The HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.

Preserving Our Past For Your Future



143 N. Main Street Bel Air, MD 21014 Society Rews January / February 2020

Phone: (410) 838-7691 FAX: (410) 838-5257 E-Mail: info@HarfordHistory.org On the web: www.HarfordHistory.org



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

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Newsletter sponsored by *Harford Mutual Insurance*

SEAGOING VETERINARIAN

Harold Burton, VMD

The Historical Society files are filled with amazing stories, photographs, scrapbooks and diaries sharing the life adventures of Harford County's citizens. From time to time, we like to share excerpts from these archives to help our readers learn about their fellow citizens and their contributions to our county and the country. The following story was submitted several years ago by Dr. Harold Burton, a long-time county resident and veterinarian. His story tells the tale of helping to bring horses to Europe after World War II to help restart the agricultural recovery process. He explained how he got involved in this adventure. Stating that, "I had my Army discharge papers and I had a diploma from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. I had just turned 25 and I was broke, and this was an opportunity to make \$23 a day."

In 1947, he returned home, Married Betty Dwyn, became a father of four and set up a highly successful Veterinary practice, spending 40 years caring for horse, dogs, cats, guinea pigs and monkeys. He retired to Briny Breezes, Florida in his 60s.

Prior to World War II, farming was a major operation in Europe with thousands of small farms. At the end of the war, there was no farming because there was nothing to farm with. Several nations got together and formed United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation (UNRRA so called) with an aim to re-establish agriculture in war torn countries. During this same general time period and still to this day the Church of the Brethren has been instrumental worldwide in feeding poor people in poor countries. They call it Heifer International. Between 1945 and 1947, just to show you how great they are and were, they unbelievably sent some 300,000 animals overseas in 360 different ships with the help of 7,000 seagoing cowboys who went along to feed, water and work with the animals. cont'd on page 8

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for some outstanding programs in March 2020. The Hays House Museum will reopen on March 8 with an appearance by guest speaker, Mary Ann Jung as Rosalie Calvert and continue the Society's celebration of the Year of the Woman at the Hays House on March 22 with a presentation on Books about Women in American History. Kimber Alan Vought will appear at Society Headquarters for the March 10 Brown Bag lunch, sharing his many years of experience as a reporter and editor for the Aegis. The Genealogy workshop program will continue March 11 with Irish Genealogy. Finally, we hope you will attend our March 28 Volunteer Open House. Come learn about the Society, its collections and the opportunities available to volunteer and become an active part of preserving our past for future generations.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin the New Year, I will assume the role of President of the Historical Society. I appreciate the Board's confidence in me and look forward to working with the Board of Trustees, the volunteers, membership and staff as we move in to 2020 and the challenges of fulfilling the society's mission and the care and maintenance of our two facilities, the Society headquarters and the Hays House Museum. I would also like to thank George Harrison, last year's President for his outstanding service, as well as several of our Board members whose terms expired at the end of the year. These include Carol Deibel, Past President and Event Chair, Sue Niewenhous, Volunteer Coordinator and Arts Department Chair, and French Poole.

In the coming year, the Society will continue its Lecture & Tea series, Brown Bag Lunch series, Genealogy workshops and the many events held at the Sunday open house programs at the Hays House Museum. We will also expand our fundraising efforts with a kick off of our Capital Campaign. You will hear more about this at a later time. For now, I would remind each of you that membership renewals are due if you have not yet responded and to encourage you to attend some of the amazing programs offered by the Society if possible. These events explore Harford's history and make it come alive. Everyone is welcome and should you want to become more involved, volunteers are always needed to help with the Society's mission.

The coming year will be a busy one. Restoration work will begin on the windows at Headquarters and basement improvements are already underway. The north wall of the Hays House and the roof are slated for major repairs and restoration. These improvements have been a long time coming, but funding has at last been secured and we hope to proceed shortly, as weather permits. Meanwhile, the Society continues to plan for upgrades to its museum space, programs and services.

I look forward to the coming year and hope you will be pleased with the progress we plan to make in preserving the County's history for future generations.

Bill Walden, President

COMING EVENTS

• Hays House Happenings

The Hays House will be closed until March while the Society works on much needed repairs. On Sunday, March 8, 2020, the Hays House will reopen with a celebration of the Year of the Woman. What better way to initiate this program than with Mary Ann Jung's portrayal of *Rosalie Calvert and the War of*



1812? This will be followed on March 22 by a program on Books about Women. Watch for further details in the coming months, but for now we will provide a brief teaser for those who are not familiar with Rosalie Calvert.

Rosalie Stier Calvert will be brought to life at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 8 at the Hays House Museum, 324 Kenmore Avenue in Bel Air. Audience members will relive the drama of life during the War of 1812 as Calvert describes the Battle of Bladensburg, the burning of Washington and the creation of The Star-Spangled Banner. The presentation also explores the fascinating day-to-day details of running a plantation in Maryland.

Rosalie Stier was a young woman from Belgium who fell in love with American landowner George Calvert during a visit to America that began in 1794. She married him and stayed in Maryland when her family returned to Europe. She was living at his estate of Riversdale when the War of 1812 broke out. In letters home, she expressed her doubts that the new country of the United States would survive the war.

Mary Ann Jung portrays Rosalie Calvert. Jung has been a lead actress and director of Renaissance History and Shakespearean Language at the Maryland Renaissance Festival for more than 25 years. She is a Smithsonian scholar/performer and has appeared on CNN, the Today Show and Good Morning America. Jung's living history performances include Julia Child, Clara Barton, Mistress Margaret Brent, Rosalie of Riversdale, Amelia Earhart and Good Queen Bess. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in British history from the University of Maryland.

Admission to the program is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. For more information, call the Historical Society of Harford County at 410-838-7691 or email DirectorHSHC@HarfordHistory.org.

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Cheyenne Moccasins - A Glimpse of Native American Heritage



Gary Scholl

Gary Scholl is a Bel Air resident and has worked as a teacher, coach and administrator at John Carroll High School for 45 years. Early in his career he volunteered on the Southern Cheyenne Reservation in Oklahoma for two years as a Mennonite Church Voluntary Service worker. Thus, began a lifelong study and fascination with the Cheyenne culture. This interest helped generate the Annual Morning Star Pow Wow celebrating Native Americans that will be held this year at John Carroll on January 11, 2020 from 10 am to 8 pm, Everyone is invited to learn about the Native American traditions, stories songs and dance that will be showcased at the Pow Wow.

As a precursor to the Pow Wow, Scholl will appear at the Historical Society on Tuesday, January 8, 2020 at 12:30 pm to share some of the stories he has

collected from visits to the Southern Cheyenne in Oklahoma and Northern Cheyenne in Montana over the last 48 years. Through reading, museum visits and instruction from Cheyenne elders, he has learned much about their amazing history and culture and their traditional construction techniques. He will share stories from his adventures and the great wisdom learned from the Cheyenne people.

• Brown Bag Lunch Series: Fort McHenry in WW I: The Great General Hospital Story

On Tuesday, February11, 2020 at 12:30 pm Brian Reynolds, a Fort McHenry historian, will share the story of Fort McHenry's role in World War I. Most of us have visited the Fort at one point in our lives, but few remember the story of the brave, caring men and women who served our wounded and sick service members. Mr. Reynolds has researched this era at the Fort for years and hopes to share some of the stories of that time with us.

To whet your appetite, I will share an excerpt from a story in the *Sun* papers from several years ago.

One hundred years ago at Fort McHenry, commemorating the rockets' red glare of the War of 1812 was probably the furthest thing from people's minds because the fort, which had so valiantly defended Baltimore when the British were assaulting its shores, was in the midst of another battle — one that was about to take an unexpected turn for the worse and become far more lethal than anything that had happened during the war.

Beginning around America's entry into World War I in 1917, the 40-plus acres surrounding the starshaped fort had been turned into one of the country's largest hospitals, United States Army General Hospital No. 2. Some old Civil War-era buildings were used as quarters for the doctors and staff; temporary barracks were hastily put up to house patients.

Ironically, just five years earlier, the fort had been abandoned by the Army, and weeds had quickly taken over. "Poor old Fort McHenry — Can't Somebody Do Something," a headline in The Sun lamented. World War I provided an answer; in all, some 20,000 wounded and sick American soldiers would arrive at the fort, later returning to active duty or heading back to civilian life.

At its height, the hospital staff included some 200 doctors, 300 nurses, 300 medical corpsmen and 100 civilian aides. After the armistice signed was in November 1918 ending the war, the flood of wounded men returning from Europe began in earnest. The hospital would continue in operation until 1923, caring for the wounded and the flu epidemic victims, the survivors of the War to End All Wars.



Nurses outside the U.S. General Hospital Building No. 2 at Fort McHenry in 1919

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• Quarterly Lecture & Tea: Mike Dixon - The Story Behind a Geographic Boundary

The Historical Society's first quarterly lecture and tea of the year will take place on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 2 pm at the Society's headquarters. The guest speaker will be Michael L. Dixon, M.S, M.A. a noted historian and writer whose research and teaching focuses on social history and community studies. For over four decades, he has worked to encourage public interest and participation in the preservation of the past while creating understandings between earlier eras and the present.

Addressing his areas of scholarship, he has appeared on the Today Show, Maryland Public Television, the National Geographic Channel, and National Public Radio shows. Dixon has also been interviewed about his work by the Wall Street Journal, National Geographic Magazine, Southern Living, and other major periodicals. His interest in the study of the past started in the late 1960s when he started volunteering as a teenager at the Historical Society of Cecil County. As an adjunct professor, he teaches at Harford Community College and Wilmington University.

The Mason Dixon Line, the delineated border between Harford County, MD and Pennsylvania, uniquely tells the story of our country from the earliest colonial days when the states' borders were established, often in highly contentious ways, to the most combative era of our country's history, the Civil War. This is the history of our county, our country written large on our doorstep, yet few of us know much about it except occasionally seeing one of the markers. This is an amazing opportunity to learn first-hand how critical this boundary was in the past and what it means today.

Tickets are \$15 for the Tea and Lecture. Reservations are recommended and are available on the Society website www.HarfordHistory.org, by mail (See the reservation form on page 12) or by calling the Society at 410-838-7691.

• Special Program: Walter Holloway - The Ma & Pa Railroad



On Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 2 pm, Walter Holloway, the Society's Ma & Pa historian will take us on a trip to the exciting world of steam visual engines with а presentation featuring many outstanding photos of the Ma & Pa railroad the train that meant so much to the development of Bel Air and northern Harford County.

Holloway's collection of photos and his many stories of this unique part of county

history are unparalleled. Join us for this fascinating lecture. Reservations are recommended. An admission fee of \$15 will be charged with all proceeds going to assist the Society's ongoing preservation efforts.

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Archeological Society of the Northern Chesapeake – Upcoming Events

On Wednesday, January 8, 2020, the Society will feature Dan Coates & Dave Peters discussing Prehistoric Resources of the Upper Bay at the Rising Sun Historical Society at 6:30 pm.

On Wednesday, February 12, 2020, the Archeological Society will meet at the Havre de Grace City Hall, Havre de Grace, MD at 6:30 pm, the meeting subject is not yet determined.

For more information contact David Peters at 443-206-2070.

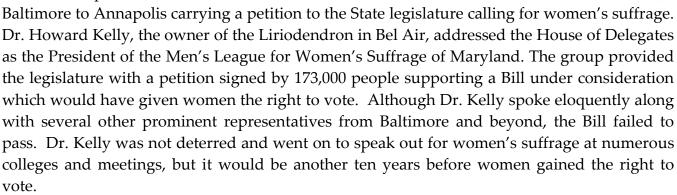
DID YOU KNOW?

PROHIBITION

The 18th Amendment took effect on January 17, 1920. On the 16th Billy Sunday said, "The reign of tears is over. The slums will soon be only a memory. We will turn our prisons into factories and our jails into storehouses and corncribs. Men will walk upright now and women will smile and children will laugh. Hell will be forever for rent." Unfortunately, things did not quite work out that way, prisons proliferated, bootleggers and gangsters thrived, and the Amendment was repealed in 1933 by the 21st Amendment.

SUFFRAGE

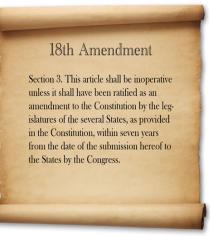
In 1910, a special train took 600 men and women from



HARFORD IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Many Harford County residents played major roles in the Revolutionary War. J. Alexis Shriver's book *Lafayette in Harford County* provides a glimpse of Harford County's role in the Revolution, General Lafayette's visits to the county and offers a glimpse of the fear and frustration of county residents through letters found in the State papers housed at the Maryland Historical Society (Volumes 45, 47). The following is a short synopsis of a couple of these letters.

Its 1781, the Revolutionary War drags on. Funds are low, soldiers are suffering from lack of adequate food and clothing. The years of war and numerous losses drain troops' morale. It is a frigid January as Richard Dallam, under orders from Governor Thomas Sim Lee, tries to procure wheat and flour for the



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Marquis de Lafayette

starving troops. On January 1st, he writes the Governor that he has contracted with area farmers to provide the necessary wheat, but with the current lack of funds in the State Treasury he has no hope of securing money needed to purchase and asks what he should do as he cannot fulfill the contract. He worries that he has no means to pay for the cattle he purchased and these are to be delivered in a few days.

On January 3, 1781, Richard Dallam's next letter to the Governor carries the news that he has received new money and is able to purchase 1200-1500 bushels of wheat from a farmer in Harford County and possibly six or seven boxes of sugar. A few days later, Governor Lee sends orders for the militia of Harford County "to hold themselves on short notice." Unfortunately, according to Dallam, the "present Militia Law is so defective that nothing effectual can be done as the orders are little regarded by the men." Dallam asks the Governor to have the Present Assembly amend the law and send him the amendment as soon as possible.

As the County prepares to mark the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's tour of America, the Historical Society is

working with several local organizations to plan a celebration of Lafayette's visits to Harford and his role in the outcome of the Revolutionary War. Please contact the Society if you are interested in helping to plan this celebration (410-838-7691/ DirectorHSHC@harfordhistory.org).

If you are interested in learning more about Lafayette's time in Harford, a limited number of Shriver's 1931 book are available at the Society Gift Shop.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

The Society's Genealogy workshop series continues on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 7 pm at the Historical Society Headquarters. Mary Schweers will show participants how to use Business Records in their Genealogical research. Then on Wednesday, February 12 at 7 pm at the Historical Society headquarters, Christopher Smithson will lead a workshop on African American Genealogical Resources as part of the Society's celebration of Black History month. Both workshops are a continuation of the Society's ongoing Genealogy program. We encourage you to join us for this exploration into the lives of our ancestors and the many discoveries that help enhance our understanding of the past. Reservations are recommended. See the Reservation form on page 11 or call the Society at 410-838-7691.

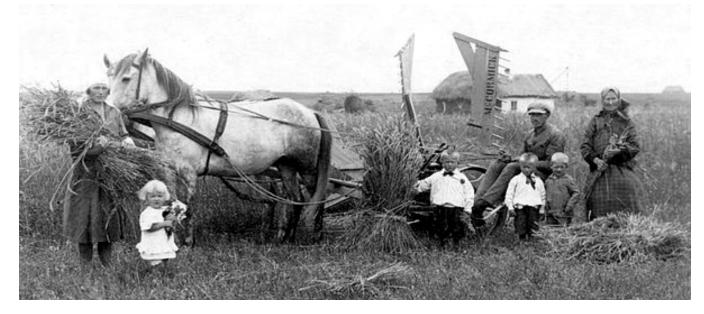
SEAGOING VETERINIAN: Harold Burton, VMD (cont'd from page 1)

They sent a few horses, but they were primarily interested in other animals and they sent hundreds and hundreds of bred heifer cows so that the Europeans ended up with two cows after the heifer calved. Later they sent donkeys, sheep, goats, chickens, whatever, and still are, all over the world.

UNRRA hired horse dealers from the west and southwest. They went down to the areas where wild horses bred and roamed, offspring of Spanish horses left there years ago by Conquistadors. Incidentally, at this time today, there are 3,000 wild horses just in Wyoming. Corrals were built as close to a railroad as possible and spur lines installed. Horses were rounded up and run into corrals. Railcars were outfitted with box stalls, backed onto the spurs and horses were put in flying box stalls and swung aboard the cars into a stall. When the train was full of horses, feed, water and hay were loaded and two American Indians with several bales of hemp halters rode along. Their job was to put a halter on as many of the horses as they possibly could by the time it reached the seaport that it was bound for.

New Orleans, Savannah, Newport News, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Boston as I recall were the shipping ports with facilities for tying up old modified Victory ships. These ships had four holds and the top decks were all outfitted with stalls, each holding four horses. UNRRA had about 30 cowboys per ship who came from everywhere and anywhere. If they didn't volunteer, you didn't ask. Two older brothers from Olathe, Kansas had never been out of the country and they just loved it. One cowboy was a concert pianist who played for us in a church hall before we shipped out. The cowboys' jobs were to water the horses several times a day using a big bucket with two metal straps on the back to hang over a wooden railing over the stall and they were fed grain twice a day and they had hay hanging in hay baskets, as it were, for the horses to eat. The horses were really well taken care of considering the facilities.

Each Victory ship ended up with about 960 horses in the four holds and on the top deck, plus the 30 or so cowboys and two veterinarians. The cowboys had tiny little bunks or hammocks and had a cook and a tiny little eating area. The veterinarians were "hot stuff" and lived and ate in the ship's officers' quarters. The Victories, loaded as they were moved slowly and on our first trip up to Poland, we went to at that time it was called Gdansk, Godinia or Danzig, take your pick. We went up to Keil, Germany, then



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through the Keil Canal and into the Baltic Sea and up the Baltic to Poland. When we arrived at the port, we saw a corral, a flying box stall and a docking area. It was about Christmas time and poorly clothed Polish women with rags wrapped around their feet were cleaning up the area. Russian soldiers in full winter uniform stood "guard" with a loaded rifle at the ready. You can guess what we would have liked to have done to those Russians.

Our horses were off loaded there by way of flying box stalls and led away. The Polish people had not had hardly any protein in several years and I'm sure horse meat tasted good.

One of the ship's main engines had quit and after the horses were ashore, we limped out several miles into the Baltic Sea and the cowboys tossed all the manure, debris, etc. overboard, flushed the scuppers and the ship was "clean". We returned and tied up to wait for the engine to be repaired. We were told it would be at least a week, so I commandeered a jeep and one of the cowboys named Eddie Giva, who grew up in the Hamtramck District of Detroit and spoke only Polish until he started public school, was my interpreter.

Being early January, it was frigid. We saw whole families living in bombed out buildings with only two walls. They made artificial walls from old sheets and debris and anything that might keep out the cold. It was really sad. What they ate was what they could get a hold of. Fishermen were beginning to go back into the Baltic and there were lots of small fish available if they could come to the coast to get them.

In our trip out through parts of Poland, we saw there was virtually nothing to make farm equipment out of so as soon as I could check back to Washington, I along with other people, told UNRRA that horses were coming but there was nothing for the horses to use as farm machinery so farm machinery began coming before too long.

My father was a country blacksmith and farrier and growing up I helped him and I could trim a hoof and even tack on a shoe. This of course, was in the days before farm tractors. I learned how to hobble a horse, tie one leg up by rope to stabilize him so he couldn't hurt himself or me. This was good to know working with these completely untamed beasts.

Each seaport that shipped horses had a pen where lame or sick horses were kept until they were, hopefully, ready to ship. I was assigned the job of getting as many of them as possible ready to ship. I had two big strong farm grown cowboys who were with me in Savannah for four months. We think we did a good job. The only problem was the pen kept getting new patients.

While in Savannah, I had a \$3.00 a week room on the third floor of the local YMCA and I ate in a basement dining room in a local home where the mistress and two lovely black ladies cooked and served. Cornbread (pone) was amply supplied and wonderful dessert was corn pone drowned in black strap molasses.

From Poland, we ended up in Newport News, Virginia, which I think shipped the most horses of all. Two cowboys and I were given the same job we had in Savannah and I was there for three months.

The veterinarian's job of course, was to end up in Europe with as many healthy animals as possible. The old Victories had four holds with a small walkway in the middle and four stalls with four horses each on each side of the little aisle. We wore a backpack with medicines and syringes, etc. and hobbles, ropes and twitches to restrain the animals we had to give them injections or sutures or whatever. It was very poorly lighted, hot, dusty and very smelly. Your feet were in manure all the time.

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It was extremely dangerous, especially in rough seas. Bear in mind again that these animals had never been around people before they were confined. To give an intravenous injection or a blood transfusion as I said or anything where we needed to be close to them was worth your life. Bites, kicks, bumps and bruises were a daily thing. One time, a horse grabbed me by the left should blade, picked me up, shook me and spit me out. I weighed 140 pounds at the time, but I can still feel the pain.

Doctor Burton's story goes on to tell of his adventures on the way to Yugoslavia. In 1947, he returned home to start the next phase of his life as a veterinarian, husband and father.

NEW MEMBERS

Suzanne Ray Mae Ferguson Kenneth Creeden Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Judi Shirk Kelly Priestley Jane Scocca Michael Amaral Pat Barnes Lynne Humphries-Russ

2020 PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Again this year the Historical Society is planning numerous programs to fulfill our mission of promoting and interpreting the rich and diverse history of Harford County. The programs also help us raise the funds necessary to fulfill this mission. If you or someone you know has a business that would benefit from advertising with us or would just like to help continue the many programs offered by the Society, please consider becoming a sponsor. All sponsors are recognized in event advertising, event flyers, on the Society's website and Facebook page and at the sponsored event. Sponsors also receive a complimentary membership for the year. The following Sponsorship Opportunities are available for your consideration:

- Brown Bag Lunch Series \$1,000 series/\$100 single event
- Tea & Lecture Series \$1,000 series/\$350 single event
- Genealogy Workshops \$500
- Hays House Speaker/Exhibit Series \$1,000 series/\$100 single event
- Founder's Day Event \$500
- Bulletin \$500 per edition
- Newsletter \$2,500 for year or \$500 per edition

HSHC QUARTLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2020

- Jan 8 Genealogy Workshop, *Getting Down to Business, Using Business Records in Genealogy*. Mary Schweers, 7 9 pm \$
- Jan 14 Brown bag lunch speaker, Gary Scholl *Cheyenne Moccasins: A Glimpse of Native American Heritage*, 12:30 -1:30 pm
- Jan18 Quarterly Lecture and Tea, guest speaker Mike Dixon: *The Mason-Dixon Line*, 2-4 pm, \$
- Feb 8 Ma & Pa Railroad Presentation, Walter Holloway, 2 4 pm, \$
- Feb 11 Brown bag lunch speaker, Brian Reynolds Fort McHenry in WW I: The Great General Hospital Story. 12:30 1:30 pm
- Feb 12 Genealogy Workshop, African American Genealogy Resources, 7 9 pm, \$
- Mar 8 Hays House Opening: Women's history month Mary Ann Jung: *Rosalie Calvert and the War* of 1812, 1 -4 pm, \$
- Mar 10 Brown bag lunch speaker, Kimber Allan Vought *The Fourth Estate: 50 years of Journalism in Harford*, 12:30 1:30 pm
- Mar 11 Genealogy Workshop, Irish Genealogy, 7 9 pm, \$
- Mar 22 Books about Women in History, Hays House Museum, 1-4 pm, \$
- Mar 28 Volunteer Open House, 10 am 2 pm

Note: All lectures, Brown Bag Lunches and Genealogy events are held at the Historical Society, 143 N. Main St. in Bel Air unless otherwise noted. Hays House events are held at the Hays House Museum, 324 Kenmore Avenue in Bel Air. Brown bag lunches are free to members and \$5 for non-members. For more information, visit our website HarfordHistory.org or call 410-838-7691.

Reservation Form

Date	Event	<u>Fee</u>	<u># Tickets</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jan 8	Genealogy Workshop: Business Records	\$10		\$
Jan 18	Lecture & Tea: The Mason-Dixon Line	\$15		\$
Feb 8	Lecture: Ma & Pa Railroad	\$15		\$
Feb 12	Genealogy Workshop: Af-Am Genealogy Resources	\$10		\$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$				
Name:	Ph. c	or E-Mail: _		

(Hays House Museum events are ticketed at door, no Reservations required.)

For more information, check the Society's website at www.HarfordHistory.org, www.Facebook.com/HarfordCountyHistoricalSociety or call 410-838-7691. Return your Reservation form to the Historical Society, 143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD. 21014.

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



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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.

Third Wednesday ARCHIVES & HENRY C. PEDEN Jr. LIBRARY 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Thursday HENRY C. PEDEN Jr. RESEARCH LIBRARY 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Fourth Saturday ARCHIVES & HENRY C. PEDEN Jr. LIBRARY 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.