

The HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.

Preserving Our Past For Your Future



143 N. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

Society News

March / April 2013

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The Historical Society of
Harford County, Inc.,
headquarters.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ELKRIDGE-HARFORD HUNT CLUB OPENS ITS DOORS

The second in our series of tours of historically significant or interesting buildings and homes in Harford County will take place on Sunday, March 17th at the **Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club** from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM. The clubhouse will be the focus of the day. Designed by prominent New York Architect James O'Connor, the house was built on the foundation of an older structure destroyed by fire. Stop in and see the home of the second oldest recognized foxhunting club in the United States. Walk the lawn where Winston Churchill once dined at a picnic luncheon and enjoy the view of the My Lady's Manor race course. **Reservations are required.** Please call the Society at 410-838-7691 to reserve a space. A suggested donation of \$5 per person is appreciated but not required. The club is located at 3403 Pocock Road next to Ladew Gardens. Upon arrival, please follow directions for parking. (Sensible shoes are recommended.)



UPCOMING EVENTS *Continued from page 1*SCHOOLGIRL SAMPLERS
WITH KATHLEEN FRANETOVICH

On Sunday April 14, needlework expert Kathleen Franetovich will be at Hays House from 1-4 to talk about schoolgirl samplers, decorative needlework created by young girls in Early America. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. Children under 4 are free. Parking is free.

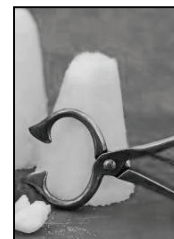
For over 120 years in Maryland, from the mid-18th to the mid-19th century, needlework was considered an indispensable subject in a young girl's education in the home or in a seminary or other institution. Girls as young as six labored over their samplers as a means of teaching them the rudiments of reading and writing.

Usually stitched in silks on a linen ground, samplers provide glimpses into the joys and tragedies of daily life. With the passage of time, the colors are now soft and muted. Young girls painstakingly worked their names and ages into their samplers, often with rhymes and mottos, or with religious and moral themes. Their homes, families and pets were frequent subjects. Sometimes they stitched the whole alphabet, row after row.

On display at Hays House Museum is an original sampler worked by Blanch Hall Lee in 1830 when she was eight years old. Below is a picture of another sampler stitched in Harford County.

SUGAR IN HISTORY,
FROM HARVESTED CANE TO THE TABLE

On March 24, the Society's spring lecture, *Sugar in History, from Harvested Cane to the Table*, will be presented by culinary historian Deborah Peterson. Tea will be served at 2 pm at Society headquarters followed by Ms.



Peterson's *PowerPoint* presentation. The event is part of the Preserving our Past Series and is being hosted jointly by the Historical Society and the Hays House Museum.

Thanks in part to sugar's ability to cause cravings, sugarcane became a highly valued trade commodity that did more than sweeten tea and cause tooth decay. Find out how sugar changed the course of history.

Deborah Peterson has been studying and interpreting colonial English and American foodways for more than 30 years. She is a founding member of Past Masters in Early American Domestic Arts, a Philadelphia-based organization of scholars and interested parties who research and interpret the American colonial period of 1681-1783. She has presented programs at or worked with well over 30 historic sites, including Mount Vernon and Colonial Williamsburg.

In addition to the presentation, Ms. Peterson will include a question-answer period and a variety of sugar-related items for display and discussion. Sugar loaves made by Dobyns and Martin, Grocers, will be for sale. Admission to the tea is \$8. The lecture is free. Please call 410-838-7691 to make a reservation.

Continued on page 3

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

On Saturday, May 18th from 2 - 4 pm the Genealogical Society will host a Hereditary Fair at the Historical Society Headquarters, 143 N. Main Street in Bel Air. To date, eleven local heritage organizations have agreed to participate. Each will provide a brief slide presentation about their organization. All are welcome to attend. Also, the Genealogical Society is planning a Fall Seminar on Saturday, September 21st from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Historical Society Headquarters. Watch for further details on the Harford County Genealogical Society's web page, Facebook page and in local media.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN CHESAPEAKE

The Archeological Society will hold a lecture featuring Mr. Robert Owen at the Harford Jewish Center, MD Route 155, Havre de Grace, MD on March 13th at 6:30 pm. The topic will be "The Search for the Ruins of Ai, Joshua's Second Conquest of Canaan."

DID YOU KNOW?

Lapidum was once a thriving town in Harford County supporting two stores and a hotel, a church, school and about fourteen houses. The Town was located directly opposite Port Deposit and thrived for several years owing to the ferry crossing, fishing industry and the Tidewater Canal. In 1910, an ice gorge destroyed much of the town. The area is now a part of Susquehanna State Park. For more information visit the Society's library and check out *LAPIDUM: ANOTHER CHAPTER*

BUILDING RESTORATION CAMPAIGN STATUS – FEBRUARY 2013

Donations	Projected	Actual to date
Grants	\$150,000	\$75,000
Contributions	\$191,600	\$3,000
Puzzle donations	\$8,400	\$2,200
Parties/Events	\$50,000	\$600
Other	\$100,000	\$0
Total	\$500,000	\$80,800

NEW MEMBERS

Donald and Mildred Blackburn

Mike Carr

Thomas F. Fitzpatrick

Francis X. Gibbons, Jr.

Taylor and Sharon Keen

Alexandra and James Kopp

John Charles Mitchell

Brianne Baccaro Norris

Greg Pessagno

T. Roxann Redd-Wallace

Joseph Lee Rutherford

Dorothy Schwemmer

Elaina M. Thomas

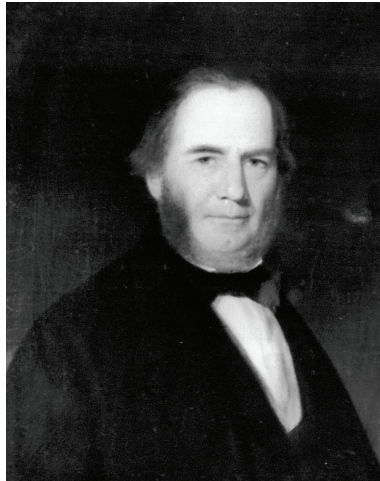
James and Lynn Vickers

Mr. and Mrs. Marquess Wood

OTHO SCOTT AND THE SCOTTS OF BEL AIR

By Carol Deibel

Many local residents know that the Town of Bel Air was originally part of Scott's Old Fields, the abandoned fields of Aquila Scott, but few realize the true impact of the Scott family on state, county and town history. Aquila's ancestors are first mentioned in the land grant records in the 1600s and were among the first families to settle in central Harford County. Starting with Daniel Scott purchasing Oliver's Reserve in 1682, the family assembled several thousand acres of county land over time. Daniel's son, Daniel, became a Justice of Baltimore (at the time Harford was part of Baltimore County) and served several terms in the Maryland General Assembly. Each generation made a tremendous impact on the County. In 1725, Daniel Scott is listed as a Town Commissioner in Joppa, then the county seat of Baltimore County. He, Captain John Taylor, and Thomas Tolley, also Town Commissioners, laid off twenty one acres of land at Joppa into forty lots for the building of homes, plus three separate lots for the Court House, Jail and a one acre parcel for St. John's Church. The Court House and Jail were dismantled and materials sold to fund the new court house in Baltimore on the Patapsco in 1768. In 1782, when the County seat of what had become Harford County was moved to Bel Air, the parcel for the new Court House and jail was purchased from Aquila Scott, Daniel's son and surveyed by Aquila's son, Daniel. The family followed the tradition of naming their children after earlier family members, resulting in a long line of Daniels and Aquilas in the Scott family.

*Otho Scott*

The Scotts owned the land that made up the new Town of Bel Air as well as much of the surrounding property. Aquila's home on Tollgate Road was later purchased by the County for use as the Almshouse and subsequently the County Parks & Recreation office. His brother James owned the land along what is now known as Moores Mill Road, providing a water powered mill to serve local needs. This mill was eventually sold to James Moores who expanded and operated the mill for many years, hence the name change to Moores Mill. Aquila's son, Daniel married quite late in life and had only one son, Otho Scott, but Otho was to make a tremendous mark on the county.

Otho was born in 1795 when his father was 50 years old. He grew up in Bel Air and served in the militia during the War of 1812. He initially worked as a carpenter and shingle maker in Baltimore before reading law with Israel Maulsby in Bel Air. Otho was admitted to the Bar on March 13, 1821 and immediately entered upon a career of success and distinction both at his home circuit and the Court of Appeals¹. Mr. Scott represented an amazing number of clients ranging from local widows to major railroads. By his third year, he was listed as appearing in a third of all county trials. In the Chancery dockets (now more commonly known as Equity dockets), he was even more prominent, representing one side or the other in more than

¹ Maryland State Bar Association. "Personal Recollections and Traditions. 1912. P. 16.

half of all cases from 1821 to 1845². He represented the Delaware & Maryland Railroad Co. in establishing the right to erect wharves and provide ferry service. This was a ground breaking legal action at the time, establishing legal standards on the right of general navigation and fishing. He also represented the Tidewater Canal Company in proceedings regarding condemnation resulting in a legal opinion used not only in Maryland but also in several other states. His reputation continued to grow throughout the state based on his skill and learning.

Physically, he was not an imposing figure. Stevenson Archer, who studied law under Mr. Scott described him as follows: *"He was about 5'10" in height, quite stout, broad forehead, gray eyes, straight nose, firm expressive mouth and cleft chin; like many other men of marked mentality, he was exceedingly careless, slovenly in dress, frequently neglecting to tie his shoes and sometimes, it is said, forcing the foot into his shoe as onto an old slipper and liberally sprinkling his linen and outer clothing with the juice of the weed, which he cherished with gusto ."*³ Augustus Bradford, Maryland's Civil War era governor and Henry D. Farnandis, a well-known local attorney and state senator were among the numerous lawyers who trained under Otho Scott.

Scott's legal legacy was exceptional, but his personal achievements were equally outstanding.

Recognizing a need for a fireproof building to store his extensive library, he designed and built the first fireproof building in the state. The stone structure was built on Main Street opposite the Court House. Before trusting his cherished library to the building, however, he tested the new structure by piling a number of cords of hickory wood in the building and setting them on fire just to make sure it was truly fireproof. The stone building with its iron girders and shutters passed the test with only minor damage and stood on the old jailhouse lot well into the twentieth century.

Scott attended each session of the Maryland General Assembly to keep himself informed and to meet and expand his acquaintances with influential men throughout the State. He also served several terms as a State Senator. The Legislature recognizing his unique legal talents hired Scott and Hiram McCullough to codify the State laws (the Code of 1860). "Each was to be paid \$22,500 for the work, but the tradition in Harford County is that Mr. McCullough's



Otho Scott's house

² Ibid. p. 16.

³ Ibid. p. 18.

appetite for hard work was not equal to that of Mr. Scott, who, discovering that fact at an early date, paid him \$5,000 in cash, and did all the work of codification.”⁴ Later, Judge Preston’s 1901 County history described Scott’s effort as “condensing two volumes of unvaried and unskillfully framed laws passed in the State since its foundation. The Code of 1860 stands as a monument in his memory [and is regarded as], the best ever produced.”

Scott was a member of the Peace Commission of Maryland during the Civil War along with Robert M. McLane and William J. Ross. They met with President Lincoln on May 7, 1861 as representatives of the State Legislature and presented a Resolution declaring Maryland’s support of the Union in an attempt to forestall any Military occupation of the state. President Lincoln later prepared a response, which was apparently never completed, indicating “the answer must necessarily be contingent.” This is understandable as only months earlier, as Lincoln was on his way to his March 4, 1861 inauguration, he had to be brought through Baltimore surreptitiously to forestall an assassination attempt planned by Cypriano Ferrandini and fellow secessionists in the city.⁵ The plot was discovered by Detective Alan Pinkerton, who brought the President elect into Washington under cover of night, forestalling the murderous action. Although concerns about secessionist sympathies of Maryland’s citizens remained a factor throughout the war years, Otho Scott is said to have made a tremendously positive impression on President Lincoln. At a diplomatic dinner at the White House, he impressed all in attendance with his wide reading and broad knowledge of European politics. Afterwards, according to Col. Edwin

H. Webster, Collector of the Port of Baltimore during the Lincoln Administration, whenever he met Mr. Lincoln he would say “Webster, how’s Scott?”⁶

In 1825, Otho Scott built the handsome, hip roofed frame dwelling whose cruciform plan was unique in the county.⁷ The house was built on part of the family property at Rockspring Road and Moores Mill Road. The twenty-room house was designed with a two-story porch, a large entry hall and double stairway with cherry railings, a thoroughly elegant structure. Soon after completing the house Otho’s son, Daniel was born to Otho and his wife Louisa (Boarman) Scott. Eventually they would have four children – Daniel, Susan, William and Walter. Otho’s son, Daniel, built a similar house on Vale Road known as Hickory Hill, which still stands today. Between 1870 and 1875 Otho Scott’s house served as Mr. Jeffries School for Girls, but was bought in 1945 by Mr. & Mrs. Harvey M. Chesney who set about restoring the property to its former grandeur. Today the house is used as the headquarters for the Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

The Scott family continues to enhance the Bel Air community through the deeded land, the legislative legacies and the many buildings left behind which still grace the community today.

⁴ Ibid. p. 19.

⁵ Stashower, Daniel. *Lincoln Must Die!*. Smithsonian. February 2013. Pp 74 -89.

⁶ Ibid. p. 20.

⁷ Weeks, Christopher. *An Architectural History of Harford County Maryland*. 1996. p.304

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the arrival of 2013, the Society announced the beginning of its two-year building restoration capital campaign. I am pleased to report that to date we have received grants and donations totaling \$80,000. The Society has been awarded a \$50,000 Community Development Block Grant and we were notified in February that the Bel Air Community Foundation will be contributing \$25,000 to our efforts. We have also been gratified by the individual donations that have been contributed by our volunteers, members and others from the community who are recognized elsewhere in this newsletter. I urge all members to step up and donate to this very worthwhile cause. Visit our website and take advantage of our PayPal account to make your donation.

To further help with our fundraising effort we have begun a series of tours of historically significant properties located throughout the county. We were fortunate to have as our inaugural tour the McKinney-Graybeal House located next to Liriodendron. Many thanks go out to Judy Eagle for opening her home to over 100 visitors and to Walt and Ginger Holloway, Mary Cardwell and Adrienne DeRan for hosting this successful event. Our next open house will be at the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club and will take place on March 17th. We hope you will join us. Reservations are recommended, so please phone the Society to reserve your place. Other properties will be added as the year progresses, so watch your newsletter, e-mail and the local press as the sites are announced.

We are now entering the events season. Our Spring tea and lecture on the history of sugar will take place March 24th and is being produced jointly by our Headquarters and the Hays House. Please make your reservation via the form included in this issue.

On the business side, our new board members have taken on roles that will move our Society forward and our many committees are doing their parts in preserving our past for your future. My thanks go out to all of them for their commitment and dedicated service.

- Henry C. Peden, Jr., President

WANTED

YARD SALE ITEMS – The Society is now accepting donations for the June 22nd yard sale. Donations may be dropped off at the Society's Headquarters. For pickup of larger items or more information, please contact Maryanna Skowronski at 410-838-7691.

NEW DONATION OPTION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE



We have been working on the website in recent months to give it a fresh look. You'll see a fresh front page with added photos, helpful buttons and events and schedules. Two new features are a link to our Facebook Page and the ability to use credit cards via PayPal to make a donation to our Post Office Restoration Campaign. Go to www.harfordhistory.org, click on the Donate button and you'll see the icon the different levels of donations and the button.

SOCIETY NEWS IN BRIEF

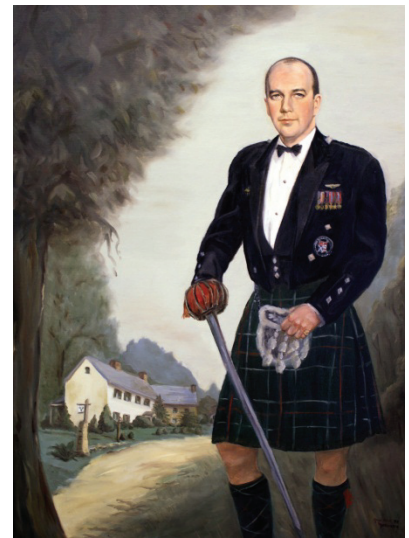
Philipp Brundrett resigned from the Board of Directors in January after serving as President in 2011-2012, as well as serving as Finance Committee Chair and Artifact Committee Chair. The Society genuinely appreciates his dedicated service and applauds his many accomplishments. Additionally, the Society also wishes to recognize Leslie Lookingbill, our former Treasurer, who resigned from the Board in December due to work constraints. She has been replaced by Brianne B. Norris, a CPA from the same firm as Ms. Lookingbill, Weyrich, Cronin and Sorra. Jack Shagena was appointed to serve the remainder of Mr. Brundrett's term. Both Mr. Brundrett and Ms. Lookingbill remain as members of the Society and will no doubt be called on to share their considerable talents in future endeavors as their time and energy permits.

With all these changes, the Board needed to appoint a new finance committee. In January, George Harrison was appointed Finance Committee Chair along with new Board members Brianne Norris and John Spielberger. Rick Herbig will continue serving on the committee as well.

Although it is not possible to list all of the donations/artifacts received, the Society wishes to express its sincere appreciation for all of the items accessioned over the last several months. One of the more exciting was donated in February by Anne Stick Mackenzie Hopkins, a large oil painting portraying her late husband Duncan Henry Mackenzie (1924 – 2004), former President of the Historical Society and Laird of the Highland Society. These donated artifacts help tremendously in satisfying the Society's goals of educating current and future residents about the history of our county.

In addition to these artifact donations, the Society wishes to recognize several selfless volunteers who offered their time and muscle to clean and wax the floors throughout the headquarters building. We sincerely appreciate the hard work of Richard Sherrill, Jeff Smart, Walt Holloway, Rick Herbig, Mary Cardwell and Maryanna Skowronski for this incredible effort.

Finally, the Board wishes to thank all who participated in the Annual Giving Campaign. We received \$19,525 in contributions, which will help tremendously with the day-to-day operations of the Society.



Duncan Henry Mackenzie

HAYS HOUSE ANNOUNCES NEW HOURS

For the 2013 season starting in March, Hays House will be open the second and fourth Sunday from 1 to 4 pm as well as at other times by appointment for group tours and teas. This change in hours is necessary because fewer volunteers are currently available to staff the museum and give tours to visitors.

While the open days are fewer, there are a wide variety of special events planned for visitors of all ages. These events include spinning, beekeeping, and hearth cooking demonstrations, needlework and book discussions, colonial re-enactors, and musical entertainment. For a complete listing, please pick up a 2013 calendar of events when you next visit the Historical Society or Hays House.

Many volunteer opportunities are available at Hays House - from behind the scenes work such as sewing or gardening to greeting visitors and giving tours. If you would like to discuss volunteering in some capacity, please call Betsy Lehmann at 410-592-8693

BUILDING RESTORATION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The past two months were highly productive. Member donations are beginning to arrive, particularly for those who want to help build our puzzle. So far the foundation of the building on the puzzle is complete, now we need to move on to the first level of the building.

The Society received the first portion of the \$50,000 Community Development Block Grant which will be used to develop a "leak investigation" to determine how to address the roof leakage and initiate the repair of the roof. Meanwhile, the Building Restoration Committee is working on researching other funding sources and scheduling repairs as funds become available. We will provide updates on repairs in upcoming newsletters and encourage you to visit the Society to see our progress.



Visitors enjoying a tour of the historic McKinney-Graybeal house, the first in a series of house tours organized to raise funds for the Society's Building Restoration Campaign

One of the more exciting fundraising activities to date, was the first historic house tour which was held on February 10th at the McKinney/Graybeal house on Gordon Street in Bel Air. The house dates to 1835 and was home to the Union Tavern manager, who also edited one of the very first newspapers in Bel Air. Mr. Mc Kinney purchased the land from the Scott (*see previous article on the Scott family*) and Bond families who received the land grant from the Lord Proprietor, Lord Baltimore. The house later housed Dr. Howard Kelly's family, one of the Big Four at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the Graybeal Family, local business owners, government officials and attorneys. The next tour will be held on March 17th at the Elkridge Harford Hunt Club on Pocock Road. See the Upcoming Events section for more details. The committee hopes to hold several more tours over the next year and a half, allowing visitors to revel in the marvels of many of the county's historic treasures and helping the Society to

raise necessary funds to complete the restoration of the old Post Office. If you own such a property and would be willing to open your home for a tour to help the society, please contact Maryanna Skowronski at 410-838-7691.

DONOR RECOGNITION

The Historical Society wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions to the building campaign.

James and Carolyn Chrismer

Elizabeth Lehmann

Joseph and Sue Smith

Rose Marie Kalb

Hereditary Order of the Signers of the Bush Declaration

Ramona Bolen in Memory of Clovis Bolen

Bel Air Community Foundation



The Hereditary Order of the Signers of the Bush Declaration contributed to the Building Restoration Campaign. L-R: Maryanna Skowronski, HSHC Director; Henry Peden Jr., HSHC President; Christopher Smithson and Jeanne Poole, Bush Declaration officers.

RESERVATION FORM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u># of Tickets</u>	<u>Amount</u>
March 17	Elkridge Harford Hunt Club Tour	N/A	_____	_____
March 24	Sugar in History/Lecture and Tea	\$8.00	_____	_____
April 14	Schoolgirl Samplers	\$5/\$3	_____	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED				\$_____

THINGS ARE REALLY HOPPING!

Visit the **Society's Gift Shop** at Headquarters, 143 N. Main St., soon for the wonderful spring displays including colorful holiday items – rabbits, ceramic Easter eggs, spring decorations, stained glass windows, artwork books and more.



Just beyond the shop is a display of memorabilia from the War of 1812. Currently, several county museums are featuring displays and activities celebrating the 200th Anniversary of this event. On your next visit to the Society, be sure to stop by the display area to learn more about Harford County's part in this conflict. Some books on the conflict are available in the Gift shop or you may want to consider a newly released book by local author, Heidi Glatfelter. The book, *THE WAR OF 1812: FIRE ON THE CHESAPEAKE*, begins in the early morning hours of May 3, 1813, when British Rear Admiral George Cockburn launched a brutal attack on the city of Havre de Grace, Maryland. Without mercy for age or infirmity, the British troops plundered and torched much of the town. It was the beginning of the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812, and it would only end with the burning of the capital and the failed siege of Baltimore.

Author Heidi Glatfelter traces the attack and the response of the residents of Havre de Grace--from the bravery displayed by John O'Neill, who was taken prisoner by the British, to quick-thinking citizens such as Howes Goldsborough, who found ways to save their homes and those of their neighbors from total destruction. Join Glatfelter as she reveals the stories of a town under siege and a community determined to rebuild in the aftermath. Ms. Glatfelter's book is available locally at Barnes and Noble and on line at Amazon.com.

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OFFICERS 2012-2013

<i>President</i> Henry Peden	<i>1st Vice President</i> Richard Sherrill	<i>2nd Vice President</i> Richard Herbig, Esq.	<i>Recording Secretary</i> Elizabeth Lehmann
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> Millicent Jordan	<i>Treasurer</i> Brienne B. Norris		<i>Past President</i> Philipp Brundrett

DIRECTORS 2013-2014

Wendell Fritz A. A. Roberty	George Harrison Jack Shagena	Walter Holloway John Spielberger
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DIRECTORS 2012-2013

Carol Deibel James T. Wollon, Jr.	Larry Carmichael Adrienne DeRan	Mary Cardwell Robert Preston
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DIRECTOR

Maryanna Skowronski

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Carol Deibel

HISTORICAL SOCIETY and GIFT SHOP HOURS

Tuesday
COURT RECORDS
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Wednesday
ARCHIVES
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Thursday
RESEARCH LIBRARY
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Fourth Saturday
ARCHIVES and
RESEARCH LIBRARY
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.