The HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.

Preserving Our Past For Your Future



143 N. Main Street Bel Air, MD 21014 September / October 2013

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

IN THIS ISSUE			
FOREVER THE LAND			
President's Message			
Annual Dinner Meeting			
Gift Shop News	3		
Coming Events			
-Hays-Heighe House			
-Grandparents Day			
-Ben Franklin			
-Archer Lecture			
-Dakota 38			
-Christmas Concert			
Society News			
-Board of Trustees			
-Building Restoration			
-Dresher Grant			
-Donor Recognition			
In Memoriam	9		
New Members	9		
Reminiscences of the Great	10		
War Between the States			
Annual Dinner Reservat-			
ion Form			

FOREVER THE LAND

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and the land." Aldo Leopold

With the screening of *Greenfire* on August 16th, the Society introduced its new exhibit, Forever the Land, a celebration of Harford County's contributions to the conservation movement. While most of us recognize nationally prominent conservationists such as Aldo Leopold, Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot and John Muir, we often overlook local talent and initiatives. The exhibit introduces the work of Aldo Leopold from his early days in the National Park Service in New Mexico and Arizona through his all too short life span. Leopold's vision and dedication led to a national understanding of ecology and the need for a comprehensive approach to conservation.

The exhibit then highlights the work of Kate and Russell Lord, the publishers of *The Land*, a conservation journal published from their Harford County home between 1941 and 1953. Well known contributors to the Journal included: Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*, Gifford Pinchot for whom the Pennsylvania Park is named, J.N. "Ding" Darling of waterfowl fame, Bill Mauldin, well known cartoonist, E. B. White (*Charlotte's Web, The Trumpet of the Swan, Stuart Little*), John Dos Passos, Louis Bromfield, Henry Wallace, James Thurber and many others.

The Lords played a prominent role in Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration. Russell Lord was not only a talented writer but also a knowledgeable and accomplished conservationist. His wife, Kate, was an extremely talented artist. Together they created an outstanding publication and enriched the lives of many people across the nation. The exhibit includes copies of their books, journals and art work. The Society library contains a complete collection of *Cont'd page 2*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to report to you about some of our recent accomplishments that will enhance our ability to move the society forward. The revisions to our By-Laws have been approved and are now in effect. Our Strategic Plan has been completed and approved. It will be our guide to the future development of our society. The relocation of the historic Aberdeen B&O Station will soon be a reality. Donations are welcome to cover expenses. The 2012 Annual Report is now available. We certainly accomplished a lot last year and this year has been just as busy. Issues at the Hays House are also being addressed and hopefully will soon be resolved. The Building Restoration Campaign is well underway. The major leak investigation has been completed and work will soon begin in making the necessary repairs to our headquarters building. Please make your contribution to our building campaign so that we can match the grants that we have been Maryanna awarded. Call our Director Skowronski at 410-838-7691 if you have any questions and visit our website at www.harfordhistory.org to see all that's happening in our society. Finally, our Annual Dinner and Membership Meeting is set for September 26th at the Maryland Golf and Country Club in Bel Air. Please attend and invite your family and friends. I hope to see you there.

> Henry Peden President

Cont'd from page 1

The Land journal from 1941 – 1953 for anyone interested in exploring these writings in more detail.

The final section of the exhibit highlights a number of the local organizations and programs involved in preservation of local farmland, open space, wildlife and our natural resources for future generations. The exhibit will be open to the public during normal business hours through December.

We hope you will visit the Society headquarters, 143 N. Main Street in Bel Air to enjoy this amazing collection of documents, paintings, sketches and memorabilia which tells the story of both national figures and many local conservationists and their impact on life in Harford County and throughout the nation.



Forever the Land Exhibit

YOU ARE INVITED!

"Lord Baltemore" To be Guest Speaker at Annual Dinner Meeting

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, you are herewith invited to attend the annual gathering of the members of the Historical Society of Harford County and election of the Board of Trustees at Maryland Golf and Country Clubs on **Thursday, the 26th of September at 6:30 o'clock in the evening.**

We are pleased to have as our guest speaker, J. Scott Watkins who in honor of the 300th anniversary of the My Lady's Manor land grant, will portray Charles Calvert, 3rd Lord Baltemore (*sic*) and present an amusing and entertaining history of this National Register listed area which straddles the Harford and Baltimore county line and encompasses land in both counties.

Scott Watkins is a Baltimore County native and devotee of Maryland history and its founding families. A graduate of Towson University, he is a member of SAG and AFTRA. Watkins is a film actor and voice-over talent. Recent work includes "House of Cards" Season Two, starring Kevin Spacey, "First Landing" (ABC Family Channel), "Gods and Generals" (Warner Bros.) and appearances in HBO's "The Wire" and "VEEP" starring Julia Louis-Dreyfuss. Scott is the creator, writer and associate producer of *Hidden/ History in the Hood* a historical travel series which is currently in development. He has served as an archivist and consultant to Channel Four and Royal Biographer and historian, Hugo Vickers.

In 2012 he wrote *A Conversation With C. Baltemore and The Granting of My Lady's Manor* which was performed most recently for the Manor Conservancy, the Society of Colonial Wars and Ladew Gardens. Watkins serves on the Manor 300 Steering Committee. He is also Chairman of The Speakers Committee for The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Maryland.

Tickets are \$29.50 per person for the three course dinner (cash bar). Reservations are required and must be made by September 16th. Dress is coat and tie or historical dress. For more information call 410-838-7691. Please see the reservation form elsewhere in this newsletter for menu choices and reservation form.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

The Gift shop has some exciting new additions for the fall. Cora Harrison, whose Main Street shop provided generations of Harford Countians with outstanding art work recently donated a beautiful collection of original, hand drawn notecards depicting county buildings and scenes from the late 20th century. A limited number of the cards are available for only \$2 each.

HEAVENLY WATERS GANG by Charles L. Robbins now available in the Gift Shop

Charles L. Robbins, a noted local author and historian, donated two original works: *Harford County History for Children*, a pictorial history of the county that graphically outlines the county's buildings, industry and growth from 1658 to today and his tales of childhood adventures in Bel Air as a young boy in the 1940s: *The Heavenly Waters Gang*. This charming, comical tale is illustrated by John A. Robbins, Jr. and transports the reader to a kinder, gentler world. Excerpts of the book appeared in the *Aegis* last year to much acclaim. This is the first time the book has been offered to the public and is only available at the Society's Gift shop.

Page 4

The following is an excerpt from *The Heavenly Waters Gang:*

THE 4:10 EXPRESS RUNS OVER NED

We did a lot of things as members of the gang, but probably one of the nastiest things we ever did was to let a train run over Ned. Before you wonder why we aren't all in jail at the present time for this deed, let me explain how the 4:10 ran over Ned.

At many places along the Ma & Pa small tunnels had been built by the railroad to allow cows to move from one pasture to another under the tracks. Immediately in front of our home, across the road, was a large woods and in the back of that woods was a pasture that the train tracks ran through. Consequently, to keep the farmer happy, the railroad had built a small bridge between the pasture and wooded lot so that the cattle could move back and forth. It was a favorite experience to be playing in the woods and hear the 4:10 leave Bel Air. We would run down to this small bridge and stand under it, look up, and watch the bottom of the train go by. And since it was perhaps no more than five and a half or six feet high, you were very close indeed to the locomotive and the cars. It was quite a thrill.

One afternoon, during one of those Indian summer days in the fall we were playing in the woods and heard the train. We rushed down to the tunnel and all stood under it. It occurred to someone, I'm not sure who, that what a wild story it would be, since we had all actually been run over by the train and we wouldn't be telling a lie, if we would rush across the road and tell someone's mother that he had just been run over by the train.

For some reason or other, I was chosen messenger. Ned volunteered to be the person to be run over. I ran through the woods, across the pasture, over the road, and up to Ned's house. His mother was in the kitchen getting dinner, had her apron on and was just as busy as mothers were in those days. I knocked on the door and yelled "come quick, come quick, Ned's been run over by the train!"

Well, very obviously his mother dropped everything she was doing – didn't even take off her apron – fled across the yard, over the road, across the pasture, up the hill, and down through the woods to the railroad tracks. Ned's mother, almost completely exhausted, arrived at the tunnel and what did she see – her only son standing there with his hands in his pockets and just grinning to beat the band!

I don't remember which one of us was whipped the most – the one who had spread the dreadful rumor or the one who had been run over by the train. Needless to say, never again did we even think about telling anybody that someone had been run over by the train.



Ned is run over by the Ma & Pa

September / October 2013

COMING EVENTS

HOUSE TOUR - Sunday, October 13, 2013, 1 - 4 p.m., Hays-Heighe House Tour



As part of our continuing house tour program we hope you will join us for a unique behind the scenes tour of the Hays Heighe House at Harford Community College. The 1808 structure blends the modern with the historic, connecting the present with the past. The newly renovated building was originally constructed by Archer and Hanna Hays. In 1828, the property became known as Prospect Hill Farm. It was acquired by Robert and Anne Heighe in 1921 and eventually became the home of the Harford Junior College (now Harford Community College)

in 1964. Come learn about the history of this beautifully restored building and its place in Harford County's history. Reservations are encouraged but not required. For more information call the Society at 410-838-7691 or email <u>DirectorHSHC@verizon.net</u>. Tours are free, however we suggest a donation of \$5 per person towards the Historical Society's Building Restoration Fund.

GRANDPARENT'S DAY – A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE



Grandparents Day 2012

On **Sunday**, **September 8 at 1 p.m.** the Hays House Museum will celebrate Grandparents' Day with an event for nature lovers young and old entitled *A Walk on the Wild Side*. Wildlife rehabilitators from the Phoenix Wildlife Center will present an educational program on wildlife rehabilitation and the conservation of wildlife habitat. Beekeepers from the Susquehanna Beekeepers Association will present a program and demonstration on honeybees, beekeeping and related arts.

Bring the grandchildren for a visit with wildlife rehabilitators and their feathered and scaled critters. Get answers to your wildlife rescue questions and learn about honeybees from members of the Susquehanna Beekeepers Association.

BEN FRANKLIN AND THE CONSTITUTION



Ben Franklin as portrayed by Interpreter David Fisher

On **Sunday**, **September 22 at 1 p.m.** the Hays House Museum will hold an event entitled *Ben Franklin and the Constitution with Interpreter David Fisher*. Visit with Interpreter David Fisher as he portrays Ben Franklin on the 226th anniversary of the signing of the US Constitution.

Both special events will be from 1 to 4 in the afternoon and include a tour of the 1788 house museum. Admission: \$5 adults; \$3 seniors/students; children under 4 are free. Free parking.

ARCHER HISTORICAL LECTURE AND TEA

On **Saturday, October 26th at 2 p.m.** the Society will present Mollee Kruger, the celebrated author of *The Cobbler's Last.* Mrs. Kruger's novel is based on her childhood in Bel Air in the 1930s and 40s. Watch the Society's website for more details. For reservations call the Society at 410-838-7691. The lecture is free. Tea is available for \$8.

SAVE THE DATE

MOVIE SCREENING OF DAKOTA 38 – NOVEMBER 8, 2013

In recognition of Native American Month, the Historical Society will present the documentary film, *Dakota 38*, the story of the Minnesota Sioux uprising of 1862 in reaction to mistreatment and starvation by US Government representatives. The film examines the incidents that led to the uprising and its tragic aftermath. Producer Silas Hagerty brings the story full circle however, as he tells a tale of history and healing bringing the viewer modern day insights into the events of 1862 and their effect on the descendants of the thirty-eight Dakota men who were hanged as punishment for the uprising. The evening will also feature the story of Joseph Renshaw Brown of the Bethel/Jarrettsville area of Harford County. Joseph R. Brown was an Indian Trader, Agent, inventor and newspaperman whose home was burned during the uprising.

Please join us at the Society headquarters **on Friday**, **November 8**th **at 7:00 PM**. Tickets are \$8 per person, Students and teachers \$6 per person. Soft drinks and popcorn are included in the admission. Reservations are encouraged but tickets may be purchased at the door.

SOCIETY TO HOST NEW CHRISTMAS CONCERT STARRING CHARLIE ZAHM

DECEMBER 11, 2013

After over a decade of performing to sell out crowds at the Society's annual Colonial Candlelight Christmas Concert and Tea, it was announced earlier this year that Musica Antiqua was disbanding and taking a well-earned retirement.

The Society is therefore pleased to announce that world recognized singer and musician, Charlie Zahm, will be performing traditional songs from the Celtic lands mixed with beautiful songs of Christmas and the season. With a baritone voice some have described as "coming along once in a generation," Charlie has become one of the most successful performers on the Celtic festival circuit, with passion for the performance and a chosen repertoire pleasing to all members of the family. A master of the guitar as well, Charlie brings an authentic love and respect for the music he sings. He is one of the few singers in the world to be invited to sing live with Scotland's "Black Watch.



Singer and musician Charlie Zahm

September / October 2013

Charlie will be accompanied by Baltimore fiddler Tad Marks, who has toured extensively across the U.S. and Europe with top-name groups and is considered one of the finest fiddlers on the East Coast. The concert will take place at **7:30 PM**, **December 11**th, **at Christ Our King Presbyterian Church** on Emmorton Road (Route 924) in Bel Air. Light refreshments will be served after the concert and concert goers will have the opportunity to meet and chat with both Charlie and Tad. Tickets to the performance are \$12 per person. Reservations are requested in advance although tickets may also be purchased at the door. For more information call 410-838-7691.

SOCIETY NEWS IN BRIEF

After the membership adopted the By- law revisions at the July Quarterly meeting, the Board of Trustees (formerly the Board of Directors) approved the 2013 Strategic Plan which will help lead the organization forward over the next several years. Copies of the Plan and the By-laws are available at the Society Headquarters.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS AND CANDIDATES

The Board also elected officers for the 2014-2015 term. Richard Sherrill will serve as President, Carol Deibel as Vice President, Brianne Norris as Treasurer and Betsy Lehmann as Secretary. The Nominating Committee has submitted a list of potential board members for the Class of 2014-2015. The nominees are as follows: Mary Cardwell, Larry Carmichael, Richard Herbig, Mary Moses, Michael Cullum and Ed Meerholz. The membership will be asked to vote for the Trustees who will serve as the Class of 2014-2015 at the Annual Dinner. Additional information about the election and the upcoming Annual Dinner is posted on the Society's website, www.HarfordHistory.org.

Wendell Fritz, Class of 2013-2014 submitted his resignation from the Board in July citing time conflicts. The Board truly appreciated his participation over the last year and wishes him the very best with his many projects.

BUILDING RESTORATION CAMPAIGN

The Building Restoration campaign is moving forward with several fundraising efforts and the completion of the Leak Investigation. In the next month, a Request for Proposals will be issued to proceed with repairs identified in the investigation. Meanwhile, a study of the electrical/lighting system is nearing completion and should lead to major long term savings as identified energy efficiency issues are addressed. To date, the committee has raised approximately \$143,000 of the needed \$500,000. The breakdown of donations is as follows:

Cash Match- Dresher Foundation	\$ 2,835.00
Cash Donations	\$ 37,092.00
Society Donation	\$ 18,100.00
Grant Funds	<u>\$ 85,000.00</u>
Total	\$143,027.00

Page 8

Society News

DRESHER GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCED

The Dresher Foundation awarded the Historical Society a major grant in June to assist with the Building Restoration Campaign. This matching grant, in the amount of \$25,000 is a significant donation but also a significant challenge to members . Now, the membership needs to raise a dollar for dollar match by June 25, 2014. If you can help, even in a small way, it would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be sent to the Historical Society Harford County of , Inc. at 143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014 or you can go to our website <u>www.HarfordHistory.org</u> to **make your donation using Pay Pal**. All funds collected go towards restoration of the Society's Headquarters and every donation is important. Call the Society Director for more information – 410-838-7691.

DONOR RECOGNITION

The Society thanks the Town of Bel Air for its donation of \$10,000 towards the building campaign effort. This was a greatly appreciated gift to the restoration effort and will be well used.

The Society also wishes to thank the following businesses, individuals and families for their generous donations to the Building Campaign effort:

A Digital Memory Computech, Inc/ J.D. Murphy F.O.P., Inc. Lodge 8 Eleanor Forsberg Gov. William Paca Chapter DAR C. Andrew Grannell, Jr. William & Mary Ann Gross Harford Area Model Railroaders Harford County Department of Community Services Richard Herbig Adrienne DeRan Sandra Wallis/Bill Smithson Charles & Sheila Hicks



Judith Hudson In Honor of Mike Pierce

George and Cora Harrison Paul Wooddell family David Dilworth family Darlene Martinek Willim McAleese William McMartin Thomas & Carol Meyer John & Martha Nichols Roger Pare Theelma & John Preisinger Elaine Sauer Sandra Wallis

We encourage anyone who would like to learn more about the building restoration campaign and how you can help to contact Maryanna Skowronski, the Society Director at 410-838-7691 or visit our website at www.HarfordHistory.org.

As described in earlier newsletters, a jigsaw puzzle depicting the Society's campaign progress is displayed in the Society's lobby. There's still time to be a part of the puzzle. Puzzle pieces are available for a \$100 donation towards the Building Restoration Campaign. The Society lost two long term supporters recently, Harry L.W. Hopkins and Paul Wooddell. They will be missed. The following brief tributes to these outstanding county residents cannot fully describe the significance these men had for the citizens of Harford County and for their friends and loved ones, but attempts to recognize at least briefly their many achievements.

Mr. Wooddell earned his Master's Degree with a concentration in American History from Western Maryland College. He did undergraduate studies at Rio Grande University and Ohio University. He also completed post Master's work at JHU, Dennison and Towson universities. He taught history in Baltimore County Public Schools for 28 years. He was selected to serve as historian for one summer at the Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity on Aberdeen Proving Ground where he did extensive historic military research. He worked three summers as an Education Specialist for the Ordnance Center & School and was full time Equipment Specialist at APG when he retired. He resided in Harford County with his wife Barbara for 35 years."

Paul Wooddell was a member of the Historical Society and author of Harford Historical Bulletin Number 87, *Harford's Greatest Generation: World War II Remembrances of Harford Citizens*. He was a member of the Harford Area Railroad Modelers and a supporter of the effort to save the Aberdeen B&O Train Station. His family has requested that the donations made in his memory be designated for the Society's Building Restoration.

Harry L.W. Hopkins was a lifelong resident of Harford County. He was born and raised in Bel Air, graduating in 1944 from Bel Air High School. He immediately enlisted in the Army Air Forces and was stationed in Amarillo, Texas where he trained as a mechanic and gunner on B – 29s. He served with distinction in Europe until his discharge in 1946. At that point, he began a long series of distinguished careers in insurance, finance, banking and mail delivery. He served as an orphans' court judge, a funeral home attendant and tombstone salesman, as well as serving twenty four years as Harford County's Registrar of Wills. Harry often told friends that he took care of people "From the Womb to the Tomb" and this was surely true. He was a long time Historical Society member and surely left an indelible mark on the County's history. He will be missed.

NEW MEMBERS

Mike, Julie, Michael and Kayla Dellone David M. Doyle C. Robert Howard Robert R. James Emily Paterakis Dorothea Paterno Alice H. Remsberg

EXCERPT: PERSONAL REMININISCENCES OF THE GREAT WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

By: Frank A Bond, an officer in the Army of the Confederate States of America

Many unique historic manuscripts, biographies, letters and diaries are hidden away in the Historical Society stacks. The following excerpt is from an original manuscript written by a former Confederate soldier for his grandchildren beginning in 1871. With the many stories featured in the last few years about the Civil War, this seemed a timely addition to this literature. It is difficult to imagine these events today, but the tensions of 1861 and the strong feelings on both sides of the conflict make for fascinating reading.

IN THE BEGINNING

Anno Domini 1861, found me a farmer in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, twenty-three years old and Captain of a company of volunteer infantry called the United Rifles. The head-quarters of the company was Annapolis Junction, equi-distant from the cities of Baltimore, Washington and Annapolis, at that period a strategical position of importance.

My father was a lawyer in good practice in the city of Baltimore, and went there daily. April 19th was a beautiful day and I was busily engaged planting corn – the last day's farming I did for four long years. When my father returned that evening he told me of the riot in the streets of Baltimore and that Massachusetts soldiers had been killed as they had endeavored to pass through on their way to Washington. I immediately put on my uniform and went to Baltimore on horseback; I sought and found Mayo Brown and Col. Kane, chief of Police and offered the services of my company.

There was a full discussion of the situation and I was told to return to my command and hold myself in readiness. There followed several days of excitement surpassing anything this generation can imagine. Everyone was crazy! At that time there were no Union men to be found.

My company was united for resistance to the invaders, but later a number of them were in the Union army, and the remainder became very much divided in opinion before the close of the war.

WE passed our time in drilling and moulding bullets. The bridges over the Bush and Gunpowder rivers were burned by order of the Baltimore authorities and the city was isolated. Then came the information that northern troops had landed at Annapolis and would march to Washington via Annapolis Junction.

I hurried to Baltimore and again consulted Mayor Brown and Col. Kane and was emphatically directed to go back immediately and <u>begin the war</u>. It was explained to me that something must be done, a fight must be made, someone must be killed – the thing must be kept going or it would simmer out in Maryland, as it did! I hastened back to Annapolis Junction and rode plump into the 7th New York and the 1st District of Columbia volunteers. The former had marched from Annapolis and the latter had come by rail from Washington City. I was in a rather ticklish situation, but inquired for the commanding officer – told him the letters U. R. on my hat stood for Union Rifles and that I had come to pay him a visit. I was treated very courteously and allowed to depart with an invitation to come again.

September / October 2013

Thirty years afterward in conversation with Major Moore, then chief of Police of Washington City, he told me he was present at the time as an officer of the D.C. volunteers and distinctly remembered the incident and that I was the first rebel he ever saw!

I found my company had scattered on the approach of the northern troops and they were never again united. What would have been the result had I arrived before their approach is a matter I have often considered. I feel confident that I should have made somewhat of a fight and cried out the orders of the Baltimore authorities, and it might and probably would have had a great influence on the future action of the state.

Several days later my father told me that he was convinced that there would be no war in Maryland and he said: "Frank! If you really want a lick at those fellows, you will have to go to Virginia. "

The "Reminiscences" includes 190 pages of detailed stories of one soldier's experience of the Civil War from the perspective of a Maryland farm boy. The preceding article gives just a small taste of this amazing story.



RESERVATION FORM

The Annual Dinner and Lecture will be held at the Maryland Golf and Country Club, 1335 E. MacPhail Road, Bel Air, MD on Thursday, September 26th at 6:30 PM. Attendees will be given a choice of Marinated Sirloin Strip or Grilled Salmon. Reservations are required. Please note your choice of entrée when ordering tickets. Reservations must be received no later than September 16th. Please enclose your check with your name and address and send to the Historical Society of Harford County, Inc., 143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014. For more information call the Historical Society at 410-838-7691.

Name:						
Address:						
Phone No.:	Phone No.:					
Email Add	ress (optional):					
DATE	EVENT	FEE	No. of TICKETS	AMOUNT		
9/26 /13	Annual Dinner/Lecture (<i>Note meal choice below</i>) Marinated Sirloin Strip Grilled Salmon	\$29.50		\$		

I am unable to attend however here is my donation in the amount of \$_____.

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



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DATED MATERIAL

The NEWSLETTER of The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. is published bi-monthly.

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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 LIRARY 10:00 A.M 2:00 P.M.				