



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE COUNTY



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015

GALLOWAY ROOM RENTALS

Please remember we offer a beautiful meeting space at reasonable prices in the beautiful and historic Baltimore County Almshouse in the heart of Cockeysville, MD. Contact us for your next bridal/baby shower, your organization's monthly group meetings or presentations, etc. The room offers a drop-down projection screen, digital projector and wi-fi access. E-mail info@hsobc.org or call (410) 666-1878.

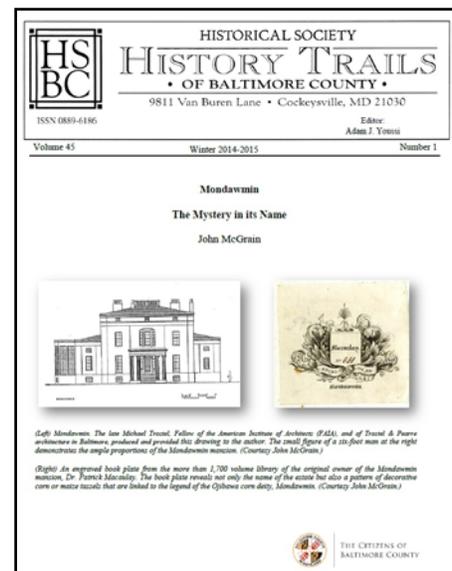


SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Room Rentals Available
- Mondawmin
- Upcoming Events
- Volunteers Needed
- You May Have Missed
- Opening Soon
- Recent Donations
- Publications For Sale
- Volunteer Corner
- Did You Know...?

“MONDAWMIN: THE MYSTERY IN ITS NAME”

We recently published our latest *History Trails* titled, "Mondawmin: The Mystery in its Name," by John McGrain. McGrain explores the stories, if not myths, that have commonly been published about Mondawmin. It seems many of those stories are based on little-to-no primary source evidence. In challenging those oft-repeated stories, McGrain explores the early history of the Mondawmin estate (turned shopping center), its owners, architecture and the origins of its place name. We hope you enjoyed it. Please remember this publication is a benefit to our members and donors. We are always in search of well researched, clearly cited and easily readable essays for future issues.



THE CITIZENS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Thursdays: March 5, 2015; April 2, 2015; May 7, 2015

10:00 AM—2:00 PM @ HSBC Almshouse Headquarters

GENEALOGY INSTRUCTION (Free to all)

Free, monthly, genealogy instruction at the Historical Society of Baltimore County with local genealogist Noreen Goodson, and professional genealogist Angela Walton-Raji, BA, M.Ed. Angela Walton-Raji.

March 14, 2015; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm @ HSBC Almshouse Barn

9825 Van Buren Lane, Cockeysville, MD 21030

GOSH BARN IT! & SELF-GUIDED FARM EXHIBIT TOURS

Glenn James, owner of Cartwright Timberframes, has been building and restoring barns, homes, churches and more in Maryland for over 20 years. Instrumental in the restoration of the farm at the Carroll County Farm Museum he has won historic preservation awards for his projects in other counties. He will be explaining the nuances of barn construction and examining the historic barn on the property of the Almshouse in Baltimore County. Please join us for this hands-on workshop and learn about the different types of barns as well as terminology such as Adz, Gin Pole, Beetle, Slick and Trunnel. Jointly sponsored by the Preservation Alliance of Baltimore County and the Historical Society of Baltimore County it is free to members, or \$10 for non-members.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our mission is carried out by one paid director, 25+ volunteers, a board of directors, and several interns from various universities on a semester basis. We need your talent and experience on our team. The society is currently seeking dedicated volunteers with a passion for history and public history in the following areas:



Administrative Asst./Membership Processing - Volunteer will use various MS Office products, and should be comfortable with computers and digital technology. The volunteer may write thank you letters, process new members and renewals through the organization's database, and/or perform various types of data entry and quality control on its records.

WAYS TO GIVE - Direct transfers of Required Minimum Distributions from your brokerage, bequests, transfer of stocks or bonds, checks, cash or credit (tax deductible!)



Publications (Newsletter) - Do you have a special interest in writing, editing and/or design? Be part of a team that writes and edits the newsletter, or the society's journal, *History Trails*. In addition, the newsletter is accepting short, well written articles on local history to be considered for publication.

Archival Assistant - Processes materials to be stored in our collections, including documents and fragile material that are not part of the museum collections. This task includes selecting acid-free archival quality storage containers, identifying, describing, labeling and performing data entry in PastPerfect 5.0.



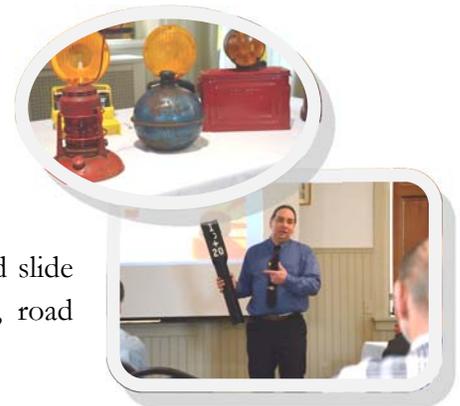
Research Library Assistance - Volunteers should be friendly and personable as they will greet visitors and assist them in performing on-site research with the society's various finding aids and databases. Individuals should be comfortable using computer technology, online research tools and databases, and will be trained in the various collections of the society and how to best utilize them.

Programs Committee - Volunteers will seek out and solicit monthly speakers, presenters, and programs to benefit the society, its members and the general public.

YOU MAY HAVE MISSED...

Historic Traffic Control Devices - Nov. 2014

Christopher Laughland, a former state highway contractor, gave a presentation with an incredible collection of highway safety paraphernalia from the 1900s to present focusing on the development and evolution of traffic control devices. The interesting lecture and slide show detailed the progression of devices used in traffic control, road markings and signage.



Community Day at the Cockeysville Branch Library

HSBC volunteers Sally Riley, Sharon Leggin, Earl Hines, Tom Lonegro highlighted what HSBC has to offer at the Community Day at the Cockeysville Library. Our corner featured a large HSBC banner, free publications as well as books and publications we sell.

COMING SOON...

New, Temporary Exhibit

All Dressed in White, A Historical Look at Weddings and Baltimore County Brides

Finishing touches are being made to this interesting exhibit slated to open soon. The exhibit was curated by intern Jessica Trampf, who is part of an exchange program from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. Created from four generations of wedding artifacts from our Greenfelder-Baublitz Collection. The exhibit provides an overview of the evolution of American weddings. It begins with Victorian standards, visits the prosperity and rise of consumer culture in the 1920s and its affect on weddings, rationing during the Great Depression and WWII, and the resurgence of traditionalism in the 1970s and '80s. The dresses were conserved by The Angel Project when the Costume Society of America visited Baltimore last year for their annual conference. Stay tuned!



RECENT DONATIONS

Database Upgrade - PastPerfect 5.0

Many thanks to society member Tom Graf who, through his generous contribution, enabled us to upgrade our networked collections database housing almost 40,000 records and growing weekly. This upgrade has been on our collective minds for the last couple years. Ten years ago, perhaps 30% of our time was data entry/digital, whereas now 80% or more of our time might be.

New Computer

Society member Jim Long donated a refurbished computer for use in the Library Reading room. The computer is a great improvement to the previous one: it runs much, much faster. Thanks Jim!



G.W. Bromley's *Atlas of Baltimore County* – in great condition

It's amazing what some folks throw away. Many thanks to HSBC member & former society president Phyllis Bailey for rescuing a 1915 G. W. Bromley Baltimore County atlas from its would-be demise. Although it's not the first one we're adding to our collection, it is the most pristine!

SELECT LISTING OF TITLES WE SELL

BOOKS

- ***Difficulties Made Easy, History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County*** **\$10.00**
William Hollifield, 1978, 92 pages, softbound. Includes sections on tolls, tollgates and tollhouses: taverns, stages: and histories of individual turnpikes with maps.
- ***From Marble Hill to Maryland Line:
An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County*** **\$13.00**
S.B. Clemens and C.E. Clemens, 1999 revised edition, 76 pages, softbound. Brief history, with "facts and legends," maps, and photographs.
- ***Baltimore County: Celebrating a Legacy 1659-2009*** **\$13 softback, \$16 hardbound**
Barry A. Lanman compiled this book in honor of the 350th anniversary of Baltimore County. The publication is more than 300 pages in length, and contains more than 400 photographs, most previously unpublished. It is divided into chapters by topics including: Homes & Estates, Aviation & Aerospace, Commerce & Industry, Education, Agriculture, Religion, and many more.
- ***Baltimore County: Historical Reflections and Favorite Scenes*** **\$15.00**
Barton & Elizabeth Cockey, 2012
- ***Dickenson Baltimore:
Survivals of a City's Infrastructure Photographed Over 65 Years.*** **\$27.00**
John W. McGrain, 2011, paperback
- ***Battle of Baltimore: Bombardment of Fort McHenry (Coloring Book)*** **\$10.00**
Trish Byrnes and James Bravo, 2014, paperback
- ***Charles Street: Baltimore's Artery of Elegance*** **\$30.00**
John W. McGrain, 2013, paperback
- ***In Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake*** **\$27.00**
Ralph E. Eshelman and Burton K. Kummerow, 2012 , softbound

MAPS AND BOOKLETS

- Baltimore County, 1850*** **\$13.00**
Sidney map showing roads and landowners. 31"x41"
- Baltimore County, 1877 Atlas*** **\$25.00**
C.M. Hopkins Atlas, reproduced in the year 2000 from an original Atlas owned by HSBC. 68- page book includes bried history and description of Districts 1-13, business notices, and an inset of Towson area from Sidney's 1850 map.
- Baltimore County, 1877 District Maps*** **\$13.00**
C.M. Hopkins Atlas, individual maps of Districts 1-13 various sizes

WAYS TO GIVE - Direct transfers of Required Minimum Distributions from your brokerage, bequests, transfer of stocks or bonds, checks, cash or credit (tax deductible!)

VOLUNTEER CORNER



Thank You, Volunteers!

A thank you holiday party was held for our volunteers on December 7, 2014. The party, featuring food, drink, award certificates and a gift exchange helped ring in the holiday season. A big *thank you* to all our volunteers who put in countless hours at the society every year!

Volunteer Training Session

Did you notice a new sign in the volunteer area? It is part of the volunteer training initiative by the society. Because most of our work is accomplished by volunteers, we occasionally hold training sessions to keep everyone informed and working toward the same goals.

The presentations included an overview of accessioning and object numbers with a demonstration of the new version of Past Perfect 5.0. Sally Riley also offered a talk and demo, emphasizing the importance of proper data entry titled, "Let's make it useful." The "map boys," Earl Hines and Tom Lonegro, demonstrated how to search and find maps through the database, while our museum collections manager, Melissa Heaver, gave an introduction and overview of her methodology in managing the thousands of artifacts housed by the society. Thanks to all who attended and participated (pictured).

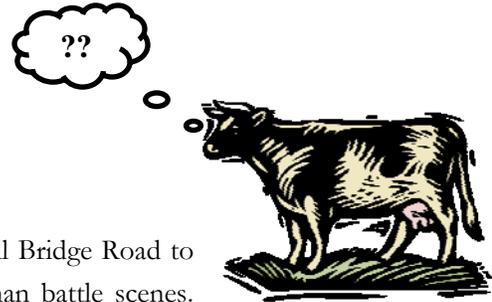


Regarding Accessioning at HSBC

Accessioning donated items and materials serves several purposes for the society. Principally, it serves to create a permanent record for an item or items, and to identify the item(s) as derived from a particular donor or organization. This allows us to view a donor's history with the society, while simultaneously providing some provenance to the materials themselves. Accessioning also provides society staff/volunteers a direct reference to the items' signed deed of gift, which formally transfers legal ownership of the material to the society. - *Jim Long*

DID YOU KNOW?

Cowpens Avenue near Cromwell Bridge Road is named after a battle?



This odd sounding name of a road that runs from Cromwell Bridge Road to Seminary Ave. is more likely to conjure up pastoral scenes than battle scenes. But according to John McGrain's, *A Glossary of Place Names in Baltimore County*, the Cowpens Farm was advertised by James Howard in the American on June 27, 1851, and named for General John Eager Howard's victory in the 1781 Battle of Cowpens, North Carolina, part of the war for independence. The farm was later developed and Cowpens Avenue remained. – *M. Hendrickson*

The Village of Sparks had its origins in a Mapping Discrepancy?

In 1713, on the occasion of this fourth marriage, Charles Calvert, 3rd Lord Baltimore gave his bride, Margaret Charlton, the 10,000 acres in Baltimore County and Harford County that is now known as "My Lady's Manor". Eight years prior to that, Clynmalira was a 5,000 acre land grant bestowed on Charles Carroll, the Attorney General in 1705.

My Lady's Manor and Clynmalira were intended to have a common boundary as recorded verbally at the Lord Proprietor's Land Office in 1713. This boundary was to start and stop at the same East and West points forming My Lady's Manor's Southern line. This would mean that both the Western boundaries of Clynmalira and My Lady's Manor should have formed a straight line from top to bottom. However, over the years and through numerous surveys of both Manors the boundaries shifted slightly.

My Lady's Manor had at least three surveys, but by the time of the 1791 survey it was impossible to find any of the original boundary stones and at least 20 replacement stones were installed. Henry Carroll, a great grandson of Charles had Clynmalira resurveyed in about 1823 when he was preparing to build his manor house of Clynmalira (now on Carroll Road) and placed four large greenish stones marked "HC 1-4" at the accepted corners of Clynmalira.

In the meantime, in 1803, the brothers Thomas and Elijah Sparks astutely noticed that there was a gap along the Western boundary of Clynmalira of 50 ¼ acres of unowned, untitled land --where the two manors should have joined up top to bottom along the same Western boundary line. They applied to the State Land Office and received two patents for the unclaimed property in that year, in the amounts of 37 acres and 13 ¼ acres.

In 1830, the North Central Railroad was being built and a village grew up on this providently acquired Sparks Family Land, being originally called "Sparks Switch". It is from this lucky surveying and mapping discovery that the area gets its name today. - *Cynthia Mann*

Sources: HSBC files on Sparks, Clynmalira and History Trails article by John McGrain

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of BALTIMORE COUNTY

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Submissions Request

This newsletter is looking for interesting articles about local history. Short, original and well written articles will be considered for publication. All information should be based on reputable primary or secondary source evidence. Email info@hsobc.org or phone 410.666.1878 if you would like to contribute something.

Newsletter Staff

Martha Hendrickson, *editor*
Jim Long, *photographer*

Contributors

Cynthia Mann



Research Library Hours:

Fridays from noon to 4 p.m.

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

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