



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE COUNTY



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

Editors: Ann Blouse & Adam J. Youssi

HSBC EXTENDS ITS HOURS

Beginning in April the HSBC research library will be open on Fridays from noon to 4 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

VISIT US AT THE TOWSONTOWN FESTIVAL

HSBC is pleased to announce that it will be part of this year's Towson Town Spring Festival on Saturday and Sunday May 2-3, 2009. The premier outdoor event in Baltimore County, each year nearly 300,000 people attend the Towson Spring Festival. We began coordinating our participation in the event by meeting with the Towson Chamber of Commerce last August. Based on our request, the Spring Festival has chosen as its theme the celebration of Baltimore County's 350th Anniversary. Representatives from HSBC have been invited to the festival's opening ceremonies and the Towson Chamber has set aside spaces for our Society and other county historical organizations at no cost to those wishing to participate.

The HSBC booths will be located on upper-Baltimore Street near Joppa Road and will consist of two canopy-covered 10' x 14' spaces. One of HSBC's booths will be configured to sell our 350th Anniversary book and maps while the other will contain display panels which will allow the public to see the maps as well as selected pages and photographs from the book. Mandy Eyler, a Stevenson University student involved in graphic design, has designed two banners for our use this semiseptcentennial year. We will be operating our booths from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m.-7 p.m. on Sunday and welcome you to swing by and see what we are offering the public. For those of you from hearty stock who wish to volunteer on either of the festival's days, please direct e-mail to Glenn Johnston at info@hsobc.org. Those wishing to volunteer should be able to stand for up to two hours and lift a box weighing up to 40 lbs.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Additional Hours*
- *2009 TowsonTown Festival*
- *Farewell to a Life Member*
- *Save The Date*
- *What Members are Reading*
- *Website News*
- *Research Request*
- *New Volunteers*
- *New Members*
- *Upcoming Events*

FAREWELL TO A LONG-TIME LIFE MEMBER

Life member, Nicholas Bosley Merryman of John, died at Clover Hill in Parkton on March 25, 2009 at age 96. Mr. Merryman came from a long line of exceptional leaders in Baltimore County. He was born at Hayfields, his clan's ancestral farm, in 1912. Throughout his life, he made significant contributions to his community. He will be missed.

SAVE THE DATE!

When? September 11, 2009, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

What? The HSBC's 3rd Annual Shrimp Feast and Silent Auction Fundraiser

Where? Columbus Gardens, 4301 Klosterman Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21236

Cost? \$35.00 per person

Why? In these difficult economic times non-profit libraries, research centers, and arts and humanities organizations are struggling, and HSBC is no different. Come and support the Historical Society of Baltimore County by participating in a fun and affordable night out. Enjoy a full buffet, open bar with domestic draft beers (wine extra), silent auction, great music, raffles, and more. All proceeds go to support the mission of the Historical Society of Baltimore County, to "collect, conserve, and interpret the rich history of Baltimore County for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations." Information on ticket sales will be forthcoming. Watch your mailbox and our website for more details.

WHAT MEMBERS ARE READING

Pearson, Judith L. *The Wolves at the Door: The True Story of America's Greatest Female Spy*. Guilford, Connecticut: The Lyons Press, 2005. ISBN 1-59228-762-X

Baltimore County can claim fame as the birthplace of Virginia Hall, one of the greatest spies in Vichy France during World War II. A shooting injury on a hunting outing cost Virginia her leg and spoiled her goal of a career with the US State Department. Fluent in four languages, Virginia made her way to France where she lived prior to the outset of the war. She fled to London and offered her services to the British Special Operations Executive (SOE). The SOE trained her as a spy and sent her into France where she coordinated many activities for the French Underground. Virginia barely escaped the Nazis by walking (with her prosthetic leg) over the mountains into Spain. She later joined the American Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and was sent back to France. In spite of extreme danger she mapped safe houses, arranged for supply drop zones, and organized bridge bombings to halt the advance of the Nazis. For her courageous service Virginia Hall was made a member of the Order of the British Empire and awarded the American Distinguished Service Cross.

If you would like to contribute to this section of our newsletter, please write to let us know what you are reading, and how it relates to Baltimore County.

WEBSITE NEWS

In the effort to better inform HSBC members and the general public of the resources we have available for researchers, our website has been updated with new information. If you visit our site, www.hsobc.org, and proceed to the 'Research Library,' you will find information and links to new sites detailing what the Society houses in its collections. We have added a list of our library shelf holdings, our photograph collection (titles & subjects only - no images), and our genealogy surname vertical files. Soon, we will add a list of our topically-organized Baltimore County vertical files. Check back for updates.

RESEARCH REQUEST

Does anyone have knowledge of the World War II German POWs who were brought to Pikesville and sent out in work teams to help farmers in the area? One of our Saturday researchers remembered a team of young Germans working on her family farm and would like to find out more about them. Contact info@hsobc.org.

HSBC RECOGNIZES ITS NEW VOLUNTEERS

- Barbara Ensor
- Martha Hendrickson
- Dale Knapp
- Jim Knapp

...AND THANKS ITS CONTINUING VOLUNTEERS

Kathy Aspden	Dolores Lake
Ann Blouse	Jim Long
Bud Cornell	Cynthia Mann
Tim Dugan	Kathleen O'Brien
Melissa Heaver	Barbara Yingling
Joyce Horrigan	

...BUT STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We are grateful for the many volunteers who have stepped in to help with the many tasks necessary to run the Historical Society of Baltimore County. Their dedication and work ethic has been exemplary. Because of the volume of work, we still need more volunteers to help with on-going projects and tasks needing completion. Some of the areas in need are: copying and organizing vertical files, listing extra books and researching current pricing, organizing Special Collections, collecting inventories, etc. Training will be available and hours are flexible. If you are interested, contact HSBC and leave a message for Shirley Tepper, or visit www.hsobc.org/volunteerrecruitment.html.

NEW MEMBERS!

Mr. & Mrs. Greg and Donna Yanman of Phoenix, MD
 Ms. Elizabeth J. Toole of Towson, MD
 Ms. Tracy Miller & Paul Arnest of Towson, MD
 Mr. Brendan O'Rourke of Towson, MD
 Ms. Mildred A. Bailey of Timonium, MD
 Mr. Robert Crawford of Autryville, NC





HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
BALTIMORE COUNTY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage

This year's Baltimore County tour in Western Run and Worthington Valleys will benefit the Baltimore County Historical Trust (BCHT). Proceeds will be used to continue BCHT work to register properties and historically significant landmarks in Baltimore County. Four properties will be featured, and the tour will conclude with an optional box lunch at Bosley Methodist Church (\$12). Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. For more information, go to www.mhgp.org, call 410.821.6933, or email mhgp@aol.com.



Hours of Operation:

Fridays from noon to 4 p.m.

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