 **Battle of Bladensburg Encampment**Riversdale House Museum 301-864-0420 \$\$
- 21 African American Heritage Day
  National Colonial Farm 301-283-2113 \$\$
- 21 Belair on the Home Front
  Belair Mansion & Stables 11-4 301-809-3089 free
- Summer Concert on the Portico
  Riversdale House museum 7-8 301-864-0420 free
- 29 History on the River Boat Tour Billingsley House Museum 1-3 301-627-0730 \$\$

The Board encourages members and organizations to make similar donations. These donations (specified for the restoration of Ridgley School) should be made to the **Mildred Ridgley Grey Charitable Trust**, and sent to:

The Mildred Ridgley Gray Charitable Trust #4109 Collington 10450 Lottsford Road Bowie, MD 20721-2751.

The Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust has also been actively involved in the recognition and preservation of Rosenwald schools. In May 2002, the Historical & Cultural Trust formally dedicated an historical marker at Highland Park School, another of Prince George's County's surviving Rosenwald schools. The Trust is currently working toward a similar ceremony of recognition at Ridgley School.



**An Occasional Column** 

#### Guess who is back?

I have returned – arriving July 1 and I am here for a couple of months – will then return to Macedonia to close out my

current project and then I will return to the area to work and to be more involved.

Many things are happening in the Society and I am glad to report a few of them.

On September 26, as indicated by our lead story, the September fundraiser, *A Prince of a County*, will be held at Ashland – while I will not be there (I have to be in Skopje) I hope you will be.

The Society is engaged in a separate fundraiser – in honor of our half-century of bringing our history to our citizenry – see the enclosed flyer – become a Sponsor – at the Bronze, Silver or Gold level (or more) – this fundraiser is dedicated to recognition of you – and your commitment to preserving Prince George's Past and Future. Join us – the benefits for you may be limited but think of your grandchildren.

In October, we are planning a bus trip with a difference – we will visit
Baltimore – and the cost is nominal –
you get to see the wonderful collections
of the Maryland Historic Society – at no
cost except your luncheon – wherever
you want. Call the Society for further
information – it is a great opportunity to
see what our senior organization has and
does.

Les Sweeting



Historic Marietta at Glenn Dale, Maryland

#### Headquarters of the Prince George's County Historical Society

Having celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2003, the Prince George's County Historical Society is pleased to announce that the Society is embarking upon its second half century of fostering an understanding and appreciation of the County's history and heritage. This tradition of understanding and appreciation is achieved by collecting, recording, organizing, restoring and preserving County historical data, artifacts, and materials and by participating in and encouraging the protection of historic sites and material culture of the County. The Society invites you or your company to join in this most significant effort by becoming a Sponsor of the Prince George's County Historical Society.

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

The Society appreciates your interest in and support of the Society. Three levels of Society sponsorship are available, each with its own fantastic benefits! The three levels of Society sponsorship are as follows:

#### Bronze Level - \$100

- Complimentary one-year membership in the Society.
- Listing of your name/company name as a sponsor in the Society's bi-monthly publication, *News & Notes*, received by over three hundred households.
- Listing of your name/company name as a sponsor in the Society's events literature, published for each special event.

#### Silver Level - \$250

- Complimentary one-year membership in the Society.
- Listing of your name/company name as a sponsor in the Society's bi-monthly publication, *News & Notes*, received by over three hundred households.
- Listing of your name/company name as a sponsor in the Society's events literature, published for each special event.
- Two complimentary tickets to the Society's annual, invitation only, *Prince of a County* reception held at a selected Prince George's County private, historic home.

#### Gold Level - \$500

- Complimentary one-year membership in the Society.
- Listing of your name/company name as a sponsor in the Society's bi-monthly publication, *News & Notes*, received by over three hundred households.
- Listing of your name/company name as a sponsor in the Society's events literature, published for each special event.
- Four complimentary tickets to the Society's annual, invitation only, *Prince of a County* reception held at a selected Prince George's County private, historic home.
- •A commemorative brick, engraved with three lines of text, at your selection, (15 characters per line), which brick will be installed in the "Walk of History" brick plaza in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. \*See the included brick order form for more information.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Prince George's County Historical Society and look forward to having you be an annual sponsor of the Society. For more information or any questions about becoming an annual sponsor of the Society, please contact Elizabeth L. Dougherty, Sponsorship Committee Chairperson, at 301-780-3976.

Thank you,

John J. Petro
President

I/My company wishes to be a Sponsor of the Prince George's County Historical Societ

I/My company wishes to be a Sponsor of the Prince George's County Historical Society. Please respond by <b>August 1, 2004</b> to be included in the Prince of a County reception. My check for \$ is enclosed.		
Bronze Level - \$100	Silver Level - \$250	Gold Level - \$500
Company Name:		
Representative:		
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Please return this form and your check payable to PGCHS to: PGCHS, PO Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014.		



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MEMBER/FAMILY \$25.00 S	SUSTAINING MEMBER	_ \$50.00
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ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION		
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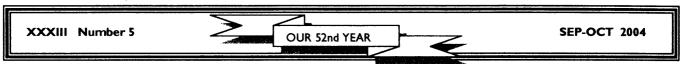
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# Prince George's County Historical Society News and Notes



## Brandywine Ice Cream Factory & Café Celebrates Its First Anniversary

The Ice Cream Factory & Café opened its doors on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003. It is a business with history, great food and old fashioned frozen custards and desserts. It is open year round.

The Prince George's County historic site is the former Marlow-Huntt General Store & Post Office that dates from circa 1867. The building was in a dilapidated condition and was an eye sore to the community and the thousands of commuters who traveled on the adjacent highways when Dave & Cheryl Watts purchased the property in July 2002.

The couple have taken care to preserve the building in cooperation and accordance with the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission. They are the fourth family to own the approximately 137 year old building in which the Ice Cream Factory & Café now resides.

The press has been interested in the old building from the earliest stages of its renovation to its renaissance today and various articles have been published in the Washington Times, Washington Post, Journal Newspapers, Gazette Newspapers, Prince George's Post, Sentinel Newspapers, Maryland Independent, Friends of Preservation and our own News and Notes. The July issue of the Washingtonian Magazine features the Ice Cream Factory & Café in an article entitled Rating Delicious Ice Creams/We All Scream – A Summer Guide to the Creamiest, Tastiest, Richest Ice cream, Frozen Custard and Gelato in DC, Maryland & Virginia.

The review follows:

"Ice Cream Factory & Café, 13700 Old Brandywine Rd., Brandywine; 301-782-3444. Formerly a general store and post office dating to circa 1867, this lovingly renovated ice-cream parlor dishes up fabulous old-fashioned frozen custard made on the premises in the usual vanilla, chocolate, and swirl, plus custom flavors like lemon, banana, and peanut butter. These flavorings are added while you watch and creativity is encouraged, so you could end up with something like coffee-maple nut. Shakes and sundaes are also made with the custard. There's a roomy porch and umbrella tables for lingering." Washingtonian, July 2004

The Café part of the Ice Cream Factory offers a mix of history and food that includes specialties such as cream of crab soup and crab cakes, rock fish filet, certified angus beef burgers, boardwalk style corn dogs, subs, 3 kinds of fried, Caribbean patties, 24 flavors of old fashioned soft serve frozen custard, rich and creamy smoothies, lattes and frappes.

This old fashioned ice cream shoppe & Café has earned the reputation of being a charming and friendly place with an old time setting that includes tiffany-style lamps and a brass chair rail. The Ice Cream Factory & Café is located at the crossroads known as T.B. where Route 5 (Branch Avenue) and Route 381 (Brandywine Road) & Route 373 (Accokeek Road) intersect and is 3/10th mile from Route 301 and Route 381. An old-fashioned ice cream social, sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust and the Historical Society was held on August 8, 2004.

Congratulations to this thriving new County business and to David and Cheryl Watts on the restoration of this historic landmark.



Photograph by Dusty Rhoads

## Prince George's County Historical Society Slate of Officers for 2004-2005

# Join us for our annual meeting on Monday, November 15th 2004 at Jerry's Seafood in Seabrook to vote on the proposed Slate for next year.

President John Petro

Vice President Jim Wolfe

Secretary Warren Rhoads

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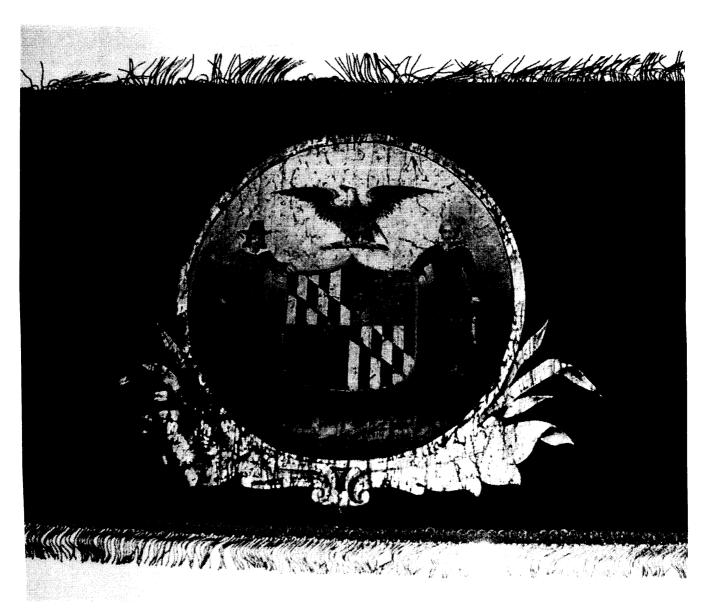
Anna Holmes Elizabeth Dougherty

Additional details will be

provided in a separate filer.

# **Flag Conservation Completed**

The Planters' Guard flag was returned to the society on August 27<sup>th</sup> after being conserved and remounted. This unique flag which was presented to the militia unit, The Planters' Guard, by women of the Upper Marlboro area on April 19, 1861 was viewed by Society members and guests at the annual Prince of a County reception in September at Upper Marlboro. The silk flag was removed from its 1936 frame and the fibers were evaluated for stability. The fabrics and threads were analyzed then the flag was cleaned, humidified, flattened and dried. The painted surfaces which includes a rendition of the 1856 Maryland State Seal on the reverse and a banner bearing the unit's motto and the letters, P.G. on the obverse were treated by a Paintings conservator. These paintings were rendered by T. R. Jeffreys. The flag was mounted in a custom-made pressure mount frame constructed of an acid-free panel on an aluminum frame which was then framed with a ultra-violet filtering sheet of Lexan. The process took the Textile Preservation Associates 16 ½ hours to complete. The results are remarkable. The preservation of this amazing artifact is now assured.



# Invitation

Your are cordially invited to a

Field trip to Maryland Historical Society for a Guided Tour of "Baltimore Ablaze: the Great Fire of 1904"

Date: Sunday, October 24, 2004

Time: 1 to 8 pm

Sponsored by the Marietta House Museum. Transportation will be provided. Vans will leave Marietta at 1:00 pm; guided Museum Tour from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. The remaining free time may be used for exploring the Mount Vernon area and visiting one of the fine restaurants for a meal.

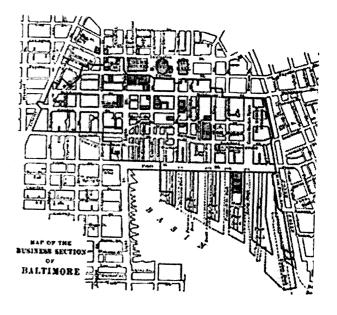
Space is limited and advance reservations are required. Call Marietta House Museum at 301-464-5291 no later than October 16<sup>th</sup>. Free of charge.

#### The Great Baltimore Fire 0f 2004

Since our Fall outing features a trip to the Maryland Historical Society (MHS) to view an exhibition on the Great Baltimore Fire, we thought we would provide a little background on the subject. A new book (not yet included in the Society's Library) on the subject is available at the MHS bookshop. Called "The Great Baltimore Fire" by Peter B. Petersen, it is described as follows: "2004 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great Baltimore fire, a conflagration that raged beyond control for over 30 hours and threatened the entire city. In the aftermath of the blaze, as the city lay crippled, civic pride asserted itself and Baltimore recovered with astonishing speed. The devastation became the impetus for revitalization and modernization. The Great Baltimore Fire tells a gripping story of people in time of crisis, of leadership, teamwork, misjudgments, and terror. Freshly told for the first time in 50 years by Johns Hopkins scholar Peter. B. Petersen, this page-turner is generously and beautifully illustrated with photographs, many of which have not been seen in nearly a century." A reader provided the following review on amazon.com: "An interesting book that's not just about the Baltimore fire. It's about people - how they react to an emergency, how they react when a situation gets of hand, how they cooperate, how they refuse to cooperate. It's about politics, It's about managing in a crisis. It's about bravery, including the quiet bravery of staying on the job, where you're needed, even if where you're needed is on a freezing street corner. It's about failing to prepare for unthinkable disaster and recovering from that failure. It's about competence and incompetence, followed by finger pointing and second guessing." Sounds very contemporary!!

Phase One: Sunday Morning, 11 am
On Sunday February 7th, 1904 most of
Baltimore was looking forward to a quiet
Sunday afternoon.

The firefighters at Engine Co. 15 were preparing for morning inspection at 11 am. However, at 10:48 am they received an automatic alarm at the John Hurst & Company, located between Hopkins Place and Liberty Street on the south side of German Street (now Redwood). The Salvage Corps responded first, as did Fifth District Engineer Levin Burkhardt, Engine 15 and Truck 2.



Phase Seven: Monday, 12 noon By 8 am, the fight to save the Pratt Street piers was lost as flames spread south and east of Pratt Street. The only hope of saving East Baltimore was the Jones Falls. Thus a fire department stand was established along the east side of the Falls. Starting around 11:00 am until 1:30 pm nine engines from New York City, along with two more engines from Wilmington, were placed along the Jones Falls. A total of 37 steam fire engines took water from the Falls from Baltimore Street south and established a wall of water to halt the advancing flames. Although the major part of the conflagration was over by 3 pm, it took weeks for the smoldering fires to finally be put out.

# Prince George's County Historical Society Heritage Calendar October 2004

#### Entire month -

Exhibit "Tally Ho and Mistletoe:200 years of costume & celebration" Belair Mansion 301-809-3089 free

Exhibit "Living the Healthy Life: sports, health & fitness in the New Deal Era" Greenbelt Museum 301-507-6582 free

Exhibit "*Radios & Premiums*"
Radio & TV Museum 301-390-1020 free

Exhibit "*Please Be Seated: chairs & early seating furniture*" Riversdale House Museum 301-864-0420 \$\$

Exhibit "*Getting Out the Vote*"
Surratt House Museum 301-868-1121 \$\$

Exhibit "*Horace Capron at 200: a Laurel founder's life*" Laurel Museum 301-725-7975 \$\$

- 2- **Mr Stier's Bulb Sale**Riversdale House Museum 301-864-0420 noon free
- 2- **Gingerbread House Workshop**Darnall's House Museum 301-952-8010 1-3 \$\$
- 3-31 **Corn Maze**Billingsley House Museum 301-627-0730 \$\$
- 9- **Trades Fair**Montpelier House Museum 301-953-1376 free

9&10- Mt. Airy Fall Festival		
His Lordship's Kindness	301-856-9656	free

#### 9&10- Medieval Faire

Marietta House Museum 301-464-5291 11-4 \$\$

# 12- Lecture "*Clara Barton*" Belair Mansion 301-809-3089 7:30 free

### 16- Patuxent Wildlife Festival- 65th Anniversary Celebration National Wildlife Visitor's Center 301-497-5760 10-3 free

# 16- **Re-enactment on 18th century tobacco farm**National Colonial Farm 301-283-2113 12-4 \$\$

# 17- **Candlelight Concert**St. Barnabas Church 301-249-5000 4 offering

# 22- **Concert**Mount Airy Mansion 301-856-1954 \$\$

### 22&23 Mayhem in Marlboro

Darnall's Chance House Museum 301-952-8010 7-9 \$\$

### 25-27 Fright Nights

Billingsley House Museum 301-627-0730 \$\$

## 30- Halloween Harvest Festival

Belair Stable Museum 301-809-3089 free

## 30- Flight Night Halloween Fun

College Park Aviation Museum 301-864-6029 7-9 \$\$

### 30- Campfire and Stories

Marietta House Museum 301-464-5291 7 \$\$

#### **November**

- 1- Annual History Lecture/Luncheon "*Tally ho and Mistletoe*" Belair Mansion 301-809-3089 10-4 \$\$
- 5- **Deadline for Gingerbread House Entries**Darnall's House Museum 301-952-8010
- 7- **An Afternoon of Gay 90's Songs**Marietta House Museum 301-464-5291 4 \$\$
- 9- Lecture-"*Folk Songs with Judy Cook*" Belair Mansion 301-809-3089 7:30 \$\$
- 13- **A Fete Federale**Riversdale House Museum 301-864-0420 \$\$
- 14- **Fall Fireside Tea**Billingsley House Museum 301-627-0730 \$\$
- 16- Lecture/Book Signing "*Scenes from a Lucky Life*" Greenbelt Museum 301-507-6582 7:30 free

## Embrey, Herbert C. (Age 78)

On August 21, 2004, husband for 53 years of Ruth Embrey; father of Stephen and Donald Embrey; brother of Kenneth Embrey and the late Raymond Embrey died. A memorial service was held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 6905 Greenbelt Rd., Greenbelt, MD on Thursday, August 26 at 11 a.m.

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Library Hours Saturday 12 pm– 4pm 301-464-0590 E-Mail: info@pghistory.org

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Marietta Tours Friday 11am—3pm Saturday & Sunday 12pm—4pm and by appointment

Gift Shop Open Friday 11am—3pm Saturday & Sunday 12pm—4pm 301-464-0590 Also during Special Events.

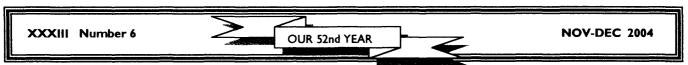
## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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NAME:	
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DUES CATEGORY (PLEASE CHECK ONE)	
MEMBER/FAMILY \$25.00	SUSTAINING MEMBER \$50.00
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER	\$50.00 LIFE MEMBER \$300.00
ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION	N
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# Prince George's County Historical Society News and Notes



# MOST ENDANGERED PROPERTIES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

The Historical Society Board has been one of the County organizations engaged in a discussion of the most endangered sites of historical and cultural interest in the County. This effort began earlier this year as a result of some discussions among members of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, and the Society board believes that this is one effort where we, as a County-wide organization with a large and diverse membership can work to make a difference. We already are working to ensure that recordation of our historic sites is a major result of our efforts. The volunteer team at the Frederick S. DeMarr Memorial Library of County History has worked diligently to accumulate documents, maps and plat maps, insurance maps, artifacts and photographic records of properties throughout the County so that those who wish to know more, or who need background to plead a case to preserve those properties that are not yet lost can have a place to do that research.

# Holiday Victorian Tea Party

On Saturday, December 11, 2004, at 2:00 pm we will host a holiday celebration in period costume at Marietta see details inside

# From the website of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (<a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org">www.nationaltrust.org</a>)

Since 1988, the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list has been one of the most effective tools in the fight to save America's irreplaceable architectural, cultural, and natural heritage.

The 11 sites chosen each year are threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. Some are well-known, such as the Vieux Carré in New Orleans or Ellis Island in New York. Others, like the Kennecott Copper Mines in Alaska or the village of East Aurora, New York, are less famous but just as important, because they too represent preservation challenges facing thousands of communities. Each site raises awareness about the dangers to specific parts of America's heritage and about preservation generally.

The list has now brought national attention to more than 140 significant buildings, sites and landscapes. At times, that attention has galvanized public support to rescue a treasured landmark, while in others it has been an opening salvo in a long battle to save an important piece of our history. 11 Most has been so successful at educating the public that now more than 20 states and numerous towns and cities publish their own lists of endangered places.

You can view the National Trust for Historic Preservation list of 146 sites that have been included over the years on the National Trust for Historic Preservation website. You can also make your own nomination for inclusion in the 2005 listing.

Some years ago, there was a list of the County's most endangered sites prepared by

the M-NCPC Preservation Staff. However, that list is, of course, outdated. We need to generate a list that makes sense in 2004, and the purpose of this article is both to educate you as to what some consider to be the criteria for inclusion on the list, and to solicit your input to the discussion, either for a list to be published later this year or for future lists.

What is endangered?

Certainly, any one who has seen **Want Water** in the Broad Creek area of the
County would recognize that it is merely a
shell of its former glory – and that without
fairly constant attention, even the remaining
portions are in danger of disappearing. So
significant physical impairment of a
structure is one consideration to take into
account.

However, even properties that are standing proud and used frequently can be endangered. Take the situation with the St. Paul's Free Hope Baptist Church in Bladensburg. The edifice is standing and is used by the parishioners. But it is suffering cracks in its foundation, caused no doubt by the effect of being so close to an active freight railway line, and this means that constant vigilance and significant funding has to be available to ensure that it weathers these vicissitudes. Lack of funding to ensure proper and necessary maintenance is a consideration.

On the other end of the county, in Horsehead near Aquasco sits the 96 year old St.

Thomas Methodist Church and
Cemetery, a fine example of rural religious architecture of the period that was home for decades (replacing another building built shortly after the Civil War) of a Black congregation that has had to merge with another church in the area. Lack of funding

and lack of a champion or group of supporters makes the future bleak for this best surviving example of its type.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation cites inappropriate policies as a criterion, and here we might consider the situation with the Broad Creek Archeological Site. While not legally a designated site, it is highly probable that this is potentially a major pre-Columbian archaeological site. Given that, and the fact that the tract where it is located is prime for a new housing development, absent public policy requiring archeological investigations to be performed, the site would be lost without trace. As it happens, and within the past few years only, our policy makers have put those requirements in place and thus there is every likelihood that this site will be preserved.

Inappropriate development is also one of the major causes of loss of historic sites. Rather than taking the time and effort to restore a property using the kinds of approaches contained in the Secretary of Interior's Guidelines, developers will opt for faster and cheaper renovation to a property removing porches, raising roofs, eliminating significant details, and, in effect, destroying those aspects of the property that made it historic in the first place. As those of us in Prince George's County who live in designated sites know, there are viable alternatives that can be used to bring the property up to both code requirements and to modern usability without destroying its historic character, and there are programs that help support those decisions - the tax credits, loan and grant programs, etc.

There is a need to publicize the endangered, and to catalogue them and save what we can. But there is another need that must be recognized as well – we need to reward those who take a property that is potentially,

or actually, listed and is actually saved by the love, care and hard work of the few. Prime examples of properties that would have been on my list a number of years ago include:

Riversdale **Black Walnut Thicket** Melwood Park **Dorsey Chapel Mount Airy** Harmony Hall Bowieville **Publick Playhouse** George Washington House St. Mary's Beneficial Hall Magruder House The Overseers House Marché Mansion Market Master's House Ridgley School (one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation cited Rosenwald Schools)

Most of these, as you can see, have been fully restored, and plans are in progress for Bowieville, the Market Master's House and Ridgley School – a happy illustration of the purpose of an "endangered" list, and the possibilities of a goal accomplished!

The Society has recognized organizations and individuals who have worked to save those and other properties in the County, and we will continue that recognition in the St. George's Day Awards in the future.

If you have any specific property that you feel should be considered for inclusion in a most endangered list, please write to the Society, or email us at <a href="mailto:PGCHSLibrary@aol.com">PGCHSLibrary@aol.com</a>, supplying your name and how to contact you, an address for the site and the reason for your concern. We appreciate your input.

We will publish the list that is agreed upon by the Historic Preservation Commission, Prince George's Heritage, The Historical and Cultural Trust, the Society and other interested groups and individuals once we find a consensus.

**Lester Sweeting** 

# Victorian Tea Party is Holiday Party Theme

On Saturday, December 11, 2004 beginning at 2:00 pm, we will celebrate the holiday season with a VICTORIAN TEA PARTY at Marietta Mansion in Glenn Dale. Past themes for this event have featured foods introduced in different centuries and food products indigenous to the New World. Chairwoman Anna Holmes and her committee including Dusty Rhoads, Elizabeth Dougherty, Mildred Gray, Jim and Susan Wolfe and the Sweetings are requesting that Members and their Guests bring tea-related goodies inspired by the following article. We would also welcome Victorian inspired costumes, gloves, hats, scarves and jewelry such as stick and hat pins which might be worn or otherwise displayed.

We are aware that following the previous article such a subject might seem frivolous but after we have attempted to save endangered buildings discussed in the previous article, we must continue to keep those properties financially viable with money making opportunities such as teas. In this effort our Marietta House Museum Manager Mrs. Susan Wolfe and her staff excel. Their theme teas are notorious and include ones dedicated to Alice in Wonderland, Under-the-Sea, Valentines, First Ladies, and the ever-popular Nutcracker. These are enlivened by the

Junior Docents who have been honored with a St. George's Day Award. We dedicate this article to them.

Marietta House Museum Gift Shop sells a reprint called Victorian Parlors and Tea Parties by Patricia B. Mitchell which we have used as a source for background information. Chapter 1, called "The Tea Meal and How it Came to be" begins: "Tradition has it that the ritual of afternoon tea was begun in England by Anna, the seventh duchess of Bedford (1783-1857). At that time dinner was served quite late, during lengthy summer days, so there was a long interval between breakfast and the evening meal. The duchess experienced a 'sinking feeling' in the afternoons, so she ordered her servants to send up snacks of small cakes [from Olwen Woodier, Tea in the Afternoon, 1989], biscuits, tarts, cheesecake, 'mackeroons,' and bread spread with 'good sweet butter.' The petit repast was accompanied by tea [from Michael Smith, The Afternoon Teabook, 1986]."



"No doubt this dose of carbohydrates briefly corrected her low blood sugar, and the caffeine zing from 'the cup that cheers but not inebriates' gave her a lift. Soon Anna's court friends copied her, and serving late afternoon tea and refreshments became the chic thing to do."

"The fashionable tea meal was adopted in the United States, where affluent ladies emulated the English socialites. Low tables were set near sofas and chairs, and laid with the finest linen, china, and silver. This pretty show of elegance enjoyed a spate of popularity, but then tea and Anglomania went out of vogue as the Parliament levied new taxes and colonists responded with a boycott of English tea that culminated in the 'Boston Tea Party' of 1773. Tea consumption dropped dramatically, and it was not until April 27, 1776, that Congress advertised in the Philadelphia Packet that ' . . . the drinking of tea can now be indulged.' [Woodier] Americans began to again enjoy the beverage and the tea party slowly regained ascendance. A century later, in the mid-1800's, an appreciation of the nation's English heritage was rekindled. The approaching centennial, the admiration of Queen Victoria's successful rule of Britannia, sparked people's enthusiasm for British ways. The styles and habits of England were suddenly dear to U.S. citizens. One of the results of this obsession with English life was the revival of 'kettledrums' or afternoon tea. This mini-meal was an opportunity for ladies to boil up some water in the teakettle and have a social event."

Several years ago from August-September 1985, the Surratt House & Tavern in Clinton, another M-NCPPC historic property, sponsored a special exhibit called "Tea and Tattle: the Fine Art of Victorian Tea Time with assorted Tea Tidbits." The following is an excerpt from that catalogue:

#### "That Venerable Plant"

"Legend tells us that tea was discovered in 2737 B.C. by the Chinese Emperor Shen-Nung, 'The Divine Healer.' He observed that those who drank boiled water because of their beliefs actually enjoy better health, and he began to insist on this precaution. One day, tea leaves blew into boiling water. Shen-Nung first approved the pleasing aroma and then the delightful flavor. The taste for tea was born and soon spread to Japan and other parts of the Far East."

"Tea first arrived in Europe from China around 1610 at the height of European exploration. It quickly spread to the British Isles; and within fifty years, it was being enjoyed at the court of Charles II. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, tea was the standard breakfast drink of agricultural workers. In fact, whereas beer (or ale) was the favored home brew previously, tea when it became cheap enough, took beer's place. Where beer had been brewed, there was now a cup of tea brewing!"

"The New World was introduced to tea by both the Dutch and English colonists. And we all know what happened when England imposed high taxes on the tea shipped to her American colonists in the late "American merchants soon realized the need for quick shipments of tea since the freshest product brought the highest prices. Shipbuilders began designing clipper ships with many sails to catch the wind - a distinct improvement over the two-masted ships. A round-trip voyage from New York to China would be completed in 180 days - faster that other ships could sail one way! The colorful age of the clipper ships helped to make tea more plentiful and less costly for America."

"Then, as now, tea was the world's second most popular drink - only water is consumed more often. And, in America, tea is still the least expensive beverage next to water. Tea has stood the test of time - and flourished."

The exhibit went on to explore various aspects of afternoon tea with "three courses" of thin-finger sandwiches, scones with butter and jam followed by assorted pastries. More on that subject later.

In 2002, the editors of Victoria magazine, a shelter magazine for ladies of refinement, published a volume called "The Art of Taking Tea." This informative tome is divided into three sections devoted to worldwide tea customs and rituals, the legend of the blue willow china pattern (near to my heart since we inherited a family set), historical perspectives such as the Boston Tea Party and English teatime rules plus rituals related to taking tea in Japan and France. Also considered are the restorative aspects of teas, especially Chai and herbal teas. The elegance of the various ceremonies will be described and we hope,

provide a guide for our Victorian Holiday celebration.

Fine china and tea accoutrements have long been considered desirable collectibles. The Marietta House Museum has a fine collection of porcelain or china cups and saucers which are color coordinated with linen table covers and serviettes during their tea parties. Silver tea pots, strainers, sugar tongs and lemon forks are also readily available as modestly-priced reproductions. Tea caddies with their original keys to secure the precious contents are available more as English or early American collectibles.

Tea is divided into three basic styles or types: green, oolong and black depending upon the degree of fermentation. In green tea, the fermentation is halted by heating the leaves early in the process. In designing a tea party menu, we suggest you try tasting various teas with different courses. For example, green or floral teas or a tisane may be served with delicate crust-less cucumber sandwiches; serve oolong or a most robust tea with a savory course such as cheese straws or scones with sultanas (raisins)and finally pair a black tea with sweets such as chocolate or fruit pastries. One very successful strawberry-themed-tea we hosted featured a glorious strawberry tea (house brand at Neal Street Tea Shop off Covent Garden in London) with each "course" featuring strawberries - bowls of strawberries with double cream, strawberry soup, scones with strawberry jam and clotted cream and finally strawberry tarts or meringues filled with strawberries. All were served with our best strawberry appliquéd linens and our strawberry patterned china. It is not good to be allergic to strawberries!!!

Whenever possible loose tea should be used since the flavor is so much more delicate or robust depending on the style of tea. The English are still wary of tea in bags and have never accepted the idea of tea bags with strings. The pot should always be warmed in advance, the water freshly boiled from cold and the leaves NEVER reused. Hot water may be added if the tea becomes too strong for your taste. There is also the issue of whether milk is added before the tea is poured into the cup or after. Someone must also be "Mother" and pour.

In warmer climates such as Egypt, strong spicy teas including the ubiquitous apple tea are served in very small glasses or cups. It has a decidedly cooling effect.

The genteel afternoon tea we are describing is not be confused with high tea or the simple supper of cold meats or eggs and chips as depicted in the movie *Shirley Valentine*. The popular Devon Cream Teas are usually a simpler fare made up of scones, jam, clotted cream and fruit. Another very popular tea ceremony is the Japanese style which we will leave for another day. Teas at dazzling French baroque salons usually include a wide variety of teas and exquisite "French" pastries. DO NOT ask for milk!

Several years ago, Smithsonian Associates sponsored a seminar with Lord Twining of the Twining Tea Company on the history of tea production and on the restorative and anti-carcinogen properties of tea. The luncheon held in conjunction with the seminar served foods which included tea as an ingredient such as thousand year old eggs. Yet another aspect to be considered on another day.

For suggestions of foodstuffs to bring to our Victorian Holiday Tea Party we refer members to Jane Austen's House in Chawton, Hampshire, for "Tea with the Bennets" or if unable to make the trip, please consider the following comestibles: cheese muffins or bread, soda bread, scones, lemon curd, fruit tarts, cheese straws, rich chocolate cake, cherry cake, Simpering Cake (named for Mr. Collins), boiled fruit cake, honey buns, ginger snaps, pear and ginger jam, "Mr Whickham's Indelicate Pudding," snow flip, green apple fool, rice flummery, and rhubarb tansy (Mr. Bennet's favorite pudding).

For more Americanized foodstuffs, please consider brown bread with cream cheese, curried chicken salad in mini-whole wheat pita pockets, apple and pear sandwiches, various salads such as egg or tuna on dainty cocktail-style breads, smoked salmon with capers and green onions, roast beef roll-ups with horseradish cream or scones and sweets as suggested above.

We cordially invite each member to come, bring a guest and "have a cuppa on us" to launch our holiday season celebrations. We also promise to offer some stronger holiday liquid refreshments to complement the leafy beverage described above.

With all good wishes from your *News and Notes* Editor and Inveterate Anglophile, **Sharon Howe Sweeting** 

#### LATEST ELECTION RESULTS!

Well, the returns are in, and unlike that other election held a day later, there were no hanging chad jokes, no red or blue issues only an excellent crab soup, good fish, good camaraderie and a wonderful slide presentation by Henry Wixon showing the great day (or, rather, night) of the move of Buena Vista to its new home.

I am talking, of course, about the annual

meeting of the Historical Society – held on November 1, 2004 at Jerry's Sea Food in Seabrook.

The following officers and directors were elected by acclamation:

President John Petro
Vice President Jim Wolfe
Secretary Dusty Rhoads
Treasurer Donna Schneider
Historian Susan Pearl
Editor Sharon Howe Sweeting
Membership Donna Schneider &
Anna Holmes

#### **Board of Directors**

1 year term

Mildred Ridgley Gray Iris McConnell William Uber Joyce Uber

2 year term

Hannah Cox Anna Holmes Lynn Roberts Andy Wallace

3 year term

Wallis Cain
Joyce Dowling
Charles Hendricks
Elizabeth Dougherty

#### THE MARLBORO FIRE

November 3, 2004 will be well remembered in Upper Marlboro and Prince George's County as a tragic day for one of our revered historic structures – the old Courthouse. At 8:30 AM, a fire broke out that ultimately became a 5-alarm conflagration that came close to destroying the entire complex. Pictures reproduced in local media capture the intensity of the fire, and will be collected in the Library's picture collection. We would also like to capture the impressions of

our citizens who saw the fire for posterity. If you have comments, views or photographs to share, please send them:

By e mil to <u>PGCHSLibrary@aol.com</u> By snail mail to PGCHS, P.O.Box 14, Riverdale, MD 20738-0014

Happily, we are reliably informed, the Courthouse will be rebuilt. And, as it was under renovation when the flames hit, no major loss of records occurred.

# Marietta Happenings

We would be remiss if we did not make a special mention of things happening at Marietta Mansion. Facility Manager Susan Wolfe and her team (and her hubby as well!) gave us a wonderful Sunday afternoon on November 7, 2004 at Dorsey Chapel where a capacity crowd listened in awe and wonder to Henry Wixon and his rendition of Songs of the Gay 1890's. Fantastic – and Henry was most pleased that the audience did not sit on their hands or keep their knowledge of the lyrics to themselves – a wonderful event on a balmy fall evening in a wonderful (and surprisingly acoustical) setting.

The Holidays are upon us and Susan advises that the Mansion will receive its due share of wonderful and historically accurate decorations by December 1, in time for a week end of candlelight tours on December 4, 5 and 6. See you there!

A further reminder – Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanza are coming! Visit the Gift Shop at Marietta – Stella and her team have done a wonderful job stocking up with those unique stocking stuffers – come out and browse – and buy!

Happy Holidays – until January!

## Prince George's County Historical Society Holiday Heritage Calendar December 2004

1-12	Gingerbread House Show Darnall's Chance House Museum 12-5 301-952-8010 \$\$
4	Winter's Eve-carols by the fire, refreshments & entertainment National Colonial Farm 5-8 301-283-2113 free
4	Santa Fly-In College Park Aviation Museum 12-4 301-864-6029 \$\$
4	Sint Nichlaas Day Riversdale House Museum 3 301-864-0420 \$\$
4&5	Festival of Lights Greenbelt Museum 301-507-6582 free
5	Kringle Kaboos & Santa, too Bowie Train Station 12-4 301-809-3089 free
4,5,6	Candlelight Tours Marietta House Museum 6-8:30 301-464-5291 \$\$
5	10th Annual Candlelight Tour Belair Mansion & Stable 4-7 301-809-3089 \$\$
5	Candlelight Concert- Flute, Cello & piano St. Barnabas Church 4 301-249-5000 \$\$
5	A Radio Christmas Radio & Television Museum 12-4 301-809-3089 free
8-11	Candlelight Tours Montpelier Mansion 6-9 301-953-1376 \$\$
10&30	Holiday Tea and Candlelight Tour Belair Mansion 4 301-8093089 \$\$
11	Museum Holiday Open House Laurel Museum 10-4 301-725-7075 free
11	Holiday Tea His Lordship's Kindness 11 & 2 301-856-0358 \$\$

- Prince George's County Historical Society Christmas Party Marietta House Museum 2 301-464-5291 free
- 11-13 Victorian Yuletide by Candlelight
  Surratt House Museum 5-9 301-868-1121 \$\$
- 16,18 Candlelight Tours
- &19 His Lordship's Kindness 6-9 301-856-0358 \$\$
- 18-26 Trains & Planes Exhibit
  College Park Aviation Museum 10-5 301-864-6029 \$\$
- Holiday Candlelight ToursBillingsley House Museum 3-7 301-627-0730 \$\$
- 19 Slavery & the Holiday Season His Lordship's Kindness 301-856-0358 \$\$

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by Alan Virta. Revised 1998 Updated Edition. Hardcover 308 pages. Price \$42,95. Shipping \$3,00\*

#### 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

Atlas of fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland Compiled, Drawn & Published from Actual Surveys by G.M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed.

Reprint 1975. Soft cover 47 pages. Price \$10.00

#### 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

#### Prince George's County, Maryland Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885

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#### Out of the Past - Prince Georgeans 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 from information gleaned from public records, newspapers and private papers.

by R. Lee Van Horn Reprint 1996 Hardcover 422 pages. Price \$20.00

#### Tricentennial Cook Book

Contains recipes collected from county residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled & Edited by Dorothy Rainwater & Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound 150 pages. Price \$10.00

lourney Through Time - A Pictorial History of the Prince George's County Police Department A history of the county police department coving over 200 years. Indexed.

by Lt. Dennis Campbell Printed 1991. Hardcover 304 pages. Price \$40.00 Shipping \$3.00\*

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I am also interested in helping the Society as a volunteer.	
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For membership in the Maryland Historical Society, include an	
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