Summer’s wrapping up, but the Almshouse is still bustling with activity. The Smithsonian portion of the traveling Water/Ways exhibit has left the building, but the local portion is still available for viewing during our normal open hours, Fridays noon - 4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., or by appointment.

Starting in October, HSBC will be hosting a class on the history of Baltimore County as part of CCBC Hunt Valley’s senior studies program. Patrick Heline will be teaching this 8-week course on Wednesday afternoons. This semester will cover Baltimore County from the founding of Maryland to the American Revolution, then include a history of the development and establishment of Baltimore City. Only a few more seats remain, so sign up soon. For more information see page 2.

Mark your calendars for our 60th Anniversary Fundraiser, Sunday, November 10, from 6 - 10 p.m. We are planning an even bigger and better party than last year, with great food and live music. Details will be announced next month.

HSBC is pleased to announce that, following his visit to the Water/Ways exhibit, we received a $5,000 donation from County Executive John A. Olszewski, Jr.’s the engaging signs that were incorporated into the Water/Ways exhibit and helped create the children’s activities. A native of Baltimore County with a passion for history and genealogy, we hope that Tori will continue to volunteer with us as her time allows.

Speaking of volunteers, we could use some more hands all around the Almshouse! Do you enjoy helping others find the resources they need to complete their research? Or maybe you would like to share your own research with the readers of our quarterly History Trails publication? Or maybe you enjoy organizing, filing, typing, or data entry? We welcome anyone with a few hours a week to spare. Please email jameslong@hsobc.org or call 410-666-1878.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the members and volunteers who have so kindly welcomed me to the HSBC family. I appreciate your ongoing support and hope to see you all soon at the Almshouse.

Respectfully,

James Keffer
McGrain Room Dedicated

John McGrain, left, and HSBC Executive Director James Keffer stand with the plaque that will be hung in the newly named John W. McGrain Exhibit Room. McGrain was honored for his "tireless work researching, documenting, and sharing local history and for his many contributions to the Historical Society."

Photo by Jim Long

HSBC relies on volunteers to complete daily tasks and projects. If you have a few hours a week, we could use your help! Administrative skills are especially needed.

Call 410-666-1878 or email jameslong@hsobc.org.

CCBC at the Almshouse

History of Baltimore County and City
with Patrick Heline
Wednesdays 1:30 - 3 p.m.
October 16 - December 11, 2019
(No class November 27)

For students 60 Years or Older: $69
For students under 60 Years old: $99
Out-of-county residents pay an additional $10

Register with CCBC Hunt Valley by calling (443) 840-5830
Course Registration Number (CRN): 71051
**Foote's Hill**

Foote's Hill is a small historical African-American enclave on Powers Avenue in Cockeysville, anchored by the Bazil African Methodist Episcopal Church (BA-2183) and its cemetery on Sherwood Road. This African American Survey District (BA-3092) was named for the Foote family, who settled here by 1870. The most well-known family member may be Thomas Foote whose slave narrative about his mother, Eliza, is published online by the Library of Congress.

Our September Sunday Speakers Series will present more information about Foote's Hill and other African American Communities in Baltimore County. Join us on Sunday, September 15, at 2 p.m., at the Almshouse when Carolyn Adams will present “Vanishing Heritage: Baltimore County’s African American Communities.”

**Texas Village**

When the Almshouse was built in 1874, its post office address was “Texas, Maryland.” Texas Village, or Texas Station Historic District (BA-2943), was settled as an Irish community as early as 1847. The limestone quarried here was used in the Washington Monument, the State House in Annapolis, and St. Patrick’s Church in NYC, among other notable buildings. St. Joseph's Church and several dwellings on Church Lane and Railroad Avenue survive this once thriving industrial village.

Join us on Sunday, October 13 at 2 p.m., at the Almshouse, when Cassie Kilroy Thompson, well-known Texas historian, will discuss “Remembering the Village of Texas, Maryland.”

*Ann Royston Blouse*

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**Sunday Speaker Series**

**Vanishing Heritage: Baltimore County's African American Communities**
Carolyn Greenfield Adams • Sunday, September 15 • 2 - 4 pm

**Remembering the Village of Texas, Maryland**
Cassie Kilroy Thompson • Sunday, October 13 • 2 - 4 pm

**The Ma & Pa Railroad in Baltimore City & County: Then and Now**
Rudy Fischer • Sunday, November 10 • 2 - 4 pm

Admission: Free to HSBC members; Non-members $5.99 pre-purchased ticket at www.hsobc.org/events; $10/ticket day of presentation
Many Resources Available at HSBC

During the Water/Ways exhibit, many people joined HSBC. We want to provide a brief overview of our resources for these new members, and as an update for our continuing members.

Library

We have approximately 4,000 books in the library, on a wide range of subjects, and not confined to just Baltimore County. There are books on agriculture, geology, furniture, decorative arts, genealogy, family histories, local towns and communities. (And that is not the complete list!) Adjacent counties, Baltimore City, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia, among other states, are represented.

Books specific to Baltimore County are in a separate section for the convenience of patrons looking for tax lists, parish records, etc. The library is an “open stacks” collection, which means you can browse and take any book to a table in the research room. We are not, however, a lending library.

Vertical Files

There are three categories of files: topic, surname, and cemetery. We have approximately 10,000 of these types of files. Topic files include subjects such as agriculture and mills, as well as towns/communities, churches, and schools. Surname files are just that: collections of items for names from A to Z, and include obituaries, family trees, copies of death certificates, family bible records. The cemetery files are a hidden gem of our collection: transcriptions of headstones from every cemetery in Baltimore County, that could be found, collected in the mid-1970s. Many of these stones are probably unreadable today. Library assistants will retrieve items from these files based on your research interests.

Maps and Atlases

There are 1,000 maps and atlases in storage on the second floor. Historical atlases from 1857, 1877, and 1915 are available in the library; these volumes show the names of land owners and locations of businesses, churches, and schools. There are many other community and area-specific maps as well. Items from this collection can be viewed on request.

Photographs

Our collection of more than 8,000 photographs have been digitized and can be viewed on the computer in the research room. You may order prints for a small fee.

Archives

The archives comprise old, fragile, and/or one-of-a-kind items and special family collections. There are ledgers such as the three handwritten Jessop ledgers recounting everyday life for this prosperous family, as well as information on the marriages and deaths of their neighbors. There is an extensive collection of material on the town of Texas. These items are just the tip of the iceberg that is our archival collection.

Objects

This is also known as the “museum collection” because it contains items that could be curated and displayed to tell the stories of life in Baltimore County. It is a broad collection—from Hoffman family silver to cast iron cookware, everyday clothing and wedding dresses. The researcher may view photos of many of these items.

All of these resources are cataloged in our PastPerfect database which is accessible on the computer in the research room. Come visit us—you never know what you may find!

Research Library Hours
Fridays 12 - 4 pm
Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm

Ann Royston Blouse
America’s First Factory Town
The Industrial Revolution in Maryland’s Patapsco River Valley
by Henry K. Sharp
HSBC Call No. HC107.M32 P3869 2017

This is a beautiful book full of interesting and often unexpected illustrations, in color; written in an engaging, thoughtful style. Sharp explains that the Industrial Revolution in America began in the Patapsco River Valley in 1772, not in Rhode Island or Massachusetts as generally accepted. He traces the growth of industry—iron, wheat, and finally cotton—in Chesapeake Maryland; and examines the role of the Quaker Ellicott brothers from Bucks County, Pennsylvania in establishing America’s first factory town, Ellicott City.

Sharp’s interest in architecture is evident, but not overwhelming, throughout the book, and adds an extra layer of information that one might not get in other accounts. He also discusses the destructive power of the river through the lens of the great flood of 1868. I first used this book in research for the HSBC exhibit “Water in Baltimore County,” and ended up reading it for pleasure. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and highly recommend it.

Ann Royston Blouse, HSBC Researcher and Volunteer

New to the HSBC Library


Jenkins, Donald B. Lost Civil War Diary of John Rigdon King: The story of an American

Continued on Page 7
Spotlight: BCPL Catonsville History Room

Did you know that three branches of the Baltimore County Public Library have local history rooms? In this issue we will highlight Catonsville. Our next edition will feature Arbutus and Reisterstown.

The Catonsville Room local history collection includes any two-dimensional historical materials (papers, photographs, maps, articles, news clippings, etc.) related to Catonsville history. These topics include materials relating to the B&O railroad, streetcars, National Road, churches, schools, some local biography, etc.

Saint Timothy's Church and Hall (school) of the 19th century is one of the most interesting local subjects. John Wilkes Booth was baptized in that church and went to school at St. Timothy's Hall. Other famous graduates included Fitzhugh Lee (R.E. Lee's nephew and 40th Governor of Virginia), and Col. Prentiss Ingraham, author of dozens of Western dime novels relating to Wild Bill Hickok and Buffalo Bill Cody. In later years, (1875-1920+) the boys' military academy was converted into a finishing school for wealthy young debutantes including Frances Nunnally, who was a member of Mark Twain's Angelfish club. He attended her graduation in June 1909 and gave his very last public speech here. The essence of the speech was that these ladies should not drink, smoke, nor marry to excess. The collection includes a photo of Mark Twain in his signature white suit that he always wore in his later years.

Since this branch specializes in Catonsville history, the only areas of overlap with Arbutus include some B&O history, Patapsco State Park, and those areas which border upon Wilkens Avenue and South Rolling Road. The criteria for inclusion in the collection have become tighter in recent years, and they cannot justify adding and storing materials that are not related to their immediate community.

Of course, the National Road (Rt. 144) and the B&O railroad are of immense importance, as Catonsville would not exist except for its location and proximity to these and the industrial center of Ellicott's Mills just to the west. One of the founders of the town, Joseph Fusting, not only gave the town its name and predicted its future development, but also helped to create the first horse-drawn trolley line on Frederick Road through the town in 1862.

The Catonsville local history room is presently featuring a special display relating to the history of Spring Grove State hospital.

The Catonsville branch of the Baltimore County Public Library can be found at 1100 Frederick Road. For more information, call (410) 887-0951.

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Brewery Fundraiser Results

Author Rob Kasper signed copies of his book and gave an entertaining talk about Baltimore's brewing history at B.C. Brewery in Hunt Valley, June 6. The brewery was a fun venue for the talk and graciously donated approximately $650 to HSBC.

Photo by Cheryl Keffer
New to the HSBC Library

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Mark Your Calendars

60th Anniversary Fundraiser
Sunday, November 10
6 - 10 p.m.

Details will be announced soon!