

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2008

Editors: Ann Blouse & Adam J. Youssi

SHRIMP FEAST WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

The Second Annual Shrimp Feast and Silent Auction fundraiser held September 12, 2008 was a great success! Approximately 245 attended. We raised nearly \$8,000 in revenue. The Shrimp Feast Committee did a superb job in organizing the evening, especially the silent auction—thanks to Jane Michael, Shirley Tepper, Jackie Wilson, and Barb Yingling. The Committee extends a big “thank you” to Adam Youssi, who managed so many of the behind-the-scenes details necessary for the event. We could not have done it without you—our members, friends, supporters, and contributing businesses.

50-50 Raffle Winner

Congratulations to the winner of the 50-50 raffle drawing. The HSBC sent raffle tickets to members a couple months before the event. Raffle tickets were continually sold the evening of the banquet. The 50-50 raffle solicited just a little over \$1,000. Meaning, the winner received a check from the HSBC for just over \$500. We hope you treated yourself to something special!

AirTran Airlines Winner

Congratulations to Mrs. Debbie Thomas of Sweet Air in Baltimore County. Mrs. Thomas is a high school math teacher in Baltimore County Public Schools. Mrs. Thomas hopes to use the roundtrip tickets to visit Dallas, TX, where her daughter and son-in-law live with her new grandson. When asked if she would attend the HSBC fundraiser next year, Debbie replied, “You bet!”

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Shrimp Feast Success*
- *Thank You Donors*
- *Glenn L. Martin Flips Middle River*
- *Sales Tax*
- *New Books*
- *New Members*
- *Calendar*

PLEASE SUPPORT AND THANK OUR SHRIMP FEAST DONORS!

- AirTran Airways
- Ann Marie's Hallmark
- Attman's Deli
- Baltimore Opera Company
- Baltimore Revenue Authority
- Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
- Baltimore's Tremont Hotels
- Bowman Restaurant
- Broadway Services, Inc
- Brooks-Huff Tire & Auto
- Boordy Vineyards
- Di Salvo's Hair Salon
- Gratitudes
- Hirsch Electric
- JPI Enterprises
- Ladew Topiary Gardens
- Magooby's Joke House
- Martin's Hairport
- Maryland Historical Society
- National Aquarium in Baltimore
- Panera Bread
- Pat's Pizzeria and Restaurant
- Peppermill Restaurant and Lounge
- River Watch Restaurant
- Sandra Magsamen
- Ultimate Watersports
- USS Constellation Museum
- Wild Bird Centers
- Wilson Point Discount Liquors
- Wilson Point Flower Shop
- Diedra Beck
- Glenn Johnston
- Jackie Wilson
- Jane Michael
- Kevin Clement
- Mary Katherine Scheeler
- Phyllis Bailey
- Shirley Tepper
- Tim Dugan

Individual Donors

- Ann & John Blouse
- Barbara Yingling

...and all the members of the HSBC Board of Directors who donated bottles of wine for door prizes and gift baskets.

BCHT-HSBC TOUR OF GLENN L. MARTIN “FLIPS” MIDDLE RIVER EVART F. CORNELL

Sunday, September 28, found a bus full of history buffs on the first tour co-sponsored by the Baltimore County Historical Trust (BCHT) and the HSBC. The five-hour tour revealed how Glenn L. Martin “flipped” Middle River, Maryland from a small railroad community of 161 families to a 1200-acre industrial center comprising his manufacturing plant and the schools, markets, and other amenities needed to support the plant’s workers. Martin relocated his airplane factory to Middle River in 1929, employing 3000 people; by 1939 he employed 13,000 workers. Following Pearl Harbor, more than 54,000 workers were building bombers in three shifts, making it necessary to widen Old Eastern Avenue to four lanes in order to eliminate the daily three-hour backups.

Dr. Jack Breihan, Professor of History at Loyola College, was the tour leader, assisted by Trish Bentz, Executive Director of BCHT. At our first stop, the original Victory Villa Community Center, little changed since 1942, Dr. Breihan shared a selection of slides to enable us to understand the political climate when the transformation of Middle River began.



Guests speak with Prof. Breihan at Martin’s on Sept. 28, 2008. Photo by Evart Cornell.

Martin wanted trees and safe havens for families. His requirements translated into community designs with curvy streets, community walkways, lots of trees and grass. Houses backed to the street (see Martin Boulevard). Houses! How can you build homes for 13,000 workers and their families fast and cheap (\$4,000/each). Martin found Philip Small to design the houses and Celatex to provide the prefab materials that could be snapped together in about 35 man hours. Other houses were created by Cemesto by spraying concrete.

Meanwhile, Martin hired Albert Kahn to design some of the plant’s buildings which included walls of 60% glass. We discovered original houses in the various communities which had no alterations, beautiful garden apartments and trees: Wilson Point, Stansbury Apartments, Strawberry Point, Victory Villa, and Aereo Acres.



Shirley Trent examines plane in Martin’s outdoor exhibit on Sept. 28, 2008. Photo by Evart Cornell.

Another highlight was meandering among former fighter planes. Dr. Breihan provided a handout of 64 pages titled: *Historical and Architectural Significance of Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Structures, Stansbury Manor Apartment, World War II Suburban Subdivisions in Middle River, Maryland*. The booklet will remain a handy reference.

Also in attendance at this 5-star event were Dr. Rhoda Dorsey, Wayne Schaumburg, and a group of enthusiastic historians with palatable respect for the County’s history. Check out the websites for coming events: www.bcht.org & www.hsobc.org.



This photo by the author features the original Martin Airport Terminal thought by some to be the best Art Deco example in Baltimore County.

NOTICE TO PERSONS BUYING ITEMS AT SHRIMP FEAST

At our fundraiser on September 12, the HSBC mistakenly collected sales tax for items sold at the Silent Auction. Following the event we learned that we were not required to collect sales tax for these items.

Therefore, we are offering reimbursement of any sales taxes paid by auction winners. Please contact Adam Youssi at the HSBC to begin processing your request (410-666-1878 or bchistory@verizon.net). Refunds will be in cash if less than \$10 and can be picked up at HSBC during normal operating hours. Refunds more than \$10 will be made by check and can be mailed. Please be prepared to provide a copy of receipt if available. The total sales tax collected was \$170.

Alternatively, you may donate your tax payment to benefit the HSBC. All unclaimed tax will be applied to the HSBC's operating budget as an additional non-taxable donation to the organization. All unclaimed funds will help the Society fulfill its mission: "The Historical Society of Baltimore County collects, conserves, and interprets the rich history of Baltimore County for the education and enjoyment of present and future generation." HSBC regrets this error and thanks you for your continuing support of our activities.

PUBLISH YOUR LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH IN *HISTORY TRAILS*

We have a steady stream of visitors to the HSBC History Research Center. Some are doing genealogy, others are tracing land ownership, and still others are looking into the history of their home or community. If you are one of these researchers, and would like to share with others the story you have found, consider preparing an article for publication in *History Trails*. We will help you edit your article and find photographs from our collection, if needed. Please call Adam at 410-666-1878 or Ann at 410-661-8629.

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Peterson, Charles E. *Notes on Hampton Mansion*. 2d ed. College Park, Md.: University of Maryland, 2001.

Western Cemetery: Burials Prior to 1874, Including Civil War Soldiers Plus Addendum to Interment Records, 1890 to 1892, Baltimore, Maryland. Baltimore: Baltimore County Genealogical Society, 2008.

Rettew, L.D. *Treason at Christiana: September 11, 1851*. Morgantown, PA: Masthof Press, 2006.

Keddie, Leslie & Neil. *Baltimore County, Maryland Register of Wills 1804-October 1805*. Salisbury, Md.: Family Tree Bookshop, 2006.

Keddie, Leslie & Neil. *Baltimore County, Maryland Wills, liber 8, i, cr 72, 243-2 1805-August 1807*. Salisbury, Md.: Family Tree Bookshop, 2006.



WELCOME NEW HSBC MEMBERS

Ms. Naomi K. Bink of Towson, MD

Mrs. Nancy Fairchild of Timonium, MD

Ms. Irene Reville of Towson, MD

Ms. Kathryn Aspden of Reisterstown, MD

Mrs. Margaret Meinecke of Lutherville, MD

Mr. Albert Earl Hines of Baltimore, MD

Mr. Charles B. Calvert of Glen Arm, MD

Mr. Ken Raykovics of Lutherville, MD

Mr. & Ms. Jason Domasky & Melissa Schelein of Baltimore, MD

Mr. & Mrs. Beever of Monkton, MD

Mr. John Good of Middle River, MD



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
BALTIMORE COUNTY

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STEWARDS OF THE PAST FOR THE
PRESENT AND FUTURE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (NEXT 3 MONTHS)

October 2008

Sat., Oct. 18 - Maryland Miniatures Unlimited Exhibit. Free to HSBC and MMU members and children under 12. \$5 for non-members and \$2 for children 12-18. Noon to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 19 - Current Historical Research in the Greenspring Valley. Find out about Greenspring Valley and recent scholarship on the area. Dr. A. Boulton. Non-members are \$5/person. 1:30 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 25 - History of Episcopal Parishes in Balt. County. \$5 for nonmembers, and \$10 for Parish group. 2:00 p.m.

November 2008

Sun., Nov. 9 - MacArthur's Cavalry Combat Team in WWII: the 112th Cavalry RCT. The last horse mounted cavalry unit deployed by the US Army to fight as cavalry, the 112th Cavalry Regimental Combat Team served in the Southwest Pacific during WWII. Known as "The Little Giant of the Pacific," this outfit always fought outnumbered and achieved remarkable success in its service. The unit on which "The Naked and the Dead" was based, Norman Mailer was one of several notable veterans of the regiment. A recognized authority on the

subject of the 112th Cavalry's activities in WWII, this event will mark the premier lecture on the topic on the East Coast. Dr. G. Johnston. Non-members are \$5/person. 1:30 p.m.

December 2008

Sun., Dec. 14 - Charm City's Contribution to Polish Independence: General Haller's Baltimore Volunteers. 2:00 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 24 through Jan. 1 - Closed for winter break.



All events are held at the Almshouse in Cockeysville, MD unless otherwise stated.

The HSBC's Regular Operating Hours: Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.