



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Partners



To Our Members and Sponsors:

Welcome to the Prince George's County Historical Society's 2019 annual report. This report is designed to provide a recap of the events and activities of the Society's 67th year, as well as a look forward to plans for the future.

After approval of our updated by-laws at the December 9, 2018, membership meeting, we held our first board elections utilizing the change of allowing the Board to elect from within. The Board elected to retain the officers and board members whose term was up at the end of 2018.

The Society greatly appreciates the monetary contributions from our members, sponsors, and from donations received. However, the Board can only do so much without the Society's input. We need members to attend our activities and volunteer at the Frederick DeMarr Library, for the Board, and at events. We realize that everyone has competing priorities and limited time. Low participation is making us re-think what we should offer to our membership, if anything at all, other than the DeMarr Library and our newsletter, *Then & Now*.

The DeMarr Library is continuing to grow as we purchase items to add to our resources and receive donations of books and various materials. Our volunteers do a variety of activities ranging from answering questions, assisting researchers, cataloguing books, collecting and organizing materials, converting slides to digital and VHS tapes to CDs, being a smiling face as you walk in the door, and so many other things.

Updates to the website are in process with new and updated content being revealed in early 2020. We are looking for a webmaster that can assist us in updating the website when needed, as well as keeping the calendar current. Please contact us if this is something you can help with, or if you can suggest someone we might be able to call.

We welcome all members to attend board meetings and participate. Please contact us to find out when we are having meetings or if interested in volunteering.

Again, thank you for being a member or sponsor of the Society and we value your continuous support!

Respectfully,

Donna Schneider

Donna Schneider
President

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The Society's 2019 Activities

Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History ("DeMarr Library") 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. Our library "angel," Fred's sister, Louise Tatspaugh, as his executrix, donated Fred's "library" to the Society in 1999.

The DeMarr Library continues to be staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers that assist visitors with historical and genealogical research, catalogue and organize the collections of written materials and maps, scan and index newsletters, archive obituaries along with all of the other miscellaneous things that need to be done to keep the library running. The Society would like to recognize our volunteers: **Sarah Bourne, Anthony Engel, Kurt Flick, Kevin Fries, Oscar Gregory, Joy Medley, Susan Pearl, Leigh Ryan, Tom Simon, and Diane Stultz.** **Clement Lau** returned to volunteer at the library after being away for several years. A huge THANK YOU to all of our volunteers!



We continue to receive collections of papers, articles, books, ephemera, and photographs to add to our collection. We are always in search of yearbooks from schools in the county, so if you have any to donate, please let us know. Questions about Prince George's County may be directed by telephone to 301-220-0330, email at info@pghistory.org, or on the web message board. Materials do not circulate and may only 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.

Membership and Sponsorship. We would like to thank members who renewed and new members who joined us in 2019. ***The membership cycle is on 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, *Then & Now*. Program discounts will be periodically offered to members. PGCHS members receive a discounted membership with the Maryland Historical Society with payment annually of PGCHS dues or sponsorship or with status as a life member.

Preservation of the county's historic properties continues to be an interest of ours. We monitor the Glenn Dale Hospital, Fairmount Heights High School, the Old Stone Building in Upper Marlboro, the Peace Cross in Bladensburg, and others. On November 19, 2019, the Old Marlboro Primary School (Historic Site 79-019-15) and the Old Marlboro High School (Historic Site 79-019-52) were removed from the Inventory of Historic Resources through an amendment to the 2010 Prince George's County Historic Sites and Districts Plan. However, the adjacent property, the Dr. William and Sarah Beans Cemetery (Historic Site 79-019-22) will continue to be preserved in place and protected.

Public Relations activities are through our website, www.pghistory.org, the *Then & Now* newsletter and Facebook page and blog. *Then & Now* continues to be our primary source to impart news and information to our members. Late breaking news or announcements will be emailed to members for whom we have email addresses and will appear in a banner on the home page of our website. If you would like to receive information by email, please send a request to info@pghistory.org.

Fundraising. We continue to receive donations to the **John M. Essex Memorial Fund**, which provides financial assistance to scholars, authors, graduate students and doctoral candidates wishing to research the architectural heritage of Prince George's County, MD.

The **John J. Petro Fund** supports placing ghost structures and signage at Mount Calvert Archaeological Park in Upper Marlboro MD.

The **DeMarr Library** gets monetary contributions to help purchase books and other items needed to aid researchers and others in learning about the County's history. We established the Fill-a-Shelf campaign to help us complete collections of important and requested research materials.

We tried something new this year by having a fundraiser at Franklins Restaurant, Brewery and General Store on July 23, 2019.

We sell books. The DeMarr Library has gently used books and excess inventory that we offer for sale at \$0.50 for paperbacks, \$1.00 for hardcovers and \$1.50 for coffee table books. The Society also has publications for sale. For the listing of books, please visit our website, www.pghistory.org or see our newsletter, *Then & Now*.

Programs and Activities:

We partnered with the Marietta House Museum for a spring lecture series. The lectures were on African American women in music: Portia Washington Pittman, Pearl Bailey, Ella Fitzgerald, and Aretha Franklin.



The annual St. George's Day awards were presented at the Historic Preservation Month reception held on May 23, 2019, at Snow Hill Manor in Laurel. H. Clay Braswell, Jr., Vice President-Advancement for the Maryland Historical Society was the guest speaker. Historic Site plaques were presented by the Historic Preservation Commission to: **Calvert Family Cemetery (68-004-03)** in Riverdale Park, **Bowieville (74A-018)** in Bowie, **Osborn-Talburtt Cemetery (78-008)** in Westphalia, and **Scott Farmhouse (87B-036-11)** in Aquasco. Maryland Milestones presented Heritage Awards for: Heritage & Historic

Preservation: **Glenn Dale Hospital Legislative Success**, Heritage & Arts: **College Park Aviation, Museum & Pyramid Atlantic Art Center** for their collaboration on the 100th anniversary of airmail and the Misprints exhibit, and Heritage & Natural Resources: **30th Anniversary of the Anacostia Watershed Society**, The University's School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation presented the Prince George's Fellowship Award, also known as the Margaret Brent Award, to **Sara Baum** for her work on the collection of Margaret Brent papers that have been donated to the University.

The Society presented its President's Preservation Award to **Warren "Dusty" Rhoads**. The St. George's Day awards were given to:

Virginia Beauchamp for her accomplishments at the University of Maryland, the *Greenbelt News Review* and for women's issues

Aaron Marcavitch for *US Route 1: Baltimore to Washington, DC*

Jenny Masur for *Heroes of the Underground Railroad Around Washington, D.C.*

Mark Opsasnick for *Rock the Potomac: Popular Music and Early-Era Rock and Roll in the Washington, D.C. Area*

Krista Schlyer for *River of Redemption: Almanac of Life on the Anacostia*

Jane Taylor Thomas and **Nathanial 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 14th annual Juneteenth Celebration on June 15, 2019. The annual event commemorates the end of slavery. Ric Murphy, the National Vice President for History for the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. and educator, historian and award-winning author gave the keynote address. Concurrent sessions on genealogy, how to write a family history, stories of emancipation, and an overview of enslaved life and labor on Maryland plantations were just a few of the day's topics. There were also special activities for children to introduce them to genealogy and family history. This event is a complement to the family fun day hosted by the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation at Watkins Regional Park.

The Society is collaborating with Professor William Thomas from the University of Nebraska, who is working on freedom suits filed between 1800 and 1862 in the District of Columbia counts. He is looking for information on members of the Duckett family in Prince George's County. Our historian, **Susan Pearl**, has been working with him and they have documented one man's manumission by a member of the Duckett family, and his role in the subsequent establishment of the community of Duckettville near Bowie. If you can help, please contact us.

Marietta House Museum in Glenn Dale hosted "The Write Women Bookfest" on September 21, 2019, that the Society participated. We featured books by several of the Society's female authors: **Katharine Bryant**, **Nathanial Branch Miles**, **Susan Pearl**, **Donna Schneider**, and **Patricia Sluby**.

Belair Mansion in Bowie co-sponsored with the Society a lecture by **Susan Pearl** on the *Green Book* on September 21, 2019.

On December 15, 2019, the Society's Vice President, **Jack Thompson, Junior**, opened his beautiful home, Beechwood, for our holiday party. Not only was it a gorgeous December Sunday afternoon, but there was a surprise bonus. A string quartet from the Prince George's Philharmonic, including our multi-talented historian **Susan Pearl**, played holiday music, much to the entertainment of those attending. Attendees were able to walk around the seasonally decorated house and the Society provided food and drink to share.



Prince George's Hall of Fame:

The portraits of distinguished Prince Georgians that were hanging in the County Courthouse in Upper Marlboro had to be removed in 2017. The portraits are being stored and we are looking for new locations for them to be displayed. Our preference is for them to be located at venues so they can continue to educate the public and be enjoyed. If you are aware of a location that can accommodate the portraits, please let the Society know.



Howard Zahnister (1999) - Dr. Zahnister did more than any one person to implant the idea of "wilderness" in the American consciousness. Serving as executive director of the Wilderness Society, he changed the direction of the wilderness movement from a defensive posture which fought development projects whenever they arose, to a positive movement seeking to preserve wild lands. He was author, lobbyist and full-time promoter of the bill that became the Wilderness Act. It was signed into the law on September 3, 1964. He lived and worked in Hyattsville from World War II until his death in June 1964.

As always, we would like to thank our valued members and sponsors for their support and participation. We could not continue to operate without your involvement. Also, we renamed our sponsorship categories to represent a bit of the Society's history. Each Circle represents a home of the Society since 1952.

Mt. Calvert Platinum Circle (\$1,000+):

Barry & Mary Gossett
VOB Ltd. Partnership

Marietta Gold Circle (\$500-\$999):

Richard & Sarah Bourne
Edward Leddy
Eugene & Lynn Roberts
Donna Schneider

Montpelier Silver Circle (\$250-\$499):

Karen & Andrew House
Melissa Messick
Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
Bradley Sweet
Patricia Tatspaugh

Riversdale Bronze Circle (\$100-\$249):

Richard Banvard
Peggy & Joseph Behun
George & Margaret Callcott
Patricia Cuniff
James DeMarr, Jr.
Amanda Elliott
Elizabeth Funk
Steven Gilbert
Wanda Gold
Laurie Heffernon
Theodore Hull
Raymond King
Rebecca Livingston
Dan Louck
James Masters
Benjamin & Diana McCeney
Douglas & Susan McElrath
Barrington McKoy
Frank & Shirley Nicolai
Ken Schneider
Stephen & Barbara Sonnett
William Thomas III
Patricia Williams



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 the Society's 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 member-supported, non-profit organization 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, 2019

President – Donna Schneider
Vice President – Jack Thompson, Junior
Secretary – Jane Taylor Thomas
Treasurer – Lynn Springer Roberts
Historian - Susan G. Pearl

Directors (year term expires)

John Brunner (2019)
Katharine Bryant (2020)
Maya Davis (2021)
Arthur Dock (2020)
Amanda Elliott (2020)
Christine Garcia (2019)
Stacey Hawkins (2019)

Justin McClain (2020)
Barrington McKoy (2021)
Nathania Branch Miles (2020)
Nancy Dixon Saxon (2021)
Wayne Tonkins, Sr. (2021)
Sealani Weiner (2019)

Board of Director Meetings

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

Profit and Loss Report – FY18 and FY19

	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2018</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Book Sales	\$ 317.54	\$ 262.08
Donations Received	\$ -	\$ 312.00
Interest Income	\$ 8.52	\$ 16.28
Library Income	\$ 4,420.80	\$ 2,948.45
PGCHS Dues Received	\$ 3,304.00	\$ 2,980.00
Program/Activity Income	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 5,575.00
Sponsorships Received	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,900.00
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Total Income	\$ 14,700.86	\$ 16,993.81
<u>Expenses</u>		
Book Sales Postage/Taxes/Fees	\$ 48.69	\$ 174.31
Donations & Gifts Paid	\$ -	\$ -
Dues & Subscriptions Paid	\$ 98.00	\$ 148.00
General Operations Expenses	\$ 6,839.71	\$ 6,576.65
Grant Funded Projects	\$ -	\$ -
Insurance Paid	\$ 1,262.00	\$ 1,266.00
Accounting Fees	\$ 887.00	\$ 1,555.00
Library Expenses	\$ 858.60	\$ 668.76
Membership Expenses	\$ 421.27	\$ 895.26
Newsletter Expenses	\$ 2,819.32	\$ 2,236.22
Program/Activity Expenses	\$ 2,077.18	\$ 3,309.51
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Total Expenses	\$ 15,311.77	\$ 16,829.71
Profit/(Loss)	\$ (610.91)	\$ 164.10

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2019

Checking & Savings	\$ 24,934.93	\$ 25,144.80
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,435.00	\$ 1,645.00
Fixed Assets	\$ 12,478.27	\$ 12,478.27
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Total Assets	\$ 38,848.20	\$ 39,268.07