



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE COUNTY



# NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015

## REGISTRATION FOR THE ANNUAL BUS TOUR IS OPEN !

Our legacy tour committee has been busy planning an informative and enjoyable tour of Catonsville titled “Out West—Catonsville at Large,” which will take place on Sat., October 10th, 2015. The varied and interesting history of Catonsville will be featured; starting from its origins of Quaker settlers, to the wealthy businessmen who built large, beautiful homes as a respite from the city, and the stories about Richard Caton, after which Catonsville is named. Also included will be a visit to the Benjamin Banneker Museum, celebrating the many



Benjamin Banneker House

accomplishments of the so-called “first African American man of science.” Churches, picturesque houses and important institutions of Catonsville will be covered.

Lunch is included and will be served at Dimitri’s Restaurant. This fund raising bus tour will be \$75 for members and \$85 for non members. Join us for an interesting trip. Be sure to sign up early. Forms are either enclosed or available online at [hsobc.org](http://hsobc.org) and at the society.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Annual Bus Tour
- Antique Appraisal Fair
- Upcoming Events
- From our Blog
- Just for Fun
- When Inspiration Strikes
- Volunteer Corner
- Recent Donations
- What is this? Answer
- Did You Know...?
- New Publications

## ANTIQUÉ APPRAISAL FAIR — FEATURING ALEX COOPER AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS!

On Monday, July 20, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the society Almshouse headquarters in Cockeysville, the renowned antiques appraisers of Alex Cooper Auctioneers in Towson, MD, are donating their time to appraise your antiques! Numerous appraisers with varying specialties will be on hand as a fundraiser for us, and a service to you! Bring your family treasurers and antiques to receive a professional, verbal appraisal for your item’s value. Who knows, you might discover you own an “American Treasure,” as the popular Antiques Roadshow series says. **Space is limited, and pre-registration is required by calling 410-666-1878, or e-mail [info@hsobc.org](mailto:info@hsobc.org). Please inform the approx. quantity of items you’re bringing. Cost = \$15 per item for members, or \$30 per item for non-members. Bring your silver, small furniture, jewelry, paintings, etc.**



Alex Cooper  
AUCTIONEERS INC



THE CITIZENS OF  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**First Thursdays: July 2nd, 2015; August 6th, 2015; September 4th, 2015**  
**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. @ 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.



**Alex Cooper**  
 AUCTIONEERS INC

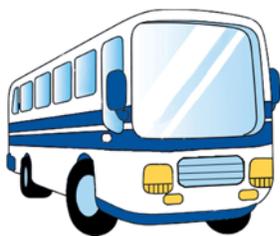
**Monday, July 20th, 1:00 p. – 4:00 p. @ HSBC Almshouse Headquarters**  
**ANTIQUES APPRAISAL FAIR, featuring numerous appraisers from Alex Cooper Auctioneers of Towson, MD.** Space is limited and pre-registration is required! Bring your silver, small furniture, jewelry, paintings, etc. Cost = \$15 per item for HSBC members or \$30 per item for non-members. Be prepared to provide the approximate quantity of items you plan to bring upon registering.

### **Sun., August 29 to September 2, all day @ MD State Fairgrounds in Timonium** **VISIT OUR BOOTH AT THE STATE FAIR**

For one week each year the society shifts many of its volunteer assets to plan for, setup and man (or woman) a booth at the Maryland State Fair to promote the society, its mission and programs. Please stop by and give a friendly hello or thank you to our wonderful corps of volunteers!

### **Sat., September 19th, 11:00am to 4:00pm. @ Lake Montebello in Balt.** **100th Anniversary of Baltimore's Montebello Water Filtration Plant!**

Visit us at our booth at the Montebello Water Filtration Plant's 100th Anniversary. Music, food trucks, burying of a new time capsule, unveiling a new historic marker, kids and family activities, and the Mayor and other notable speakers attending. Also, look for our history article, "The Montebello Water Filtration Plant: Clean Water for City and Suburb Alike," which the City will be distributing.



### **Sat., October 10th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. @ Departs from the society.** **BUS TOUR—CATONSVILLE AT LARGE**

Visit Historic Catonsville, including Old Salem Lutheran Church. Enjoy a delightful buffet lunch at Dimitri's Restaurant. See the Victorian summer homes of wealthy Baltimoreans. Visit the Catonsville Room at the local library. Registration forms are enclosed or available online at [hsbc.org](http://hsbc.org). and at HSBC Almshouse headquarters. HSBC members = \$75.00; non-members = \$85.00.

## FROM OUR BLOG...

We recently visited the historic and newly renovated Cherry Hill AUMP (African United Methodist Episcopal) Church located in Granite, MD. Below are excerpts from our blog which also inspired a recent Baltimore *Sun* article on the same.

### Deteriorating 19th Century Black Church & Cemetery Reborn as Small Museum & Meeting Place: Cherry Hill AUMP Church in Granite, MD

“Today, we visited the results of a project almost fifteen years in the making – the historic Cherry Hill African United Methodist Protestant (AUMP) Church (BA-2399). It’s just one project among others being spearheaded by local African American historian and author, Louis Diggs.

“The small ‘colored church,’ as it was commonly called, is in Granite, MD, in western Baltimore County. It’s located on Offutt Road, one block east of an intersection with Granite Road.

“The church was built in 1887 and served a black community from western Baltimore County in the wake of emancipation and the Civil War in the late 19th century. Although the black community that pooled its funds and efforts to build the one-room church dispersed for unknown reasons, their wooden structure surprisingly survived for decades after they left. But by the late 1990s and early 2000s it was on the verge of collapse due to neglect, disrepair and a lack of interest or funding....

“According to Beverly Griffith, quoted in an article dated Feb. 23, 2000, “the black population around Granite in the late 1800s was one of the five largest black settlements in Baltimore County. Blacks worked in the quarries alongside Irish, German, Scottish and Italian immigrants.” (*Community Times*)

Numerous quarries dotted Baltimore County’s western region, and it wasn’t uncommon for emancipated African Americans to settle close to the same area where they were once enslaved, or to lease land from large property owners or former slave holders....

“Today, the project is nearing completion. The site is on the verge of becoming a small museum and meeting place to harbor the stories of enslaved and emancipated African Americans and their communities in Granite and Baltimore County. The old church now survives for the foreseeable future as a memorial to the rich history and heritage of 19th century African Americans in Baltimore County....”



## WHEN INSPIRATION STRIKES

*By Sally Riley*

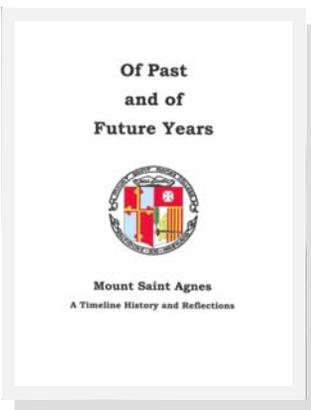
“I’m a graduate of Mount Saint Agnes Lower School and Mount Saint Agnes College [MSAC]. So, when a copy of the *Architect’s History of the Octagon Building* fell into my hands in May 2009, I wanted to share it with all my former classmates. The Octagon Building was the oldest building on campus; but, the report, more than 80 pages long and full of deep architectural and engineering detail, is tedious and dull to read. This posed a problem I was determined to resolve – how could I write it in a way that would be interesting?”

“A couple of weeks later, scanning the shelves in a second-hand bookstore on 25<sup>th</sup> Street in Baltimore, I spotted a garnet-colored plastic spine about 3.5 inches high. I knew that spine... from about 40 years ago! I eased it off the shelf and sure enough it was a copy of *Keynotes*, our student handbook from the 1960s! And they were only asking \$15 for it! What’s a few dollars among friends? So, I had the *Architect’s History* and a copy of *Keynotes*. What to do with them?”



Octagon Building at Mount Saint Agnes  
As published in Mary Costello, *The Sisters of Mercy of Maryland: 1855-1930* (St. Louis: B. Herder Book Co., 1931).

“In July, wandering through a large bookstore in Hunt Valley, the cover of a book caught my eye. The women on the front of the book were dressed in the postulant’s and novice’s habits of the Sisters of Mercy. The book, titled *Catherine’s Sisters*, by Irene Callahan, begged me to pick it up and see what it was about. Almost 90 minutes later, I had given the cashier my credit card for a copy. The Octagon Building had been the novitiate of the Sisters of Mercy.



“Now I was convinced that the Fates, Mother Nature and God were all conspiring to persuade me to write about the Mount. Thereafter, I began a 6-year research expedition into the history of the campus in Mount Washington, Maryland. Hours, eventually weeks, were consumed searching Genealogybank.com for newspaper articles and advertisements concerning the Mount Washington Female Seminary and Mount Saint Agnes. Book shelves were scanned at the Historical Society of Baltimore County for anything about the school. File folders of papers contributed to the MSAC Alumnae Archives were scanned for historical information. Alumnae were contacted in search of old catalogs and yearbooks with pictures to help illustrate the history of bygone days.

“After 6 years, I had 25+ pages of an annotated, illustrated timeline history of the Mount Saint Agnes Campus, from the early days of Mount Washington in 1810 to the present day. Reflections of former alumnae and the history of the Alumnae Association were added. This spring *Of Past and of Future Years* finally went to press. The book will be distributed to alumnae at this year’s Annual Reunion.

“You never know where inspiration will spring up, or when it will tap you on the shoulder. But when it does, LISTEN! It may just be the beginning of an adventure which will change the course of your life. As I stated, part of my research led me to the Historical Society of Baltimore County to find an early (1850s) map of Mount Washington, then a part of Baltimore County. I was so enchanted with HSBC I began volunteering here, and it’s been one of the great pleasures of my retirement.”



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### Volunteers are still needed in these areas:

**Research Center Assistants** – Do you like working with the public, learning about finding aides, performing computer searches through history databases and learning new things about places around you? You may be suited to assist our library patrons in their research by locating the books, files, maps, documents and other types of media.

**Programs Committee** – We are in need of new members and volunteers to work with our programs committee. Your task is to seek out and solicit entertaining and educational events and knowledgeable speakers for public programming.

### Volunteer Profile: Earl Hines



Albert Earl Hines, Ph.D., a retired Psychologist, has been volunteering with the society since 2009. Earl joined us as our map collection manager and as his first task began an extensive inventory of our map collection, included all relevant details and recorded this information on inventory sheets. He moved on to sorting the maps by type and evaluated their storage locations which included the choice of storage folder and cabinet drawer. As map manager he recruited another volunteer, Tom Lonagro, retired Director of Information Technology at Black & Decker,

to help with this effort. Together, they began the map data entry into PastPerfect, our collections database. In 2013, that phase of work was successfully completed. Earl moved on to organizing all items stored in the map room flat storage. Earl continues to be our lead ‘Mapman,’ and not only maintains the map collection but assists others in locating relevant maps and creates maps for our HSBC Legacy Bus Tours.

### WHAT IS THIS? HERE’S THE ANSWER

Variouly called a fodder chopper or an herb chopper, this wooden handled, steel blade chopper was labeled a “Fodder Chopper” in an early Farm exhibit at the Historical Society. However, in researching fodder choppers, it is doubtful that this is one. Fodder choppers were much larger and often have a long wooden tray. (Fodder Choppers were used to cut up hays, grasses, etc. to be used as food for cattle and other farm animals.)

The Society’s chopper was most likely used on a wooden chopping board or in a large wooden bowl. It would have chopped up herbs, vegetables, fruits, nuts, etc. It was used by the cook to chop items side-to-side in a rolling motion.

Our chopper has two 7” wooden handles, and a 19 X 3 ½ X ½” blade. It was donated and accessioned by the society in 1977.



Accession No. F.1977.198.28

## DID YOU KNOW?

### That Mary Pickersgill completed the Star Spangled Banner in a Brewery?

During the War of 1812, Mary Pickersgill was commissioned to complete a flag to fly over fort Mc Henry in 1813. The very large flag (30x 42 feet) was difficult to complete in her small row home on east Pratt street (now the Flag House and Star Spangled Museum). She asked permission to complete the work with her seamstresses in Browns Brewery floor just one block away.

This, and many other interesting facts associated with Baltimore breweries was brought to light in the book titled, *Brewing in Baltimore*, by Maureen O'Prey (Arcadia Publishing, 2011). The book chronicles the art of brewing beer through the ages. According to the book, beer brewing started in the home, and wives were responsible for brewing beer. Since water in Europe was often times contaminated, beer became the staple drink as it provided a sort of purification process. Germans settled in and around Baltimore where they started to brew beer. In 1748, the Barnitz family, brewers in Germany, settled in Baltimore and set up a brewery becoming the first manufacturing industry in Baltimore according to O'Prey.

The book discusses many of the other local breweries, including National, American, and Gunther breweries. The book contains many photographs, including one from the society's collection showing brewery workers from Fred Bauernschmidt's American Brewery.

In the 1920s, the beer industry fell prey to Prohibition. Some breweries survived by producing near beer. Lately, the trend has been to craft brews sold in brewpubs like Sissions. These brewpubs are the foundation of new brewing industry in Baltimore.

The book is in our library available to visiting patrons.

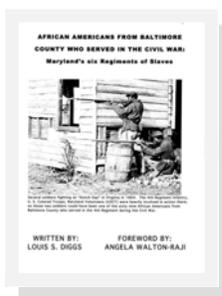


Workers at Fred Bauernschmidts Brewery (Courtesy HSBC.)

## RECENT DONATIONS

### East Towson Study—

We recently received a planning study of East Towson donated by Robert Ward, Mitigation Planner for MEMA (Maryland Emergency Management Agency). The planning study was done as part of the Master Degree Program at Morgan State in 2001. The Plans were then adopted by the County. The collection included a history of East Towson and detailed historical information about the houses and institutions there. Also included are maps and plans. Thank you Robert!



## LOUIS DIGGS PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

Courtesy of a grant from Baltimore County, local historian Louis Diggs completed and self-published his 10th book, titled, *African Americans from Baltimore County Who Served in the Civil War-Maryland's Six Regiments of Slaves*.

Thanks to our long standing relationship to Mr. Diggs, we are the only retail outlet with copies for sale (\$35.00) each). His book is a valuable compilation of data on approx. 400 slaves and freed slaves from Baltimore County who served as soldiers and sailors in the Civil War.

**HSBC** HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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