



THEN & NOW

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Arnold Palmer Links

The man who unequivocally made Woodmore “happen”

Amongst the remembrances of Arnold Palmer's passing, little has been said, reported or even known of the special role he played in the development, and in the social, political and economic transitions, that make up, and continue to make up, today's Prince George's County.

Taking a drive along Route 50, from the Beltway towards Bowie and Annapolis, we soon see Freeway airport ahead. What we don't see behind the highway sound barriers is the region of Prince George's known as Mitchellville, MD. Should there be an exit onto Enterprise Road, we could proceed south along Enterprise Road to the intersection of Enterprise and Woodmore Road. Enter through the security gates, and arrive inside of the beautiful and prestigious Woodmore Community and Country Club.

In the generation, some 35 years since Woodmore opened, there is now a Woodmore South, and developments and communities emblazoned with the Woodmore name throughout the center county extending North, East and West. Even a new mixed use commercial center, the Woodmore Town Centre, bears the name. In 1980, Woodmore was the name of a country road in Mitchellville, dotted with farms.

In 1980, there were no Prince George's County home sales over the half million dollar mark, certainly none over one million. Today, led by central county, with Woodmore as the higher-priced epicenter, hundreds of homes are sold within those price



Photo Contributed by: Paul Zanecki

ranges. The County's assessable base has soared, and it has famously become the wealthiest African-American community in the United States.

Was this dynamic change a natural demographic evolution, or did some catalytic or transformative events intercede? We need to go back in time to the 1970's to gain some perspective of the residential demographics of the 1980's and beyond.

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THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THEN & NOW is published quarterly. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. Meetings are held monthly. Please check our website for dates, times and location.

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

SOCIETY SPONSORS

The Society would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support. Their donations help to fund various Society programs, its newsletter, and the Frederick S. DeMarr Library. Thank You!

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New Society Members

Welcome to our new members and thank you for joining us:

Christina Doepel
Hugh Hammett
Mark Opsasnick

Melissa Burroughs
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Michael Quinlan

Timothy Schoepke
John White, Jr.
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Annual Society & MHS Membership Renewal

Thank you to all of our members and sponsors! It is that time of year again to renew. If you have already renewed, we greatly appreciate your continuing support. Please remember that the membership period is the 2017 calendar year and renewals must be submitted by March 31, 2017.

If you haven't renewed, please think about adding a Maryland Historical Society (MHS) membership. By purchasing a MHS membership in conjunction with your PGCHS membership or sponsorship, you can add an individual or family MHS membership at a discount. Life members of PGCHS can also take advantage of this offer. MHS membership offers benefits including free access to its museum and library, discounts to MHS events, subscriptions to its periodicals, as well as access to a nationwide reciprocal museum program.

You can renew your membership or sponsorship in several ways: respond to the membership renewal letter, complete the membership application on the back page of this newsletter, or log into www.pgchistory.org, click on Join Us, and purchase both memberships at the same time. You will not be able to access the MHS membership unless you pair it with a purchase of a PGCHS membership too.

President's Preservation Award

The Prince George's County Historical Society is pleased to offer for a second year the President's Preservation Award at the annual preservation month reception to be held in May. There are many unsung heroes in the area of preservation and we want to honor someone who supports the preservation of our county's history outside the efforts of the Society. Efforts can be, but aren't limited to, the preservation of a historic structure, publications, art projects, outstanding volunteerism or activism, special projects or research.

Do you know someone who fits the description? Great! Nominate that person. This award requires

input from you! We would like our members and the public to nominate the awardee. The nomination process begins on January 1, 2017, and closes on March 15, 2017.

Please submit the name of your nominee, the nominee's contact information and in no more than 250 words, why your nominee should receive the President's Preservation Award. Don't forget to include your name and contact information too. The nomination can be sent to pgchsmembers@gmail.com or by mail to PGCHS, PO Box 1513, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1513. ♦

The Founding of PGCHS

It all began on December 16, 1950 in the Calvert (Riversdale) Mansion

On December 16, 1950, there was an inauguration of a Prince George's County Historical Society at the Calvert (Riversdale) Mansion hosted by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Following this reception there was an invitation to 25 county residents issued by T. Howard Duckett to meet at the Calvert Mansion on September 15, 1952, to organize a Prince George's County Historical Society. In addition, to Mr. Duckett, there were ten Prince George's County

Oden Bowie
T. Hammond Welsh, Jr.
M. Hampton Magruder
Mrs. Rhoda Christmas

John S. Stanley
Mrs. G.W.S. Musgrave
LeRoy Pumphrey
Mrs. Susanna Cristofane

Kent R. Mullikin
A. Gwynn Bowie

Brief biographies of the Society's founders:

T. Howard Duckett was a well-known attorney and County civic and political leader. He was one of the founders of the Prince George's Bank and Trust Company in Hyattsville. He was principally responsible for the creation of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and an organizer of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. He was president, chairman, member and counsel of numerous clubs, organizations and associations. He was also in service during the fall of Santiago, Cuba, in the Spanish-American war.

Oden Bowie was a tobacco farmer, horse breeder and long-serving secretary of the Maryland Senate. He was on the board of the Collington Episcopal Life Care Community in Bowie and a member of the Southern Maryland Society, the Vansville Farmers Club and the South River Club. He was the grandson of Maryland Gov. Oden Bowie and lived at Fairview near Bowie.

M(ercer) Hampton Magruder was a long-time Democratic leader in the County. He was native of Upper Marlboro where he practiced law and served as chairman of the First National Bank of Southern Maryland. President Roosevelt appointed him Collector of Internal Revenue for the District of Maryland. He was president of the Bowie race track and member of the Rosecroft Trotting and Pacing Association. He was a member of the Clan Gregor Society and received the Governor's Distinguished Citizen Award.

John S(nowden) Stanley was a well-known attorney in Washington, DC, and the County.

LeRoy A. Pumphrey was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Majority Leader and Speaker Pro Tem. He was a lawyer by profession and one of Maryland's best known orators.

Kent Roberts Mullikin was a native Prince Georgian. He served in the Maryland House of Delegates and was the first chairman of the Maryland Historical Trust. He was appointed as director of the Federal Housing Administration for Maryland.

T. Hammond Welsh, Jr. was a native of Hyattsville and prominent lawyer, civic and business leader. He was long associated with the Maryland Federal Savings and Loan Association. He was a member of several organizations including the Prince George's County Bar Association, the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, and the Kiwanis Club.

Rhoda Christmas Bowling was the first lady to ride and win on a professional race track. She raised, broke and trained race horses. She wrote a syndicated column published throughout the United States under the name, "Rhoda Christmas Says." She lived at Bellefields in Croom.

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The Founding of PGCHS *(Continued from page 4)*

Anne Sightler (Mrs. G.W.S.) Musgrave was a lawyer and active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, including organizing the Brigadier General Rezin Beall Chapter in Laurel. She was also involved in the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and belonged to the Descendants of the Colonial Clergy, the Daughters of Colonial Wars and the Daughters of the American Colonists.

Susanna Kyner Cristofane was the first woman on the Bladensburg Town Council and then its mayor. She helped preserve the Magruder House and renovate the George Washington House, both in Bladensburg. She won several awards including the Governor's Distinguished Citizen Award and being inducted in the Prince George's County Women's Hall of Fame.

A. Gwynn Bowie was a lawyer, State's Attorney and Trial Magistrate, whose career spanned more than 60 years. He one of the founders of the Prince George's County Bar Association and was a native of the County.

More than 65 years after its inauguration, the Society is still going strong with a board of five officers and up to 18 directors. ♦

Prince George's County Tidbits

Did you know that...

Adele Hagnar Stamp was the first dean of women at the University of Maryland, College Park? She organized the first Women's Student Government Association and several Women's Honor Societies and was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 1990.

Dr. Richard Brooke of Nottingham published the first known observations of air temperature and wind direction?

Frederick Sasscer of Upper Marlboro served as the Superintendent of Prince George's County Schools? He was also the editor of the Prince

George's Enquirer and the Enquirer Gazette which superseded it.

The moonshine industry in the County produced much of the corn liquor that was sold in Washington, D.C. prior to Prohibition?

Thomas John Claggett was the first Episcopal Bishop of Maryland? He also founded the Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro.

Hargrove, Inc. in Lanham made the PT-109 float for president Dwight D. Eisenhower's Inaugural parade in 1953? ♦

Preservation Maryland's Six-to-Fix

Preservation Maryland has provided its next set of threatened resources in the state of Maryland. The Six-to-Fix program provides seed funding, expert professional staff and volunteers, statewide advocacy and outreach efforts to help preserve these threatened and underutilized historic places. This year's projects include: Ellicott City Flood Recovery in Howard, Valve House at Clifton Park in Baltimore, Cultural Landscapes of the Eastern Shore, Adaptive Reuse of the Hamilton Willard Shafer Farm in Frederick County, Newtowne Manor Religious Complex in St. Mary's County, and Historic Cemeteries in Maryland. To learn more about the program, projects, get an update on one of last year's projects, our own Glenn Dale Hospital, and how to donate, please visit <http://preservationmaryland.org/programs/six-to-fix/shop/> ♦

BACKGROUND

A brief recollection and understanding of the struggles and aspirations of the County's leaders, and their constituencies, need to be considered. What were the dilemmas and what were the public goals of a diverse Prince George's population in the early 1970's? Other than the north county areas including the University of Maryland environs, the "new town" of Greenbelt, the Rt 1 Corridor, and Laurel, most of the County outside the Beltway (completed in 1964), was rural. Inside the Beltway, garden apartment complexes and small lot subdivisions rapidly became the predominant feature of the inner-beltway physical landscape and subsequently its social and political landscape.

Outside the Beltway, traditional farms, estates, parks, federal government lands and preserves, and increasingly, resource extraction areas, namely sand and gravel, dominated the terrain. The City of Bowie, like Greenbelt, however, intervened in this "inside-outside" land use order and in the early 1960's became a place where government employees began to locate in great numbers, becoming part of the Levitt "new town" (albeit new town suburbia) movement established earlier in New Jersey by the same person. An interesting, and perhaps economically predictable, fact that higher priced new homes that served the burgeoning Washington population growth were located nearest the Beltway areas, including breaches of the "Beltway Line" in Prince George's County. Communities such as New Carrollton and Kettering, Tantallon in the south, and Northampton in Largo, became the communities of choice for many who sought attractive, comfortable and affordable homes and communities. Few, however, competed in price or prestige with Chevy Chase, Bethesda, Potomac, and, increasingly, Fairfax County and Alexandria.

The sheer consumption of land area that large subdivisions with moderate priced homes on one quarter acre lots can create is well documented. Suburban sprawl was recognized early in this County's history. Central County, the area in which Collington/Mitchellville is located was seen as one bulwark against such sprawl. But Kettering and Northampton had crossed the Line and no natural boundaries seemed to remain between these developments and the City of Bowie miles to the East.

Excluding, for the moment, growing environmental concerns by a stalwart few, what were the issues associated with growth? They were many and difficult. As apartments began to outnumber single family homes, homeownership diminished as a percentage of residential occupancy. Highways and streets became congested. Schools could not keep pace with enrollment. Sewer and water supplies were stressed and resulted in both extensive and sporadic utility moratoriums. Post World War II diverse in-migration into small, affordable homes was replaced with swelling numbers of large populations, both white and minority, into garden apartments. Crime rose proportionately to the new densities and crowding. Politicians and developers were indicted and convicted of influencing zoning votes favoring apartment projects that reaped millions of dollars to the owners (many developers being out-of-County residents). Barely disguised racial issues became headlines for an attentive press.

Awkward steps, politically and legally, were tested to stem the population influx and its consequences on absorption capacity, both physically, and in terms of community resources. The legal system cooperated with judicial approval of County ordinance limitations on the number of apartment bedrooms allowed by zoning ordinances. Churches were moving from inner beltway locations to outer beltway locations, pulling congregations with them. Court-ordered busing, imposed by the federal courts in the 1970's, became a controversial and, in the minds of many (of all ethnicities), a destructive force that an already embattled county had to adjust to and absorb.

Business formation and location meant warehouses and distribution centers (with few well paying jobs and subsistence level employees), all of which fed off of an excellent highway system and regional location in the metropolitan area. Missing was the construction of architecturally significant high-rise, professional office and employment centers, and mixed use centers, all the necessary forebearer of increasingly higher paying jobs and a much needed balance of housing product. In counterpoint to nearly all of the Washington Region's present day zoning formulations "requiring" or "bonusing" moderate income and workforce housing, County legislators grappled with how to encourage or even mandate the construction of upper income level homes and communities (and with them a positive cost-benefit tax base). Indeed, minimum priced and minimum square footage homes in certain districts were openly discussed, and through various permit

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conditions, actually implemented. Meanwhile, and ultimately, the fiscal tax base of the County had become stressed, seemingly, to the point of breaking.

POLITICAL WINDS

With the change to Charter Government in 1970, a movement developed that sought to impose new, even draconian strategies, to rescue what seemed to most tenured landholders and homeowners to be a crisis of unending proportion. The Charter Movement, as passed in referendum, was successful in changing a commission form of government to a County Council form, with an executive leader, and a package of Charter “change-mistake” provisions that included certain restrictions, which, in sum and substance, eliminated individual applications for zoning changes. With little ability to grant new zoning, it was believed that the formation of garden apartments and lower income single family and townhouse dwellings would be curtailed or even ended. These Charter provisions were subsequently challenged and mooted by the Courts.

With the 1970’s, press-dubbed, “Ugly Sister” image hovering over County Officials, the Economic Development Directors and Chambers of Commerce, the subsequent new executives (including Lawrence Hogan) and County Councils were left to deal with the conditions not of their making and resistant to legislative treatment. And, following the money (with some notable exceptions), the checks continued on their path to the lucrative business model, commercial/industrial/apartment re-zonings wherever they might be had.

SPORTS AUTHORITIES

What possible role could Arnold Palmer have played in this brawling and unseemly economic and political drama? Only a few years before Mr. Palmer’s arrival, a major sports venue known as the Capital Centre opened in 1973 and hosted the Washington Bullets, who were moved by the team owners from Baltimore (the name “Bullets” was, by ownership acclamation, judiciously changed to the “Wizards”). Nationally known teams, sports announcers, TV personalities, musicians and players were now arriving in Landover, MD. While the Centre provided a major service and positive imaging and revenue to the County, the residential equations remained largely unchanged.

Similarly, John Kent Cooke stadium was built in 1997, at “Raljon” (Landover), and became the home of the

Washington Redskins, moving from Robert Kennedy Stadium in D.C. No discernable positive impact on the growth of higher-priced housing has been attributed to the construction of this Stadium.

Many, if not most, in the County leadership in the mid-70’s recognized that bolder overtures that “enticed” stronger images, higher income families, better homes, business, retail establishments, and higher tech industry were necessary, and more effective, than attempting only to “regulate” a result.

CENTRAL PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY. 1978

Central Prince George’s County, in the 1970’s, was largely unspoiled, with a remarkably pleasant proportion of cleared land, forest and rolling countryside where open sky met the earth in a natural and picturesque harmony. No less harmonic were the inhabitants of the region who had for centuries presided over and preserved this special place, as though charged with this vocation. It is, perhaps, no accident that many of these inhabitants were members of the St. Barnabas’ Church. The names rang from the State and County history books, Bowie, Beall, Belt, Suit, Townshend, Walker and many others.

Was this central county area stretching from the Beltway to Bowie to become another small lot residential subdivision? No, according to most of the guiding planning documents adopted at the time. But could this land serve another purpose, more purposeful than an extended human settlement pattern similar to those now heading, seemingly relentlessly, toward it? The answer that was to unfold may be termed Public Entrepreneurship or the now politically correct “public/private” partnership. By the end of the 1970’s Prince George’s officialdom was openly confronting its unwanted and unfair description as the “ugly sister” (a comparison to other counties surrounding Washington, DC). Enter more regulations (of course), such as the use of sewer allocation policy to deny basic sewer hookups to new subdivision homes, unless those homes had a selling price of over \$250,000.00. The price was later increased by subsequent administrations to, arbitrarily, match inflation, assessed values of the newest homes, or other index of choice.

Gradually, the newer and more expensive homes were being sold, and sold to all races and ethnicities, and more than pro rata, to African-Americans. The campaign to reverse the now decades long

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imbalances was titled “New Quality” or “New Q” by then County Executive, Winfield Kelly.

MITCHELLVILLE AND WOODMORE

In the very center of Mitchellville is situated some 1200 acres on which is now located the golf course and community of Woodmore. In early 1978 a coalition of individuals, all with extensive land use and land development backgrounds, began taking a serious look at the potential for an upscale community in the lands along Enterprise Road and Woodmore Road in Mitchellville. For several years prior, the Prince George’s Country Club had attempted to relocate to an area outside the Beltway on a property that had been purchased by the County on Enterprise Road. Those efforts failed to gain County approval and were abandoned, for the time.

The project seemed to be a dead end until a future lead principal, one Algie Pulley, a golf course landscape architect and good golfer, hailing at that time from the outskirts of San Francisco, pleaded the merits of a golf course in Mitchellville to probably the country’s most celebrated golfer, Arnold Palmer. Arnold personally exercised an option to purchase an interest in the company formed to build the country club and community infrastructure, GolfAmerica. Thus, he became not just a golf course designer, but an active businessman and vested landowner in central county. Both Arnold and Pulley (and all the GolfAmerica owners) simply believed that this beautiful land, so close to the Washington Metropolitan Area, was the best place for an internationally known championship golf course.

When Arnold Palmer appeared in front of the Prince George’s Council and Executive in July, 1978, nothing like it, in recent memory, had ever happened. Within months, a tri-partite turnkey agreement was executed and a new golf course was under construction in Mitchellville. The development was named Woodmore (ingeniously named after several of us participants blankly stared up at the road sign on the corner of Enterprise and Woodmore).

THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

Between 1979 and 1980, a public/private agreement was formed between the County, the Planning Commission and the GolfAmerica Corporation. This Turnkey Agreement would have the Planning

Commission purchase the land and buildings owned by the venerable Prince George’s Country Club in an inner beltway location (surrounded by now, of course, with warehouses and garden apartments) and have it re-constructed in a new setting in Mitchellville. It was to be surrounded by expensive single family and “villa” (attached) homes. Eventually, with unequalled cooperation from the County Government, and the fits and starts attendant to any new real estate venture, a championship golf course and an affluent community began to take root. So vested was Mr. Palmer in standing behind his golf course (designed by himself and his architect Ed Seay) and the community, that he brought in a development partner from London, the Buckley Companies, and formed Palmer-Buckley Development. This union proved vital to financial underpinning of the project, and carrying out the design concept of Woodmore. A central tenet, albeit an expensive one, was to develop, following the natural contours of the land, for the course itself, and for the placement of roads and homes.

It was not that Arnold Palmer had nothing else to do during this formative period for Woodmore. A written “simulcast” of his professional activities immediately before and during his involvement with Prince George’s County is most instructive. In 1976 Arnold piloted his Lear 36 on an around-the-world flight with two companions for 57 hours, 25 minutes and established a world record. In 1977 President Gerald Ford flew to Pebble Beach to serve as Arnold’s partner in the Crosby Pro-Am, and on invitation from the Atlantic Fleet, Palmer assisted in landing a Navy fighter jet on the deck of the USS Eisenhower. In 1978 Palmer received a National Golf Foundation Award for exemplary contribution to player development and growth of the game of golf. In 1980, he was inducted into the PGA of America Hall of Fame. He won the first of 10 Champions tour titles capturing the PGA’s Senior Championship. In 1981, he won the U.S. Senior Open at Oakland Hills and became the first player to claim both a U.S. Open and a U.S. Senior Open.

IN MEMORIAM

Unequivocally, what made Woodmore “happen”, physically, politically, and economically, was Arnold Palmer. He energized and validated the efforts of the County Executive, County Council, and Planning Commission, and the complex public/private approach to an economic development and land use issue, which gave the County, at long last, the early traction in a road to balancing its housing options and fiscal success. In the sports world, in

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relationships, in life, Arnold Palmer was truly a singularity. Much has been said, seen and written these past weeks about his famous way of shaking your hand while looking you in the eyes, and making you feel, right then and there, somehow a part of a moment that belonged to the two of you, and was

not going to be forgotten. Those moments, in the three years GolfAmerica and Palmer-Buckley spent creating Woodmore, were frequent. Never wanting acclamation or glory, he simply, but masterfully, put a lasting stamp on a page of Prince George's County's history. RIP... ♦ Paul Zanecki

The author is a land use lawyer who served as the Associate General Counsel for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission from 1970 to 1973.

While holding this position in the early 70's, he was directed by the Commission, along with certain planning staff, and external consultants, to move forward on a "Comprehensive Design" zone set of ordinances commonly referred to in many jurisdictions today as CBD's, PUD's and other "mixed use" denominations, producing a new zoning lexicon. The intent of these Ordinances, beyond their innovative and progressive nature, was to provide a legal land use creation supporting "good" development, i.e., balanced housing, retail and employment, as a not-so-visible mechanism (a legal "relief valve") to also deny the disruptive and dreaded piecemeal, leapfrog, and spot rezoning.

The Planning Commission was also the "birthing room" for the negotiation and ground leasing of the Capital Centre sports arena located on 55 acres of parkland, created as a remainder parcel when the Beltway was built in 1964. Between 1970-1973, The Planning Commission's General Counsel's Office was tasked with and completed the public/private lease that permitted the construction of the sports and entertainment venue.

One of the five original "equity principals" in GolfAmerica of Maryland, he was the legal land-use technician, a conscripted visionary, and a self-admitted lousy golfer. Over a period of two years GolfAmerica assembled by contract or outright purchase approximately 1200 acres, but no lending institution in Prince George's County, in 1978, was about to finance a high-end golf course community. GolfAmerica's original land acquisition funding was provided by private financing from loans and investments made by Potomac Investment Associates (PIA), whose owners (Messrs. E.Hollaway, A. Natelli and D. Meyers), subsequently bought and built Avenel Farm and the TPC Course in Potomac, MD.

PUBLICATIONS

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY: A PICTORIAL

HISTORY: The history and essence of Prince George's County come alive in words and pictures in this beautiful collector's edition, with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Author: Alan Virta 1998 - Revised / Updated Edition Hardcover 308 pages **\$42.95**

HISTORIC PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY: A

CONFLUENCE OF CULTURES: A cultural history of Prince George's County, with many photographers from private collections. Authors: George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles, Donna L. Schneider 2011 Hardcover 192 pages **\$39.95**

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. Pen and Ink Illustrations. Hardcover 166 pages **\$5.00**

ATLAS OF FIFTEEN MILES AROUND WASHINGTON INCLUDING THE COUNTY OF

PRINCE GEORGE MARYLAND: Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G.M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979 Softcover 32 pages **\$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 Softcover 32 pages **\$10.00**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

INDEXES OF CHURCH REGISTERS 1686 - 1885: Volume 1 - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown Reprint 2000 Softcover 200 pages **\$20.00**

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. Author: Helen W. Brown Reprint 2000 Softcover 196 pages **\$20.00**

OUT OF THE PAST - PRINCE GEORGEANS &

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. Author: R. Lee Van Horn Reprint 1996 Hardcover 422 pages **\$15.00**

TRICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK: Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. 1996 Softcover, Spiral Bound 150 pages **\$5.00**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND: A pictorial history of the county, an Arcadia Images of America book by Katherine D. Bryant and Donna L. Schneider Softcover 128 pages **\$18.99**

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SOCIETY BOARD ELECTIONS

At the Society’s December 13, 2016, annual membership meeting there were not sufficient members in attendance at the time of the meeting to hold the election of officers for 2017. Per the Society’s by-laws a quorum constitutes a minimum of 25 members. Therefore, in order not to delay the election of officers, we are asking members to complete the ballot below and to return it to PGCHS, PO Box 1513, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1513 with a postmark no later than February 18, 2017. Thank you.

The Nominating Committee’s Slate is as follows (please choose no more than one for each Officer position and no more than six for the Director position):

OFFICERS (one-year term):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President, John J. Petro | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary, Jane Taylor Thomas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President, Lynn Roberts | <input type="checkbox"/> Historian, Susan Pearl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer, Ruth Davis Rogers | |

2017-2019 (three-year term) DIRECTORS (up to six positions available):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Brunner | <input type="checkbox"/> Sealani Weiner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christine Garcia | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stacey Hawkins | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

There are two open positions, so if you would like to serve, please write in your name. In order to confirm that you are a member in good standing, please print your name below:

To view the Society’s by-laws, please go to our website, www.pghistory.org and click on Who We Are.

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THEN & NOW

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XLVI NO. 2

APRIL-JUNE 2017

St. George's Day 2017 Dinner and Awards Sunday, April 9, 2017, at 1:00 PM College Park Airport Operations Building

This year we will be celebrating the 321st anniversary of the founding of our county at the College Park Airport. Established in 1909 as the military demonstration site for the Wright Brothers, College Park Airport is the world's oldest continually operating airport. College Park Airport is the home to many aviation "firsts."

October 27, 1909: Mrs. Ralph Van Deman, wife of Capt. Van Deman, became the first woman passenger to fly in the United States.

October 1909: Lt. Frederic Humphreys was the first military pilot to solo in a military aeroplane. He, Lt. Frank Lahm, and Lt. Benjamin Foulois received their flight instruction at College Park from Wilbur Wright.

1911: First Army Aviation School

1911: First testing of a bomb aiming device from an aeroplane. Inert bombs were dropped into the gold-fish ponds at the end of the airfield using a bomb-sight developed by Riley E. Scott.

1912: First testing of a machine gun from an aeroplane. On June 7, a Lewis Machine Gun was fired by Captain Chandler from a Wright B, with Lieutenant Milling as pilot.

1912: First mile-high flight by a military aviator. Lt. Henry "Hap" Arnold made the first army altitude records at College Park.

1918-21: First U.S. Postal Air Mail Service. The regular U.S. Postal Air Mail flights were inaugurated on August 12, 1918.

1924: First controlled helicopter flight. Emile and Henry Berliner based their flight experiments at College Park from 1920 to 1924.

1927-35: First radio navigational aids developed and tested by the Bureau of Standards.

As the popularity of aviation spread in the late 1920s, the airport's manager, George Brinkerhoff, worked with the Washington Air Derby Association, DC Air Legion, Washington Women's Pilots Association and other aviation group to organize air races, mock bombing competitions, and stunt flying expositions that attracted thousands of spectators. The Langley Day Air Meet was the airfield's most well-known contest.

The airfield closed to civilian flying during World War II, but continued to be used by the military for training. Charter services, selling and servicing airplanes, and teaching

student pilots were also available at the airfield. In the 1960s, the airfield's condition deteriorated with the expectation that it was to be sold. A group of local aviation enthusiasts began working to save the College Park Airport. In 1973, the airfield was purchased by the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission. The airport was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the operations at College Park Airport changed. Due to its proximity to the US Capitol buildings, civilian flying was banned and only military helicopters used the field. In 2002 a Special Flight Restricted Zone encompassing 15 nautical miles of the Washington, DC, region was established and included College Park Airport. This necessitated additional security screening for any pilots who wanted to land at the airfield. Today, the airfield serves as a convenient modern day facility meeting the everyday needs of general aviation pilots in the DC-metropolitan area.



Photo courtesy of College Park Aviation Museum

The St. George's Day dinner will be served at the airport's Operations Building and provided by Geppetto Catering. You are encouraged to come at 1:00 PM to view the building before dinner at 1:30 PM. Dinner will be followed by our traditional presentation of St. George's Day awards. Afterwards, everyone is invited to tour the College Park Aviation Museum next door to learn more about the Wright Brothers time at College Park and the history of the airfield.

You should receive your invitations shortly, if you haven't already. If you have any questions, please call Susan Pearl at 301-262-3367. We look forward to seeing you at St. George's Day!

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phone: 301-220-0330
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THEN & NOW is published quarterly. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Prince George's County Historical Society members are invited and welcome to attend Society Board meetings. Meetings are held monthly. Please check our website for dates, times and location.

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

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From the Library

Things are constantly happening at our library. Here's a report on some of the highlights of the last year. For the last few years, we have had a wonderful group of interns working with us, several of them at the same time working on Master's degrees in Information Science at the University of Maryland. Sarah Jones made all of our *News and Notes* issues accessible on line through our website, and began to create a subject index for articles in these issues; she finished her MLS degree, and has taken a university library job in South Dakota. We miss her! But her good work will be continued and finished by Clement Lau, a Greenbelt resident and professional librarian, who has helped us so much over the last many years. Clement is now working at Georgia Southern University and has volunteered, in his spare time, to finish the indexing project. Nathan Avant, another library grad student at Maryland, continues his work of digitizing the *Prince George's Enquirer* newspaper printed in Upper Marlboro in the late 19th century. Nathan has also been an essential help to our library staff in dealing with computer problems and updates. And we are grateful to a new member of our Historical Society, who helped with the conversion of our computers to the new Windows 10.

Omar Price, a PhD student in history at Morgan State, is a more recent intern; he is working with us on Freedmen's Bureau Schools in Prince George's County. We have secured a grant from Maryland Milestones to support his work this year, more specifically on the Freedmen's Bureau schools within the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area. By the time you receive this newsletter, Omar will have presented a lecture on his research on this subject during our Spring 2017 lecture series.

We have received research materials from the Bowie library, and even more from the Hyattsville library, as Hyattsville staff prepares for the closing of the Hyattsville branch for renovation, and we are slowly sorting through and organizing the masses of these materials.

As usual, interesting projects bring interesting people into our library. We get a lot of visitors from distant places, looking for genealogical information about their families, as well as Greenbelt residents trying to learn details about the early years of the Greenbelt community. Staff of archaeology/planning firms come in to do research on areas that are scheduled for development, and are often surprised and delighted by what they find in our collections. A retired Navy dentist from California, now a graduate student in history came in to do research for his thesis on the desegregation of schools in Prince George's County. It turned out that he had graduated from Fairmont Heights High School where he played the violin under the direction of the man who was then concertmaster of our own Prince George's Philharmonic (which warmed the heart of your library reporter, member of the Philharmonic and author of its history). It was just

another example of how everything is related to everything else! Another of our favorite research visitors is also working on the desegregation of Prince George's County schools; this is a subject which attracts a lot of visitors to our library, and we now have one chapter of her dissertation available for perusal.

We recently received information about a young U.S. navy surgeon from Prince George's County, who died and was buried in Syracuse, Sicily! I am busily working to find out more about him. We have had very interesting visits from staff of important research repositories (National Agricultural Library, National Archives) working on specific projects, and as usual from eager graduate students from the University of Maryland. And Leigh Ryan, recently retired from the University of Maryland faculty, has joined the volunteer staff of our library, and is tackling the reorganization of our voluminous collections on the families (Stiers, Calverts, Plummers) of Riversdale.

The worst thing about the last few months is a total failure of e-mail at our library – our old AOL account was compromised and lost, and we have not been able to access our newer e-mail account (info@pghistory.org) since October 2016. I can still access it on my home computer, so I've been dancing back and forth in an attempt to respond to e-mail inquiries. But the best thing going on right now is the fact that we will have the services of librarian/archivist Dan Ramirez (of the Hyattsville Library branch) who will probably be working at the Greenbelt branch during the Hyattsville library renovations, scheduled to start this spring. Dan is working on our e-mail access problem and he will also be able to help us and our visiting researchers while he is stationed at the Greenbelt library.

So all is going reasonably well at the DeMarr Library of County History; we are open every Saturday afternoon (except major holidays), and by appointment on weekdays. Come and visit!

—Susan G. Pearl, Historian



A Night in the Stacks

Join us at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library on Monday, April 24 from 5-8:30 PM and Sunday, May 21 from 1-4 30 PM for an opportunity to peruse our used book collection. We have hundreds of books to choose from. Make your best offer. No offer will be refused!

The Chapel at Compton Bassett



Photo Courtesy of Edward Day, M-NCPPC, July 2015

The restoration of the “chapel” at Compton Bassett was completed in early January 2017. This small brick late-18th-century structure was one of a number of domestic and agricultural buildings on the Compton Bassett plantation of the Hill family, just east of Upper Marlboro. The Compton Bassett property was acquired by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in 2010 as part of a 63.39-acre purchase. The property, including main house, dairy building, smokehouse, and chapel building, had been designated as a County Historic Site (79-063-10) in 1981, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. At the time of the 2010 purchase, all of the aforementioned structures were suffering from a combination of deferred maintenance and improper repairs that were exacerbated by the August 23rd, 2011, earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale. As early as 2010, the new owner was dealing with a chapel roof failure using a large tarp covering the entire the structure. This tarp remained over the chapel until a wall collapse in 2014.

The property was brought to the Prince George’s County Historic Preservation Commission (PG-HPC) as a Property of Concern. At November 2012 PG-HPC meeting, M-NCPPC indicated that the property was purchased not for its historic significance, but to protect the Patuxent River view-

shed. However, M-NCPPC reported that it planned to restore the chapel. Continuing benign neglect, inadequate repairs, and general inaction led to the collapse of the south gable-end wall of the chapel in March 2014. The reconstruction and renovation of the “chapel” structure commenced in 2016 and was completed at a cost of \$1,180,604.00.

The history and chronology of this building’s use as a chapel is unclear, revolving around two basic questions, the date or dates of construction, and the various uses of the building over time. A visual non-destructive investigation of the building quickly reveals that it represents at least two building periods – this is clear through the change in the brickwork and in the framing techniques. The southern section of the building, including the large exterior chimney at the south gable end, represents a different building period from the northern section. Dendrochronological testing confirms this – testing (2013 by Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory) of the oak timbers in the southern section reveals that these timbers were cut in 1778/1779, suggesting that the southern section was built in 1779 or soon after. Unfortunately, the timbers of the northern (larger) section of the building were too decayed to be dated, but they were of tulip poplar, and clearly of a separate later building phase.

So what was the use of this building? The 1798 Federal Direct Tax (architectural historians’ favorite and most useful source) lists no chapel at Compton Bassett; it does, however, list a “brick storehouse, 16 by 14 feet.” The chapel now measures circa 26 by 18 feet, so the question arises as to whether the storehouse was enlarged after 1798 to serve as a chapel. Or did it serve before the Revolution as a chapel under another name? Or was the “storehouse” a completely different building, no longer standing? Clearly there was at the end of the 18th century a brick outbuilding of approximately half the size of today’s chapel, and that is all that we can say for sure.

It is certainly true that Catholic families, before the American Revolution, had need of spaces for private worship. This need was the outcome of the anti-Catholic atmosphere that shaped Colonial Maryland history between the 1680s and the

Continued on page 5

American Revolution. By the end of the 17th century, with Catholic residents in the minority, political tension between Catholic government officials and Protestant land-owners intertwined with religious and political upheaval in England, resulted in both revocation of the Catholic Proprietor's Charter rights and an end of religious freedom in Maryland. In 1692, a new law proclaimed the Anglican Church (Church of England) as the established church in the Maryland colony.

Maryland Catholics, such as the Hill family of Compton Bassett, were deprived of civil and religious rights. From 1692 forward many Catholic families began the practice of holding private Catholic services at their own properties; in many cases, mass rooms were set up in plantation houses, and in a few cases in separate structures. Itinerant priests traveled from one property to another.

Other measures affecting Catholic Marylanders during this period included a law enacted in the General Assembly Sessions between 1717 and 1720, placing a tax on every Irish Catholic servant brought into the Province of Maryland. Another example of anti-Catholic legal persecution arose in a 1715 Act of the General Assembly whereby children of a Protestant father and a Catholic mother could, in case of the father's death, be taken from the mother.

There are a number of indications that private services were being held at Compton Bassett during the 18th century, including letters and diaries of members of the Hill family. A 1773 letter to Clement Hill III from his granddaughter, Anne Cooke, refers to services at Compton Bassett by Rev. Thomas Digges, who regularly held mass at nearby Mellwood Park, home of his brother, Ignatius Digges. Other references indicate that Jesuit priest Bernard Diderich, who in the 1770s regularly performed services at the private Boone Chapel near Nottingham, also did so at Compton Bassett.

The strictures that controlled Catholic worship in Maryland came gradually to an end after the "Declaration of Rights" of 1776, allowing "every man to worship God in such manner as he thinks most acceptable to him" – (i.e., all Christians.) But many Catholics continued their worship on their own properties. In some cases, Catholic families, relieved of the need for keeping their Catholic services "private," built chapels on their plantation grounds, and perhaps the Hill family did just that –

constructing a chapel building within a few years of the "Declaration." Services continued at Mellwood Park, also, though we do not know whether they were held in the house or whether a separate chapel was ever built. We do know that members of the Hill family of Compton Bassett sometimes joined with the Digges family for worship services at Mellwood Park well into the nineteenth century, and it is likely that private services continued at Compton Bassett as well, perhaps long after the opening of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Upper Marlborough in 1829. Use of the chapel must have come to an end, however, well before the end of the 19th century – in the mid 20th century, the owners of Compton Bassett reported that their ancestor Esther Hill, not long before her death in 1900, had given some of the religious artifacts from the Compton Bassett chapel to St. Mary's Church, "that they might be properly cared for, the chapel being then in bad repair."

Whatever the exact chronology and history of the "chapel" at Compton Bassett, it is a very important resource; a building with structural lessons to share, and a rare representative of a period of religious intolerance, and of the termination of that restriction. The Historical Society is grateful to know that this important historic building has been carefully studied, and at least temporarily preserved to carry on for perhaps another century.

—Susan G. Pearl and
John Peter Thompson



Photo Courtesy of Edward Day, M-NCPPC, December 2016

Virginia W. Beauchamp Scholarship



The University of Maryland's network for women, the Campus Club, has begun a funding appeal to endow a graduate scholarship at the University of Maryland in honor of Virginia Walcott Beauchamp, a longtime member of the Prince George's County Historical Society, the county chapter of the American Association of University Women, and the Campus Club. Dr. Beauchamp has a long record of contributing to our Historical Society, both financially and as a history maker in our county and state. She founded the county chapter of the National Organization for Women and was appointed to the Prince George's Women's Commission; she is recognized for her work on establishing Women's Studies at the University of Maryland, and for her work on Title IX implementation throughout the state.

A resident of Greenbelt, Dr. Beauchamp served as copy editor and reporter for the *Greenbelt News Review* from 1957-2016 with a two-year break when she lived in Lagos, Nigeria; in 2002, she earned Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen Award.

Friends and admirers of Dr. Beauchamp may make a tax-deductible contribution to the scholarship named for her by writing a check to the "University of Maryland College Park Foundation" with **"Virginia W. Beauchamp Scholarship"** in the memo line. The mailing address is 4603 Calvert Rd, College Park, MD 20740. Online payment may be made at go.umd.edu/vwbfund. Contact Chris Garcia at Garcia@umd.edu for more information.

Congratulations!

Thank you to everyone who cast a ballot for the Society elections. We are still in need of two more Directors. If interested, please contact the Society. The election results are:

Elected to a one-year term (2017):

President: John J. Petro
Vice President: Lynn Springer Roberts
Treasurer: Ruth Davis Rogers
Secretary: Jane Taylor Thomas
Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Elected to a three-year term (2017-2019):

John Brunner
Christine Garcia
Stacey Hawkins
Sealani Weiner

Calvert Brewing Company Mixer

Join the Prince George's County Historical Society at the Calvert Brewing Company in Upper Marlboro at their state of the art production facility and tap room for an informal mixer on Thursday April 27, 2017, from 5:00 -8:00 PM (come as early as 3 PM and stay until 9 PM).

We will tour the brewery as well as present a *really really* brief history of the Calverts in Maryland and Prince George's as well as sample the brewery's locally crafted beers. And best of all, a percentage of the profits will be donated to the Society, so bring your friends.

Calvert Brewing Company is Maryland's first designated farm brewery. With a dedication to pride, loyalty and quality, they are committed to building a better beer. They make a craft option to fit all tastes, whether you're new to craft, or the nerdiest of craft beer drinkers. Their list of year round beers is unique and steadily growing, with specialty beers for every season.

We look forward to see you there!



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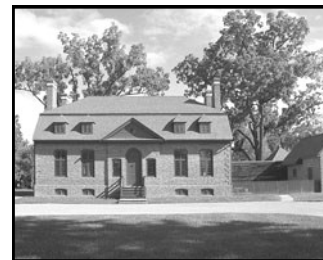
Celebrating 100 Years



The Snyder Family is celebrating their historic home's 100th Anniversary on June 3, 2017 (rain date is June 4). You are invited for a self-guided walking tour of Boyden House from 2-4 PM at 6501 Hillmeade Road in Bowie. The theme is the 1917 history of the house, the times, the food, the drink. The Snyder family has graciously offered to donate any cash contributions received to the Society. They are also accepting donations of blankets, pillows, toys and food for Pillows for Pitbulls, LLC, which helps rescued and homeless animals. For additional information, please contact Nancy at boyden65@aol.com.

Historic Preservation Month Reception

Save the Date! This year's annual Historic Preservation Month Reception will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2017, from 6-8:30 PM at Darnall's Chance House Museum in Upper Marlboro. As always, the event is free. Further details are still being worked out and invitations will follow.



Spring Lectures

"Civil War Quilts" with author, appraiser, teacher, collector, and quilt maker, Bunnie Jordan
Saturday, April 8, 2017, at 1 PM
Marietta House Museum
\$5/person; call 301-464-5291 to reserve your space

"A Hard Road To Freedom: African Americans, Maryland, the Civil War & Emancipation" by CR Gibbs
Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:30 PM
Accokeek Library

"By Any Means Necessary: Methods of Escape by Maryland's Enslaved Community" by Maya Davis
Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 7:30 PM
Oxon Hill Library

A Wedding Quilt Tea and Discussion with teacher, lecturer, and appraiser, Phyllis Twigg Hatcher
Sunday, June 4, 2017, at 1 PM
Marietta House Museum
\$25/person, ages 8 & up; call 301-464-5291 to reserve your space

Twelfth Annual Juneteenth Seminar

"Footprint and Roots"

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., Prince George's County Maryland Chapter, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Suitland (Maryland), and the Prince George's County Historical Society will jointly sponsor the Twelfth Annual Juneteenth Seminar, "Footprints and Roots," on Saturday, June 17, 2017, location TBD, from 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. The seminar will consist of a series of workshops for beginner to advanced family researchers. The concurrent sessions will include topics such as beginning genealogy, digital cameras and genealogical research, preservation and genealogical research, slave research, and DNA in Genealogical Research. There will be special activities for children (ages 5-16), designed to introduce them to the world of genealogy and family history. In addition to learning about the history of Juneteenth, they will sing songs, construct family trees, and write stories about themselves.

The Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a family fun day in conjunction with this event, which will be held at

Walker Mill Park. Attendees may bring a picnic basket, blanket, and lawn chair and participate in an afternoon of live entertainment, dancing, storytelling, games, arts and crafts, food, and guest speakers. All the activities at both community events are **FREE** and open to the public.

Juneteenth is celebrated in more than 200 cities in the United States to commemorate the final announcement in Galveston, Texas, of the emancipation of slaves some two years after the original proclamation. From that day until this, there have been celebrations throughout the United States to mark the date, June 19, 1865, when the last enslaved persons learned of their freedom.

Juneteenth, as it came to be called, is a national holiday in 12 states and the District of Columbia. There is now underway a move to petition the U.S. Postal Service to produce a Juneteenth Commemorative Stamp.

For more information, call Carolyn Rowe, (301) 292-2751 or Jane Thomas, (301) 292-1207.

Society Membership Reminder

Have you renewed your annual Society membership or sponsorship? If not, this will be your last newsletter. The Society's membership period is on a calendar year basis - January through December. We ask that memberships be renewed no later than March 31. Please pay your dues today! Thank You!

Prince George's County Tidbits

Did you know that ...

On April 9, 1844, the first telegraph line, being constructed between Washington and Baltimore, was tested from a site near Riversdale?

On April 17, 1865, Mary Surratt was arrested at her boarding house in Washington?

On May 1, 1918, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) was established by the Maryland General Assembly?

On May 6, 1912, the first group cross-country flight took off from College Park Airport?

On June 1, 1912, Lt. "Hap" Arnold set a new Army aviation altitude record of 6,450 feet at College Park Airport?

On June 17, 1784, the first documented unmanned balloon ascent in America happened near Bladensburg?

PUBLICATIONS

- ___ **Prince George's County: A Pictorial History*** – The history and essence of Prince George's County come alive in words and pictures in this beautiful collector's edition, with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. **\$42.95**
- ___ **Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures*** – A cultural history of Prince George's County, with many photographs from private collections. Authors George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles, Donna L. Schneider. Printed 2011. Hardcover, 192 pages. **\$39.95**
- ___ **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. **\$5.00**
- ___ **Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. **\$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. **\$10.00**
- ___ **Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume 1 - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. **\$20.00**
- ___ **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. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. **\$20.00**
- ___ **Out of the Past – Prince Georgians and Their Land** – Chronicle of everyday life in Prince George's County, Maryland, from the time of its founding in 1696 until the beginning of the Civil War. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. **\$15.00**
- ___ **Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. **\$5.00**
- ___ **Prince George's County Maryland** - A pictorial history of the county, an Arcadia Images of America book by Katharine D. Bryant and Donna L. Schneider. Soft cover, 128 pages. **\$18.99**

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

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☐ \$35 for individual ☐ \$50 for family (a \$15 savings off each category)

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THEN & NOW

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XLVI NO. 3

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2017

“Chasing the American Dream: The Formation and Legacy of Freedmen Schools in Prince George's County, Maryland, 1866-1870”

Omar Shareef Price is a History doctoral candidate at Morgan State University, where he is researching Freedmen schools in Prince George's County, Maryland. He is a native of Saginaw, Michigan. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Alabama A&M University and master's degrees in both secondary education and Pan-African studies from Alabama A&M University and University of Louisville, respectively. Omar is also a social studies teacher in Prince George's County Public Schools. His dissertation, “Chasing the American Dream: The Formation and Legacy of Freedmen Schools in Prince George's County Maryland, 1866-1870” explores the establishment, maintenance, and impact of schools for black students that were associated with the Bureau of Freedmen, Refugees, and Abandoned Lands in Prince George's County, Maryland.

According to the Freedmen's Bureau records held at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. and that have been digitized through familysearch.org, there were eleven schools in Prince George's County associated with the Freedmen's Bureau between the years 1866 to 1870. The schools were spread throughout the county, but most were located in the southern half. There were schools in Muirkirk, Bladensburg, Oxon Run, Upper Marlboro, Woodville, Horse Head, Nottingham, Darnall's Delight, Robytown, and two in the Piscataway area. The records help explain unique stories of each school. The stories speak towards the state of Maryland in the first few years following the Civil War and emancipation. The records shed light on the how the schools were established, staffed, and maintained. They also demonstrate the racism, both from individuals and systematic, that communities of color were forced to wade through to give their children a better chance at life. In Upper Marlboro, the teacher, John B. Douglas, wrote of being assaulted by a white man without provocation. At Robytown, the white widow of a Civil War soldier, Mary Ferguson, who was the school's teacher, had to chase away a group of white men from her school with a revolver. But, in Muirkirk, there was a Freedmen school where both black and white students attended together with seemingly little trouble.

The story of each school can be reasonably pieced together through letters sent from and to the superintendent of education's office, monthly teacher reports, and other reports and records that have been preserved for over a century. Letters tell the accounts of individuals who operated, paid for, worked at, and were otherwise generally associated with

(Ed. Form, No. 3.)
TEACHER'S MONTHLY SCHOOL REPORT
For the Month of June, 1869.

Agree to contain one entire calendar month, and to be forwarded as soon as possible after the close of the month.
A school under the direct control of one Teacher, or a Teacher with one Assistant, is to be reported as one school.

Name of your School? Muirkirk Location (town, county, or district)? Prince Geo. Co. Md.
Is it a Day or Night School? Day Of what grade? not graded
Who did your present session commence? May 1st When to close? June 1st
Is your School supported by an Educational Society? Yes What Society? Free School Socy Am I pd. this month? Yes
Is your School supported wholly by local School Board? No Name of Board or Com.? Free School Socy Am I pd. this month? Yes
Is your School supported in part by local School Board? No Name of Board or Com.? Free School Socy Am I pd. this month? Yes
Is your School supported wholly by Freedmen? No Amount paid this month? None
Is your School supported in part by Freedmen? No Amount paid this month? None
Have you had Bureau transportation this term? No
Who owns the School building? Free School Socy
Is rent paid by Freedmen's Bureau? No How much per month? None
What number of Teachers and Assistants in your School? 1 White? 1 Colored? 0
Total enrollment for the month? 10 Male? 10 Female? 0
Number enrolled last report? 8 { Number reported last report, by adding new scholars and subtracting those left school, must equal the present total enrollment. }
Number left school this month? 0
Number new Scholars this month? 2
What is the average attendance? 11 { Schools are to be kept five days per week and six hours each day. }
Number of Pupils for whom tuition is paid? 10 How many hours have you taught per day? 6
Number of White Pupils? 10 How many days have you taught this month? 20
Number always present? 10
Number always present? 10
Number over 16 years of age? 0
Number in Alphabet? 5
Number who spell, and read very imperfectly? 4
Number in advanced readers? 6
Number in Geography? 6
Number in Arithmetic? 6
Number in higher branches? 10
Number in Writing? 10
Number in Needle-work? 0
Number done before the war? 0
Have you a Sabbath-School? Yes How many Teachers? 1 How many Pupils? about 50
Have you an Industrial School? None How many Teachers? 1 How many Pupils? about 10
State the kind of work done? None

NOTE: To the following questions give exact or approximate answers, prefixing to the latter the word "about."

1. Do you know of any Schools for Refugees or Freedmen not reported to the State Superintendent? No How many? 0
2. Give (estimated) whole number of pupils in all such Schools? No No. of Teachers? White, Colored, 0
3. Do you know of Sabbath Schools not reported to the State Superintendent? No How many? White, Colored, 0
4. Give (estimated) whole number of pupils in all such Schools? No No. of Teachers? White, Colored, 0
5. State the public sentiment towards Colored Schools.
6. How many pupils in your School are members of a Temperance Society? None Name of the Society? None
Remarks: I have been the monthly for attending my children to the school
Free School Socy
Free School Socy
Signed: J. B. Douglas Teacher.

* In School Committee, either District, Town, City, County, or State.
* A pupil is not to be accounted as enrolled until after five days' attendance.

Teacher's Report, Muirkirk School, June 1869

the schools. From Bureau office letters, it can be understood the relationship that each school had with the Bureau as the relationship could range greatly. The letters also illustrate how essential charitable organizations were to the maintenance of the complex and expensive endeavor of staffing and operating schools. Monthly teacher's reports informed who owned and paid for the school, how many students attended the school and how often, what was taught at the school, whether the school was affiliated with a temperance society, and what local sentiments were towards the school. Though some teacher's reports are now missing, there are enough remaining to provide an excellent starting point as to the makeup of the school and how that makeup may have changed over time.

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

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From the Library

Contemporary Conversations on Immigration in the United States The View from Prince George's County, Maryland by Judith Noemi Freidenberg

A Review by Susan G. Pearl, Historian

Judith Freidenberg has just retired (spring 2017) from her position as Professor of Anthropology at the University of Maryland, where she also served as director of the Anthropology of the Immigrant Life Course Research Program. Over a period of nearly two decades, she engaged in research studying the experiences of immigrants to a single county in Maryland, and late in 2016 published the results of this study, entitled "Contemporary Conversations on Immigration in the United States: The View from Prince George's County, Maryland." There follows a brief review of this timely and interesting book.

Dr. Freidenberg begins with an explanation of how the study was organized and carried out, and the sources of information used: interviews, public surveys, demographics, and material circulated by the printed media. The interviews capture the experiences of 70 different individuals from many different parts of the world, leaving their countries of birth at different ages and reaching the United States over a period of nearly 50 years. Throughout, Dr. Freidenberg stresses her thesis that immigration should be seen and treated as a social issue rather than a social problem.

The first chapter is a brief history of Prince George's County, and of the arrival and gradual mixing of different populations in this specific jurisdiction. The author reviews the period of contact, with white immigrants from Europe displacing the native tribes, and the growth of the tobacco culture and with it of slavery, until on the eve of the Civil War, African slaves comprised 60% of the County's population. She outlines the major changes following the Civil War, the emancipation of the slaves, the effects of major changes in transportation, and transition in the character of the County – from overwhelmingly agricultural to a residential and business suburb of the national capital. She covers, in the 20th century, the desegregation of schools, the phenomenon of "white flight," and by the end of the 20th century, the fact that again African Americans make up the majority of the County's population, one of the largest concentrations of African American affluence in the nation.

Not surprisingly, the chapters that concentrate on the experiences of individual immigrants to Prince George's County are the most engaging of the book. Dr. Freidenberg divides the group of 70 interviewees into several overlapping groups: first, by age at time of immigration (infant to age 19, age 20 to 39, age 40 to 59, and age 60 and above). At the same time she divides the groups by the time period at which individuals immigrated, these periods reflecting the legal changes in the United States

that would affect immigration - for example the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Immigration and National Act of 1965 that opened doors to incoming immigrants; the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 which tightened control of some undocumented workers but granted amnesty to other illegal immigrants of longer standing; the replacement after September 11, 2001, of the Immigration and Naturalization Service by Homeland Security; and the Dream Act (Development, Relief, and Education of Alien Minors) of 2012.

We are introduced in considerable detail to 24 individuals, representative of the 70 who were interviewed, and coming from 17 different countries around the world over a period of nearly 50 years (1965 to 2013). The stories of these 24 individuals are the very heart of the book. We learn about their lives in their native countries, the details of their decisions to emigrate, and then details of their actual journeys; we learn about the actual arrivals and first impressions of the United States, and then the problems of finding homes, finding jobs, and maintaining contact with family members; and we learn the set-backs and the successes of their years in the United States to the present time. Through their experiences, the reader gets an unvarnished picture of what it means to be immigrants, and the social, economic, personal and political influences upon them. Throughout the presentation of these stories, Dr. Freidenberg, herself an immigrant, presents the reality of immigration as a social issue and not as a social problem.

This is not an easy book to read, but it is timely, interesting, and instructive. It will be available in our Society's DeMarr Library of County History in Greenbelt.

Save the Date!

Our annual Prince of a County fundraiser will be held on Sunday, September 24, 2017, at 2 PM at the **Don Speed Smith Goodloe House** at Bowie State University. The 1915-16 Colonial Revival style building is the historic former home of the first Bowie State president. It is currently the university's alumni house. Details are still being worked out and invitations will be mailed in August. Please visit our website for more information: www.pghistory.org.

Chapel at Compton Bassett

On a beautiful Saturday morning, June 3, 2017, a group met on the grounds of **Compton Bassett**, the historic plantation acreage of the Hill family near Upper Marlboro. The group consisted of people from the Parks and Recreation Department of the M-NCPPC, the Historic Preservation Section of the M-NCPPC, the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, the Prince George's County Historical Society, and members of the Hill family. They came to see and learn about the recent restoration of the small, 18th-century Roman Catholic chapel located near the plantation house. (See the article about the chapel in the April-June 2017 issue of *THEN & NOW*.) Members of the M-NCPPC team who were involved in every aspect of the work explained the process, and the group was able to view the finished work up close. Kristin Montaperto, Parks Department archaeologist, then explained some of the archaeological work that is being done near the chapel. Two brick clamps (kilns) have been revealed, a floor from a building near the chapel was found, and domestic materials from the area of a nearby farm-worker's house have also been discovered.

The photo on the upper right is the rebuilt chapel chimney.

Photo by Donna Schneider



Continued from page 1

Overall, Omar's research provides context to the history of Prince George's County following the ratification of the 1864 Constitution—which established the state's first statewide public school system and ended slavery. It also explores the lengths and conditions that people of color went through to educate their children. This research may be focused on Prince George's County specifically, and Maryland, generally, but "Chasing the American Dream: The Formation and Legacy of Freedmen Schools in Prince George's County Maryland, 1866-1870" is the story of America. It provides an in depth exploration of the interconnectedness of real people who gave their money, risked their reputations, and their lives in order to do what they thought would move the country forward.

St. George's Day Award Winners

The College Park Airport was host to the Society's annual St. George's Day dinner and awards on April 9, 2017. After a delicious dinner by Geppetto Catering, the awards were presented. Congratulations to this year's St. George's Day award winners:

- * **Dennis Campbell** for his book "Redemption in Upper Marlboro"
- * **Kyla Hanington** for her research and restoration work on the Greenbelt Turner cemetery
- * **Dan Louck** for his countless hours of collecting and processing obituaries and his assistance on many other tasks at the Frederick S. DeMarr Library
- * **Jack Thompson, Jr.** and **Michael MacKnight** for the restoration of Beechwood
- * **Pamela Williams** and **Yoku Shaw-Taylor** for their book "Images of America: Bowie"

Susan Pearl (left) and Kyla Hanington

Photo by John Pearl

After the dinner and awards, attendees had an opportunity to go next door to visit the College Park Aviation Museum.

The Society would like to thank the airport and the museum for their partnership on this event.



Historic Preservation Month Reception

Mother Nature, as well as holiday and graduation traffic, conspired against us. The sunny afternoon became a downpour just as the May 25th event would have started at Darnall's Chance. A bit of scrambling and we were able to move the reception across the street to the County Administration Building. A delay in the program start allowed for most of the attendees and awardees to be there. Elizabeth Hewlett, Chair of the Prince George's County Planning Board, welcomed everyone and emceed the evening. Historic site plaques were presented by the Vice Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission, Edward Scott. This year's plaques were given to:

Miller-Spicknall House in Hyattsville
Harvey Dairy Store in Hyattsville
Jardella House in Hyattsville
Dashiell House in Hyattsville

Elmo Clark House in Mount Rainier
Rural Cottage at the Highlands in Cottage City
St. Simon's Church Site & Cemetery in Croom

Leigh Ryan from the Prince George's County Historical Society presented the President's Preservation Award to Michelle Kretsch in recognition of her dedication to the Riversdale House Museum.

Heritage Awards were presented by Aaron Marcavitch, Executive Director of Maryland Milestones/ ATHA, Inc. The City of Bowie, the Town of Cheverly and the Glenn Dale Citizens Association received the Recognition of Boundary Amendment Certification. The National Park Service received the award for Historic and Nature Programming at Greenbelt Park. The Heritage Tourism award was given to the City of Hyattsville for partnering in the mBike Program.

Ruth Davis-Rogers, from the University of Maryland, presented Camille Westmont with the Prince George's Heritage Fellowship. The award was given for her participation in the report on the history, architectural assessment and recommendations for future use of the Rossborough Inn, located on the University's College Park campus.

Finally, Laurie Verge, Director of the Surratt House Museum, presented a certificate of appreciation to Daniel W. Dyer for his family's preservation of over 30 manumission papers, certificates of freedom, and bills of sale related to enslaved people of Prince George's County from 1781-1858. These documents were transcribed and digitized by Surratt House staff and are available for research by interested parties at the museum and the Maryland State Archives.

Of course we would be remiss in not thanking all of our sponsors and those who helped to host and arrange the reception. In addition to the Society, our host for the evening was the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, including the Historic Preservation section staff. Sponsors were Maryland Milestones/ATHA, Inc., Aman Memorial Trust, G.S. Proctor & Associates, Inc., Prince George's Heritage, Inc., Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust, AEON Preservation Services, LLC, Community Forklift, Field of Firsts Foundation, Prince George's County Conference & Visitors Bureau, Riversdale Historical Society, Shipley & Horne, PA, and the Surratt Society. Without everyone's support and contributions, this annual historic preservation reception would not be possible. Thank you!



From left to right: Leigh Ryan, Michelle Kretsch and Elizabeth Hewlett

Photo by John Peter Thompson



Boyden House 100th Anniversary

On June 3, 2017, Ms. Nancy Snyder hosted a "Walk through History" of the 1917 **Boyden House** in Bowie. The self-guided tour included historical tidbits about the property and the house. Visitors included friends and family, representatives from the Historical and Historic Preservation Societies, and Todd Turner, District 4 County Councilman. Supplies were collected for Pillows For Pitbulls, LLC, a collection agency for rescue animals, and donations were accepted for the Historical Society via a lemonade stand run by Ms. Snyder's grandsons Elijah and Elliott (pictured). The boys collected \$150.00, likely due their charisma rather than the taste of the lemonade! Ms. Snyder thanks all who attended.

Prince George's County Tidbits

Did you know that ...

This quarter we are combining our "Prince George's County Tidbits" series with the "Bicentennial Quiz" from the May and June 1973 issues of *News and Notes*.

Did you know that Maryland contributed many leaders to the cause during the American Revolution? Listed below are the names of seven Marylanders. Do you know what two things they all have in common?

Richard Potts

John Rogers

Benjamin Contee

David Ross

Daniel Carroll

Thomas Sim Lee

John Hanson

ANSWER: First, they all had some association with Prince George's County. Secondly, each one was a member of the Continental Congress.

Most people think of the Continental Congress only in association with the Declaration of Independence in 1775. (sic) The First Continental Congress met on September 5, 1774, in Philadelphia. It became the legal representative body when the necessary number of states finally ratified the Articles of Confederation in 1781. The last session of the Continental Congress adjourned on March 2, 1789, and the new U.S. Congress convened in the same city two days later.

Daniel Carroll (Continental Congress 1780-1784), brother of Bishop John Carroll, was born in Upper Marlboro on July 22, 1730. He was a signer of the Articles of Confederation and a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, also signing the U.S. Constitution on behalf of his native state. Carroll served as a Representative in the First U.S. Congress (1789-1791) and as one of the commissioners to establish the District of Columbia. He died May 7, 1796, at Rock Creek and is buried in St. John's Catholic Cemetery, Forest Glen, Maryland.

Serving in the First U.S. Congress with Daniel Carroll was **Benjamin Contee** (Continental Congress 1787-88) who was born at "Brookefield" near Nottingham, Prince George's County, in 1755. He was Captain in the Third Maryland Battalion during the Revolutionary War. In 1803 he was ordained in the Episcopal ministry and moved to Charles County as Rector of Christ Church, Port Tobacco Parish. Contee died November 30, 1815, and was interred at "Bromont" his home near Port Tobacco.

Richard Potts (Continental Congress 1781-82) was born in Upper Marlboro on July 19, 1753, and later studied law in Annapolis. Most of his adult life was spent in Frederick County where he died in 1808 and was interred

in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Frederick City. Potts was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1793 after the resignation of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Upon his own resignation in 1796, Potts was succeeded by Col. John Eager Howard of Revolutionary War fame.

Perhaps best known as First President of the Congress under the Articles of Confederation, **John Hanson** (Continental Congress 1780-83) was born at "Mulberry Grove" Charles County, and lived in later years in Frederick County. While visiting his nephew at "Oxon Hill", Prince George's County, Hanson died on November 15, 1783, and was interred there.

David Ross (Continental Congress 1786-88) was born in Prince George's County, the son of Dr. David Ross of Bladensburg. In his adult life he practiced law in Frederick County, where he died in 1800.

John Rogers (Continental Congress 1775-76) was born in Annapolis in 1723. He served as a member of the Maryland Committee of Safety and later as second Major of a battalion from Prince George's County in the Revolution. He was Chancellor of Maryland from 1778 until his death in Upper Marlboro on September 23, 1789.

Born near Upper Marlboro on October 29, 1745, **Thomas Sim Lee** (Continental Congress 1779-1783) was the second Governor of the State of Maryland (1779-82), served a second time (1792-94) and in 1798 refused election again. Upon his death on October 9, 1819, he was interred at "Melwood Park." In 1888 the graves of the family burial ground were removed to Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Upper Marlboro.

A total of forty-two Marylanders served in the Continental Congress during its fifteen year existence, 1774-1789.

Reference: *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1961*. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington: 1961, 1863 pp.

Just a little bit extra....

Did you know that the Articles of Confederation could only be officially effective once it was ratified by all 13 states? Virginia was the first to ratify on December 16, 1777.

Did you know that Maryland was the last state to ratify the Articles of Confederation? Maryland signed it on February 2, 1781. Maryland refused to sign until the landed states, especially Virginia, indicated that they were prepared to cede their claims west of the Ohio River to the Union.

Publications

- ___ **Prince George's County: A Pictorial History*** – The history and essence of Prince George's County come alive in words and pictures in this beautiful collector's edition, with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. **\$42.95**
- ___ **Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures*** – A cultural history of Prince George's County, with many photographs from private collections. Authors George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles, Donna L. Schneider. Printed 2011. Hardcover, 192 pages. **\$39.95**
- ___ **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. **\$5.00**
- ___ **Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. **\$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. **\$10.00**
- ___ **Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume 1 - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. **\$20.00**
- ___ **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. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. **\$20.00**
- ___ **Out of the Past – Prince Georgians and Their Land** – Chronicle of everyday life in Prince George's County, Maryland, from the time of its founding in 1696 until the beginning of the Civil War. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. **\$15.00**
- ___ **Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. **\$5.00**
- ___ **Prince George's County Maryland** - A pictorial history of the county, an Arcadia Images of America book by Katharine D. Bryant and Donna L. Schneider. Soft cover, 128 pages. **\$18.99**

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VOLUME XLVI NO. 4

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2017

Prince of a County September 24, 2017, at 2 PM



Don Speed Smith Goodloe House

Photo by Jack E. Boucher, circa 1990

Our Prince of a County event will be a special one this year; it will be held in the Goodloe House on the campus of Bowie State University. This handsome Colonial Revival building was designed by one of this area's pioneering black architects, to be the home of the first president (then called principal) of the Maryland Normal and Industrial School, now Bowie State University. This handsome house was completed in 1916.

The Goodloe House is four-square in plan, of wood frame construction faced with brick; the main block is two-and-one-half-stories, with a two-story rear wing. It is distinguished by tall exterior corbelled brick chimneys, Palladian-style gable dormers, and a wrap-around veranda. Interior plan has central stairhall and flanking double parlors, with classical trim of dark-stained pine, and features pocket and accordion doors with original hardware.

The movement toward establishing this school began in 1908 when the trustees of the Baltimore Normal School for the Education of Colored Teachers offered its assets to the State of Maryland on the condition that the state maintain a permanent

normal school for training black teachers. In 1910, the state purchased a 187-acre tract of land near the town of Bowie, and began construction. The Maryland Normal School at Bowie was dedicated in June of 1911, and opened three months later with an enrollment of 58 students.

The first appointed principal of the new school was Don Speed Smith Goodloe, who was born in Kentucky in 1878 and who attended Berea College in Kentucky, at the time known as the only racially integrated college in the South. He finished his bachelor's degree at Allegheny College and the Meadville Theological School in Pennsylvania, and was the first black student to graduate. After serving as vice-principal at the Manassas Industrial School in Virginia, he responded to the opportunity to help establish the new school at Bowie. He was employed as principal under a joint contract with his wife, Fannie Carey Goodloe, who served as matron and music teacher. D. S. S. Goodloe served as teacher-principal of the new Maryland Normal School from 1911 to 1921.

Goodloe had to provide his own dwelling, and in 1914 and 1915 purchased 38 acres of land just northwest of the new campus, and contracted with the Moore Architectural Company to prepare plans and specifications for a two-story, ten-room house; the company was run by John A. Moore in Washington D.C. Moore had grown up in North Carolina, and though little is known of his youth and training, he had, by 1911 established himself both as carpenter and architect in Washington, D.C. He prepared the plans and specifications in 1915 for Goodloe, who hired local black laborers to construct the house. Lumber for the framing was cut on the Goodloe property, and bricks were molded and mortar mixed

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Newsletter Editors: Susan G. Pearl
Donna Schneider
John Peter Thompson
Newsletter Contributors: Christine Garcia, Stacey Hawkins, Susan Pearl, Donna Schneider

Webmaster: Vacant

THEN & NOW is published quarterly. You are invited to submit a relevant article for print (subject to space limitations).

All Society members are invited and welcome to attend the monthly Board meetings. Please check our website for dates, times and location.

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

FREDERICK S. DEMARR LIBRARY OF COUNTY HISTORY

Greenbelt Library Building, Lower Level

11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt

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Hours: Saturday, 12-4 PM

By Appointment at Other Times



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The Society would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support. Their donations help to fund various Society programs, its newsletter, website, and the Frederick S. DeMarr Library. Thank You!

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MEMBERS & SPONSORS

The Society's membership and sponsorship renewal period starts October 1 for the 2018 calendar year. The renewal notices will be sent to current sponsors and members starting in November. As always, we greatly appreciate your interest in and support of the Society.

University of Maryland Pioneer Returns

In 1955, just one year after the landmark Supreme Court decision *Brown v Board of Education of Topeka*, Elaine Johnson enrolled as a freshman at the University of Maryland. She became one of the first seven African American students to be permitted to live on campus. Miss Johnson had won a full, four-year scholarship to study at the university.

ELAINE JOHNSON, Baltimore; Ed., B.S. Business Education—Red Cross Club; Md. Christian Fellowship. FRANCES KAYE JOHNSON, Hyattsville; A&S, B.A., History, Pre-Law—AΞΔ; UT; Flying Follies; Interlude. GLENN JOHNSON, Baltimore; Eng., B.S., Civil Engineering—ASCE. NETTIE JANET JOHNSON, Falls Church, Va.; Ed., B.A., Childhood Education—ΔΔΔ; SNEA; Newman Club; Fresh. Orientation Board; *M-Book*.



Miss Johnson would earn her Bachelor of Education in 1959, becoming the first African American woman to complete a four-year degree at College Park. On May 23, 2017, she returned for the first time to the residence hall she had called home for four long years. And she remembered. In those years, Maryland was still a segregated state and change would not come easily.

On the day she returned to the university, Mrs. Elaine Johnson Coates and two of her family members toured her old dormitory, Caroline Hall; the Adele H. Stamp Student Union where her senior picture forms part of a photo montage; and the Nyumburu Cultural Center which didn't exist when Elaine attended the university. The day ended with a luncheon attended by Dean Bonnie Thornton Dill of the College of Arts and Humanities, University Archivist Anne Turkos, Nicole R. Pollard, Esq. of the University of Maryland College Park Foundation, and Christine M. Garcia. It was a day filled with memories, questions, and sharing history—her story.

Holiday Party and Elections

Please join the Society and Maryland Milestones for a celebration of the holidays at the Belair Mansion in Bowie on Sunday, December 10, 2017, from 3 to 5 PM. Food and drink will be provided.

The Society's election of officers and directors will also occur that afternoon. Are you interested in being on the Society's board? All of the officer positions and six director positions are available. Officers are for a one-year term and directors are for a three-year term. You are welcome to attend one of our monthly board meetings to get a better understanding of the organization prior to declaring your interest. If you would like to volunteer for the board or attend a meeting, please contact John Peter Thompson at 301-440-8404 for more information.



Old Parish House's 200th Anniversary



Old Parish House Celebrates 200

4711 Knox Road
College Park

September 15 - 17, 2017

Come join your friends and neighbors as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Old Parish House, built in 1817 as part of the Riversdale estate. Through lectures, art, music, dance, storytelling, hands-on activities and field day fun, we'll showcase the historical and cultural times in which the building was constructed.

Friday, September 15, 7:30 - 9:30 pm: *Vintage dancing* at nearby St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 4512 College Avenue, College Park. Live music of Transatlantic Crossing, specializing in fiddle tunes from both sides of the Atlantic. Come dance to some traditional music featuring reels, contras, waltzes and mixers with this fabulous band and their live caller. No partner, no experience necessary – all are welcome.

Saturday, September 16, 12:00 - 4:00 pm: *Family Fun Day*. A day of crafts, sports, stories and activities for the whole family! Storytellers Debra Mims and Charley Montroll will enthrall children with their highly engaging and interactive stories, songs, nursery rhymes and magic. Churn some butter, make some ice cream! Have fun with paper and fabric. Compete with your friends in Field Day Fun. Walking tours of historic Old Town College Park. Horse and wagon rides through the neighborhood.

Saturday, September 16, 7:30 - 9:30 pm: *Community Sing-along and Ice Cream Social*, led by Melissa Sites on guitar, featuring ice cream favorites from the University of Maryland Dairy.

Sunday, September 17, 1:00 - 4:00 pm: *History Day*. Learn about the beginnings of the University, the development of the neighborhood, how enslaved people and the cultivation of tobacco helped shape our region, and how Napoleon influenced the development of College Park! Noted speakers include Dr. Dennis Doster, chair of the Black History Program, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Anne Turkos, recently retired archivist at the University of Maryland; and a special visit from "Mrs. Rosalie Calvert," who will explain what life was really like for the "mistress of Riversdale" in 1817.

Be a part of history. We're relying on community volunteers to make this a successful celebration.

For a complete listing of all events and volunteer opportunities, go to:

www.OPHat200.com

or follow us on Facebook at: facebook.com/events/1381432495225756/

A City of College Park program. Partners include College Park Arts Exchange, Riversdale House Museum, Maryland Milestones/ATHA (Anacostia Trails Heritage Area) and University of Maryland Office of Community Engagement



by horsepower on the site. Goodloe himself oversaw the construction project. The house was completed in 1916 and assessed at a value of \$2000, a substantial value for this period.

Goodloe served as principal at the Bowie Normal School until 1921, after which he moved to Baltimore, and later to Washington, D.C., where he took up a career in real estate. His wife and their sons continued to live in the house at Bowie. Don S. S. Goodloe died in 1959, and his wife in 1969, after which the house remained the home of their son, Wallis A. Goodloe. For its architectural and historical significance, the Goodloe House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. In 2000, the house and approximately 20 acres of property were purchased by Bowie State University; the house is now the Goodloe Alumni House at Bowie State University.

Our guest speaker for the afternoon is Ricardo C. Mitchell, President of the Bowie State University Alumni Association.

The Historical Society is proud to hold its annual Prince of a County fundraiser at this historic house. We look forward to joining with the alumni/alumnae of Bowie State University, and hope that you will join us in marking the full century of this important building. Details are in the invitations or visit our website www.pghistory.org for more information.

Lecture Partnerships

On Friday, **September 8, 2017**, from 11 AM to 3 PM, Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, will be hosting "A Day in the Life of a Resource Library." The lecture will center around the Natural and Historical Resources Division County History Library and our own Frederick S. DeMarr Library. See how the two libraries complement each other to bring you the most up-to-date and extensive research capabilities. Please call 301-464-5291 for more information.

This fall the Society is partnering again with the Prince George's County Library System. The first lecture will be on Wednesday, **October 25, 2017**, at 7:30 PM at the Accokeek Branch Library, 15773 Livingston Road in Accokeek. The speaker will be Dr. Jennifer Stabler, M-NCPPC Archeology Planner Coordinator. Her topic is "Archeology, Cemeteries and Planning in Prince George's County."

The November lecture is still being finalized. It will be either **November 6 or 13, 2017**, at 7:30 PM at a library location TBD. Kristin Montaperto, M-NCPPC Archeologist, will be the speaker. Details will be found on www.pghistory.org once arranged.

All of the lectures are free!

DeMarr Library Holiday Closures

The Frederick S. DeMarr Library will be closed on Saturday, December 23 and 30, 2017, so staff and volunteers can spend the holidays with their families. The library will be open again on Saturday, January 6, 2018, from 12 to 4 PM. Happy Holidays!

Newsletter Change

The Then & Now newsletter will be taking a break in January and will resume publication in February 2018.

Prince George's County Tidbits

Did you know that ...

Today's turkey started from a breeding program at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in 1934. They used four different breeds (White Holland White Austrian, Narragansett, and Bronze) and Wild Turkey to create what became the Beltsville Small White. This turkey made its commercial debut in 1947. However, consumers wanted more breast meat, so the Beltsville Small White was bred with others to create the Broad Breasted White. By 1965, this turkey took over the commercial market and today, over 300 million turkeys are produced annually.

Here are some tidbits about turkeys to wow your guests at the Thanksgiving table:



A historic photo of a Beltsville Small White breed turkey. Released by the Agricultural Research Service.

- ⇒ Minnesota is the top turkey-producing state.
- ⇒ One-fifth of the turkeys produced are eaten at Thanksgiving.
- ⇒ The average weight of a Thanksgiving turkey is 15 pounds.
- ⇒ Turkeys began being presented to the President of the United States In 1947.
- ⇒ President Ronald Reagan was the first to grant the turkey a presidential pardon in 1987.
- ⇒ Turkey's can see in color and movement almost 100 yards away, but do not see well at night.
- ⇒ Turkeys do not really have ears, but they have very good hearing.
- ⇒ Even though domestic turkeys have wings they cannot fly. However, wild turkeys can fly for short bursts and at speeds of up to 55 miles per hour.
- ⇒ The Native Americans hunted wild turkey for its sweet, juicy meat as early as 1000 A.D.
- ⇒ Henry VIII was the first English King to enjoy turkey.

Give the Gift of History



The holiday season is the perfect time to give the gift of history. The Society is offering its members three gift-giving savings.

All book orders purchased using the newsletter order form will receive free shipping.

If you would like to give a Society membership, you can receive a \$10 discount on any new Individual or Family membership when you renew your Society membership or sponsorship.

Gift a new Society Membership and you can also receive a copy of *Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures* for \$20.00. Please mark the box on the membership form.

All book orders and gift memberships must be postmarked by December 31, 2017. The gift membership offers cannot be combined.

Please note that these options are not available through our website www.pghistory.org.

Publications

- ___ **Prince George's County: A Pictorial History*** – The history and essence of Prince George's County come alive in words and pictures in this beautiful collector's edition, with more than 350 photographs, maps, and illustrations. Author: Alan Virta. 1998 - Revised and updated edition. Hardcover, 308 pages. **\$42.95**
- ___ **Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures*** – A cultural history of Prince George's County, with many photographs from private collections. Authors George D. Denny, Jr., Nathania A. Branch Miles, Donna L. Schneider. Printed 2011. Hardcover, 192 pages. **\$39.95**
- ___ **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. **\$5.00**
- ___ **Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington including the County of Prince George Maryland** – Compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G. M. Hopkins 1878 including "historical" sketches. Indexed. Reprint 1979. Soft cover, 32 pages. **\$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. **\$10.00**
- ___ **Prince George's County, Maryland, Indexes of Church Registers 1686-1885** – Volume I - Protestant Episcopal Church, King George's Parish, and Queen Anne's Parish. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 200 pages. **\$20.00**
- ___ **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. Author: Helen W. Brown. Reprint 2000. Soft cover, 196 pages. **\$20.00**
- ___ **Out of the Past – Prince Georgians and Their Land** – Chronicle of everyday life in Prince George's County, Maryland, from the time of its founding in 1696 until the beginning of the Civil War. (Information for this book was gleaned from public records, newspapers, and private papers.) Author: R. Lee Van Horn. Reprint 1996. Hardcover, 422 pages. **\$15.00**
- ___ **Tricentennial Cook Book** – Contains recipes collected from Prince George's County residents as part of the tricentennial celebration. Compiled and edited by Dorothy Rainwater and the Tricentennial Celebration Committee. Printed 1996. Soft cover, spiral bound, 150 pages. **\$5.00**
- ___ **Prince George's County Maryland** - A pictorial history of the county, an Arcadia Images of America book by Katharine D. Bryant and Donna L. Schneider. Soft cover, 128 pages. **\$18.99**

Shipping and handling is \$4.00 per order. If ordering more than one copy of books with an asterisk (*) add \$3.00 for each additional book.

Shipping and handling for international orders, please call 301-220-0330 or email us at pgchslibrary@aol.com for current postage rates.

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Mail your order to: PGCHS Publication Sales, P. O. Box 1513, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1513

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Prince George's County Historical Society Membership Application

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PGCHS MEMBERSHIP: (Please circle one)

☐ Full-time Student \$10 ☐ Individual \$30 ☐ Family \$45 ☐ Corporate \$75 ☐ Life Member \$500

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

For membership in the Maryland Historical Society you must also be a PGCHS member, include an additional

☐ \$35 for individual ☐ \$50 for family (a \$15 savings off each category)

Please make checks payable to **PGCHS** and mail your check and this form to:
Prince George's County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1513, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1513



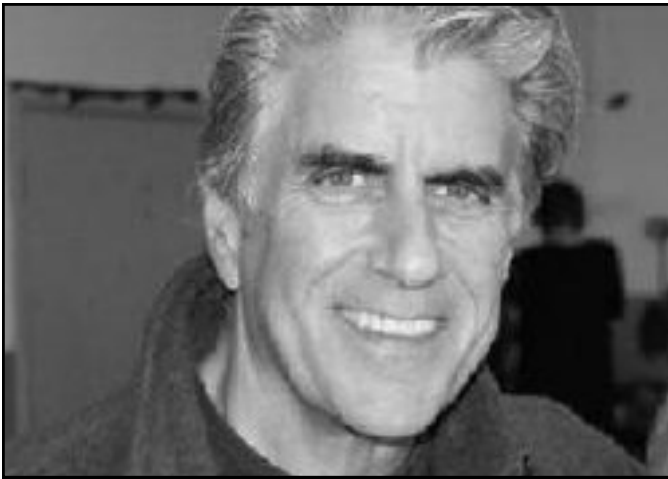
THEN & NOW

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XLVI NO. 5

Special Edition - 2017

In Memoriam - John J. Petro



John Joseph Petro, 63, founder of Petro Design/Build Group in Mitchellville, Maryland, died peacefully in his sleep on Monday, September 11, 2017, after a 2 1/2-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He is survived by Kathleen Litchfield, his wife, business partner, and soul mate of 35 years, sisters Anna Beall (Malcolm), Gina Raley (Richard), Jim Petro (Sue) and over 60 nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents James Petro and Marian Burdick Petro.

John was born in Washington DC and a 1971 graduate of Duval High School in Prince George's County. He was a successful entrepreneur, establishing the business which bears his name in 1972 at the age of 18. Over the past 45 years he designed, developed, and constructed a variety of projects including commercial sites, residential subdivisions and golf courses.

John's passions included the Prince George's County Historical Society, where he served as president for the past 15 years; River Valley Ranch (RVR) as an active board member he oversaw their redevelopment and renovations - John worked as a young teen at the Ranch and cherished his experiences and connections; and the International Fur-

nishings and Design Association (IFDA) where he served as its treasurer and worked to build a strong sense of community within the design industry. He was also on the Board of Preservation Maryland as he was passionate about preserving memories and buildings within his own County and state. John also served as a Board member of the Maryland Historic Trust, the Northeast Rescue Mission and many other professional organizations.

John was instrumental in the preservation of Belt Woods - over 700 acres of old growth hardwood forest located in Prince George's County, which is home to the highest density of forest songbirds and the largest stand of Virgin White Oak on the east coast.

John, above all, was a good friend and mentor to many and will be missed deeply.

In lieu of flowers, donations in John's name may be made to one of the following organizations: River Valley Ranch, Believe Big, and/or the Prince George's County Historical Society.

John never considered for a moment that he would not live for many more years. He continued scheduling meetings, planning holidays and even his niece Madeleine's upcoming wedding.

I chose to follow his lead - as always. He was never in pain, never complained and mentally active and alert until just the day before his passing.

Through the hundreds of Facebook posts, texts, emails and cards I know that John had an impact on many, many lives.

There will never be another John J. Petro.

-Kathleen Litchfield

Society Elections

Following are the slate of officers and directors being presented at the Society's annual election meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017:

President: Donna L. Schneider
Vice President: Jack I. Thompson, Jr.
Treasurer: Ruth Davis-Rogers
Secretary: Jane Taylor Thomas

Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Directors:
(3-year term) Arthur J. Dock
Amanda Elliott
Justin V. McClain
Nathania Branch Miles
Lynn Springer Roberts

There is one director position available. If you would like to volunteer for the board, please contact John Peter Thompson at 301-440-8404. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

We will take a few minutes during the party to hold the elections.

Holiday Mixer

Join the Society and Maryland Milestones in celebrating the season at our annual holiday mixer (and Society elections).

Belair Mansion
12207 Tulip Grove Road
Bowie, MD 20715

Sunday, December 10, 2017
3 to 5 PM

Food and drink provided

And it is Free!

