



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE COUNTY



NEWSLETTER

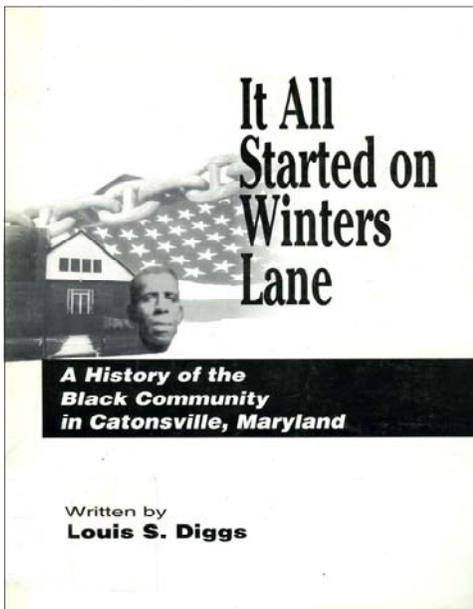
APRIL-MAY 2016

THE LOUIS DIGGS AWARD ANNOUNCED

On February 18, 2016, Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz announced a new honor to recognize contributions to African American heritage in the county, the Louis S. Diggs Award. “No one has done more to preserve and promote African American history in Baltimore County than Mr. Louis Diggs,” Kamenetz noted. “An award such as this is overdue,” he added, “and we in Baltimore County are so fortunate to have this notable expert on African American history right here in our own community.” Among Mr. Diggs’ many accomplishments in researching and preserving local African American history are ten books and the creation of the recently opened Diggs -Johnson Museum in Granite.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Louis Diggs Award*
- *Upcoming Events*
- *You May Have Missed*
- *Announcements*
- *Dumbarton Farm*
- *Just for Fun*
- *Volunteer Corner*
- *What is it?*
- *Member Spotlight*



Mr. Diggs, still spry at 83, grew up in Sandtown in Baltimore City and attended Douglass High School. His connection to the County took root when he married Catonsville resident Shirley Washington and they made their home there in 1954. Before meeting his wife, Mr. Diggs had joined an all-black unit of the Maryland National Guard in 1950 and was sent to Korea. He retired from the military in 1970 after tours in Germany and Japan as well as Korea. It was during his second career as an educator that Mr. Diggs found his calling as an historian, his third career. While working as a substitute teacher in Catonsville, he found that students knew little of their own community’s history. Soon Mr. Diggs had written *It All Started on Winters Lane: A History of the Black Community in Catonsville, Maryland* (1995). Nine more books followed, plus lectures, historic tours, and countless other contributions to chronicling the rich history of African Americans in Baltimore County.

We at the Historical Society are proud to claim Mr. Diggs as an honorary board member and we congratulate him on this latest, much-deserved honor. Our congratulations also to the inaugural recipients of the Louis S. Diggs Award: Audrey Simmons and Ray Banks, who have established the Hubert V. Simmons Museum for Negro League Baseball (housed in the Owings Mills Library). — *Kathleen Barry*



(Photo of Louis Diggs from the back cover of *It All Started on Winters Lane*)



THE CITIZENS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesdays and Saturdays: by appointment only @ HSBC Almshouse Headquarters

ALMSHOUSE TOURS (\$8.00 per person Free for HSBC members)

Find out the interesting history of our Almshouse and learn about some of the people who lived here. Tours last approximately 1 hour, and are offered on Wednesdays and Saturdays, by appointment only. Please contact Pat Routson at HSBC headquarters 410-666-1878 to schedule your tour.



First Thursdays each month ; April 7, 2016; May 5, 2016; June 2, 2016; 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. Angela Walton-Raji is the author of *Black Indian Genealogy Research: African American Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes*, and has a wealth of general and niche genealogy knowledge, experience, and resources to share.

Sun., April 17, 2016 2:00–4:00 pm @ HSBC Almshouse Headquarters (Speakers Series)

19th CENTURY BALTIMORE: A CITY OF IMMIGRANTS (\$5.00 for non-members, Free for HSBC members)

Speaker: Wayne Schaumburg

Retired Baltimore County Schools History teacher Wayne Schaumburg is an avid fan of the history of Baltimore City and County. He has done extensive research and has a large collection of newspaper articles, drawings, photographs and postcards on Baltimore locations, events and persons of interest. On April 17th, he will talk about the immigrants who crossed the Atlantic, landed in Baltimore and made it their home. Join us to learn more about the wave of immigration of 200 years ago.



HSBC Photo. Sparrows Point. Iron Ore Pier
Howard Lynch Collection p004787.12

Sun., June 5, 2016 2:00–4:00 pm @ HSBC Almshouse Headquarters (Speakers Series)

FAMILY SEARCH: SEARCHING GENEALOGY (\$5.00 for non-members, Free for HSBC members)

Speaker: Michael King

Mr. King will give an introduction and review of the free Family Tree computer application accessed through the FamilySearch.org website. The application gives users access to over 3.5 billion genealogical records, maintained by the LDS Church. There are no costs associated with the use of the website or the application. The presentation will review the website and how to obtain an account. A live online demonstration illustrating the features of Family Tree as well as other related applications will be given. Michael King is a retired architect living with his wife and family in Baltimore County. Mr. King currently trains others in the use of these research application. Anyone interested in learning more about how to research their personal family history is invited to attend.

YOU MAY HAVE MISSED...

SUNDAY SERIES LECTURE; HISTORY OF HERBS AND SPICES: A STORY WHICH SPANS THE HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

On February 28, 2016, Jerry Kahan presented the program "The History of Herbs and Spices: A History which Spans Western Civilization". Mr Kahan is retired from McCormick & Co., where he worked for more than 40 years. He has an excellent knowledge of spices, because of his many experiences in the industry. This stimulated a curiosity about the beginnings of the spice industry. His slide presentation was both colorful and informative. He also gave out samples of Old Bay to those in attendance. This was the second in our Sunday Speakers Series. We are happy to say it was well attended. Please check our website and Newsletter about future talks. *(Photo by Jim Long)*



SUNDAY SERIES LECTURE; HISTORY OF COCKEYSVILLE



On Sunday, March 13, 2016, sixty-six history-hungry citizens of Baltimore County came to the Almshouse to hear about Cockeysville as it was in the late 19th and 20th centuries. The talk and slides, presented by Cynthia Mann, had been compiled by HSBC volunteer Sharon Leggin, who, because of an accident, was unable to be with us. Cynthia focused on the houses and businesses along and just off York Road, in the area between Warren and Shawan Roads, which generated a flurry of questions and discussion following the presentation. Join us for our next Sunday Speaker on April 17, 2016 at 2pm to hear

Wayne Schaumburg talk about "19th Century Baltimore: A City of Immigrants."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERS MEETING

The HSBC annual members meeting will be held in June 12, 2016 (members only). Refreshments will be served and there will be a speaker. Stay tuned for more info.

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

We would like to hear from you about what you think about our changed newsletter format over the past year . Features we have introduced include: Just for Fun, one- page history articles, What is It?, Did You Know? and Volunteer Corner

Email your comments to newsletter@hsbc.org

DUMBARTON FARM AND MANSION (RODGERS FORGE)

By *Albert Ward*

A large tract of land, named Friend's Discovery, was acquired by Job Evans in 1695 from Francis Maulding of Calvert County under a patent of Charles Calvert, Lord Baron of Baltimore. The 1,000 acres bordered Stevenson Lane and extended south to East Lake Avenue on each side of York Road. Friend's Discovery included portions of the following present-day communities: Rodgers Forge, Rodgers Forge Apartments, Stoneleigh, Armagh Village, Gaywood, Anneslie, Cedarcroft, and Lake Walker. At some point, Johns Hopkins, who died in August 1837, owned a portion of land that became Dumbarton Farm. A west facing brickhouse, named Farm Gates, had been built near the intersection of Pinehurst and Murdock Roads before the land was sold to Robert A. Taylor in 1840. This house was eventually torn down for the construction of the Rodgers Forge community. During Taylor's years of ownership, he had a Greek revival style mansion, now known as Dumbarton House, built on the 180



Depiction of the 25 acre plot, using Google Maps, that was owned by Mrs. David Gregg McIntosh, Sr.

acre plot. With the addition of land, the estate grew to about 193 acres. The boundaries of Dumbarton Farm were roughly: north and above to Stevenson Lane, east to York Road, south to Overbrook Road, and west to Bellona Avenue. The mansion took about five years to build and Taylor lived there for ten years. Taylor died in 1863. The following year, Taylor's son sold the estate to Joseph H. Rieman, an industrialist, banker, and railroad official. Rieman spent summers at Dumbarton Farm and conducted a dairy operation. He is known for importing the Jersey breed into the area from the Isle of Jersey. In 1897, Joseph Rieman died and Dumbarton Farm was placed in his estate. His son, Charles, took over operation of the

farm with much success as the Dumbarton Jersey herd won many championships at the Maryland State Fair. Charles had lived in the Farm Gates brickhouse before moving to the mansion. In the mid-1920s, Charles completed a road through the property and named it after the farm, which is now known as Dumbarton Road. The stone gateposts constructed during this time still stand today alongside Bellona Avenue on either side the alley south of Dunkirk Road. Joseph Rieman's daughter, Charlotte, and her husband, David Gregg McIntosh, Sr., a lawyer, lived at the mansion in the summers starting about 1910. The Joseph Rieman estate was divided in 1924 to begin construction of the Rodgers Forge community. Mrs. McIntosh bought the mansion including 25 acres and lived there until 1954. Baltimore County took ownership of the McIntosh mansion and land. A middle school was built near the mansion, and the mansion was used as offices for Baltimore County Schools. A caretaker's house was located about 100 yards from the rear of the mansion. It was torn down, likely in the 1980s, and a recreation council building now occupies its former front yard. The stone gateposts on York Road were removed in 1954 by J. Rieman McIntosh and moved to Houck's Mill Road in Harford County. The Baltimore Actors' Theater (BAT) moved to the mansion in 1990 and is still here today.

References:

"A Hidden Gem of a School: What You May Not Know About the Dumbarton House", handout for December 2014 Dumbarton Victorian Christmas open house.

Baltimore County Court (Land Records) TK 3000. p. 0331, MSA_CE66_350, 05/22/2007.

Baltimore County Patents, Leases, and Certificates, Mike Pierce, <http://map-maker.org/DM/Baltimore/index.html>, Item 1399, Reference B23:314, accessed October 30, 2015.

(Note :This article was previously published in the Rodgers Forge Newsletter. December 2015)

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteers at work

Two of HSBC's tour volunteers Sally Riley and Bud Cornell planning the Alms House Hill Tour 2016. Mark your calendars for the tour date of October 22, 2016. This years tour titled "Early Baltimore County" will feature the areas around Historic Fork, Kingsville, Franklinville and Jerusalem Mills. Tour registration forms will be available by summer. Stay tuned for details. *(Photo by Jim Long)*



Volunteers Needed

Almshouse Bus Tours – Volunteers are needed to help during all of the tour phases, which includes the planning, logistics, research, and participation on the day of the tour. Email: tourinfo@hsobc.org

Library Research Center - Library volunteers needed to help during public hours on Fridays and Saturdays. Volunteers will greet visitors and help retrieve research materials. This is a great way to help HSBC and learn about our research library holdings.

Exhibits development – Volunteers are needed to help with researching, setting up, updating, or developing exhibits in our main building as well as in our Farm Museum Barn.

Archives and Photo Collections – Evaluating, cataloging, scanning, and data entry.

Those interested please contact Jim Long through info@hsobc.org or 410-666-1878. You may also fill out and mail-in a volunteer application available in person or from our website <http://www.hsobc.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

WHAT IS IT? ANSWER

This late 19th century machine was used to cut off the eyes of potatoes so that they could be used for seed. The potato was cut into sections called "sets" that were planted in the next year's crop. Each "set" contained at least 3 eyes.

This machine was manufactured by Aspinwall Manufacturing Co. in Jackson Michigan between about 1892-1920. L.A. Aspinwall, founder of the Aspinwall Manufacturing Company, started in the potato machinery business in 1861 by designing and developing a new type of potato planter. After 20 years of work, he was able to sell enough planters to open a factory in Three Rivers, Michigan (1884). The business expanded and moved to Jackson, Michigan in 1891. By that time the company was producing potato planters, sprayers, cutters, weeders, sorters and diggers. Aspinwall was granted patents for potato seed cutters in 1892, 1893, and 1894. By 1920, Aspinwall had the most competitive line of potato machinery anywhere in the world. The company merged with Drew Carrier Co. in 1920 and its name was changed to Aspinwall-Drew Co. It went out of business in 1921.

Sources:

<http://artefactspei.weebly.com/potato-cutter.html> Artifacts of Prince Edward Island; <http://www.farmcollector.com/equipment/aspinwall-manufacturing-company-potato-planter.aspx>; <https://www.kovels.com/collectors-concerns/potato-seed-cutter.html>



F.1977.43.2 Potato Cutter
Donated by Ross Pierce

#1 Dinner, Table, #2 Troubles, Tomorrow, #3 other, fills, #4 unsay, unkind, #5 wound, treated

JUMBLE ANSWERS



Photo-Tim Dugan, HSBC

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT– JIM KELLY

HSBC member Jim Kelly has been hard at work for years preserving history in Cromwell Valley. When he joined the Friends of Cromwell Valley Park in 2003, he volunteered to care for the park's horses and trails. But while serving as the Friends' Treasurer, his attention turned to historical preservation. He successfully nominated eighteen structures within the park for the Baltimore County Landmark Preservation List in 2005. He then began working with the Department of Recreation & Parks to preserve the lime kilns and Merrick Log House located on Minebank Run. He worked with Mrs. Lillian Jenifer of Long Island Farm and others to preserve the Jenifer residence, its contents, and the surrounding grounds.

Long Island Farm yielded more than 6,000 documents and 600 photographs that were donated to the Maryland State Archives. Those materials in turn offered links to many individuals with historical ties to the area. Jim sought out many of them and has amassed an oral history collection of seventeen interviews and more than twenty hours of recordings. Some interviewees donated artifacts and documents passed down from ancestors who settled Cromwell Valley. As a result, the park now has more than 200 objects and hundreds of letters and other documents for display in the Willow Grove Nature Center and Sherwood House.

Jim's recent focus has been the lime kilns and log house. He and other volunteers have waged a successful campaign to restore these structures by donating thousands of hours and raising hundreds of thousands of dollars. Jim's grant-writing skills and the group's fundraising have secured support from the France-Merrick Foundation, the Maryland General Assembly, and many individual and corporate contributors.

The lime kilns and log house project continues, and great progress has been made. The Ristean kiln, the oldest of the three and of the more primitive intermittent box design, has been extensively excavated and rebuilt. With some finishing touches, it will soon be restored to its 1785 appearance. The Jenifer kiln, one of two vertical shaft continuous kilns, is also on its way to being stabilized and refreshed. Its walls have been rebuilt, its corners straightened, and its top leveled; remaining work includes rebuilding of the "poke holes" and new mortar for the still-sturdy front archway.

Long Island Farm was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010, thanks in part to the kilns' value as surviving examples of the architecture and technology used in the local lime industry. Lime became a vital product in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century for its value as a soil rejuvenator and in making whitewash and mortar. Lime-burning took hold in Cromwell Valley due to large deposits of "Cockeysville marble," which was burned over a wood-fueled fire to make the lime. The nearby settlement of Texas became a larger center of lime production, but Cromwell Valley kiln owners still prospered selling their "wood-burnt" lime, which was considered superior to that burned over coal or coke. The log house is thought to have served as a residence for kiln workers, some perhaps slaves.

Jim's efforts to preserve Cromwell Valley's historical riches have not gone unnoticed. In 2014, he was recognized as a "Shining Star" of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks system for countless hours of volunteering. Last year, he received the John McGrain Lifetime Achievement in Historical Preservation Award from the Preservation Alliance and Baltimore County Historical Trust. Thanks and congratulations are both due to Jim! — *Kathleen Barry*

References: "Lime Kiln Preservation Project Update," and "Meet Volunteer Extraordinaire – Jim Kelly." *Cromwell Valley Park Newsletter & Program Calendar* (Spring 2016): 1-2.

Abe, Kimberly R. "The Limekiln Age and the Bottom Line." *History Trails*, 36, nos. 3-4 (Spring 2004).

National Register of Historic Places, Long Island Farm, Parkville, Baltimore County, Maryland, National Register #10000586. Accessed March 10, 2016. http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se5/003300/003330/pdf/msa_se5_3330.pdf

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