



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE COUNTY



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

Editor: Adam Youssi

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you who renewed your membership during our recent membership renewal drive. By percentage of overall existing membership, it was the most successful drive we've had in recent memory. Garnering nearly \$10,000 in dues, your contributions are crucial to the existence of this organization. Having said that, however, our membership contributions cover roughly 8% of our operating expenses. In the last year that portion of the operating budget not covered by income from memberships was covered by book sales of *Baltimore County: Celebrating 1659-2009*, a generous grant from the Baltimore Arts and Sciences Commission in the amount of \$25,000, and donations. However, in light of the continuing economic impact on our government from the sluggish economy, we cannot depend on the largesse of local government to keep us funded. Consequently, in the coming year we will be depending on you to; (1) donate to HSBC as you always have, (2) participate in September's Shrimp Feast, (3) get you and your friends geared up to participate in this fall's antiques road show HSBC style, and (4) purchase 350th anniversary books as gifts or refer friends. In the coming weeks you should expect to hear from me again regarding our Spring Donation Drive, opportunities for helping us through estate planning, opportunities to volunteer in the operation and development of HSBC, and a year-end report at the close of our fiscal year in June. Most important of all, please provide feedback, and let us know how we can better support you and your interests in our role as the Historical Society of Baltimore County.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *President's Message*
- *Collections Activities*
- *History Trails Submissions*
- *Wanted: Memoirs*
- *Volunteers*
- *Membership Cards*
- *Welcome New Members*
- *"When Cockeysville was Irish"*
- *Upcoming Events*

COLLECTIONS ACTIVITIES

Museum volunteers have spent a great deal of time working on the inventory of the museum collections. Dolores Lake and Joyce Layman have done yeoman's work by identifying unmarked items, packing like types of artifacts together in acid-free tissue and boxes, as well as marking those boxes so items might easily be found for exhibits and research.

Their single largest part of inventory to date is their work on textile storage. A few years ago, the Historical Society received a number of grants from "The Questors," a group interested in history and decorative arts. Through their generosity, the Society was able to strip out the Textile Storage Room, repaint it to a lighter, easier to clean color, purchase moveable wire shelving and plenty of acid-free tissue and textile boxes. Joyce and Dolores are now working on all the textiles in Textile Storage that are not quilts or bed hangings, as they were reorganized by The Questors. These items include dresses, nightgowns, evening

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clothes, uniforms, baby clothes, as well as gloves, hats, shoes, and umbrellas. Items are being taken out of old acidic boxes, photographed, and repacked in tissue for storage in proper textile boxes.

In the beginning of 2010, the Society received a wonderful collection of photographs from Roger E. Carpenter, the nephew and son of Ethel Stiffler and Emily Stiffler Carpenter. The Stifflers were instrumental in providing some of the interior components, as well as tools and display items that were used by the Stiffler's parents, Jacob and Bertha Cross Stiffler, at the time they ran a general store in Parkton, MD. Many of the photos were taken by Ethel Stiffler and represent Parkton and other areas of northern Baltimore County where family were located.

HISTORY TRAILS SUBMISIONS

The Historical Society of Baltimore County is seeking submissions to its quarterly publication, *History Trails*. Whether you simply have a general interest in history, are an independent scholar, or an academically trained historian, the society encourages you to consider submitting an article for possible inclusion.

While *History Trails'* subject matter has traditionally focused almost entirely on local concerns, we are interested in expanding its scope into new areas. For example, where one article might focus on a single historic building, person, or event in the county, others may develop and defend a historic argument, compare and contrast Baltimore County topics to other locales, or tie seemingly confined local topics to larger events.

Articles abiding by the *Chicago Manual of Style* Documentary-Note (or Humanities) system will be given priority. The Chicago style is chosen not for arbitrary reasons, but because it is the agreed upon format for historical publications, and because it maximizes the quantity of information that evidentiary citations provide the reader. A convenient, and abbreviated, guide to Chicago style citations may be found in Kate L. Turabian's, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Contributors should submit both a digital and hard copy of their article to the address below.

Attn: History Trails Editor; Historical Society of Baltimore County
9811 Van Buren Lane; Cockeysville, MD 21030

WANTED: BALTIMORE COUNTY MEMOIRS

Growing up in Baltimore County offers a rich and diverse culture of experiences; and, at the Historical Society of Baltimore County, we would like to hear about them, include them in our collections, and share them with members and researchers.

You may think that stories of everyday life have nothing to offer, but you might be surprised how much history your perspectives can facilitate, and how many historical interpretations, analyses, or arguments your memoirs can bolster.

Several lines, paragraphs, or pages would be great. You can write about specific topics, places, or events; or, simply provide a few pages of your personal memoirs about life in Baltimore County. Please help us to collect and conserve the past. Questions? Call Bud Cornell or Jim Long. 410-666-1878

VOLUNTEERS

As we pursue our mission, we have an ever increasing need for volunteers. Opportunities exist in many different areas: patron assistance, research, filing, etc. Please consider sharing your skills with us by volunteering your time and talent. You can give as much, or as little, time as you have available, and training is provided. Volunteers are needed Tuesday through Saturday.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS & CERTIFICATES

If you're a member of the Historical Society of Baltimore County, you recently received a new membership card, and honorary certificate. It is our small way of thanking you for your support of the Historical Society of Baltimore County, and aiding its mission, "... to collect, conserve, and interpret the rich history of Baltimore County for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations." The HSBC wishes to thank Jim Long, Dale Knapp, and Evert 'Bud' Cornell for organizing and preparing the cards and certificates.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Richard Hall of Sparks, MD

Mr. Charles Knox of Timonium, MD

Ms. Malissa Ruffner of Baltimore, MD

Mr. Howard Smith, Jr. of Woodbine, MD

Mr. Hiram Woodward, Jr. of Baltimore, MD



“WHEN COCKEYSVILLE WAS TEXAS... AND IRISH”

On March 17, 2010 (St. Patrick's Day), Dr. Stephen Brighton, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Maryland, College Park, was interviewed on WYPR. Brighton discussed his involvement and leadership in an on-going archeological dig in Texas (now Cockeysville), Maryland. In the interview, Brighton discussed the dig, and the history of the Irish Diaspora in Baltimore County. Brighton is the author of *Historical Archaeology of the Irish Diaspora: A Transnational Approach*.

Both the abbreviated ten-minute, and full forty-minute, interviews can be found online at the following address:

<http://mdmorn.wordpress.com/2010/03/16/317102-when-cockeysville-was-texas-and-irish/>

UPCOMING EVENT

A Conversation with John McGrain (Almshouse) June 13, 2010 1:30 p.m.

The elder statesman of Baltimore County history, John W. McGrain Jr. has been chronicling the county's history for decades. Former secretary of the Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission, McGrain was appointed Baltimore County historian in 1998. Retiring in 2007 at nearly 75 years of age, John has been called "a walking database of county history." Having written about Baltimore County's grist mills, duck mills, iron works, place names, and manufacturing towns, just to name a few, there's little John does not know about the county's history. Come and join us in the final chapter of this year's "A Conversation with..." series as we sit down and chat with John McGrain regarding his pursuit of Baltimore County history.

A participation fee of \$5 will apply to non-members. HSBC member are free.



Hours of Operation:

Fridays from noon to 4 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2nd Wednesdays 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



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BALTIMORE COUNTY

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Cockeysville, MD 21030

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E-mail: info@hsobc.org

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