



THEN & NOW

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XLV NO.1

JANUARY - MARCH 2016

Compton Bassett

A chapel in need of a watchful eye

On October 26th, 2015, the Prince George's County Historical Society met with representatives of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), including Commission Chair, Ms. Betty Hewlett, and Parks Director, Mr. Ronnie Gathers, at the historic site, Compton Bassett (PG79-063-10) in Upper Marlboro. Led by Senators Miller and Peters, Society President, John J. Petro and members of the Society, as well as home owners in the neighborhood, your Society asked representatives of M-NCPPC about the continuing decline of the historic home and chapel.



Left: Compton Bassett Chapel Photo Credit: Library Of Congress Above: Collapsed Wall of the Compton Bassett Chapel, Photo Credit: Donna Scheinder, September 2015

Compton Bassett was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 3rd, 1983. On August 23rd, 2011, an earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale caused structural damage to Compton Bassett and the outbuildings. Compton Bassett was first brought to the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) as a Property of Concern on November 27th, 2012. The Parks Department indicated that work on the structures would be started including removal of vegetation and repair to the Chapel. On March 14th, 2014, a wall of the Chapel was reported collapsed by the tenant living in the 20th century wing of the house. Some Society members speculate that the heavy tarp placed over the leaking roof led to the collapse of the wall. On March 18th, 2014, Mr. Greg

Kernan, former Chief of the Natural Historical Resources Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation, told the HPC that M-NCPPC had contacted experts to stabilize the chapel, and that stabilization would occur as soon as possible. In July of 2014, the HPC was informed that the emergency repairs and temporary stabilization of the chapel had been completed as of that day, but that the opening was still not enclosed. The Society decided in the summer of 2015 to investigate for itself the endless series of promises and non-events and approached Senators Miller and Peters for help.

Your Society relies on your support to continue to keep an eye on over 400 historic sites in Prince George's County. ♦



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phone: 301-220-0330

Email: pgchslibrary@aol.com
info@pghistory.org
pgchsmembers@gmail.com

Web: www.pghistory.com

President: John Petro
Vice President: Joseph Plenzler
Secretary: Jane Taylor Thomas
Treasurer/Membership: Ruth Davis Rogers
Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Newsletter Committee:
Chair: Susan Pearl
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Contributing Editor: Donna Schneider
Design & Layout Editor: Monica Jacquet

Newsletter Contributors: Robert Krause, Susan Pearl, Donna Schneider, Fred Stachura, John Peter Thompson, Laurie Verge, Henry Wixon

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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. We meet each month on the first Tuesday at 6:30PM. Locations vary, so please call 301-249-9000 for meeting details.

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 Look For The Newsletter

The Society decided it was time for an update

The Society decided it was time to update its newsletter. We have changed the title to “Then & Now” and modernized its format. The newsletter will continue to explore the County’s history, notify about events, and showcase articles about people, places and things associated with the heritage and preservation of Prince George’s County. We always welcome articles from our members, so please feel free to submit them to us. Tell us what you think about the newsletter. Send an email to us at pgchsmembers@gmail.com or post us a letter to PGCHS - Newsletter, PO Box 1513, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1513. Thanks!

Society Election Results

At our annual holiday party, the Society held its elections before the evening’s festivities began at Belair Mansion. Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected or re-elected to positions on the Society’s Board.

President: John J. Petro

Vice President: Joseph Plenzler

Secretary: Jane Taylor Thomas

Treasurer: Ruth Davis Rogers

Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Directors: Maya Davis, Kate Germano, Wayne Tonkins, Sr., Barrington McKoy, Nancy Dixon Saxon, Patricia Skews

New Members

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

Dorothy Dantoni

Ludwig Alexander Deglmann

Shelley Luehring

Peter Pedersen

Jon Sellin

Norma Irene White

Nicole Williams

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Annual Society Membership Renewal

It is time to renew your Prince George's County Historical Society (PGCHS) membership for calendar year 2016. If you have already renewed, THANK YOU! If you haven't renewed, think about adding a Maryland Historical Society (MHS) membership too. If you purchase an Individual or Family MHS membership in conjunction with the PGCHS one, you can save at least \$15 annually. Even if you have already renewed your PGCHS membership, you can add-on the MHS one. There are many benefits to the MHS membership including free access to its museum and library, discounts to MHS events, subscription to its periodicals, as well as access to a nationwide reciprocal museum program. You can renew your membership in several ways: respond to the membership renewal letter, complete the membership application on the last page of this newsletter, or log into www.pghistory.org and fill in the application and pay on-line.



Nathania Branch Miles and Lynn Springer Roberts enjoying the Society's holiday party at Belair Mansion. Photo Credit: John Peter Thompson, December 2015

A Thank You To New Members & Sponsors

The Society is actively trying to increase its membership during 2016. As an incentive for new members joining after January 1, 2016, we will be providing them with one of our publications as a thank you. If you enjoy the Society, please encourage friends and family to join. Memberships are great gifts to give at any time too. New members at the following membership or sponsorship levels will receive a copy of the following:

- ☐ Individual and Family Membership – *Calvert of Maryland*
- ☐ Corporate Sponsorship – *Out of the Past*
- ☐ Life Membership – *Prince George's County a Pictorial History*
- ☐ Bronze Sponsorship – *Out of the Past*
- ☐ Silver Sponsorship – *Calvert of Maryland and Out of the Past*
- ☐ Gold Sponsorship – *Prince George's County a Pictorial History*
- ☐ Platinum Sponsorship – *Prince George's County a Pictorial History and Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures*

Memberships or sponsorships can be submitted via our website at www.pghistory.org, then select Join Us, or complete the form on the back of the newsletter and mail it to us.

President's Preservation Award

Know Someone Deserving Of An Award? Great! Submit A Nomination.

Beginning in 2016, the Prince George's County Historical Society will be presenting a new award, the President's Preservation Award, at the annual preservation month reception held in May. 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! Send us a nomination. 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, 2016, and closes on March 15, 2016.

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.

New Deal Resources In Prince George's County

A Significant Initiative To Expand Public Historical Education

In the summer of 2015, the Historic Preservation Section of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) initiated an ambitious project to survey and document all existing historical and cultural resources associated with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal from 1933-42. Students of twentieth-century history, indeed most Marylanders, are aware of "Alphabet Agencies" and stories of the planned community at Greenbelt and perhaps even the development of the vast Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. This survey project underway by M-NCPPC seeks to expand public awareness and historical visibility of the remaining federally-funded buildings in Prince George's County. "Some people think history stands still but forget that as we move forward with time, so does history," says Prince George's Historic Preservation Commission Chairman John Peter Thompson, "The mid twentieth-century has rather suddenly become no longer the present but the important immediate past."

In canvassing existing structures and buildings of the New Deal era in suburban Maryland, M-NCPPC staff is utilizing the extensive New Deal archival holdings found at the National Archives Library II in College Park to determine where and when projects occurred, as well as their scope and impact upon the built environment. This county-wide survey has unearthed several forgotten projects like the construction of two dormitories at Bowie State University and improvements to the infrastructure of the famed Rossborough Inn on the campus of the University of Maryland-College Park. Some New Deal structures in Prince George's have been replaced, renovated, or demolished over time; the Alms House Superintendent Facility outside Laurel was one of the largest of its kind, while the New Deal Post Office in Upper Marlboro (complete with a mural by Lenore Thomas) now serves as that town's public library. Another resource used by staff is The Living New Deal, a research collective housed by the University of California-Berkley devoted to the documentation of New

(Continued on page 7)

Prince George's County Tidbits

Did you know that Prince George's County is named after Prince George of Denmark, husband of Princess Anne, later Queen of Great Britain? As a new feature in the newsletter, quarterly we will provide fun facts about Prince George's County history, people and places. Did you know ...

□ The first county seat was Charles Town, currently the site of Mount Calvert Historical & Archaeological Park?

□ The first performance of an opera with an orchestra in America was the Beggars Opera in Upper Marlboro on August 20, 1752?

□ The Beltsville Agricultural Research Center developed a turkey known as the Beltsville Small White turkey, which is smaller (8-10 pounds), has more breast meat and is part of the pedigree of nearly every turkey sold in the United States?

□ Motorsports entrepreneur Roger Penske got his start racing stock cars at Marlboro Motor Raceway in Upper Marlboro?

□ Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Brentwood has a floral clock created by famed timekeeper Seth Thomas?

Exhibit Of Old World Master Paintings

Art Collection Exhibit To Open in April 2016 at Riversdale

The first great collection of Old World master paintings in the United States, and one of the most significant private collection ever of such works, was housed at Riversdale at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The collection included 63 paintings by Rubens, Van Dyck, Jan Brueghel, Rembrandt, Titian, and many others. These paintings were brought to Riversdale by Henri Joseph Stier, in 1802. There they were stored and admired for fourteen years. Studies over the last several decades have traced a significant number of the paintings to their present locations. From April until October 2016, the Riversdale Historical Society, working with historian Susan Pearl, will mount a special exhibit of high-quality reproductions of 16 of the paintings, celebrating this remarkable collection's stay at Riversdale two centuries ago. This special project is supported by a grant from Maryland Milestones, by the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation, by contributions from five local historical organizations (including the Prince George's County Historical Society), by generous contributions from Calvert family descendants, and by the University of Maryland.

The painting collection belonged to the Peeters family, descendants of Michel Peeters, an important collector in 17th-century Antwerp. By the late eighteenth century, Michel Peeters' grand-daughter had married Henri Joseph Stier, a sixth-generation direct descendant of Peter Paul Rubens, and Stier himself was acting as the guardian of the Peeters family collection. As French Republican troops marched on Antwerp in 1794, the Stier family fled with their most valuable possessions (including the painting collection) to the United States. After a short stay in Philadelphia, the family moved to Annapolis, Maryland, where they lived for two years at the William Paca House. It was there that noted painter Rembrandt Peale was shown some of the most important of the paintings when in 1799 he painted the portrait of Henri Joseph Stier (a reproduction of which hangs in the Riversdale dining room). It was also at the Paca House in the same year that the Stiers' daughter, Rosalie, met and married George Calvert, descendant of the Lords Baltimore.

In 1801, the Stiers began the development of the Riversdale plantation; they moved into the not-quite-finished home in the summer of 1802, bringing the paintings with them. But the political situation was changing in Europe, and they returned to Antwerp to reclaim their Flemish possessions. They sailed from Baltimore in June 1803, leaving Rosalie and George Calvert here to finish and occupy the Riversdale mansion, and to care for the priceless painting collection. For the next 13 years, the paintings were kept at Riversdale, and checked regularly by Rosalie

(Continued on page 8)

Rosenwald School Tour

On Friday, November 6, 2015, I led an all-day bus-trip to visit Rosenwald Schools in Prince George's and Ann Arundel Counties. This was at the request of the National Trust for Historic Preservation during their annual conference, November 3 through November 6, in Washington, D.C. A terrific group of people from all over the country joined in this tour, some of whom were already immersed in work on Rosenwald schools in their states, and others just wanted to know what on earth "Rosenwald schools" were. Starting from the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Northwest D.C. (site of the conference) we visited Highland Park and Ridgeley* schools in Prince George's in the morning, and then to Galesville in Anne Arundel where we were served a wonderful lunch. We went from there to the Churchton and Shadyside schools, now joined together to form the Lula Scott Community Center (Churchton school, built in 1921, was moved in 1953 to Shadyside, and attached to the Shadyside school that had been built in 1926). At Ridgeley, Galesville, and the Lula Scott Center, we had expert local guides who shared many stories about their schools. We came home by way of the Lincoln (or

Buena Vista) school, where we did not have a tour, but spent much time outside the building talking about its unusually interesting role in the history of the Rosenwald Fund.

There has been so much recent interest in Rosenwald schools since the showing of the "Rosenwald" documentary, that our Historical Society is considering running another tour, just of Prince George's County schools – this time in a small van, possibly starting from Marietta. This tour would cover six or seven schools, would include a box lunch, all for a minimal cost. Please contact me (susan.pearl@verizon.net) or Stacey Hawkins (sl.hawkins@comcast.net) if you would be interested in doing such a tour in the spring or fall of 2016.

* I am happy to report that Mildred Ridgley Gray, now age 95, former PGCHS Board Member, and former Ridgeley School student, teacher and principal, greeted the NTHP visitors at Ridgeley. She and her daughter LaVerne Gray, also a former Ridgeley student, answered some of the questions of the very enthusiastic group.
-Susan G. Pearl ♦

New Deal Resources In Prince George's County

(Continued from page 5)

Deal resources across the nation. Those browsing on www.livingnewdeal.org will find an ever-expanding map with New Deal buildings and projects listed by state and city, agency, and artist. Maryland is one of several states with its own page containing site-specific project information highlighting both contemporary and historical photographs of New Deal projects in the Old Line State.

The effort by M-NCPPC to document existing New Deal structures represents a significant initiative

to expand public historical education beyond the traditional narrative of early 20th century history. "It's never too late or too early to begin documenting things in order to create a baseline and inventory to know what we have, and to begin analyzing the large amount of architecturally and historically significant properties," said Thompson. "The goal is to always be inclusive while at the same time creating an inventory that is encompassing."

-Robert Krause, Ph.D. ♦

Exhibit of Old World Master Paintings

(Continued from page 6)

according to her father's constant written reminders. Her frequent letters to her father are a unique record of her times, and of the art works. Twelve of the smaller paintings were kept hanging in one of the parlors.

In general, the public was not invited to view these priceless paintings, because Rosalie feared being besieged by art connoisseurs. Early in 1816, however, Henri Stier wrote to Rosalie and asked that the collection be returned to him in Antwerp. At that time the Calverts were persuaded to show the collection, and Riversdale was opened for several weeks in April 1816 to the art-loving public. This exhibition was the most dazzling display of Old Masters in the New World until that time, but at the conclusion of the April exhibition, the paintings were packed and shipped out of Baltimore, and arrived in good condition in Antwerp in August 1816.

The following year, the collection was put up for sale, and Henri Joseph Stier bought about 20 of his favorites for his own collection. In a letter to Rosalie, he wrote that he had bought "the best 20 of the 63." Stier continued to collect paintings until his death in 1821 (his collection by then numbered 89). In 1822 his entire collection was sold. Only one of them (a "Romulus and Remus" by followers of Rubens) was purchased for George Calvert, by then a widower, and was returned to Riversdale to be passed down through several generations of his family. Many of the Riversdale paintings remained in the Belgian branch of the Peeters-Stier family for several more generations, while others found their way into museums and private collections in many parts of Europe.

Historian Susan Pearl has worked for more than two decades in an attempt to identify and locate many of the paintings that were housed at Riversdale. Using Henri Stier's packing list of 1794, pertinent 19th-century sales catalogs, the many references to the paintings both in Rosalie's letters and in other contemporary writings, and the generous assistance of Arthur Wheelock of Washington's National Gallery of

Art, she has been able to establish the locations of about 20 of the paintings, and to identify several others that were most likely part of the collection. With this information, the Riversdale Historical Society has been able to acquire high-resolution digital images, which will be printed on canvas and on panel (reproducing the medium of each original painting) and framed. These images will then constitute a virtual "reunion" of a selection of the priceless Peeters-



Romulus and Remus, by followers of Peter Paul Rubens, now on long-term loan to the North Carolina Museum of Art

Stier collection - a display that is scheduled to open at Riversdale on the bicentennial of the original showing.

Images in the exhibit will include works by Rubens, Van Dyck, Jan Brueghel, David Teniers, and other masters. The exhibit experience will be enhanced by "augmented reality" technology which will allow individual viewers, using hand-held devices, to zoom in on details of the paintings, and to experience the ways that the paintings might have been viewed 200 years earlier. The exhibit will open, with appropriate ceremony, on April 7, 2016, and will remain in place through October. Look for more information in the April-June issue of the Prince George's County Historical Society newsletter. ♦

Forty Years Of Volunteer Service

The all-volunteer Surratt Society was formed in September of 1975 to assist the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation as it prepared to open its first historic house museum in the county. Over the past forty years, the Society has grown in numbers from 20 local members to over 1600 worldwide with 40 remaining active as volunteers at the Civil War museum each month.

The 40th anniversary of the Society's founding was celebrated on the evening of September 11, 2015, with a gala banquet and program at Colony South Hotel with over 100 attendees

enjoying good food, good fun, and fellowship. Among the attendees was Sen. Mike Miller, President of the Maryland State Senate, Mrs. Orva Heissenbuttel, founder of the Surratt Society, four original members of the "Class of 1975," and special guest Cokie Roberts, internationally known journalist and political commentator. Ms. Roberts gave a wonderful history lesson on the subject of her latest book, *Capital Dames: The Civil War and the Women of Washington, 1848-1868*.

-Laurie Verge ♦

Preservation Maryland Six-To-Fix

Six Sites Are Threatened Resources In Maryland

Preservation Maryland announced on October 9, 2015, six sites that are threatened resources within Maryland. Glenn Dale Hospital in Prince George's County is one of the six sites chosen. The "fix" Preservation Maryland will provide is by assisting the hospital's supporters and advocates to identify and engage key players in state and local government and experts in preservation, architecture, engineering and design to create a study for its rehabilitation and re-use. The other sites on the list to fix are: Antietam Battlefield, Baltimore's Historic



From left to right in the photo are Marcia Oates, Historic Preservation Project Manager, Park and Planning Division, M-NCPPC, Ian Obligin, Park Planner, Park and Planning Division, M-NCPPC, Kym Taylor, Immediate Past President, Glenwood Park Civic Association, Rosalyn B. Clemens, Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County, Henry Wixon, President, Glenn Dale Citizens' Association, Inc. Photo Credit: Henry Wixon, 2015

Storefronts, coastal areas in Dorchester County, Holly Hall in Elkton, and the Pleasant View Historic Site in Montgomery County. For more information about the Six-to-Fix program, visit: <http://www.preservationmaryland.org/six-to-fix/>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Thursday, January 28, 7:00pm // Marietta House Museum & Prince George's County Historical Society Lecture Series presents: "The Burroughs Diaries and the Secretary Desk" by Susan Pearl and Lynn Roberts. These diaries cover the early years of the civil war. Marietta House Museum, 301-464-5291

MARCH

Date: TBD Marietta House Museum & Prince George's County Historical Society Lecture Series presents: "The USDA Plant Introduction Station in Glenn Dale" by Dr. Howard Waterworth. Fee: \$5 per person. Marietta House Museum, 301-464-5291.

APRIL

Date: TBD Marietta House Museum & Prince George's County Historical Society Lecture Series presents: "The Reconstruction Period in Prince George's County and Maryland after the Civil War. Fee: \$5 per person. Marietta House Museum, 301-464-5291.

The Prince George's County Historical Society will celebrate St. George's Day 2016 at Epiphany Episcopal Church in Forestville, on Sunday afternoon, April 24. You will receive your invitations before the end of March, and details will appear in the April - June 2016 issue of this newsletter.

MAY

Date: TBD Marietta House Museum & Prince George's County Historical Society Lecture Series presents: "Off to the Races--Horseracing in Maryland" Fee: \$5 per person. Marietta House Museum, 301-464-5291.

Date: TBD Annual Historic Preservation Month Reception. Free. Details in the April-June 2016 issue of this newsletter

Upcoming Spring 2016 Lectures

The Prince George's County Historical Society is partnering with the Hyattsville Library to present a series of lectures this spring:

The Stier-Peeters Collection of Old World Master Paintings: Wednesday, March 23, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Illustrated lecture by Susan Pearl on the painting collection at Riversdale, and the current exhibit that marks the bicentennial of the only public showing of these paintings in America.

Archeology in Prince George's County: Wednesday April 20, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Illustrated lecture by Jennifer Stabler on current archaeological projects in the County.

Historic Building Preservation in Prince George's County: Wednesday, May 11, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Illustrated lecture by Fred Stachura on historic preservation efforts and issues.

All lectures in this series will be held at the Hyattsville Library. Call 301-985-4690 for information.

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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THEN & NOW

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XLV NO.2

APRIL - JUNE 2016

Saint George's Day

*Epiphany Church
In Forestville, Maryland*

This year we will celebrate St. George's Day at Epiphany Episcopal Church in Forestville. This is the first time that the Historical Society has visited this lovely historic church, and it promises to be a very special occasion.

Epiphany Episcopal Church is a fine example of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture. The first Episcopal chapel in the town of Long Old Fields (now Forestville) was established as a mission by Henry Kershaw, Rector of Trinity Church, Upper Marlboro, in 1862. Worship was held at first in a small wooden chapel, and the nave of today's church was completed in 1871 when the mission became an independent parish known as Epiphany. It was a simple gable-roofed board-and-batten structure; handsome buttress supports were added late in the 19th century between the lancet windows of the east and west sides of the nave. In 1904 a three-level bell tower was constructed at the southeast corner of the building; a Latin cross rises from the top of the belfry. A large addition was added at the north end of the church circa 1940. The church and its adjoining cemetery are located on a large grassy lot, with entrance from Ritchie Road through two handsome brick gates. The parish hall (Canterbury Hall), built in 1960, stands to the



Epiphany Church, Forestville, Maryland Photo Credit: M-NCPPC

west of the church; it serves as an auditorium and banquet hall.

Dinner will be served in Canterbury Hall, catered by Pineapple Alley of Mount Airy, and will be followed by our traditional presentation of St. George's Day awards. Tours of the church and cemetery will follow our program, led by a member of the church. Invitations were sent out last month, and we hope that you have received yours. If you have any questions, call Susan Pearl at 301-262-3367. We look forward to seeing you on St. George's Day! ♦



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info@pghistory.org
pgchsmembers@gmail.com

Web: www.pghistory.org

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Treasurer: Ruth Davis Rogers
Historian: Susan G. Pearl

Newsletter Committee:
Chair: Susan Pearl
Lynn Roberts
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Sarah Bourne

Editor: John Peter Thompson
Contributing Editor: Donna Schneider
Design & Layout Editor: Monica Jacquet

Newsletter Contributors: Nathania Branch Miles, Susan Pearl,
Donna Schneider, Sealani Weiner

Directors: Kent Abraham, Michael Arnold, John Brunner, Maya Davis, Arthur Dock, Elizabeth Dougherty, Christine Garcia, Kate Germano, Stacey Hawkins, Chris Lorence, Justin McClain, Barrington McKoy, Nathania Branch Miles, Lynn Springer Roberts, Nancy Dixon Saxon, Patricia Skews, Mandi Solomon, Wayne Tonkins, Sr., Sealani Weiner

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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New Members

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

Kevin Fitzgerald
Shipley & Horne, P.A.
Bill Long

Barrington McKoy
Omar S. Price
Daniel Searing

Melvin Stephens
Blake Taylor

2016 Preservation Reception at Oxon Hill Manor

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 6pm



Photo Credit: Pubdog, Wikimedia Commons, December 2010

The 2016 Preservation Reception will be held at Oxon Hill Manor on Wednesday, May 18, opening at 6:00 p.m. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m., and will include a keynote address by Nicholas Redding, Executive Director of Preservation Maryland. Plaques will be presented to owners of Prince George's County Historic Sites, and light refreshments will be served. New this year will be the presentation of the Prince George's County Historical Society's "President's Preservation Award," honoring outstanding efforts toward the preservation of the County's physical and cultural heritage. Attendance is free and enthusiastically encouraged; invitations will be mailed out soon, and we look forward to seeing you there!♦

Maryland Legacy Day In Prince George's County

"A Hard Road to Freedom: the Civil War, African Americans and Emancipation in Maryland."

The Prince George's County Historical Society and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints (Family History Center) joined with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., (Prince George's County Chapter) to host its annual "Maryland Legacy Day." The event was held on Saturday, November 21, 2015, at the Family History Center in Suitland, MD.

Carroll R. Gibbs was the keynote speaker; his topic of discussion was "A Hard Road to Freedom: the Civil War, African Americans and Emancipation in Maryland." Mr. Gibbs focused on one of the most tumultuous periods in the history of the state. He carefully described how the path to liberty for African Americans in Maryland was different from that for most black people in the other states. Mr. Gibbs explained how even the local loyal white Unionists were divided over the nature and speed of emancipation; he illustrated the nasty, brutish conditions of slavery that existed before the war and contrasted that with the noble, heroic actions of enslaved black Marylanders who were determined to be free at all costs. And in what was the most riveting part

of his presentation, he related in detail how more than 8,000 "men of African descent" made an irrevocable, conclusive down payment on emancipation through their service and sacrifice on the battlefield in six regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops. Mr. Gibbs ended by revealing that the referendum (Article 24) to change the 1864 state constitution to, among other things, abolish slavery almost failed; only the vote of the soldiers moved the state in favor of ending enslavement and ushered in the annual celebration of Maryland Emancipation Day.

C.R. Gibbs is a lecturer and author/co-author of six books and a frequent national and international lecturer on an array of topics. He has appeared on the History Channel, French and Belgian television, and wrote, researched, and narrated "Sketches in Color," a 13-part companion series to the acclaimed PBS Series "The Civil War," for the Howard University television station. The Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Community Museum features Mr. Gibbs among its scholars at the museum's Online Academy website. He is also a D.C. Humanities Council Scholar. In 1989, he founded the African History &

(Continued on page 5)

Prince George's County Tidbits

Did you know that...

□ Dr. John H. Bayne of Salubria in Oxon Hill hybridized what became the modern strawberry?

□ George M. Darrow was the foremost American authority on strawberries in the 20th century and had a farm in Glenn Dale?

□ Behnke Nurseries is famous for its African violets? Matriarch Rose Behnke developed the 'Behnke Boy' and the 'Washington Star' varieties.

□ American Pharoah, the 2015 Triple Crown winner,

has roots in Bowie? He is descended from Nashua who was the 1955 Horse of the Year and owned by the Belair Stud.

□ Gallant Fox and Omaha, the only father and son Triple Crown winners, were also owned by the Belair Stud?

□ Rip's Restaurant and Motel in Bowie was named after Armstead "Rip" Wayson? He got the nickname because of his tendency to rip his pants when he played baseball.

“Footprints & Roots”

Eleventh Annual Juneteenth Seminar

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (Prince George's County Chapter), the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, (Suitland, Maryland), and the Prince George's County Historical Society, will jointly sponsor the Eleventh Annual Juneteenth Seminar, “Footprints and Roots,” on Saturday, June 18, 2016, at the Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park, Upper Marlboro, from 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.. The seminar will consist of a series of workshops for beginner to advanced family researchers. Dr. Edna Medford, historian, lecturer, and professor at Howard University will be the keynote speaker. The concurrent sessions will include topics such as City Directories, Southern Claims Commission Records, Online Genealogical Resources, Overcoming Brick Walls, 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 is holding a family fun day in conjunction with this event, which will be held at Walker Mill Regional Park. Attendees may bring a picnic basket, blanket, and lawn chair and participate in an afternoon of live entertainment, guest speakers, games, arts and crafts, food, and fun. There will be continuous shuttles to transport guests between the two parks beginning at noon. All the activities at both of these 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 state holiday or special day of observance in 43 states and the District of Columbia.

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

Maryland Legacy Day In Prince George's County

(Continued from page 4)

Culture Lecture Series whose scholars continue to provide free presentations at libraries, churches, schools, and other locations in the Washington-Baltimore corridor. In 1997, he led 26 people across the continent of Africa. In 2002, Mr. Gibbs authored “Black, Copper & Bright,” the first book ever written on the District of Columbia's African American Civil War Regiment.

Maryland Legacy Day is one of the Prince George's County Chapter's flagship programs,

held annually in November. The event highlights African Americans' contributions to the history of Maryland. November was selected for this special program to remind individuals of the importance of this month in Maryland's history. On November 2, 1864, all enslaved persons within the state of Maryland were freed. By the adoption of a new constitution, Maryland was the first border state to grant freedom to African Americans. - Nathania A. Branch Miles ♦

Black History Opening Reception at Harmony Hall

“What Remains: Archaeological Discoveries of African American Life in Prince George’s County”

On Sunday, January 31, 2016, this writer attended the County’s opening reception entitled “What Remains: Archaeological Discoveries of African American Life in Prince George’s County” for the County’s 2016 Black History program at Harmony Hall. Sponsored by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the day’s activities included an archaeological exhibit, a reception, and a lecture which gave those in attendance an opportunity to hear and see African American landscapes and culture in relationship to escape from slavery. The exhibit focused on five Prince George’s County sites: Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park, Apple Hill, Northampton Slave Quarters and Archaeological Park, Montpelier Mansion, and Cherry Hill Cemetery. The lecture was presented by Dr. Cheryl LaRoche, professor in the Department of American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park., who has worked with County Archaeologist (Don Creveling) examining archaeological aspects of African American life in the County, including spirituality, home life, childhood and consumerism. The exhibit was wonderfully enlightening, the lecture was exciting and motivating, and the reception was attended by many, including several politicians, planners, children and the community at large.

Dr. LaRoche has lectured on a wide range of historical and archaeological topics. Her experiences and work have taken her from New England to the banks of Mississippi River and beyond. She has consulted for the Smithsonian, the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, the African Meeting House in Boston

and Nantucket, the African American Museum in Philadelphia, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum in Baltimore. She has spent more than 10 years researching and physically exploring the landscapes of 18th and 19th-century free black communities, their churches, cemeteries and institutions and their relationship to the Underground Railroad. She used the law, archaeology, history, and oral history as well as geography and material culture, as she guided her audience through the 19th-century African American presence in Prince George’s county. She also talked about the writing of her book “Free Black Communities and the Underground Railroad: The Geography of Resistance” which won her the John L. Cotter Award for exemplary work in bringing a multidisciplinary approach to the study of African American archaeology. According to Dr. LaRoche, “I think African-American history is a very important and effective vehicle for teaching so many of the precepts that we actually want our students to learn philosophically at the undergraduate level. And it is something about that field that most educators don’t understand.”

As a member of the Historical Society and family genealogist, I can say without hesitation that Dr. LaRoche was a welcome speaker on African American life in the County. She delivered a strong and positive lecture on a period of our history that many would like to forget. It was a joy to hear her discuss the life and culture that survived the hardships of slavery and the contributions to the County as we know it today. - Nathania A. Branch Miles♦

Use Your Horse Sense To Hoof It To This Talk

Tuesday night, May 24, 7:00 pm, Marietta House Museum Kimberly Godwin Clark, creator and owner of Thoroughbred Placement Resources (TPR) will be talking about the sport of horse racing in Maryland. TPR is a non-profit located in Upper Marlboro, our own Prince George's County. At TPR - Leighton Farms, she retrains former Thoroughbred racehorses. Uniquely, she is able to offer veterinary surgery to her equine guests, as well as to provide a place for these horses to rehabilitate post-surgically. She invites all to "Come find your next prospect/partner here or send your horse here to find his next human."

While other Thoroughbred aftercare farms may "retire" their horses to a field, Kimberly and Leighton Farm offer retraining to these animals, whether it's preparing them to be show horses, or ownership for personal riding. Her background working in the racing world has given her the ability to "read" horses in a way that is rare.



Photo Credit: Buzzsharer.com

Whether you are a naïf at understanding the difference between a nag and a stud, or a "horsey-person" and can comprehend every turn of phrase in Ms. Clark's *New Track, New Life: A Guide to Understanding and Re-Training Your Off-Track Thoroughbred*, you will find something remarkable about this program. While Kimberly won't have any horses on-hand for us to behold, she will be bringing some items that are exclusive to the racing world. -Sealani Weiner♦

Old World Master Paintings Exhibit At Riversdale

The grand opening of the exhibit "Some of the finest paintings ever in America" took place at Riversdale on April 7, 2016, and was received with great acclaim and enthusiasm. Approximately 100 individuals were thrilled to view the 16 selected images of paintings that an art-loving public had marveled at 200 years ago in this same building, and were amazed and delighted by the "augmented reality" features provided by the University of Maryland Collaboratory. These electronic enhancements presented viewers with an introductory discussion of the collection, and not only offered related information about items in the collection, but also allowed viewers to zero in on the tiniest details of the Brueghel. Our Historical Society was one of the financial supporters of this unique exhibit, and all are strongly encouraged to visit. The cost is \$5 or less per individual; call 301-864-0420 for visiting hours and details.♦



Anthony Van Dyck (1599-1641) Marie de Raet, Philippe Le Roy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

April 14th, 7pm “The Burroughs Diaries and the Secretary Desk” presented by Historian Susan Pearl and Art Historian Lynn Roberts. \$5/person. Lecture Series of Prince George’s County Historical Society & Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD. 20769, 301-464-5291.

April 24th, 1pm - 3pm “Saint George’s Day at Epiphany Church” \$50/per person. Please see front page for details.

MAY

Date: TBD “Thoroughbreds in Maryland-Racing Month”. \$5/person. Lecture Series of Prince George’s County Historical Society & Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD. 20769, 301-464-5291.

May 18th, 1pm – 7pm “Preservation Reception” Oxon Hill Manor. Awards, Speaker, and Food. Come Join Us.

JUNE

June 4th, 9am-5pm “Bus Trip of Area Rosenwald Schools”, led by Historian Susan Pearl. \$25/person. Includes lunch and admission fees. Trip leaves from Marietta. Lecture Series of Prince George’s County Historical Society & Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD. 20769, 301-464-5291.

June 18th, 8:30am - 4:30pm “Juneteenth At Watkins Regional Park”, Please see page 5 for details.

Upcoming Spring 2016 Lectures

The Prince George’s County Historical Society is partnering with the Hyattsville Library to present a series of lectures this spring:

Archeology in Prince George’s County: Wednesday April 20, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Illustrated lecture by Jennifer Stabler on current archaeological projects in the County.

Historic Building Preservation in Prince George’s County: Wednesday, May 11, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Illustrated lecture by Fred Stachura on historic preservation efforts and issues.

All lectures in this series will be held at the Hyattsville Library. Call 301-985-4690 for information.

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 **\$6.95**

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 **\$10.00**

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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THEN & NOW

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XLV NO.3

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2016

The House That Grew

Prince Of A County Reception, September 2016



The Roberts' Home formerly the Patuxent Elementary School / Photo Credit: Lynn Roberts July 2016

We will celebrate our annual Prince of a County reception and fundraiser at a house that has gone through a long and fascinating evolution--from a one-room schoolhouse built more than a century ago, to a beautiful and commodious residence in a lovely rural setting. Our hosts will be Eugene and Lynn Roberts, long-time members and officers of the Historical Society. We will meet on Sunday afternoon, September 18, 2016 at the Roberts home, formerly the Patuxent Elementary School.

In 1905, Robert Lee Hall and his wife, May Bowling Hall (daughter of John Bowling of "Bowling Heights") deeded (at no cost to the County) one acre of land for the construction of a community school--the Patuxent Elementary School. It was a

single room school with large window embrasures on at least three sides to admit good light (these still exist). The one-story school house had neither electricity nor plumbing, but children had access to nearby privies in the woods, according to Helen Sasscer Sliker, an attendee with her twin brother from nearby "Compton Bassett." The school was built to serve the farm families along what is now Old Crain Highway and Old Marlboro Pike. In addition to "Bowling Heights", children came from "Bleak Hill", "Ashland", "Compton Bassett" and other smaller farms along both roads. Most of them were related to each other as siblings and cousins--most being descended from the Hill family of Compton Bassett. Helen Sliker revealed that there was a single young woman hired as the Teacher, and the room might be filled with 15-20 children of all ages. Actually

Continued on page 7



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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pgchsmembers@gmail.com

Web: www.pghistory.org

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Editor: John Peter Thompson
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Did you know...

On September 4, 1772, George and Martha Washington had breakfast at Warburton Manor in Fort Washington and dined at Mt. Lubentia near Upper Marlboro with Jonathan Boucher, Gov. Eden, and Benedict Calvert?
(Read More tidbits on page 7)

St. George's Day Awards - 2016

We gathered at Epiphany Episcopal Church in Forestville on a spring-like Sunday to celebrate the Society's annual St. George's Day event on April 24, 2016. After a delicious dinner catered by Pineapple Alley Catering, Society members presented the following St. George's Day awards to:

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*

Following the awards, those interested had the opportunity to participate in a guided tour of the church.

Congratulations to all of the winners!♦

Tracing History Through Ceramics

Student Contribution Series - Sehba Imtiaz (Part 1 of 2)

The Society is delighted to introduce what it hopes will be a regular feature of its newsletter, *Writings from Universities*. Sehba Imtiaz recently graduated with a Masters' in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland. Her thesis was focused on how the interpretation of African American history at historic house museums can be used to engage the community and public on creating a dialogue on today's narrative and social justice issues. She participated in the NPS Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program, and completed a yearlong internship with US/ICOMOS. She also holds an Honors BA in Architectural Design and Art History from the University of Toronto. *Tracing History Through Ceramics* was written as part of a graduate seminar in preservation and archaeology, and examines blue and white transfer printed pottery in terms of its attributes and manufacture, while exploring the artifact's interpretive uses in order to assist archaeologists and researchers with their interpretation. She can be contacted at sehbaimtiaz@gmail.com.

Ceramics as a field of study is vast. Their creation and use can be interpreted as tangible products of human behavior, especially due to ceramics' wide range of functions and types. Ceramics is a ready source of data with archaeological, historical, economic, artistic, and social stories to tell. Material culture scholar Ann Martin states that "pottery packs more cultural information into the smallest amount of space." In order to understand ceramic wares in a given place and time, researchers must look at the makers, the purchasers, and the users, in which the buyers and users were not often the same thing in early modern Western society. In regard to the making of a ceramic object, a design given to the potter could either enable or constrain the result of the final product based on the availability of quality clay; another factor was the ease of transporting the product to the consumer, and also, of course, the potter's vision, skills, and tools. Once the object enters the market, it reflects larger social and design trends, which creates a complex relationship between object utility, economic systems, and human behavior.

Americans always had choices among ceramic wares being imported from Europe or China, as well as those made locally. Thus, there are two broad categories of studying ceramics: those wares made in America, and those wares made abroad and imported to America. This essay starts with a focus on the manufacturing process, which was established in Britain in the late 18th century, then describes the attributes



Photos: Ralph Hall Series, "Picturesque Scenery, Fulham Church, Middlesex"

Continued on page 6

Prince George's County Tidbits

Did you know that...

On July 2, 1946, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System was established?

On July 7, 1865, Mary Surratt was hanged for her alleged complicity in the Lincoln assassination? She was also the first woman executed by the U.S. government.

On July 19-24, 1782, four divisions of Rochambeau's French army encamped at Bladensburg?

Rochambeau's troops passed through Bladensburg on September 23, 1781 on their way to Yorktown and scouted the area for possible future use, which they did on their way north the next year.

On August 12, 1918, the College Park Airport became the Washington terminus for the first commercial airmail service by the U.S. Post Office?

On August 23, 1808, Charles Benedict Calvert was born at Riversdale? He founded the Agricultural College, now the University of Maryland at College Park.

On September 4, 1772, George and Martha Washington had breakfast at Warburton Manor in Fort Washington and dined at Mt. Lubentia near Upper Marlboro with Jonathan Boucher, Gov. Eden, and Benedict Calvert?

On September 21, 1697, Ranger John Baker was murdered by Indians in Prince George's County?

In Memoriam - Joanna Blake

Sculptor Joanna Blake was killed in a tragic accident while vacationing in Italy on May 22, 2016, her 39th birthday.

Joanna, beloved by everyone who knew her possessed an extraordinary and irreplaceable artistic talent. She designed and sculpted the Bladensburg Memorial for the Bicentennial of the Battle of Bladensburg. Dedicated on August 23, 2014. It was her first major commission. The Aman Memorial Trust selected her to work on the monument in 2010. It was a decision the members of the Trust never regretted. She enthusiastically began designing the concept for "Undaunted in Battle", the title of the monument. Although the Battle was lost by the American forces, she wanted to show there was a heroic effort, led by Commodore Joshua Barney and the U.S. Marines and Navy Flotillamen. In spite of many hurdles, Joanna completed the project and was recognized and praised for her exceptional skill. The monument serves as a tribute to all the soldiers, sailors and marines who fought and died at Bladensburg that day.

In addition to her amazing talent, she had a wonderful and endearing personality. Intelligent and articulate, she lived and worked as a conscientious hard working artist. She was a friend, able to



Joanna Blake with a model of the Battle of Bladensburg Memorial in 2012 (Katherine Frey/The Washington Post)

understand abstract concepts like patriotism, racial sensitivities and liberty and then translate them into the hard reality of bronze.

She is and shall be missed by everyone who knew her.

John A. Giannetti, Chairman Aman Memorial Trust.♦

Tracing History Through Ceramics *(Continued from page 4)*

associated with blue and white printed wares. The next section introduces the six periods of design chronology, which follows with a brief section on function and meaning in the cult of domesticity, and finally concluding with examples from American and British manufactories.

Transfer printing was a mode of decoration popular in England starting from about the 1760's. Technological advances in the potting industry, which included transfer printing along with plaster molds and use of more refined clays, allowed for an explosion of highly decorated wares with thinner ceramic forms and more vibrant colors. Blue and white printed pottery provided all social classes with the opportunity to own decorative ceramic pieces, which took inspirations for its patterns from many different aesthetic and cultural trends of the period. Its century long popularity provides multiple opportunities to learn more about the social uses and trends, economic impacts, and the industrialization process. A major resource for identifying blue and white transfer printed wares includes business records from potters, importers, country stores, and other commercial documents; they are especially useful in establishing a chronology.

Manufacturing:

Designs for transfer printing were engraved onto copperplates by workers in the factory by the early 1770s. For overglaze printing, also known as bat printing and cold printing, the copperplate was used to make a print on a sheet of tissue paper using a warm oily ink. The printed paper was then pressed, wet ink downwards, onto the glazed ceramic surface with a felt pad, thus transferring the design. The ware was then submersed in cold water with the paper still attached, allowing the ink to stiffen and the paper to float off, leaving the design on the ceramic surface. The design was fixed by heating it at a relatively low temperature. Overglaze printing presented a problem as daily use would completely remove the print; thus it was only used for decorative pieces.

Underglaze, or hot process, was not developed in England until around 1780. Once the design was engraved onto a copper plate, the plate was heated to help thin and spread the ink, made from a mixture of linseed oil, powdered flint, and a coloring agent. A dampened tissue paper was placed over the plate, then transferred by passing the plate and paper through a roller press. The paper was then pressed, ink side down, onto the porous bisque ware, ware fired once before decor. The ceramic

ware was then fired at a low temperature to burn off the linseed oil, leaving the coloring agent. Next, it was dipped in liquid glazed and refired.

By the 1780's several British pottery works had established a blue-printing department. By investing in a library of engraved plates that could be used to embellish a variety of wares, manufactories were able to reproduce particularly popular designs when creating sets of china. From about 1840, most flow blue and mulberry treatments, both painted and transfer, were applied to ironstone tableware, which were made of a less expensive and less durable earthenware.

Transfer printing allowed conformity to spread throughout the industry, and wares from various factories were largely indistinguishable from their competitors. The consequence of this was



Jug with transfer print commemorating the death of James Wolfe, Staffordshire or Liverpool, England, ca. 1780. Print took inspiration from the painting, Death of Wolfe, from 1770, eleven years after the General's death. The print became a commercial success in England and abroad, and the transfer print engraver only took the central group. Supposedly, the success of the jug prompted forward-looking potteries to produce wares specifically for the American market. .

Continued on page 9

The House That Grew *(Continued from cover)*

Mrs. Sliker vividly remembered that the Teacher had the older children help teach the younger ones.

Circa 1931, the new Marlboro High School (that had opened in 1921 atop Academy Hill in Upper Marlboro) was enlarged to include also primary grades. Several of the small primary schools near Upper Marlboro were closed by the Board of Education, and the children were transferred to the school on Academy Hill. May Bowling Hall offered \$500 for the now vacant schoolhouse and the acre of land on which it stood, and the Board of Education legally transferred it back to her. The next year she conveyed the property to her son, Robert Lee Hall, Jr, and his wife, Josephine Slingluff Hall, and the young couple began to convert the schoolhouse into their family home. To the South end they added a bedroom and a bathroom; to the North and East they added a dining room and kitchen. The space of the schoolhouse classroom became, variously, an entry hall and small parlor.

By 1933, to accomodate two small children, the Halls raised the roof, adding a second floor with three bedrooms, a bath and sitting room leading onto an outdoor porch. Because Josephine admired Andrew Jackson's home (The Hermitage in Nashville, Tennessee) the Halls copied the sweeping grand staircase of that Antebellum house very successfully, incorporating it into the Classroom space. By 1938, a large paneled Neo-Colonial style living room was added to the North side, inspired by visits to Colonial Williamsburg, with a "Rec Room" beneath, which received its full complement of knotty pine paneling in the early 1950s. By 1974,

after being twice-widowed, Josephine Slingluff Hall Silvester returned to live in the house part of the year. To accommodate the forty-one members of her immediate family for holiday gatherings and meals, she added an exceptionally large dining room, below which was a two-car garage; adjacent to the dining room was a glassed-in "Florida Room" with an adjacent exterior patio with hillside planting seeds, trees and shrubs.

Eugene, Lynn and Anne Roberts bought the house and property in 1992. They have made cosmetic changes inside and outside the house, adding a porch to the East end of the living room, with French doors leading out to it. The garage is now an office for Mr. Roberts and the Rec room is a combo library/ guest room/ work room. The smoke house still serves its purpose of providing a place to hang country hams made annually by a number of the descendants and friends of those who settled these environs in the 18th and 19th centuries.

So save the date--Sunday, September 18th-- for this special event, this year's Prince of a County at the former Patuxent Elementary School. -Lynn Springer Roberts

[The oral histories reported by Helen Sasscer Sliker and Josephine Hall Kelly Smith in 2007, augmented by information from County records and archives brought to light by PGCHS Historian, Susan Pearl, enabled the present owners to reconstruct the history of the house.] ♦

Celebrating the Centennial of the City of Bowie: 1916-2016

The Prince George's County Historical Society is honored to highlight that the City of Bowie is in the midst of celebrating 100 years as a vibrantly expanding community within Prince George's County. At around 55,000 residents (according to the 2010 U.S.Census), as the largest municipality in Prince George's County, Bowie features prominently in both the past and present of Prince George's County. So far in 2016, there have been various events held within the City of Bowie to recognize its centennial, including an April 16 ceremony at

Bowie City Hall (located at 15901 Excalibur Road, adjacent to Bowie Town Center). Even if you missed that event, there are still numerous additional family-friendly community events that will take place throughout the remainder of the year to underscore Bowie's fascinating origins, current civic affairs, and surely enduring legacy.

Please visit www.cityofbowie.org/centennial for more information, as well as to view the calendar of events.

Preservation Maryland Celebrates 75 Years

2016 Annual Prince George's County Historic Preservation Reception



Photo Credit: M-NCPPC From L to R: County Executive Rushern L. Baker III, Prince George's County Planning Board Chairman Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Historic Site Plaque Awardees Kathleen Litchfield and John Petro

In between the rainy days of May, we had a relatively dry evening at Oxon Hill Manor to celebrate historic preservation in the county. Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chair of the Prince George's County Planning Board, was an enthusiastic emcee for the evening. We heard remarks from our County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, and the keynote was given by Nicholas A. Redding, Executive Director of Preservation Maryland. Preservation Maryland is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and we learned how it is saving the past and shaping the future.

Highlights of the evening were the historic site plaques and awards presentations. This year the historic site plaques were given to *Morrill Hall* and *Calvert Hall*, both located on the campus of the University of Maryland College Park, the *Wilson-Gleis House* in Riverdale Park, the *Poppleton-Roberts House* in Edmonston, the *Frederick & Frances Watkins House*, also known as *Grovehurst*, in Bowie, and the *Croom Institute Site* in Croom. Maryland Milestones/ATHA Executive Director, Aaron Marcavitch, presented their Heritage Tourism Awards. This year's winners were:

"Year One Programming" presented by the Old Greenbelt Theatre

"Some of the Finest Paintings Ever in America" presented by the Riversdale Historical Society

"Borrow a Bike" program at the University of Maryland College Park

15th Anniversary of the Certification of ATHA

The next award was the inaugural presentation of the Prince George's County Historical Society's President's Preservation Award to Jim and Bobbi McCeney for the restoration of the family's 1866 historic home, their work with the Laurel Historical Society, and their overall dedication to the Laurel community.

The program ended with awards presented by Ruth Davis Rogers from the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at the University of Maryland College Park. She presented the Prince George's Fellowship Award to Tyler Smith and the St. Clair Wright Award to Melissa Butler.

A big thank you to the evening's Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsors, as well as our hosts, the Maryland-National Capital Park Planning Commission and the Prince George's County Historical Society. ♦

Tracing History Through Ceramics *(Continued from page 6)*

that the practice of in-trading between factories became commonplace, which meant buying wares from neighboring potteries to fill orders; this could only happen in an industry in which its wares were identical. David Barker states that there is ample evidence for this practice of dealing between factories, and that it continues to be a normal part of the pottery business today. The Copyright Act of 1842 delivered a blow to printed ware makers, since it called for the registration of original designs to protect them from piracy for a period of three years with an option for renewal. This prevented manufactories from copying engravings from books, which was a major source of inspiration; this eventually resulted in fewer new designs being produced.

Attributes:

This section provides an introduction to the various attributes, including ware types, patterns and motifs, maker's marks, and series titles, all of which assist in identifying the design, the date, and the manufactory of the ceramic. Other attributes and information on characteristics such as body composition, glaze type, and decorative attributes are often available in potters' records, and should be used in conjunction with chronological data on design.

The development of a printing process for ceramics using the transfer of an inked design by paper allowed a wider range of vessel forms to be decorated. Prior to the development of creamware, earthenwares were low-status ceramics, while porcelains were always high-status wares with a limited market. According to George Miller, "the low cost of creamware and the status accorded it by creative marketing made it a devastating force in the marketplace. By the end of the eighteenth century creamware had destroyed the market for many common types of ware, such as delft, faience, and white salt-glazed stoneware." Printed designs were popular on ironstones, white earthenwares, creamware, pearlware, and porcelain. But with the emergence of creamware as the dominant ware type in the world market, it led to a uniformity of descriptions in business records; rather than be described by ware types, typical terms of descriptions after 1780 included: CC for cream colored, edged for shell-edge, printed for transfer-printed, dipped or dipt for mocha and banded, and painted. Rarely is the ware type mentioned, and was of little significance to potters or merchants. By 1815, printed ware dinner services were being produced with a series of patterns under such titles as "Antique Scenery," "Asiatic Pheasants,"

"Rhine," and "Picturesque Scenery," providing a distinct attribute (shown in Image 3). Often located on the bottom of the ceramic ware, this attribute can, along with printed or imprinted maker's marks (shown in Image 9), also identify the manufactory and the pattern, and thus the subsequent date of the ceramic. Since the trade-marks act came in 1862, the words 'Trade Mark' on the bottom of the ceramic will assist in dating it as post-1862. Similarly, the word 'Limited', or 'Ltd' was not used until the 1860's or thereafter, whereas, the letters 'R N' (which stand for 'Registered Number') was later and didn't start until the 1880's. Lastly, using changes in stylistic attributes of pottery, it can be assumed that a given design or motif originates at a specific time, as discussed below.

Chronology:

Primary dating tools use chronological information on motifs, patterns, and designs in conjunction with data on print color, vessel form, and manufacturing innovations, to assist archaeologists in refining and assigning accurate date ranges for archaeological assemblages that contain printed wares. Such a dating tool is valuable because of the problems encountered in dating many 19th-century assemblages, where the majority of the ceramic



View of the interior and exterior of the openwork fruit basket with transfer printed decoration by Bonnin and Morris. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 1770-1772. Mark on bottom of the ware, painted in underglaze blue: P.

Continued on page 10

Tracing History Through Ceramics *(Continued from page 9)*

assemblage is generally undecorated or minimally decorated. Archaeologist Patricia Samford states that another way to date printed ceramics is through the seriation of the stylistic motifs, which can be assigned a date range of production. Thus, it is possible to date unmarked fragments from archeological contexts by either examining the design or the maker's marks.

Transfer printing was first introduced in the 1750's on wares that had already been glazed, and was originally called on-glaze [overglaze] printing. During the 18-19th centuries, transfer printing from engraved copper plates helped to increase the uniformity of decoration by providing potters with a plethora of established patterns. This allowed conformity to spread throughout the industry, and increased the practice of buying-in wares to complete orders. This complicates the process of dating a piece of pottery based on attributes alone. Not only did factories buy their molds and copper plates from central suppliers, they also had access to molds, plates, and other tools and equipment from sales that often followed the bankruptcies of pottery factories. Therefore, dating ceramics based solely upon stylistic matches, whether of body form or decoration, must be viewed with suspicion.

There are six main decorative phases associated with blue and white printed pottery. According to Samford, there are 13 different categories of central design motifs, which correspond with decorative trends evident in the 19th century, and demonstrate distinct temporal differences in the periods of peak production (see Table 2). The first phase, the Chinoiserie period from 1780-1800, was a period of experimentation, as it was a fairly new process at this time. Wares of this period may be regarded as minor works of art. Chinese wares were being used for inspiration, since for many years, some of the finest ceramics were being imported from China. Thus, Chinese designs were either copied or adapted by the engravers using simple line engraving techniques, and the prints produced were dark and sometimes slightly blurred due to the amount of ink on the copper plates. Dinner plates and dishes from this period were usually made without footrims and the glazes were uneven and rippled.

The second phase from 1800-1815 was the First Transitional Period, with more light and shading introduced to the print scenes; another introduction

was of stipple engraving. Wares were still decorated with Chinese designs, but European features were starting to be included, such as a Palladian arch behind a Chinese pagoda. Patterns started to become more standardized, and the Willow pattern emerged, which has been used by British potters ever since.

The third period, 1815-1835, was known as the vintage years of printed wares, resulting from a boom in the manufacturing of blue-printed wares and the market expanding into North America, Europe, India, and other eastern countries. There were many patterns available, with different patterns on different shaped and sized wares. The patterns were framed in borders which decorated the rims and edges, and were primarily floral. The same border pattern was used for a complete dinner service, and while some borders can be attributed to a specific maker, many were pirated.

The fourth period, from 1835-1845, was known as the Second Transitional period; glazes became more clear and smooth, and colors other than blue were introduced. Green, sepia, and mulberry became quite popular, and some wares were printed in two colors. Due to production exceeding demand, prices dropped bringing printed wares within reach of lower class workers. Along with price-fixing agreements in response to adverse conditions, such as wars, embargoes, or tariffs. This period also introduced flow-blue wares, in which the print was encouraged to spread into the glaze.

The fifth period, the Romantic period from 1845-1860, witnessed an emphasis on romantic scenes, for which the engravers followed a specific formula. The prints tended to include a stretch of water as a central feature, with a building, often a pagoda, mosque, or castle on one side of the water, and a landscape feature on the other. Occasionally, there would be mountains or a group of people in the background. The period from 1860 to the 1880s saw the decline in blue and white printed pottery, with relatively few new patterns appearing. Transfer printed wares were slowly being replaced with more brightly colored wares or white dinner services with decorative printed borders. *(End of Part 1)*♦

Part 2 of History Through Ceramic's will be published in the next issue of Then & Now

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

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THEN & NOW

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XLV NO.4

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016

The Art of Dionicio Rodriguez

October 20, 2016, 7:30pm at Language House, St. Mary's Hall, Room 0105



The Bridge of Life at Cedar Hill Cemetery by Dionicio Rodriguez

Photo Credit: Larry D. Moore

An artistic connection exists between San Antonio, Texas, the Cedar Hill Cemetery in Prince George's County, and the opening credits for the 1939 blockbuster *Gone With the Wind*: the reinforced concrete faux bois sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez (1891-1955). Rodriguez, born in Toluca, Mexico, outside of Mexico City, immigrated to Laredo, Texas, in 1924 to escape the political, social, and economic upheaval that followed the revolution in Mexico (1910-1920).

Rodriguez soon relocated to San Antonio, where he would create the bulk of his work. In addition to Texas, Rodriguez also worked in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Mexico, and Tennessee, as well as Washington, D.C. and Mexico City. Twenty-one of the sites Rodriguez created

in Texas, Alabama, and Arkansas have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places with additional sites up for review. However, work on a submission for the site in our county has not yet begun.

Early in his career, Rodriguez had many competitors in Texas, talented artists and craftsmen who had also come from Mexico seeking a better life. This group of artists working in cement faux bois (imitation wood) numbered more than 16 in addition to a smaller group of individuals from Europe and the United States. According to Patsy Pittman Light, author of the definitive work on Rodriguez and his art (*Capturing Nature: The Cement Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez*, 2008), it is generally agreed that he was the most skilled practitioner of the genre of

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THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phone: 301-220-0330

Email: pgchslibrary@aol.com
info@pghistory.org
pgchsmembers@gmail.com

Web: www.pghistory.org

President: John Petro
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Design & Layout Editor: Monica Jacquet

Newsletter Contributors: Christine Garcia, Sehba Imtiaz, Nathania Branch Miles, Susan Pearl, Donna Schneider

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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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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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'Tis the season

The Historical Society is partnering with Maryland Milestones again this year for our annual holiday party. Please join us on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 6 PM. We will be gathering at Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center in Hyattsville, where Maryland Milestones has its headquarters. PAAC is located at 4318 Gallatin Street. There are several parking areas nearby including at Franklins. We will provide the food and drink, you bring the holiday cheer! Please come early to participate in the Society election. Election details are below.

Society Elections

The 2016 election season isn't over on November 8. As has become our tradition, the Society will have its elections prior to the holiday party at 5:30 PM. This year, the slate of officers includes:

Officers:

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

Directors: (for three-year terms)

John Brunner
Christine Garcia
Stacey Hawkins
Sealani Weiner

We have two additional Director positions available. We will accept nominations from the floor for any of the positions up for election.

MD Legacy Day - Then and Now

The Prince George's County Historical Society is pleased to partner with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. - Prince George's County, Maryland Chapter (AAHGS-PGCM), and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), Family History Center to sponsor the 21st annual Maryland Legacy Day, on Saturday, November 19, 2016, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, at the LDS, Family History Center, 5300 Auth Road, Suitland, MD. A planning committee is working to secure a keynote speaker and theme for the day's activities.

The Maryland Legacy Day program is held each November in honor of the legacy and heritage of the enslaved men, women and children who became free on November 1, 1864. In addition, the event highlights African Americans' contributions to the history of Maryland. November was selected for this special program to remind individuals of

the importance of this month in Maryland's history. Under the leadership of Governor Augustus W. Bradford by the adoption of a new constitution on November 1, 1864, all enslaved persons within the state of Maryland were freed. Maryland was the first border state to grant freedom to African Americans.

The Chapter promotes African-American history in the County, encourages the historical and genealogical studies, and supports the goals and objectives of the national society. AAHGS-PGCM membership is opened to individuals, families, educational institutions, churches, and other historical and genealogical societies. The Chapter conducts a host of workshops, speaker forums, discussion groups, and on-site research. AAHGS-PGCM also provides speakers' services and opportunities for networking and recruitment. -Nathania A. Branch Miles

Tracing History Through Ceramics

Student Contribution Series - Sehba Imtiaz (Part 2 of 2)

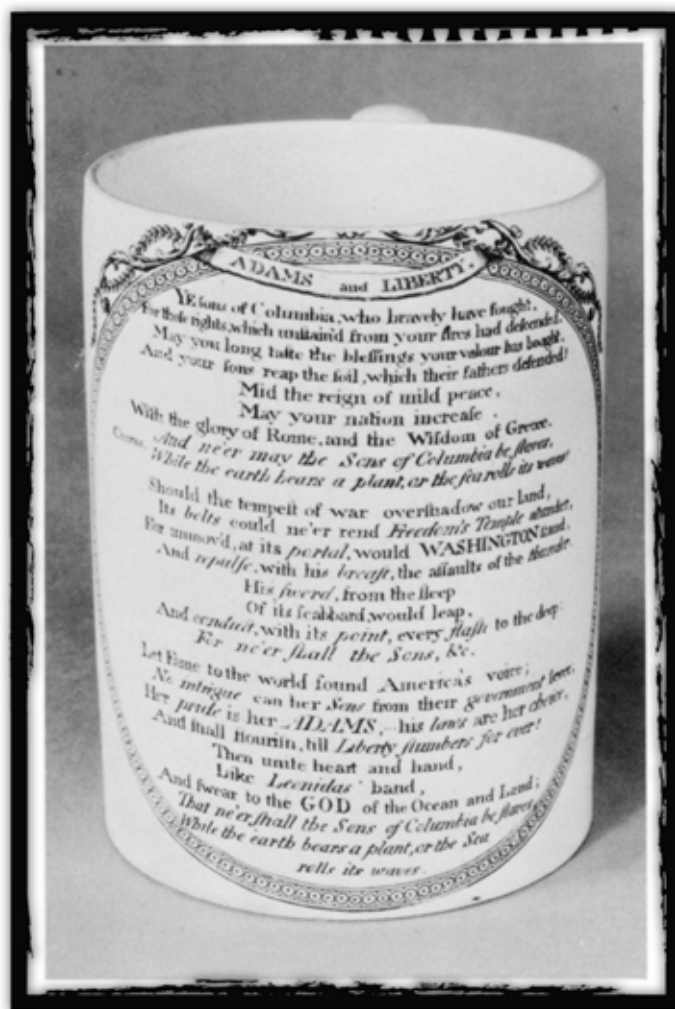
The Society is delighted to introduce what it hopes will be a regular feature of its newsletter, Writings from Universities. Sehba Imtiaz recently graduated with a Masters' in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland. Her thesis was focused on how the interpretation of African American history at historic house museums can be used to engage the community and public on creating a dialogue on today's narrative and social justice issues. She participated in the NPS Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program, and completed a yearlong internship with US/ICOMOS. She also holds an Honors BA in Architectural Design and Art History from the University of Toronto. Tracing History Through Ceramics was written as part of a graduate seminar in preservation and archaeology, and examines blue and white transfer printed pottery in terms of its attributes and manufacture, while exploring the artifact's interpretive uses in order to assist archaeologists and researchers with their interpretation. She can be contacted at sehbaimtiaz@gmail.com.

Function & Meanings:

The availability of new and better ceramic wares engendered aesthetic appreciation, encouraged better manners, and supported more pleasant domestic environment, while serving as small efforts of refinement for the working class. Ideally, it was thought that having a pleasing domestic environment would lead both males and females away from the gin shops by elevating the moral being. Martin argues that the "catalyst for moral elevation is an innocuous set of objects: available, affordable, and desirable ceramics," as ceramics played a role in improving the moral being and the social scale for the cult of domesticity. Archaeologist Diana DiZerega argues that women of the middle class in during the 19th century were in charge of serving as moral guardians of their family, and were responsible for promoting their family's social position. They promoted this through a refined, genteel, and fashionable image of their home and the décor to their families, friends, and associates. The presence of fashionable items in the home, particularly those displaying exotic scenes of faraway lands, conveyed messages about one's place in the world and one's knowledge of culture, history, and travel. The advent of transfer printing allowed ceramics to be significant not just functionally as dishes, platters, teapots and cups, or even chamber pots, but made them significant as teaching tools; wares became available with printed poetry, or slogans for the abolition of the slave trade, and conspicuous consumption (shown in Image 1).

Transfer Printed Wares: English and American manufactories

Podmore, Walker & Co. of Staffordshire, England operated three factories between 1839 and 1859. Excavations from the factory waste dump site



(Image 1: Mug with transfer print of Adams and Liberty, Staffordshire or Liverpool, England, 1798-1805. America was passing through a period of strained relations with England, and this was one of the most popular political songs, with only the first and last stanza printed on the creamware.

Continued on page 6

Prince George's County Tidbits

Did you know that...

Dr. Howard Zahniser of Hyattsville promoted a bill that became the Wilderness Act? He also served as the executive director of the Wilderness Society where he sought to preserve wild lands.

General Horace Capron established and managed a cotton factory in Laurel? He also served as U.S. Commissioner of Agriculture and as an advisor, revolutionized the farming of Japan.

Prince George's County was once the home of 30 bogs? Today, only three remain – Beltsville, Suitland and Aitcheson bogs, where rare and endangered species of plants and animals can be found.

John Rogers of Upper Marlboro was the delegate to the Continental Congress that voted for the Declaration of Independence but did not sign it due to illness? He also played a leading role in the patriotic activities in the County preceding the American Revolution and represented the County at the Maryland Conventions in 1774 and 1775.

Gabriel Duvall of Marietta in Glenn Dale was an Associate Justice of the U.S Supreme Court? He was also appointed as Comptroller of the Treasury by President Jefferson.

Franklins Restaurant, Brewery and General Store in Hyattsville was formerly a blacksmith and carriage

Fall Lectures

Glenn Dale Hospital and its Historic Preservation Wednesday, 26 October 2016
Hyattsville Public Library
7:30PM - 9:00PM

Fred Stachura from the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Staff will be presenting on the Glenn Dale Hospital and its historic preservation. Mr. Stachura is a graduate of Boston College (B.A. History), Boston University (M.A. Preservation Studies) and Saint Louis University School of Law (Juris Doctor). Mr. Stachura has developed specific expertise in public policy initiatives, preservation law policy and planning, organizational development, community advocacy, and preservation-based real estate development. He served as staff liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission and has specialized expertise in technical preservation issues, preservation easements, and preservation public policy.

People, Places, and Politics of Maryland
Wednesday, 09 November 2016

Hyattsville Public Library
7:30PM - 9:00PM

John Peter Thompson, a former Trustee of PGCMLS, and now current Chair of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, will give a talk on the people of Maryland, their politics informed by their industry and work. He will focus on the period 1696 to 1870 (to the present time permitting) making frequent comments on the present state of politics, and government.

Tracing History Through Ceramics *(Continued from page 4)*

demonstrated that they produced a range of transfer printed earthenware in blue, brown, flow blue, and flow mulberry. The majority of these wares were clearly being made for export, as flow blue and flow mulberry are virtually unknown in the United Kingdom. The Podmore, Walker & Co. dump provided evidence for common types of wares, typically aimed at the middle to lower end of the market, and an absence of bone china that suggested production was mainly export driven. Transfer printed wares were primarily shipped to North America since the U.S. had almost no manufacturers of refined tablewares to protect and minimal tariff barriers; most of these wares were neither appreciated nor sold in large numbers in England. Therefore, few English records of these wares are known to exist. In addition, British patent registries from 1841 to 1883 are in fragile shape, rather difficult to access, and not yet duplicated for the Public Record House. As most of these cheaper wares are unmarked, attributing and dating them can present problems. Since transfer printed wares were often unmarked, it can be difficult to attribute them to a specific maker. An example is James Edwards, which manufactured white granite wares, painted, sponged and slip-decorated earthenware, and smaller quantities of transfer-printed wares. Edwards was best known for a pattern titled "Royal," and demonstrates the nineteenth century production economy through a British pottery maker who produced ceramic wares for an American market.

The United States was a large market for British and European manufactories, especially between the War of 1812 and the end of the Civil War. Various potters depicted American places, heroes, and even military victories, and some even incorporated the American eagle on their impressed marks. According to scholar Christina Nelson, the popularity of the wares sprang from the search for a historic past, and the need for an immediate national history. Transfer printed porcelain wares were also made in Philadelphia, at the Bonnin and Morris factory. An example is a shallow bowl with straight sides consisting of openwork interlaced circles joined by horizontal struts and with small modeled flowers applied on the outside at each juncture; it is closely related to an English basket (shown in Image 6). The flowers and rim are painted, while the inside is transfer-printed. One of the items bought by the Bonnin and Morris factory was "a rolling press for copper-plate printing," which resembled prints on wares made by Worcester, the same factory the English basket came from (shown in Image 8). This resemblance demonstrates a working technical relationship between the two factories. Art historian Michael Brown argues that Bonnin and Morris specified that Worcester's porcelain was comparable to theirs, and that Bonnin and Morris also recruited workmen who had been previously employed at Worcester.



(Image 6: View of open work fruit basket with transfer printed decoration by Bonnin and Morris. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 1770-1772.)



(Image 8: Openwork basket, Worcester porcelain factory, ca. 1760-1765. In comparison to the American made transfer printed basket.³²)

Conclusion:

As ceramic wares became more common, due to lower prices and technological advancements, they also became

Continued on page 9

The Art of Dionicio Rodriguez *(Continued from cover)*

faux bois or *trabajo rustico*, Spanish for rustic work, in Texas at the time (p.10).

Various sources describe Rodriguez as a sculptor, architect, artist, or artisan. Although he had no formal training, Rodriguez developed his own techniques for preparing, coloring and sculpting concrete. Using simple, hand-made tools, he worked under a tent to protect the knowledge of his preparation and coloring methods from competitors and he took those secrets to his grave.

Rodriguez may have invented and perfected many of the techniques of working in concrete faux bois, but he was not the first to work in the genre. Earlier examples of outdoor imitation rock and wood sculpture can be found in Europe, Asia, Central and South America, and throughout the United States. In 1867, French gardener Joseph Monier patented the use of wire to reinforce concrete for the production of garden containers. Once the reinforcing technique began to spread, imitation wood began to be used in footbridges, benches, tables, and other weight-bearing landscape decorations.

While Rodriguez became a Permanent Resident of the United States by early 1937, he never learned to read or write in English. Arriving in the United States at the age of 33, he soon began to receive so many commissions that learning a second language as an adult was not a priority. He communicated with his clients using sign language and interpreters.

In 1936, Rodriguez began his work at Cedar Hill Cemetery, but until 1938 when he finished his work in

Maryland, he would intermittently visit other locations for work or trips to see family in Mexico. In 1937, he arranged for his niece, Manuela Vargas, to come from Mexico and travel with him from Little Rock, Arizona, to Maryland to continue his work at Cedar Hill (1937-1938). During this period, he depended on Manuela and long-time client Elliot Clovis Hinds to manage his financial and business affairs.

Rodriguez suffered throughout his adult life with diabetes, but did not seek treatment until 1935 after experiencing symptoms of extreme fatigue, thirst, and weight loss. He began taking insulin injections, but much damage had already occurred, particularly to his eyes. He had lost his eyesight by the time he died in San Antonio at age 64.

To celebrate this little-known sculptor and his work in our county, the Society will co-sponsor a presentation about the work of Dionicio Rodriguez by Dennis Montagna on Thursday, October 20, 2016, at the University of Maryland. Dr. Montagna directs the National Park Service's Regional Office of Monument Research and Preservation Program in Philadelphia. The Society is working with the University's Department of Residential Facilities to bring Dr. Montagna to campus. Free parking for this event is available on campus in Lot 1 and metered parking may be found in the Library Lane Parking Garage, across from St. Mary's Hall. - Chris Garcia

The Art of Dionicio Rodriguez
Presented by Dennis Montagna, PhD
Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
University of Maryland, College Park
Call 301-699-9124 for information.

Hoofbeats Through History

Prince George's County is home to a richness of horse history – Belair Stable Museum, the Selima Room at the Bowie Library, and Bowie Race Track in Bowie, Laurel Park in Laurel, Marlboro Race Course in Upper Marlboro, Surratt House Museum in Clinton, and Rosecroft Raceway in Fort Washington. All these sites and several more make up the Southern Maryland Historic Horse Trail, a

program of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC). The trail is one of a statewide series of historic horse trails and is one of the ways Maryland is documenting its exciting equine history. To learn more about these destinations, horse-related activities, ephemera, artifacts, photos, articles, Horse Discovery Centers, riding programs, working horse farms and much more, visit www.somdhorsetrails.smadc.com.

National Historic Preservation Act Turns 50

Prince George's County has an inventory of over 400 historic sites.

President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) into law on October 15, 1966. This recognition of the importance of historic preservation has transformed communities across the United States and has produced wide-ranging social and economic impacts.

The NHPA is the legal framework that incentivizes the preservation of buildings, landscapes and archeology. It was created after the destruction of numerous buildings and sites after World War II. Highlights of the Act include the encouragement of identifying and preserving cultural and historic resources, the establishment of a national preservation program, procedural protections, the creation of the National Register of Historic Places, an advisory council, and an historic preservation fund. In addition, NHPA included the establishment of state and local government historic preservation programs, such as the Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust. Today, the National Register of Historic Places has more than 89,000 listings covering 1.7 million resources. Prince George's County has an inventory of over 400 historic sites and resources. The county's designated historic sites are eligible for preservation tax credits of 20% from the State of Maryland and 25% from Prince George's County. The county also has an historic property grant program that can be used to rehabilitate, restore, preserve or acquire an historic property. For more information about the county's preservation tax credits and grant program, visit: http://www.pgplanning.org/About-Planning/Our_Divisions/Countywide_Planning/Historic_Preservation/Grants_and_Tax_Credits/Historic_Property_Grant_Program.htm.

Preservation50 was established to commemorate the 50th anniversary of NHPA, and to help America understand the role that our legacy plays in our future. According to the Preservation50 website,

The NHPA helps stabilize neighborhoods and downtowns, contributes to public education, attracts investment, creates jobs, generates tax revenues, supports small business and affordable housing, and powers America's heritage tourism industry. Publicly owned historic properties, from community landmarks to federal facilities and national parks, also maintain



Graphic is courtesy of <http://preservation50.org>

community pride and identity, aid local and regional economies through their operation and maintenance, and foster a variety of public uses.

To learn more about NHPA and Preservation50, visit <http://preservation50.org>.

Celebrate the 50th birthday of NHPA by visiting a national park, going to a historic house museum, volunteering at an archeological dig or getting involved in a local preservation project.

A Woman for President

Belva Lockwood is Equal Rights Party Nominee

In this highly unusual election year, one special aspect is, of course, the fact that a woman has secured the nomination for the U. S. presidency. It is reminiscent of the situation here in Prince George's County in 1884, when Belva Lockwood became the nominee of the Equal Rights Party for the presidency of the United States. To be sure, Mrs. Lockwood's party was not of the mainstream, but her nomination was one of the first for a female candidate, and this nomination resonated especially in Prince George's County. (She was preceded by Victoria Woodhull who had been nominated in 1872 by the Equal Rights party, but Ms. Woodhull's nomination was not quite legal in that even if elected she would not have turned 35 years of age until six months after she took office.)

Belva Ann Bennett was born in 1830 in western New York state; she was married, became a mother, and widowed by the age of 22. Determined to educate herself and support her child, she enrolled in Genesee College (now Syracuse University) which had recently opened to women. She received a B.A. in 1857, and began teaching. In 1866, she and her daughter moved to Washington, D.C., where she opened her own progressive co-educational school, and in 1868 married Dr. Ezekiel Lockwood, Baptist minister and Civil War chaplain. In her spare time, Mrs. Lockwood eagerly attended sessions of Congress and the courts, and her enthusiasm for becoming part of the government led her to pursue a degree in law, which she secured in 1873. She developed a successful practice and, by 1879 had moved sufficient mountains to be admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

By this time, Mrs. Lockwood was becoming well known in the equal rights movement; she publicly called for voting rights for women, and stressed the fact that regardless of the fact that women could not vote, they could be voted for, and she supported the nomination of women for high office. In August 1884, Belva Lockwood was nominated for the presidency of the United States by the newly formed, California-based, Equal Rights party.

Back in Washington, D.C., a rally was planned for the ratification of Belva Lockwood's candidacy, and it took place in Prince George's County, 18 September 1884, at the farm of Amanda Best, near Wilson's Station on the railroad line between Baltimore and Washington (now Amtrak in Landover). The rally was described in Belva Lockwood's own words "How I ran for the Presidency"

(*National Magazine*, Volume 17, No. 6, March 1903):

"Then the women of Washington became aroused and determined on a ratification meeting, but no one in Washington has a vote. An electoral ticket was therefore gotten up for Maryland, and Mrs. Amanda Best, who at that time had a country home within the confines of Prince George's County, and near to the railroad station, offered to act as hostess.

Notices of the meeting and how to get there were published in the Washington papers and billed in the streets. On arriving we found a rambling old farmhouse Huge, spreading old apple trees in the background were used to shade the long tables of lemonade, sandwiches, pies and cake that had been spread under them... There was a lively speech from the presidential candidate, in which she counseled the women to rise, and by their votes take possession of the affairs of government. There was a response from Maryland and from the District of Columbia, with a marked appreciation of the repast spread under the apple trees and as the sun went down the merry ratifiers hied themselves to the railroad station to take the train back to Washington. There, sitting on the railroad ties, with note books in hand, were nine reporters from Baltimore and Washington striving in the twilight to make an abstract of the candidate's speech for their respective papers before the cars came rushing down. What they did not remember they unconcernedly made up, never losing chance of an opportunity to add a little color. . . . Of course, both Baltimore and Washington had the report of the meeting next morning, with embellishments"

Indeed, the next morning long accounts of the ratification rally appeared in Baltimore and Washington newspapers. "Hospitable Mrs. Amanda Best, of Prince George's County, adorned her farm-house in its gayest garb yesterday to entertain the Equal Rights party's nominee for the Presidency, Mrs. Belva Lockwood . . . Mrs. Best's house is situated about half a mile south of Wilson's Station on the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad. It is an old frame building, two stories high. Built as it is upon an airy eminence, wind and rain have nearly rubbed off all the whitewash that once brightened its exterior.

The situation, however, is delightful, and the spot is appropriately named Pleasantview. When the atmosphere is clear as it was yesterday afternoon the Capitol dome at Washington is distinctly discernible

Continued on page 10

Tracing History Through Ceramics *(Continued from page 6)*

more varied, which resulted from centuries of “china mania.” New, everyday wares had become more colorful, exciting, and elegant than ever before, but there were also deeply rooted and slow changing cultural values embedded in these wares, such as the refinement of manners and the home for the working class. Transfer printed ceramics came through industry advancements starting in the late 18th century, and took inspirations for its decorative motifs from the various aesthetic and cultural trends of the period. These blue and white printed wares can be analyzed through multiple attributes, with complex interrelationships between commerce, industry, and art, with datable characteristics of form, glaze, marks, and decoration; all these aspects can be cross referenced within a single piece of ceramic ware.



The holidays are a great time to give the gift of membership or share the county's history by purchasing one of our books. Shipping is free through December 31 on all book purchases submitted by mail.

The Frederick DeMarr Library will be closed on Saturday, December 24 and 31, 2016, to allow staff to enjoy the holidays with family and friends.
Happy Holidays!

A Woman for President *(Continued from page 9)*



Belva Lockwood (1884)

in the distance. At night the lamps of Washington cause a ruddy glow to skirt the horizon. The farm house is surrounded by corn patches, tobacco plots, a vineyard and an apple orchard.” (*Baltimore Morning Herald*, 19 September 1884)

And “There is nothing in the Constitution or its several amendments” said Mrs. Lockwood, “that tends to render a . . . woman citizen of a Territory or State ineligible to the high position of President of the Republic. So I desire to say to you gentlemen that you may safely cast your ballots for me in the coming election. If we win we will have equal rights for all . . .” (*Washington Post*, 19 September 1884).

It was clear that in 1884, America was not yet ready for a female president. Belva Lockwood received (out of 10 million votes) 4149 votes - all of course cast by male voters. She ran again in 1888, with less public attention and less success, but continued her activity in women’s rights, managing to open many doors for professional women of the future. As she

said, “I have learned how to remove a mountain, and have removed several.” She died in 1917, only a few years before the 19th amendment to the U. S. Constitution gave American women the vote.

.....

The location of the ratification rally, the Pleasantview farm home of Amanda Best, is a short distance south of today’s Landover Metro station. Mrs. Best’s frame house is long gone, but the small log cabin that had stood near it on that “airy eminence” now has a new setting and a new life of its own. The cabin was relocated in 1983 to a residential subdivision in Glenn Dale, and renovated to become a rental dwelling. Though scarcely recognizable now as the Pleasantview cabin that Belva Lockwood would have seen, it is a physical reminder of a significant event in U. S. political history. In September 1984, a rally was held on the grounds of the newly renovated cabin, to celebrate the centennial of the nomination of Belva Lockwood as a candidate for the presidency of the United States. - Susan Pearl

PUBLICATIONS

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