



NEWSLETTER

March 2007

Editor: Adam J. Youssi, Admin. Asst.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY of BALTIMORE COUNTY

What Our Members Are Reading....

Where We Lived. Discovering the Places We Once Called Home. The American Home from 1775 to 1840 by Jack Larkin. This National Trust for Historic Preservation book is described as, "...the most evocative look to date of how families lived at the dawn of the republic and how their houses shaped their lives."

The Birth of Black America. The First African Americans and the Pursuit of Freedom at Jamestown by Tim Hashaw. "Buried by history for 4 centuries, here at last is the true tale of intrigue, piracy, slavery, and freedom surrounding the 1619 birth of black America."

These books are not part of the HSBC library collection—look for them at your public library or local bookseller. Let us know what you are reading—email Kevin Clement, HSBC Library Director, at bchistory4@verizon.net.

Volunteer Opportunities

Research Assistants

Indexers

Transcribers

Graphic Designer (design promotional material for HSBC)

Vertical File Project Assistants (see article below)

Vertical File Project

If you want to learn about a person, place, or building and help the HSBC at the same time, sign up to be a vertical file assistant!

This volunteer opportunity is easy to do and interesting at the same time. Although you will work with a computer in the final step of the project, computer experience is not required.

Vertical files are folders of documents related to the topic of the file. Examples of topic files are Dundalk, Long Green Farm, Sparks State Bank, Train Wrecks, and surname files.

As a vertical file assistant, you will work under Kevin's (HSBC Library Director) guidance to do the following tasks:

- Review file for duplicate documents.
- Copy all documents in file to create a backup folder
- Enter file documents into our library & museum software database. In this step, you will use drop down menus to categorize each document and then enter key words and names contained in each document.

Once the Vertical File Project is completed, library researchers will be able to search the files virtually through the PastPerfect software database. Thus, an inquiry on "fires" will direct you to all the files containing any information on fires occurring in the County.

Recent New Memberships In The HSBC

Daniel Shanahan of Phoenix, MD

Robert von Lunz of Towson, MD

Bethanee Bemis of Monkton, MD

Cynthia Mann & Family of Phoenix, MD

Randy Hart of Upperco, MD

Paul Dorsey of Baltimore, MD

2007 Corporate Members

JPI Enterprises, Inc. of Baldwin, MD - Corporate-Silver

Mr. & Mrs Wright of Sparks, MD - Corporate-Silver

Museum News

Museum operations have been very active. The staff and volunteers have been busy at work in the collections doing research and reorganizing objects so that a better interpretation of the history of the county can be prepared and displayed in the future.

Last summer Eliza Mullen, a student at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, became a textiles intern. She started to photograph, re-house and update the cataloguing records for the clothing and accessories collections at the Historical Society. Despite the fact that she is back in school she continues to help when time allows.

(continued on reverse...)

In the fall Joyce Layman and Dolores Lake became volunteers in collections. Dolores served as a National Park Service employee for 17 years at Hampton Mansion where she worked for the former curator and oversaw the preservation and maintenance of Hampton's collections. Joyce is currently a tour guide at the Maryland Historical Society, and until recently she was a curatorial volunteer at Hampton Mansion working with Delores. Given their expertise in museum collections care, I am delighted to have both of them here at the Historical Society of Baltimore County.

Last month, the Museum applied for a Maryland State Questors grant to help fund the hardware required to reinstall the textile storage area on the 3rd floor. A few years back the Clynmalira Chapter of the Questors very kindly funded the purchase of new textile boxes and acid free tissue so the HSBC could begin the first part of the storage project. If we are successful in getting this state grant, the Clynmalira Chapter will come in and work with staff and volunteers to unroll, photograph, and re-house the quilts and linens in the Society's collections.

Our Library Director, Kevin, and the Collections Manager, Melissa, are also working on putting together some historical information and photographs on the Almshouse, the HSBC's current location. A number of the original daily log books for the Almshouse are in the Library's collections and are currently being transcribed. We have a good basic knowledge about the site thanks to research previously done by the Maryland State Archives, as well as a booklet that was prepared in the early 1960s by the Historical Society. When research on this project becomes more complete we hope and intend to create a small exhibit on the Almshouse.

Photo: Dr. Barry Lanman of the Martha Ross Center for Oral History poses with Corinne Dorsey Onnen (left) and Gertrude Kitchen Dorsey (right). Gertrude Dorsey is a long time resident of Halethorpe. Picture was taken at the *History of Halethorpe* program at the HSBC on 1/28/2007.



Calendar of events (next 4 months)

March 2007

11th - OHCBC: *The History of Towson Featuring Oral Histories*, followed by OHCBC general meeting; 2:00pm
 15th - *Getting to Know Your Ancestors*; 10:00am
 18th - *The Ma & Pa Railroad*; 2:00pm

April 2007

1st - OHCBC: *Oral History - An Introductory Workshop I*; 2:00pm
 12th - *Using Heritage Quest Census in Genealogy*; 10:00am
 21st - 22nd - *Living History: Civil War Encampment by the 148th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Company C*; Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-3

May 2007

5th - *Spring Tea*
 6th - OHCBC: *Oral History: An Introductory Workshop II*; 2:00pm
 8th - *HSBC Quarterly membership meeting*; 7:30pm
 20th - *History of Jacksonville and Lutherville Volunteer Fire Companies*; 2:00pm
 26th-28th - Closed to recognize the Memorial Day holiday.

June 2007

10th - *Archival Considerations* followed by OHCBC general meeting; 2:00pm.
 14th - *Scenic Baltimore County*; 10:00am
 24th - *A Walk Through Baltimore County*; 2:00pm

Visit <www.hsobc.org/calendar.html> for complete calendar abstracts and details.

Wish List

We have acquired a digital data projector and a overhead projector from our prior list. Below are the items we still hope to acquire in the near future.

1. Laptop with PowerPoint
2. Library Book cart
3. Large Monitor TVcart with power strip
4. 200 gigabyte external backup Hard Drive

Historical Society of Baltimore County

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