



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Mount Calvert, Society Headquarters

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To Our Members and Sponsors:

Welcome to the Prince George's County Historical Society's 2016 annual report. This report is designed to provide a recap of the events and activities of the Society's 64<sup>th</sup> year as well as a look forward to plans for the future.

*The purpose of the Prince George's County Historical Society is to Collect, Preserve, Interpret, Share and Disseminate the Heritage, History, and Cultures of Prince George's County.*

To support our purpose we:

- ❖ Foster an understanding and appreciation of the history and heritage of Prince George's County;
- ❖ Collect, record, organize, restore and preserve historical data, artifacts and all associated materials relative to Prince George's County and the state of Maryland;
- ❖ Promote and encourage research into all aspects of Prince George's County history and heritage;
- ❖ Acquaint and make available to members and the general public historical data and all associated materials relating to Prince George's County through programs and publications arranged or sponsored by the Society; and
- ❖ Encourage and participate in the protection and preservation of historic sites and structures in Prince George's County.

The Society is a non-profit body of five officers and up to 18 directors. The Board of Directors is a volunteer body and serves without compensation. The Society may accept gifts, bequests or endowments and solicit funds for its programs under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### **Board of Directors as of December 31, 2016**

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

#### **Directors (year term expires)**

Kent Abraham (2017)	Justin McClain (2017)
Michael Arnold (2017)	Barrington McKoy (2018)
John Brunner (2016)	Nathania Branch Miles (2017)
Maya Davis (2018)	Nancy Dixon Saxon (2018)
Arthur Dock (2016)	Mandi Solomon (2017)
Elizabeth Dougherty (2016)	Patricia Skews (2016)
Christine Garcia (2016)	Wayne Tonkins, Sr. (2018)
Stacey Hawkins (2017)	Sealani Weiner (2016)

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## The Society's 2016 Activities

**Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History** is located on the lower level of the Greenbelt Public Library. The DeMarr Library was founded by Fred DeMarr, who served as President and Historian of the Society for a number of years. He was a life-long resident of the county and had an abiding interest in all aspects of Prince George's County history. His collection was donated to the Society by the DeMarr family after his untimely death in 1997.

The DeMarr Library continues to be staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers including **Susan G. Pearl**, Historian, **Sarah Bourne**, **Dusty Rhoads**, and **Diane Stultz**, Genealogical Research Specialist. Volunteers **Nathan Avant**, **Kurt Flick**, **Sarah Jones**, **Clement Lau**, **Dan Louck**, **Leigh Ryan**, **Donna Schneider** and **Tom Simon** are engaged in cataloging the collections of written materials and maps, scanning and indexing newsletters, converting VHS tapes to DVD, obituaries and the miscellaneous things that need to be done. Several collections of papers, articles, books, and photographs have been received, including items for the Hyattsville Public Library's collection. Thanks to a grant received from Maryland Milestones Nathan has been actively digitizing from our microfilm collection the late 19<sup>th</sup> century *Prince George's Enquirer*. We are always in search of yearbooks from schools in the county, so if you have any to donate, please let us know. Questions concerning aspects of the history of Prince George's County may be directed by telephone to 301-220-0330, email at [info@pghistory.org](mailto:info@pghistory.org), or on the web message board. Materials do not circulate, but may be used at the DeMarr Library. Photocopies of non-copyrighted materials are free for Society members and color copies or items scanned onto a CD are available for a modest fee.

The library is open on Saturdays from 12-4 PM and open at other times by appointment. Please contact us at 301-220-0330 or [info@pghistory.org](mailto:info@pghistory.org) to schedule an appointment.

**Membership and Sponsorship.** We would like to thank members who renewed and new members who joined us in 2016. The membership cycle is a calendar year basis from January to December, with dues notices sent to members each December. A membership card is provided for each membership and sponsorship and all members receive the Prince George's County Historical Society's newsletter. Program discounts will periodically be offered to members. PGCHS members are able to receive a discounted membership with the Maryland Historical Society with payment of PGCHS dues annually or with status as a life member.

**Preservation** of the county's historic properties continues to be an interest of ours. During 2016, we monitored Compton Bassett in Upper Marlboro, Glenn Dale Hospital, Fairmount Heights High School, the Old Marlboro High School/Elementary School in Upper Marlboro, Peace Cross in Bladensburg, and other properties throughout the county. The Society also supported the historic site designation of the "Old Stone Building" in Upper Marlboro.

**Public Relations** activities are through our website, [www.pghistory.org](http://www.pghistory.org), newsletter and Facebook page and blog. The website is continually changing. This year we added a list of local school yearbooks we have in our collection. *Then & Now* continues to be our primary source to impart news and information to our members. In 2016 we changed the look of our newsletter and it will continue to evolve. Late breaking news or announcements will be emailed to members for whom we have addresses, and will appear in a banner on the home page of our website.

### **Programs and Activities:**

In cooperation with Marietta House Museum, **Stacey Hawkins** arranged for a lecture series in March, April and May on "The Burroughs Diaries and the Secretary Desk" by **Susan Pearl** and

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**Lynn Roberts**, “The USDA Plant Introduction Station in Glenn Dale,” and “Off to the Races- Horseracing in Maryland.” In addition to the lectures at Marietta, there was also a bus tour led by **Susan Pearl** to area Rosenwald Schools in June.

The Society partnered with the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System for spring lectures on “The Stier-Peeters Collection of Old World Master Paintings” by **Susan Pearl**, “Archeology in Prince George’s County” by Jennifer Stabler and “Historic Building Preservation in Prince George’s County” by Fred Stachura. During the fall, lectures were “Glenn Dale Hospital and its Historic Preservation” by Fred Stachura and “People, Places and Politics of Maryland” by **John Peter Thompson**.

“Some of the Finest Paintings Ever in America” exhibit curated by the Society’s **Susan Pearl** and the Riversdale House Museum opened on April 7, 2016, to much acclaim and enthusiasm. The University of Maryland Collaboratory brought an “augmented reality” to the paintings last seen at Riversdale 200 years ago. These electronic enhancements presented viewers with an introductory discussion of the collection and related items in the exhibit.

The annual St. George’s Day awards and luncheon was held on April 24, 2016, at the Epiphany Episcopal Church in Forestville and catered by Pineapple Alley Catering. St. George’s Awardees were:

**City of Bowie** – to commemorate Bowie’s Thoroughbred horse racing history

**Huntington Heritage Society, Inc.** – for the publication of *Cherished Memories About Living in Bowie or the Vicinity*

**City of Greenbelt** – for the renovation of the Old Greenbelt Theatre

**Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.** – for the publication of *Faith & Tobacco: A History of St. Thomas Episcopal Parish*

**Prince George’s Philharmonic** – for 50 years of musical performance and education

**The Sacred Heart History Committee** – for the publication of *Sacred Heart at White Marsh 1741-2015*

The annual Historic Preservation Week reception was held on May 18, 2016, at Oxon Hill Manor in Oxon Hill. The Society partnered again with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, ATHA/Maryland Milestones, the Prince George’s County Historical & Cultural Trust, the University of Maryland, and other county organizations and businesses to host the event. This year’s keynote address was presented by Nicholas A. Redding, Executive Director of Preservation Maryland. The Prince George’s County Historic Preservation Commission presented historic site plaques to six recipients, Maryland Milestones presented their Heritage Tourism Awards, and the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at the University of Maryland presented the Prince George’s Fellowship Award and St. Clair Wright Award. The Society inaugurated the President’s Preservation Award by presenting it to **Jim and Bobbi McCeney** of Laurel. The award is given to someone who supports the preservation of the county’s history outside of the efforts of the Society.

**Jane Taylor Thomas** and **Nathania Branch Miles**, as the Society’s representatives, joined with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Prince George’s County Chapter and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to host the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Juneteenth Celebration at the Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park on June 18, 2016. The annual event commemorates the end of slavery. This year’s observance titled “Footprints and Roots,” had Dr. Edna Medford from Howard University as its keynote speaker along with a series of workshops for beginner to advanced family researchers. This event was a complement to the

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family fun day hosted by the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation at Walker Mill Regional Park.

Our annual Prince of a County fundraiser was held at the home of **Eugene and Lynn Springer Roberts**, formerly known as Patuxent Elementary School in Upper Marlboro, on September 18, 2016. Many thanks to the Roberts, who in addition to opening their home, also sponsored the event, thus making it a true fundraiser for the Society.

In the Society's continuing series of lectures celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, **Christine Garcia** arranged for Dennis Montagna, PhD to present "The Art of Dionicio Rodriguez" on October 20, 2016, at the University of Maryland.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Maryland Legacy Day was a co-sponsorship among the Prince George's County Chapter Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Society. Maryland Legacy Day is in honor of the legacy and heritage of the enslaved men, women and children who became free on November 1, 1864. This year's celebration was held on November 19, 2016, at the LDS Family History Center in Suitland.

The Society partnered again with ATHA/Maryland Milestones for our annual holiday mixer at the Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center in Hyattsville on December 13, 2016. Due to a lack of a quorum of the membership at the time the elections were held, we did not elect a new board for 2017. Plans for an alternate election will be determined as quickly as possible.

***As always, we would like to thank our valued volunteers, members and sponsors for their support and participation. Your continued interest in our programs and activities is greatly appreciated. We could not continue to operate without your involvement.***

**Gold:**

**Minuteman Press of Crofton  
Petro Design/Build  
Eugene & Lynn Roberts**

**Silver:**

**John Brunner  
Kenneth & Mary Gossett  
James Masters  
Anne S. Paul  
Donna Schneider  
Patricia Tatspaugh**

**Bronze:**

**George & Margaret Callcott  
Sandra Cross**

**Joseph Dehuarte  
Sandra Emme  
Andrew & Karen House  
Rebecca Livingston  
Dan Louck  
Benjamin & Diana McCeney  
Douglas & Susan McElrath  
Thomas V. Mike Miller  
Ghiselin & Anne Sasscer  
Judy & Ken Schneider  
Stephen & Barbara Sonnett  
William Teslik  
Andrew & Sondra Wallace  
David J. Wallace  
Patricia Williams**

**Monthly Board of Director Meetings**

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

## Profit and Loss Report – FY15 and FY16

	<u>FY 2015</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
ATHA Grant	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Book Sales	\$ 1,112.20	\$ 549.45
Donations Received	\$ 3,795.00	\$ 716.00
Endowment Fund	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Interest Income	\$ 10.78	\$ 23.76
Library Income	\$ 2,415.45	\$ 377.29
MDHS Dues Received	\$ 1,235.00	\$ -
PGCHS Dues Received	\$ 3,410.00	\$ 5,785.00
Program/Activity Income	\$ 4,815.00	\$ 6,660.00
Sponsorships Received	\$ 7,005.00	\$ 4,500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 23,798.43</b>	<b>\$ 19,161.50</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Book Sales Postage/Taxes/Fees	\$ 207.66	\$ 25.82
Donations & Gifts Paid	\$ 150.00	\$ -
Dues & Subscriptions Paid	\$ 460.00	\$ 165.00
General Operations Expenses	\$ 11,691.48	\$ 6,312.72
History Day Awards	\$ 150.00	\$ -
Insurance Paid	\$ 1,362.00	\$ 1,353.00
Legal Fees	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Library Expenses	\$ 1,361.81	\$ 1,530.33
MDHS Dues Paid	\$ 1,140.00	\$ -
Membership Expenses	\$ 617.85	\$ 592.41
News & Notes Expenses	\$ 2,982.21	\$ 2,443.03
Video project	\$ 828.00	\$ 334.20
Program/Activity Expenses	\$ 11,001.25	\$ 8,039.38
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 31,952.26</b>	<b>\$ 21,295.89</b>
<b>Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (8,153.83)</b>	<b>\$ (2,134.39)</b>
<b>Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2016</b>		
Checking	\$ 27,070.53	
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,787.50	
Fixed Assets	\$ 12,478.27	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 41,336.30</b>	