

# The HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.

*Preserving Our Past For Your Future*



143 N. Main Street  
Bel Air, MD 21014

## Society News

May / June 2013

Phone: (410) 838-7691

FAX: (410) 838-5257

E-Mail: HarcHis@msn.com

On the web: [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org)



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

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## THE MARYLAND AND PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COLLECTION

By Walter Holloway

The Historical Society of Harford County has one of the largest local collections of photos and material on the Ma & Pa Railroad. The collection includes 1000 photos in print and 10,000 digital images. Many of these images have never been published before. There are also 24 volumes of documents and newspaper articles on the railroad. These include rail charts, bulletins and circulars, 1918 ICC documents, letters, bills, receipts and more. This railroad changed the face of Bel Air and the western part of Harford County, bringing industry and wealth as well as mobility and services to the area for many years. The photos, and bulletin below, give just a glimpse of the many fascinating pieces of railroad memorabilia available for viewing.

### MARYLAND AND PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY

Office of President & General Manager

York, Pa., March 24, 1959

### BULLETIN No. 1529

#### ALL ENGINEMEN:

Flashing light signals are again in operation at Mt. Rose Ave. (Plank Road), York, Pa.

All locomotives and trains must approach this crossing prepared to stop before reaching highway, and if lights are not flashing, must come to a full STOP and send a flagman ahead before crossing highway.

The maximum speed at any time over this crossing shall not exceed ten (10) miles per hour.

J. B. NANCE

a/k

President & General Manager.

(Continued on page 3)

## BUILDING RESTORATION CAMPAIGN UPDATE



*Historical Society President, Henry Peden and Director, Maryanna Skowronski accept a check in the amount of \$25,000 from the Board of Directors of the Bel Air Community Foundation. The gift is a contribution to the Historical Society's Building Restoration Fund.*

The Building Restoration Committee is delighted to announce the Bel Air Community Foundation's \$25,000 donation and is working on other grant options which we hope to submit in the near future. The *Post Office Puzzle* is growing nicely. To date thirty four pieces of the puzzle have been sold. We need fifty more to complete the picture. All funds donated to this project go toward the building restoration. A puzzle piece costs \$100 and the puzzle with the donors names will be displayed in the old Post Office lobby. For more information on how you can become involved in this fundraising project, call the Society's Director at 410-838-7691.

The first stage of the building restoration is underway. Before any actual work could be accomplished, the committee determined that the source of the leak or leaks must be determined and a plan developed to rectify the identified problems. This spring, the Society issued a request for proposals to develop a leak investigation. The successful bidder is expected to begin work in May. Immediately following the study, the Society will issue another bid proposal to rectify this problem. Once the structural issues are resolved, we will begin the more visible part of the repairs – window restoration, the flag court, the interior and exterior painting and more.

We appreciate the support received from many of you so far and encourage you to tell your friends about the Campaign. The Society needs to raise approximately \$500,000 if we are to reach our goals of preserving this treasured building. Watch for upcoming events and call for information on how you can be part of this effort.

## THE MA & PA R.R. COLLECTION

*Continued from page 1*



*The above is a wreck at Gross trestle in 1920.*

The Society owes a debt of gratitude to the many members who have contributed their entire or partial Ma & Pa Railroad memorabilia collections. These include but are not limited to Charlie T. Mahan, C. Stewart Rhine, Jerome Murphy, W. Ray Hicks and Walter Holloway.

This material is listed on the Past Perfect section of the Society's web site. Part of the material is located at the Society's headquarters in the library, with additional materials located in the Archives. If you are interested in viewing any of these materials, please do not hesitate to ask our volunteers for help.

Come visit the Society and check this material and all the other great historical items in the collection.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move forward with our many projects and campaigns, I want to thank our officers, members and volunteers for their collective efforts in fulfilling our mission. For those of you who have not yet donated to our building restoration campaign, I encourage you to take a moment to consider making a donation. If you have any questions, please call the Society at 410-838-7691 and speak with our Director.

In addition to all the hard work and long hours we put in to meet our duties and responsibilities, we also need to take time to have a little fun. In that regard, I encourage you and your friends to consider taking part in the Wheatland Mansion bus trip we are conducting on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Detailed information is found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I thank you for your continued support of our Society.

*Henry Peden*  
*President*

## NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Clopper Almon  
Bruce and Amy Fischer  
Ed and Karen Garono  
Dianne Klair  
Sean H. Quinn  
Stephanie Shauck  
Martha Wright  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gladden  
Sandy Matthai  
Charlotte McIntyre and Randy, Martha and Christina McIntyre



## BUILDING RESTORATION CAMPAIGN STATUS – APRIL 2013

| Donations      | Projected         | Actual           |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Grants         | \$ 150,000        | \$ 75,000        |
| Contributions  | \$ 191,600        | \$ 7,500         |
| Puzzle         | \$ 8,400          | \$ 3,400         |
| Parties/Events | \$ 50,000         | \$ 970           |
| Other          | \$ 100,000        | \$ -             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$ 500,000</b> | <b>\$ 86,870</b> |

## DONOR RECOGNITION

Since the last newsletter Donor Recognition article, several of you have stepped up to help with our Building Restoration Campaign. The Society wishes to express our gratitude to the following businesses and individuals for their generous donations. For information on how you can participate in this effort, please contact Maryanna Skowronski, the Society Director at 410-838-7691 or visit our website at [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org).

Bel Air Community Foundation

T. Scott Cushing Sr.

Signe and Jack Shagena

David and Pat Wallace

Coffee News

Lloyd Holly

Donald and Martha Reed

Bar Harbor RV Park & Marina

Mc Comas Funeral Home

Charles Coale

James and Mildred Phillips, Jr.

Day Pitney

Brian Pabst

Andrew Colyer

## B & O STATION UPDATE

The Board reviewed the status of the Aberdeen B & O station at its last meeting and recommended that members be apprised of the Society's progress on this project. The Society committed to relocation and preservation of the Aberdeen Railroad station several years ago. CSX provided land near the station and the Maryland Historical Trust provided \$100,000 in grant funds for its relocation. The Society engaged David Gleason and Associates to address the legal requirements for the move. The consulting firm worked with government agencies to obtain necessary variances from the City of Aberdeen and permits from the Maryland Department of the Environment since there were floodplain and setback issues to resolve.

The Aberdeen Board of Appeals granted the necessary variances in August 2012 with a stipulation that the Society continue to work with CSX to see if it would be possible to obtain an additional ten (10) feet to locate the building outside of the floodplain. This done, the Society is very close to proceeding with relocation of the building to a site adjacent to its current location. The final move is expected by the end of 2013, allowing the preservation of this historically and architecturally significant building that served so many local residents and businesses for so many years.

When the relocation and preservation is completed, the building will provide a unique treasure for Aberdeen and Harford County residents. The station was designed by Frank Furness, a prominent nineteenth century architect and Civil War Medal of Honor recipient. Also, it is the last wooden station between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Watch for future updates on this important undertaking.

## MAY IS NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH

May is National Preservation Month. The National Park Service adopted the logo "This Place Matters", recognizing that preservation is the backbone of sustainable communities. It enhances the sense of community, energizes local economies and renews existing resources.

You can become involved by researching and understanding historic buildings in your community, helping to preserve historic buildings from the roof down, learning how to rehabilitate historic buildings, preserving your community with local historic districts, becoming involved in your local historical societies or preservation commissions.

The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. is in the process of repairing the former Bel Air Post Office building that constitutes its headquarters, starting from the roof down. There are numerous preservation groups throughout the county seeking to protect and restore archeological sites, historic properties, historic memorabilia and our cultural history. We encourage you to become a part of this preservation effort.

In May, the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission will recognize two local preservation projects, a local historian, two special projects and one entity for its long term stewardship. These projects and individuals along with many others throughout Harford County continue to preserve our sense of community and make Harford County a very special place to live, work and play.

### 2013 EVENTS - HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**On Saturday, May 18, 2013** - HCGS will host a **FREE HEREDITARY FAIR** from 1:00-4:00 P.M. at the Historical Society of Harford County, 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD. Numerous organizations will have tables and personnel to provide visitors with handouts and information. The following organizations have been invited to participate:

*Daughters of American Colonist (DAC),  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
(DAR), Sons of the American Revolution  
(SAR), Children of the American  
Revolution (CAR), Bush Declaration,  
General Society of the War of 1812,  
Colonial Dames, General Society of  
Mayflower Descendants, National Society  
Daughter of the Union, Upper Shore  
Genealogical Society, Maryland*

*Genealogical Society (MGS), Mid-Atlantic  
Germanic Society (MAGS)*

***Come find your roots!***

**On Saturday, September 21, 2013**, HCGS will hold a multi-session **GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR**. The guest speakers, Rebecca Whitman Koford and Julia Coldren-Walker, are well-known genealogists from the Maryland area.

**HCGS members: FREE**; Non-members: \$20; Students (bring your school ID): \$10. **Seating is limited. Bring your own brown-bag.** Light refreshments and drinks provided.

Registration form available at The Historical Society, and on the web at

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgcs>

## UPCOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

***Hold the Date! Wheatland Mansion Bus Tour – Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. See flyer and reservation form in the back of the bulletin.***

### ***May- June House Tours***

The Society is continuing its series of tours of historically significant homes and buildings. This incredibly popular program provides an opportunity to visit some beautiful properties that would otherwise remain a mystery to most of us. Although there is no set fee for the tours, donations are appreciated. All funds collected are used to help the Society's Building Restoration campaign.



Plans for the May – June tours are in the works, but details are not yet available. Please call the Society or watch the website or the Aegis for the announcement of dates and locations. The July tour will be held at the Liriodendron Mansion.

Many of you may have visited the historic 1898 Liriodendron Mansion as the guest at a wedding but how much do you know about the history of the house and grounds? Join us on **Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>** for a behind the scenes look at

Liriodendron from the perspective of the family who lived there. Guided tours of the house and grounds will be available **from 1-4 PM**. An exhibit of historic photographs of the property will also be on display. Come and learn about the history of this important Palladian mansion, home of one of the founders of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. The tour is free however, we suggest a donation of \$5 per person to benefit the Society's Building Restoration Fund and the Liriodendron. To reserve your space please call 410-838-7691 or e-mail [DirectorHSHC@verizon.net](mailto:DirectorHSHC@verizon.net) and leave your name, phone number and number of visitors.

### **Hays House Spinning Demonstration - June 9<sup>th</sup>**

**On June 9 from 1-4 p.m.**, Hays House will feature a spinning demonstration by docent and Colonial re-enactor Kathy Scholl.

Until the machines of the Industrial Revolution mechanized the production of cloth, spinning was a necessary domestic job for the lady of the house or her servants in the middle-class household. Since only the wealthier classes could afford to purchase cloth or have clothing made; most clothing and household fabrics were made at home, using wool from sheep they raised or flax, used to make linen, from plants they grew. Frequently these items were made from linsey-woolsey, a combination of wool and linen, an important fabric in Colonial America. At that time, cotton was an expensive luxury.



Spend a Sunday afternoon touring the 1788 Hays House; learn about Thomas Hays, "the Founding Father of Bel Air"; and see the spinning demonstration. **Fee: \$5 for Adults and \$3 for students and seniors.**



### **Annual Yard Sale – June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

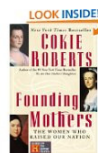
Don't miss this year's yard sale, **Saturday June**

**22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM** at the Old Post Office 143 N. Main Street in Bel Air. Treasures will be stored inside and outside the building so we hope to see you rain or shine. Donations are welcome from now until the event. These may include books, household items, wearable (clean) clothes, toys, antiques and collectibles, sports equipment and more. If you have an item too large for you to transport, give us a call at 410-838-7691 or email [DirectorHSHC@verizon.net](mailto:DirectorHSHC@verizon.net). Items may be dropped off during our regular business hours

or left on the loading dock at the rear of the building during off hours.

### **Hays House Book Discussion – *Founding Mothers* June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**On June 23 from 1 – 4 PM**, the Hays House will host a book discussion about women's roles in the founding of our country. Betsy Lehmann will lead a talk based on *Founding Mothers*, by Cokie Roberts, which highlights the many unsung heroines whose efforts were vital in the formation of our country.



Read the book, available at local libraries, and come prepared for a lively discussion about this and many other books that bring the women of early America to life. **Free**

## **Progress on a Strategic Plan**

### **2013-2018 HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN**

At the recommendation of the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations and an independent consultant, the Society is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan. The last Strategic Plan, developed in 2003, provided direction for the next five years. While this document led the way for many administrative improvements, including expanding the hours of operation, hiring paid staff for the first time, updating policies and developing the Society's website along with many other improvements in financial management, enhancement of the physical plant and development of a highly popular exhibit and lecture series, an update is long overdue.

As the new Plan evolves, we will provide information through the newsletter and the website to keep members updated on the Board's progress. Anyone who would like to make suggestions or comment on the proposed language should contact the Director (410-838-7691) or visit us on the website [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org). The new plan will be based on a five year time frame, outlining the major goals and objectives the Society hopes to achieve and the measures or actions proposed to meet these goals and objectives.

At the March meeting of the Board, the first section of the Society's Strategic Plan: the Vision, Mission, and Values Statements were adopted. These are presented below:

**Vision:** (This section defines how the Society perceives itself)



*The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc seeks to be the preeminent and most user-friendly source for an individual to obtain historical information about the county and genealogical information about its inhabitants.*

**Mission:** (This section describes the Society's purpose)

*The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. collects, preserves, promotes, and interprets the rich and diverse history of the Harford County area in its regional context from prehistoric origins to the present for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations.*

**Values:** (This section outlines the beliefs and principles shared by the Society)

*The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. fosters an environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect and those seeking information are provided a rewarding and educational experience. Material in the possession of the Society will be preserved with care. The Society embraces technology to further these values.*

The Strategic Plan will provide guidance for the Society so the Board can make decisions today that will ensure the organization's viability for the long term. One immediate concern is the declining membership. In 2008 there were 485 dues paying members, however, as of the end of March 2013 this number has dropped to 334, just 69 percent of the 2008 value. Some additional memberships will come in before the close of the year, but facing a steady year-by-year decline, it has become apparent some action is warranted. The Board recognizes a need to establish a Goal to Increase membership with an Objective to assure the Society's long term viability.

At the April Board meeting, members discussed a possible action item to satisfy this goal, offering a Web Membership, so individuals not geographically close to Bel Air can research many of the Society's historically rich documents via the Internet. This will open some of the Society's resources to a far wider group of potential members and also attract younger members who are technically savvy. If you have additional suggestions on how to increase membership, you are encouraged to share these with the Society. Obviously, there is much work to be accomplished and more information will appear in subsequent issues of this newsletter.

Please send us your ideas as to what additional Goals, Objectives and Action items should be included in this five year initiative, recognizing this is the very beginning of this effort and one that will set the tone for many future initiatives to better serve Society members and the public in general.

## **BY LAW REVISION**

### **The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc**

As with the Strategic Plan, the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations and the Society's consultant recommended revisions to the Society's bylaws to reflect current practices and to meet requirements of funding organizations and accreditation agencies. For several months, Board members have reviewed the existing bylaws and worked together to modify them to meet today's needs. All members will be asked to vote on the Bylaw Revision at the Quarterly meeting scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup>.

The following material provides a summary of the recommended revisions. For a complete copy of the proposed Revised Bylaws, please visit our website, [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org) or come in to the Society headquarters at 143 N. Main St. in Bel Air.



## BYLAW REVISION SUMMARY

### WORDING CORRECTIONS & MINOR MODIFICATIONS

- Corrected sections to reflect actual practices
- Added all categories of membership with description of benefits
- Changed title from Board of Directors to Board of Trustees
- Specified that notices can be done electronically as well as via traditional mailings
- Listed all officers and duties
- Modified Executive Director Section to Staff (Article VIII)

### MAJOR CHANGES

The Board voted to incorporate the following changes in the proposed revision:

- Eliminated office of Second Vice President and Corresponding Secretary, making the Executive Board four members instead of six (Article V Section 1) Note: This requires modifications throughout document eliminating mention of these officers. The corresponding secretary's duties would be taken over by an individual appointed by the President. If the President leaves office and the Vice President takes his place, the Board will elect a new Vice President to fill out the Vice President's term.
- Officers to be chosen by Board prior to Annual meeting (Article V, Section 2)
- Specified Committee creation and duties (Article IX). Most Committees were not specified before. The Finance and Endowment Committees would be combined for efficiency, per revised By Laws.
- Added Mission Statement (Article XI) to match Strategic Plan version. The statement is expected for inclusion in many grant applications and documents. Including the statement in the bylaws assures consistency.

To satisfy the Maryland Association Nonprofit Organizations (MANO) bylaw requirements the following changes are recommended and have been included in the draft Revision:

- The Executive Board is required to evaluate the Director each year. A copy of the minutes of the meeting at which the evaluation takes place must be provided to the Board. The Executive Committee must collect and review comparable salary information before determining the Director's annual salary.
- The Board must do either an audit or a financial review annually. The Board will determine the form of the review based on cost and Society's needs. An audit or review will also be required should the Treasurer leave office for any reason.
- Membership benefits are more fully defined in the revised draft of the bylaw, however some details are noted in a separate policy document to allow ready potential for revision, as needed.
- The Board will adopt a separate policy indicating that expenditures above a certain amount should be approved by the Board.



## 2013 HSHC Bus Trip

### Itinerary

Wheatland Mansion (Home of James Buchanan)

Lancaster County Historical Society and Gift Shop

Lunch at the Iron horse in Strasburg, PA

Choice of Pot Roast Sandwich or Chicken Caesar Wrap

Wine Tasting at Lancaster County Winery

### Trip Details

**Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Departing from HSHC Headquarters at 8 am**

**Coffee and Danish from 7:30 am to 8 am**

**Cups and lids will be available**

**Snacks on the bus for the trip home**

**Cost is \$85 per person (only paid reservations will be guaranteed)**

**Limit of 50 participants**



**Call 410-838-7691 to make your reservation**

**Send check to:**

**Historical Society of Harford County**

**143 N. Main Street**

**Bel Air, MD 21014**



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### RESERVATION FORM

| Date  | Event                             | Fee     | # of Tickets | Amount   |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| June 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Hays House Spinning Demonstration | \$5/\$3 | _____        | _____    |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Wheatland Mansion Bus Trip        | \$85    | _____        | _____    |
| NOTE: Pot Roast Sandwich ____ or Chicken Caesar Wrap ____ (check one) |                                   |         |              |          |
| June 23   | Hays House Book Discussion        | Free    | _____        | _____\$0 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED   |                                   |         |              | \$_____  |

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.****"THE GEORGE W. ARCHER FELLOW AWARD" NOMINATION FORM**

The George Archer Fellow Award is established to recognize Historical Society members and others in the community who have demonstrated exceptional service toward the mission and goals of the Historical Society of Harford County. Criteria for the Awards are: Years of exceptional service, Number of volunteer hours, recognition of special projects or research,. In addition, the Archer Fellow may be awarded to those persons who have striven to support the preservation of the history of Harford County outside the direct efforts of the Society. This effort may include outstanding activism, in kind services or volunteer efforts.

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the George W. Archer Fellow Award.

Printed Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write a 250 word essay on a separate sheet of paper on why you think your nominee should receive the George W. Archer Fellow Award.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2013

Please send the completed form to the following address: George W. Archer Fellow Award Historical Society of Harford County 143 N. Main Street Bel Air MD 21014

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The "Army of the Hudson" camped in Bel Air on February 23, 1913 on its way to Suffrage Headquarters at 817 N. Charles Street in Baltimore. The New York suffragettes were joined along the way by many notable Harford County residents, making speeches in Havre de Grace and Churchville, and dining at the Kenmore Inn on Baltimore Pike in Bel Air before moving on to Overlea and Baltimore. The ladies were warned in a "letter of welcome" from local Scout Master, A.B. Hollock, that they should reconsider hiking to Baltimore on Sunday since Marylanders take the Fourth Commandment very seriously and this could "militate against your cause in Maryland."

*Excerpts from Bivouacking at Bel Air, The Baltimore Sun, February 23, 1913.*

The Historical Society  
of Harford County, Inc.  
143 North Main Street  
Bel Air, MD 21014



**Nonprofit Org.**  
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May / June 2013

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**OFFICERS 2012-2013**

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b><i>President</i></b><br><i>Henry Peden</i>                     | <b><i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i></b><br><i>Richard Sherrill</i> | <b><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i></b><br><i>Richard Herbig, Esq.</i> | <b><i>Recording Secretary</i></b><br><i>Elizabeth Lehmann</i> |
| <b><i>Corresponding Secretary</i></b><br><i>Dorothy Stambaugh</i> | <b><i>Treasurer</i></b><br><i>Brianne B. Norris</i>                    |  | <b><i>Past President</i></b><br><i>Philipp Brundrett</i>      |

**DIRECTORS 2013-2014**

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Wendell Fritz</i><br><i>A. A. Roberty</i> | <i>George Harrison</i><br><i>Jack Shagena</i> | <i>Walter Holloway</i><br><i>John Spielberger</i> |
|--|---|---|

**DIRECTORS 2012-2013**

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <i>Carol Deibel</i><br><i>James T. Wollon, Jr.</i> | <i>Larry Carmichael</i><br><i>Adrienne DeRan</i> | <i>Mary Cardwell</i><br><i>Robert Preston</i> |
|--|--|---|

**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.