



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE COUNTY



# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

Editor: Adam J. Youssi

## HSBC PARTNERS WITH BCPL FOR NATIONALLY TOURING LINCOLN EXHIBIT

A nationally touring Abraham Lincoln exhibit titled “Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln’s Journey to Emancipation” is on display at the Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL). According to the American Library Association, the exhibit contains reproductions of rare historical documents from The Huntington’s John Rhodehamel, Norris Foundation Curator of American Historical Manuscripts, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, while drawing from the latest scholarship in the field.

As host to the exhibit, the public library in Towson contacted HSBC to ask if the society had anything in its collection that might shed light on the county’s involvement in the Civil War. Dr. Glenn T. Johnston, HSBC President, and Anna Davis, HSBC intern, leapt at the opportunity. Johnston and Davis identified the best items for display, researched the authenticity and story of each piece, and translated those stories into textual and graphic displays for inclusion alongside the “Forever Free” exhibit.

HSBC’s complementary exhibit is centered on 12 items which include swords, bayonets, an oath of allegiance, a Confederate war bond, a military map, an apothecary chest, and a very rare and special revolver. Items will be on display in the rotunda of the Towson library, 320 York Road, Towson, Maryland 21204, until March 6, 2010. HSBC’s participation in this event is in-part made possible through a grant from the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Lincoln Exhibit*
- *Library News*
- *Volunteers*
- *Loyola MBA Students*
- *Room Rentals*
- *New Members*
- *Special Collections*
- *Recent Donations*
- *Upcoming Events*

## NEWS FROM THE HSBC RESEARCH CENTER

The past year was a busy one for our library volunteers, now numbering more than 20. Volunteers are working 5 days a week on projects ranging from photograph processing to compiling an inventory of our map collection. And, in addition to this behind-the-scenes work, we were open to the public approximately 520 hours in 2009.

**Photograph Processing (Jim Long)** - We have four classes of photographic materials—prints, negatives, 35mm slides, and glass negatives and positives. A significant initiative was to develop and implement a quality control process which entailed reviewing and correcting where necessary previous database entries. This task consumed significant time but was worth the effort to ensure the high quality of our photo database.

With the help of three new volunteers, seven new boxes of photographs were created (approximately 950 photos). In addition, 2,653 photo thumbnails were re-linked to the appropriate database entry; and 3,351 photos went through quality control. Our collection now numbers more than 5,000 photos fully processed with another 750 awaiting completion.

**Vertical Files (Bud Cornell and Tim Dugan)** - The **cemetery inscription files** have been reorganized and the file names entered into our PastPerfect database system. The **subject vertical files** are being cleaned of files

## NEWS (CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

that do not related to Baltimore County. Reorganization is underway. For example, files on churches are being moved from an alphabetical listing by name (e.g., St. James) to a section on churches (e.g., Church, St. James). Next steps will be to examine the content of each file, photocopy clippings, and eliminate duplicate material. The **surname vertical files** are being cleaned and new files created. Lists of these files have been published on our website.

**Maps (Earl Hines)** - The map collection inventory, stage 1, is approximately 95% complete. This will allow us to assign permanent storage locations and enter our collection of maps into PastPerfect.

**Microfilm/Microfiche (Kathleen O'Brien)** - The microfilm/microfiche collection is being inventoried and will be entered into PastPerfect.

**Reading Room (Kathy Aspden and Linda Haynes)** - We have made great progress in sorting through the books awaiting accessioning. This multi-step task includes determining whether the book is a duplicate of existing material, assigning Library of Congress numbers, preparing spine labels, entering the books into PastPerfect, and shelving the books.

**Archives and Special Collections (Ann Blouse)** - Books that are duplicate, first edition, old, fragile, or otherwise unsuitable for use in the Reading Room will be stored in an archive collection. They will be entered into PastPerfect so that patrons can access them if desired.

HSBC has a wealth of material pertaining to a specific topic (e.g., Hutzler's General Store) or of a particular type of material (e.g., postcards). This material is being sorted and entered into our database for access by patrons. Approximately 5 boxes of materials have been processed to date.

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## VOLUNTEERS

HSBC is looking to fill two particular positions as soon as possible. First, we need help researching and responding to mail-in research inquiries. Second, HSBC needs volunteers to assist visitors and patrons conducting on-site research in our library and archives. Both positions will involve some casual training sessions on HSBC's resources and their locations. If you are interested in either volunteer position, please contact us at 410-666-1878, or e-mail [info@hsbc.org](mailto:info@hsbc.org).

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## HSBC PARTNERS WITH LOYOLA MBA GRADUATE STUDENTS

In the effort to continually build upon HSBC's mission and improve its fiscal activities, the society and its Board of Directors recently partnered with graduate students from Loyola's Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. Loyola graduate students were given the task of meeting with HSBC's Board of Directors, assessing the organization's overall fiscal situation and business model, and investigating areas of strengths and weakness. The graduate students then developed a PowerPoint presentation for HSBC's Board of Directors which indicated the present state of the organization and possible avenues for improvement. This program is an invaluable tool on multiple fronts: it aids HSBC in public outreach, provides invaluable experience for aspiring MBA students, and provides the HSBC Board of Directors with fresh ideas from a younger generation of aspiring business professionals. HSBC intends to extend the program into the spring 2010 school semester with another conglomerate of Loyola MBA students.

## ROOM RENTAL

Planning a birthday party, retirement party, corporate training session, or simply a friendly social gathering? Please remember we have a beautifully renovated room available for rent at the HSBC Almshouse in Cockeysville. The location is perfect for civil groups, social groups, hobbyists, etc. A drop-down projector screen, and audio and computer equipment is also available. Consider hosting your next event at our location. Our rates are very affordable.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Bernie Anderson of Lutherville, MD	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Boswell of Baltimore, MD
Mr. John Coale of Glen Arm, MD	Mr. James Doran of Parkville, MD
Mr. Ben Fischler of Towson, MD	Ms. Johanna Suter of Sparks, MD
Mr. Newell Gilmour of Towson, MD	Ms. Alice Kempner of Baltimore, MD
Ms. Kellie Mullins of Forest Hill, MD	
Mr. Ross Myers of Phoenix, MD	



## NEWS FROM SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Due to the generosity of members Claire Richardson and the late Alice Martin, HSBC has a wonderful collection of Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage booklets. The information from these booklets on Baltimore County properties participating in the tours has been entered into our PastPerfect database. The information for each year includes the area of Baltimore County visited, names of original land patents, original and subsequent patentees/owners, names of historic houses, names of owners, and other search terms related to the properties. The booklets themselves can be retrieved from archive storage for reference. The booklets cover the years 1920, 1941, 1948-54, 1957-60, 1962-2000, 2004-05. We would welcome the donation of booklets for any of the missing years (1931-1940, 1955-56, 1961, 2001-03, 2006-09) to complete our collection of the more than 70-year history of the Pilgrimage.

## RECENT DONATIONS

HSBC recently accepted donations of two interesting collections of materials and artifacts:

On December 18, 2009 Sean Mather generously donated a collection of records, documents, and fiscal books from the Towson National Bank. The materials in the collection span from the 1880s to the 1930s. According to Sean, he acquired the items after they were discarded from storage in the basement of the Mercantile Safe Deposit & Trust Co., a business erected on the same grounds as the Towson National Bank after it was razed. The Mercantile Safe Deposit & Trust Co., Towson branch, is now a branch of PNC Bank.

James Kelly of Towson, Maryland donated a plethora of cultural artifacts from the Shanklin estate in the Cromwell-valley region of Baltimore County. This collection includes, among other things, a variety of farm implements and a dynamite blaster from the expansion of Loch Raven Reservoir. The items are a welcome addition to HSBC's collection of 10,000+ Baltimore County cultural artifacts.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.HSOBC.ORG](http://WWW.HSOBC.ORG)

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

If you have not already done so, please remember to renew your membership with the HSBC for 2010. Membership renewal reminders were sent at the end of December and beginning of January.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

See Insert



### 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.