HSBC HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

We invite everyone to join us at a Night of Holiday Flare, our largest fundraiser of the year, on Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 7-10 pm at The Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Road, Lutherville, Md. 21093. The Fire Museum was founded in 1971 and is now the 3rd largest fire museum in the world. There will be over 40 fire engines on display as well as other special exhibits, plus the magical Christmas train garden. Beer, wine, hors d’oeuvres and desserts will be served. Tickets are $35 per person and are available at www.hsobc.org/2017nightofholidayflare or by contacting HSBC at 410-666-1878 or info@hsobc.org.

We are holding two raffles and a silent auction to add to the festivities. Tickets are on sale now for our Cart of Cheer raffle and our Maryland Sports Package raffle. During the evening, the winning ticket for both raffles will be drawn. These tickets are sold separately for $5 each, or 5 for $20, and may be purchased at the event or ahead of time at HSBC. Please note, you do not have to be present to win. In addition, we will have a silent auction for HSBC’s 2017 Print of the Year. The print will be on display at HSBC prior to the evening and bids will be accepted from now until the close of the event.

Lastly, we are selling sponsorships. There are five levels of sponsorships available: bronze ($100), silver ($250), gold ($500), platinum ($1,000) and double-platinum ($2,500). For more information on becoming a sponsor, please email event co-chair Sarah Koch at sarahkoch@skcreativesolutions.com.

The proceeds from this event will assist HSBC in our mission of collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of Baltimore County.

We hope you’ll join us for some five-alarm fun!
UPCOMING EVENTS

First Thursdays each month: November 2, December 7, January 4, 2017, 10:00am-2:00pm @ 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, M.Ed. Walton-Raji is the author of *Black Indian Genealogy Research: African American Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes*. The instructors have a wealth of general and niche genealogy knowledge, experience, and resources to share.

Sunday, November 12, 2017, 2:00-4:00pm @ HSBC Almshouse Headquarters
A RIDE ON THE MA & PA THROUGH BALTIMORE & HARFORD COUNTIES ($5.00 per person, free for HSBC members; space is limited and seating will be first come, first served)
*Speaker: Rudy Fischer*
Due to the tremendous response to Mr. Fischer’s talk at HSBC in August, he has graciously agreed to come back for another presentation. He will take us on a virtual ride (via slides) along the path of the old Maryland and Pennsylvania (Ma & Pa) Railroad through Baltimore and Harford Counties.

Saturday, November 18, 2017, 2:00-4:00pm @ Professional Development & Training Academy, 3500 W. Northern Parkway, Baltimore MD 21215 (Free to all)
A POLICE HISTORY OF BALTIMORE CITY AND COUNTY
HSBC is pleased to co-host our 6th Annual Joint Program with the Baltimore City Historical Society on the history of policing in the City and County. Our presenters: Michael Berlin, Director of Criminal Justice Graduate Program and Assoc. Prof. of Criminal Justice, Coppin State University; Kenny Driscoll, Retired Baltimore Police Detective, Baltimore Police History website administrator, Baltimore City Police Museum Curator and author of *Baltimore City Police History: Historical Timeline, A Day-by-Day Look Through our Past*; Leonard Hamm, Chief of Public Safety, Coppin State University, and former Baltimore Police Commissioner; James Johnson, Retired Baltimore County Police Department Chief.

Saturday, December 2, 2017, 7:00-10:00pm @ The Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Rd., Lutherville, MD 21093 (Tickets are $35.00 and can be purchased at www.hsobc.org/2017nightofholidayflare)
NIGHT OF HOLIDAY FLARE
HSBC’s largest fundraiser of the year will be an evening of friendship and holiday celebration at The Fire Museum of Maryland. Please see cover feature for details.

Sunday, January 28, 2018, 2:00-4:00pm @ HSBC Almshouse Headquarters
RUMOR OR FACT: A TOWN UNDER LOCH RAVEN RESERVOIR ($5.00 per person, free for HSBC members; space is limited and seating will be first come, first served)
*Speaker: Sally Riley*
Ever drive over the Warren Road Bridge crossing the Loch Raven Reservoir and wonder if the large water expanse has always been there? Ever wonder what else could have been there? Ever meet anyone who once lived in Warren, Md., and wondered where it was? Come to find out the answers to these questions and more about the “lost” town of Warren and the history of the Loch Raven Reservoir.

Sunday, February 18, 2018, 2:00-4:00pm @ HSBC Almshouse Headquarters
HISTORICAL TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ($5.00 per person, free for HSBC members; space is limited and seating will be first come, first served)
*Speaker: Chris Laughland*
Our speaker will be explaining local traffic control devices used in Baltimore County, beginning around 1810 and working up to the present. Mr. Laughland has amassed what he believes to be the world’s largest collection of historical traffic control devices and is a self-made expert.
YOU MAY HAVE MISSED...

GREETINGS FROM GETTYSBURG — September 10, 2017
Speaker: David R. Craig
The Battle of Gettysburg was fought from July 1-3, 1863 with over 51,000 casualties, making this battle the single-most costly conflict fought on U.S. soil. The Gettysburg National Military Park is arguably the most visited of Civil War battlefield sites. Mr. Craig talked about his book, *Greetings from Gettysburg*, and how it uses historic postcards and quotations as a unique visitor’s guide to Gettysburg. A spirited historical discussion of the Battle of Gettysburg followed.

INTRODUCTION TO GENETIC GENEALOGY — September 23, 2017
Speaker: Jane Gilbert
An “Introduction to Genetic Genealogy” drew thirty-six people, most of whom stayed well past the appointed end time to learn as much as possible. Attendees’ experience with DNA/genealogy ranged from “I’m a novice” to a teacher in the Thursday genealogy workshop. Jane Gilbert, a hobbyist genetic genealogist with more than 14 years of experience, received high marks for making a very technical topic understandable. She used examples from her personal ancestry to show what can be discovered through a DNA test. We hope to offer another genetic genealogy workshop in 2018.

HSBC BUS/WALKING TOUR: A PIECE OF OLD BALTIMORE COUNTY: WESTMINSTER — October 21, 2017
On Saturday, October 21st, 23 tourists joined seven members of the HSBC Bus Tour Committee on a perfect Fall day for a tour of some of the historic areas of Westminster in Carroll County, MD. Why Westminster? When Baltimore County was established in 1659, it included land in what is today Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick and Harford Counties, plus sections of Anne Arundel, Howard, and Kent Counties, essentially all of north central Maryland. Actual boundaries for Baltimore County were only considered when Cecil County was established in 1674. So this year the Tour Committee decided to explore some of the very early parts of Baltimore County. Venues included in this year’s tour were the Carroll County Farm Museum with a docent-led tour of the Carroll County Almshouse, a docent-led tour of the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House and a tour of the Ascension Episcopal Church, chapels and the graveyard. After the scheduled tours, participants were invited to walk around the Courthouse Square area and view historic buildings, now in private use, on their own. HSBC’s Board President Vicki Young joined the group for a sandwich and salad buffet luncheon at Maggie’s Irish Café.
FRANCES GLESSNER LEE:
HELPING POLICE SOLVE MYSTERIES—IN MINIATURE

By Martha Hendrickson

At this time of year we like to view beautiful collections of dollhouses and model train layouts. But there is a collection of dollhouse miniatures of a slightly more chilling nature. These are nutshell room box death scenes and they have been a part of Baltimore Police crime scene investigation training for decades.

If you have seen the TV series CSI, or the UK’s Father Brown, you may have seen episodes and characters based on the real life and work of Frances Glessner Lee. She was the creator of the Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Deaths, a series of vignettes in miniature, with a wealth of clues: details of real life down to blood spatters, weapons, and dead bodies that accurately reflect changes after death. This collection of Nutshell Studies was owned by the Harvard Medical School Legal Department and has been on permanent loan to the Maryland Chief Medical Examiner’s Office in Baltimore since 1966. Maryland’s medical examiner at the time, Russell S. Fisher, brought them here after Harvard’s Department of Legal Medicine closed. The models remain on indefinite loan from Harvard Medical School. They are still used today in forensic training seminars.

Who was Frances Glessner Lee? Frances Glessner Lee (1878-1962) is sometimes referred to as the mother of forensic science. She created the scenes to “convict the guilty, clear the innocent and find the truth in a nutshell.” In 1931, she was one of the founders of the Department of Legal Medicine at Harvard University when the science of forensics was in its infancy. Lee was the first woman to become captain in the New Hampshire Police in 1943 and the first in the US to hold that position.

Born to wealthy industrialist John Jacob Glessner of International Harvester, Lee was homeschooled but was denied the opportunity to attend college like her brother. She enjoyed making miniatures as a child and helping her father in society but became interested in medical science after meeting her brother’s college classmate, George Burgess Magrath (1870-1938). When Magrath was a medical student he vacationed with the family at the summer family home in New Hampshire; he later became the chief medical examiner of Suffolk County (Boston). As a female in Edwardian high society, Lee was barred from entering male professions. She followed the conventional path, getting married (to a lawyer, Blewett Lee) and having children. But the marriage ended in divorce, and after her father died, she inherited a fortune and was able to pursue her real interests.

Lee held lavish parties, not for the social elite, but for police investigators and detectives who would relate their real job experiences. She saw that the police were often untrained in medical science and their methods overlooked key clues in crime scenes. She got the idea of putting her skill in miniature making to use. In 1940 she started making miniatures settings so real and accurate that it was like being at the real scene. She gave training seminars at Harvard in a method of investigation using geometric patterns or zones. Lee’s suggested pattern is a clockwise spiral. The many details in her scenes were gathered from real death scenes, police reports, and interviews. In 1945 she donated the collection to the Department of Legal Medicine at Harvard. The National Library of Medicine notes that “Erle Stanley Gardner, the writer best known for creating the Perry Mason mysteries, and Mrs. Lee’s close friend, wrote that ‘A person studying these models can learn more about circumstantial evidence in an hour than he could learn in months of abstract study.’”
Indeed the experience of looking at the studies is a little bit gruesome, but marvelous in all the detail. A breakfast untouched in a perfectly modeled kitchen. A woman face-down on the floor, bloody footprints, and windows half open. Furniture covered in an empty house with a body on the floor. You immediately want to solve the mystery, and the key is looking at all the clues. Was it murder, suicide, or accidental death? The answer to these questions has been kept secret, so that they can continue to be used as a training tool.


According to the Chief Medical Examiner’s Office, allowing them to go on public display provided an opportunity for restoration of the rooms, a costly undertaking that professional conservators at the Smithsonian completed. After the exhibit is over, the rooms will return once again to Baltimore, where they will be used for the annual forensic training seminars. “There is no other way to learn to see; it’s about training to observe,” according to Bruce Goldfarb of the Medical Examiner’s office. “These three-dimensional representations do something that can’t be done by any other medium…. They are like a real crime scene, as detailed and overwhelming.”

Notes

Additional Sources

Looking for a gift for someone who appreciates history? HSBC is here to help!

With the arrival of the holiday season, we’d like to remind you of the following gift ideas:

- A one-year gift subscription to History Trails, plus additional benefits, for just $10, with presentation certificate
- A one-year gift membership ($35 individual/$50 household), with presentation certificate
- Our publications—please ask us to send you our new publications brochure!

For more information, please contact us at info@hsobc.org or 410-666-1878.
RESEARCH CORNER

New Research Resource: More than 450 land grant/patent records have been entered into our system. Included in each entry is the name of the patent, name of owner, date of issuance, number of acres, and names of other people and land grants mentioned in the patent record. For more information on land grants, ask one of our staff for help.

New Users’ Guide Issued. A new guide has been developed to assist patrons in the research center. “HSBC Research Center Users’ Guide” comprises six sections: HSBC Research Center Overview; HSBC Research Center Resources; Baltimore County Fast Facts; On-Line Research Resources; Property Records; Genealogy. Copies are in the library.

MODEL RAILROADING: A BRIEF HISTORY

During the holiday season we get the opportunity to view and marvel at many a train garden, including the one at The Fire Museum of Maryland, which can be seen during our upcoming HSBC Fundraiser (cover story). These gardens are created by enthusiasts in a hobby known as model railroading.

Model railroading started at the beginning of the industrial era, when working models of real steam locomotives were made to show clients and investors how they worked. These were usually 1/5th or 1/6th the real size. This evolved into making model toy trains for children of the very rich. One of the earliest was the Birmingham Dribbler, made starting in 1840, a real steam-powered toy that ran without tracks. They would run across the floor and sometimes dribble water, earning the nickname “dribbler.” Most of these toys were made in Birmingham, England. More affordable toy trains were of the wind-up variety. Toy trains of various types were made both in Europe and America.

In the early 20th century a pioneering electric-powered toy train was developed by American company Lionel. Lionel was soon joined by others, including American Flyer, which was a strong competitor of Lionel’s for 60 years. Before the 1930s there were no standards for making model railroads. In 1935 the National Model Railroad Association formed and introduced standards for manufacturing, including standardizing gauge and scale (gauge refers to the distance between rails and the scale refers to proportional size to the real thing). In the 1930s also, the model railroad world began to develop on two separate tracks: cheaper, theme-based trains for kids and more detailed, accurate reproductions for adult train collectors. During World War II, production of toys and model trains stopped in favor of wartime production in American and Europe. Afterwards, American manufacturers were able more quickly to re-enter the toy market. With the baby boomer generation there was a toy train in nearly every household.

Today, there are three type of railroad modelers: toy modelers and collectors, train modelers (for whom gauge and scale accuracy is not that important) and scale modelers (for whom it is important that gauge and scale be in correct proportion to real railroads and to the international standard).

Sources
DID YOU KNOW?

MARTHA WASHINGTON MADE A “GREAT” CAKE

The holidays are fast approaching and thoughts of baking sweets are on everyone’s mind. It was no different during George Washington’s time. In 1797, George Washington decided not to run for a third term. He went home to Mount Vernon and arrived in time for the Christmas holidays. Martha Washington was an excellent hostess. At that time there was a tradition of making a “Great Cake” for the last day of the twelve days of Christmas, known as Epiphany or Twelfth Night. This dessert was a type of fruit cake. One version of the great cake recipe was written out by Martha’s granddaughter Martha Parke Custis. This recipe included “forty eggs worked into four pounds of butter, four pounds of sugar, five pounds of flour and an equal quantity of fruit. The recipe also called for mace and nutmeg, and to these dry ingredients wine and brandy were added. When all of these ingredients were combined the cake was baked for five and a half hours.”

Would you like to try this recipe at home?

Notes


CELEBRATION OF THE HANUKKAH TRADITION

The Jewish holiday known as Hanukkah (or Chanukah) commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem during the second century B.C. The ancient rededication marked the successful uprising of the Jews against the Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks) in the Maccabean Revolt. Central to the celebration is the miracle of the Temple’s menorah recounted in the Talmud. Even though there was only enough olive oil left uncontaminated by the Seleucids to keep the menorah lit for one day, the oil miraculously lasted for a full eight days, long enough for a new supply of oil to be prepared with ritual purity. The ritual lighting of a menorah became the traditional way to observe Hanukkah.

Also known as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days beginning on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, which normally falls in December. Along with nightly menorah lighting, celebrations typically include special prayers, fried foods like latkes, and playing dreidel.

Sources


HSBC HOLIDAY CLOSURES

We will be closed from Thursday, November 23 through Monday, November 27, 2017, for the Thanksgiving holiday. After our regular library hours on Saturday, December 23 (10 am to 2 pm), we will close for winter break. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. A happy holiday season and new year to all!
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### Research Library Hours:
- Fridays - noon to 4 p.m.
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To ensure uninterrupted delivery of HSBC mailings, please let us know of address changes.

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