

# The HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.

*Preserving Our Past For Your Future*



143 N. Main Street  
Bel Air, MD 21014

## Society News

July / August 2024

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

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### SOCIETY HOSTS SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL HALL OF FAME EVENT

The Historical Society of Harford County proudly announces the success of its inaugural Harford Sports Hall of Fame event, a momentous occasion honoring the remarkable achievements of local sports figures who have left an indelible mark on the community.

This sold-out event, which took place on June 12, 2024, at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs, showcased the rich athletic heritage of Harford County, highlighting the extraordinary talents and contributions of its esteemed inductees.

From trailblazing athletes to visionary coaches and dedicated supporters, the Harford Sports Hall of Fame recognized individuals who exemplified excellence, sportsmanship, and leadership both on and off the field. Through their passion, determination, and commitment to excellence, these legends inspired generations and shaped the fabric of our community.

The ceremony featured special presentations, captivating stories, and heartfelt tributes, providing attendees with a unique opportunity to honor the legacy of these remarkable individuals and celebrate their lasting impact on Harford County sports history.

The Historical Society of Harford County looks forward to continuing to celebrate the legends of Harford County sports and honoring their legacy at future Harford Sports Hall of Fame events.

*Cont'd on page 2*



**HARFORD MUTUAL**  
INSURANCE GROUP

The Historical Society of Harford County newsletter is funded in part through a gift from Harford Mutual Insurance Group.

The list of inductees includes:

- **Mike Atkin** – Graduated from North Harford in 1972, where he wrestled, ran track/cross country and played football, lettering 12 times. After high school, Mike competed in wrestling events throughout college and during his time in the US Army stationed in Germany. He later decided to try Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He was quickly promoted to Masters level at multiple weight classes. In his 15-year competitive career, he won various world titles a total of 8 times, including the 2006 World Championships in Brazil where he was champion in 2 weight classes.
- **Bill Brown**-Graduated from Morgan State, where he won the Mile Relay at Penn Relays and won the silver medal for the 800 meter at NCAA championships. He toured Europe as part of 3 all-star teams and won gold in the 4x400 relay and silver in the 800 meter at the 1951 Pan Am games. Coach Brown was the coach and athletic director at Central Consolidated for 15 years where he led teams to 8 state titles in track, 6 for cross country, and 2 in basketball's B and C class. He later went on to coach several sports at Bel Air High School. He is also a Maryland State Athletic Hall of Fame Member. Posthumously awarded and received by his children Michael Brown and Judge Pamila Brown.
- **Ally Carey** – Graduated from John Carroll where she won championships in both soccer and lacrosse and was the #1 recruit in the Nation. She went on to play lacrosse at Vanderbilt where she was the 3x All-American and came back to the US program with the senior team winning gold in 2013 and 2017. She then played lacrosse professionally for two years and is an assistant coach at John Carroll.
- **Abby Gustaitis** – Graduated from North Harford in 2009. She was part of the US team that won the silver medal in the Pan American games, Co-captain of Women's US National Team for 2020 summer Olympics in Tokyo, and was on roster for Headliners in Premier Rugby Sevens League.
- **Fran (Norman) Mathews** – She was a teacher at North Harford for 34 years in Physical Education, Sports Management, Typing and English and led the 1975 Field Hockey team to their first State Championship. She later became the Athletic Director and was awarded the Athletic Director of the year in 2003. She was recently named a Living Treasure by the Harford County Council in 2023.
- **Kimmie Meissner** – Graduated from Fallston High School in 2007. She was a 2006 World Champion figure skater, 2006 Olympian, 2007 National Champion, and first American woman to simultaneously hold World, Four Continents, and US national titles. Meissner became the second American woman to land the triple Axel jump in a national competition. She was also the youngest American athlete to compete at the 2006 Olympics.
- **Irv Pankey** – Graduated from Aberdeen High School in 1977. He was 2x State Champion wrestler, State Champion in discus and twice in shot put, All American at Penn State and played 12 years in the NFL for the Rams and Colts.
- **Richard (Dick) Slutzky**- Was Outstanding Wrestler for his high school's conference and NCAA runner up for Syracuse. He coached for 37 years at high school and collegiate levels, having had champions in both. At Aberdeen High School, his teams were undefeated for 10 years, with 13 straight conference titles and 3 consecutive state titles, ultimately reaching a national ranked of 23<sup>rd</sup>.



*(Left, L-R): Micheal Brown, Judge Pamila Brown, Irv Pankey, Dick Slutzky, Mike Atkin, Ally Carey, Fran Mathews, and Abby Gustaitis. (Right): Kimmie Meissner, who was unable to attend the event.*

### LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Society is nearing the halfway point in our fiscal year and it is time to take stock of what we have accomplished and what still lies ahead.

Funding our operations is always one of our prime concerns and this year is no exception. We are on target with our operating budget; building maintenance, utility costs, computer system, and staff which are funded primarily by our members and our annual fund drive. But that does not cover all that we have to do. For example, the Hays House Museum needs extensive renovation of the exterior siding on the north wall as well as other exterior repairs. We have received some grant funds from the Maryland Historic Trust, but not enough to do the entire project. Our headquarters, the Old Post Office Building, has gone through extensive renovation over the past several years, all funded by various grants. But we have more to do. The most urgent project is upgrading our fire detection system, both at HQ and at the Hays House. We are looking for grants to fund those projects.

Raising funds for an organization like the Historical Society is a time-consuming job and requires the support of all of us, here at the Society, our county residents, government agencies, and private institutions. To that end, we are in the process of developing a comprehensive plan to utilize as many resources as possible to meet our goals, not only for this year but for years to come.

We have accomplished a lot over the past year, and we have a lot more coming this year and next. One of those accomplishments is to make sure we have a sustainable future.

*George Harrison, Vice President and Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee*

### NEW MEMBERS

Cathy Bowden  
Elizabeth Baxter  
Eileen Manchester  
Cheryl Ann Zlomke  
Samuel Boykins

John Yingling  
Albert Issenock  
Mark Nolder  
Laura Nolder

Tom Grimmell  
Kenneth Boyle  
Keith Watson  
Joan Hodous  
Elizabeth Hansen

Brown, Snee, Young, Lutche & Helmlinger, P.A



### COMING EVENTS

- **Reggie Bishop: Black Churches in Harford**

Join us for a virtual presentation by guest speaker, Reggie Bishop on Tuesday, August 13 at 12:30 pm to learn about the central role that the church has played in African American life in Harford County since the 1800s. Harford's Black Churches provided much more than religious instruction. They were the center of the community, offering services and support for generations. We encourage you to take this opportunity to learn about the rich history of Harford's churches from a renowned speaker and historian. The program is free. Register at [www.harfordhistory.org](http://www.harfordhistory.org).



*Historic Ames UMC*

- **Save the Date: Annual Dinner September 22, 2024, at 2 pm**

The Historical Society's 2024 Annual Dinner promises to be a grand occasion. This year's dinner will be held at the Historical Society's Headquarters, 143 N. Main Street in Bel Air. Attendees will have the opportunity to see the tremendous progress at the Society's Museum, learn about upcoming Society projects and programs, enjoy a fine dining experience with a catered dinner and celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of General Lafayette's return to America.

In 1824, Lafayette, the American Revolution's last surviving general, returned for a Farewell Tour of the country he helped create. He toured the 24 states that made up the country at the time. His journey will be recreated over the next year and a half with programs in the cities he visited in 1824-1825. Harford County was one of Lafayette's final stops on his tour before returning to France. This visit will be commemorated in Havre de Grace in July 2025, but local exhibits and events are planned throughout the next year.

The Historical Society is planning a special program for this Year's annual dinner which will begin with a celebration of Lafayette's birthday – dinner will include birthday cake, followed by a presentation by reenactor, Alise Dupuy as Adrienne de Lafayette, wife of General Lafayette, hero of the American Revolution, without whom we could not have won our independence. She will tell us about their life together, General Lafayette's achievements and explain why he is considered the Hero of Two Worlds. Lafayette's visit did much to keep America strong in a political environment that could have torn the country apart. Come honor this great Founding Father and learn about the amazing woman behind the man. Register at [www.harfordhistory.org](http://www.harfordhistory.org). Members \$45/Non-Members \$75.



*Alise Dupuy as Adrienne de Lafayette*

### RICHARD'S CORNER

The Historical Society is pleased to announce the appointment of the new Archives Department Chair, Ms. Jan Beane. We asked Ms. Beane to introduce herself to you in this edition of *Richard's Corner* and encourage you to stop by and say hello, maybe learn how you could become an Archive volunteer.



Jan Beane

*I grew up in Baltimore, but my family's roots were in Harford County. I spent many a Sunday on the farm in Darlington or Forest Hill as a child, and I've lived here since 1998. An interest in genealogy led me to the Historical Society and I started volunteering here in 2016. The following year I was allowed to join the group working with the Archives and I've been there ever since. I started doing data entry and filing, then learned to evaluate, preserve, and accession items, and I still maintain our computer records.*

*It's amazing to see the variety of materials that are donated to the Society – you never know what might come in the door. I've been fortunate to work with some of the most knowledgeable, creative, and supportive volunteers, many of whom have been volunteering for decades. It was hard to lose our friend Richard Sherrill, and I realize I have tremendous shoes to fill. But I feel confident we will continue to grow and help preserve Harford's rich heritage.*

Jan Beane, Archives Department

### THE TEXTILE DEPARTMENT



1920s suit

Several years ago, as we were browsing in an antique mall, Kathy and I spied a 1920s wool bathing suit prominently mounted on a dress form. While we were imagining what it would be like to actually swim in such a suit, Kathy hoped out loud that someone would eventually donate one to the Historical Society. Last summer Louise Nelson Ballard of Fallston made Kathy's hope a reality when she donated the bathing suit pictured here, which belonged either to her mother, Anna Louise Ely Nelson, or to her mother's sister, Mildred Estelle Ely.

This one-piece bathing suit is made of tightly knitted navy blue wool, with thinner ivory wool knit trim on the arms and the neckline. In the 1920s style, the bathing suit is structured with "boy shorts" legs covered by a smooth panel that extends to mid-thigh.

There are two buttons on the left shoulder for ease of dressing. There is also a hand-sewn adjustment that tightens the lower front neckline. The suit is in fragile condition with many moth holes.

Until the 1950s when man-made fibers such as Spandex, nylon, and Lycra offered a close, flexible fit and lighter weight, bathing suits were made of wool because it could be tightly knit, repelled water at least to an extent, and regained its shape after being wet. Although bulky and weighty, our 1920s bathing suit is a significant improvement over the voluminous and sometimes unsafe Victorian-era bathing attire and a very welcome addition to our collection.

Regarding our wish list, we also hope to receive women's military uniforms and accessories. Please call the Society at 410-838-7691 if you have an item or several, to discuss with us.

Susan K. Wooden and Kathy Scholl, Textile Department

### WHAT'S NEW AT THE HAY'S HOUSE

#### • Hays House Gardens

On April 28, the Hays House opened its doors to visitors for the first time in four and a half years! COVID closures were followed by the need for significant repairs, including a new roof. *At Home at the Hays House* offered visitors an opportunity to see fashion from the 1870s, play traditional early American games, and enjoy hearth cooking in the colonial-era kitchen. The parlor was festooned with a period attire exhibit curated from the Historical Society's textiles collection. The exhibition was assembled by Susan Wooden and Kathy Scholl. Hays House volunteer Vic Miller accompanied by Mercy Ingraham, Historic Foodways Historian, cooked on the hearth. Carol Anne Powers, assisted by Angie Arnold, engaged children and adults alike with colonial games like Jacob's Ladder and Shut the Box.

On May 19, Harford County's Historic Preservation Planner, Jacob Bensen shared the background stories of the Hays House and some of the other historical places protected by the Harford County Historic Landmarks and Districts Program. On May 26, gardeners from the Governor William Paca Chapter DAR shared information about the pollinator and herb gardens that they maintain. Finally, on June 9, Sandra Wallis, Vice President of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association, shared a presentation on the women who sewed the flag that became known as the Star-Spangled Banner. It is great to have the Hays House open again!

The next big event will be the return of the traditional July 4 Open House! We are going to be open from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon to capitalize on people coming to the Pancake Breakfast at Bel Air High. The program will be very family oriented with indoor and outdoor colonial games and craft projects. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! We especially need volunteers to help with games and activities for young people. To volunteer, please email Sandi Wallis at [swallis1776@gmail.com](mailto:swallis1776@gmail.com).

Programs will continue from July through September. On some dates, the Hays House will be open for visitors with no formal program. See the calendar of events listed below.

At present, the plan is for the Hays House to be the first host site for the *African American Experience in Harford County* Exhibit that is currently being curated by the Historical Society of Harford County and the Hosanna School. The traveling exhibit will explore African American life in Harford County over the centuries. That exhibit is tentatively planned to begin in October and continue through the end of the year.

#### • Hays House Calendar of Events—Mark Your Calendar

The Hays House will be open from 1:00 to 3:30 on these dates, unless otherwise listed.

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Jun 23 | Open House, 2:00 P.M. - Presentation of Games Played in Early America: Graces is not a game we play every day, but games like Hopscotch are more familiar! Come be surprised by how people entertained themselves 200 years ago! |
| Jul 4  | Open 9:00 am – 12:00 noon: Enjoy the games and crafts of early America. Make a patriotic craft project.  |
| Jul 28 | Open House; Investigate the Herbs in the Herb Garden. What were their uses in Early America?   |

- Aug 11 Program: Early American Education: Get ready to go back to school—in 1815!! How would the school year be different than today? This program will explore what school was like in the period from 1788 to the mid-1800s.
- Aug 25 Open House; What do you know about the Hays House?: Who owned it? Who lived in it? Where was it originally located? How was it moved? What are the plans for the future? Add your thoughts on the programs that you'd like to see offered.
- Sep 8 Bush Declaration Kick Off: Life in Harford County in 1774-1775: September 1774. The "shot heard round the world" would be fired in just seven months and the American Revolution would begin. What was the buzz in Harford County? Visit the Hays House as people go about their normal routine and share what they are learning about the coming revolution.
- Sep 15 Program: Constitution Day/Week: Constitution Day is September 17 (Tuesday). Learn more about the creation of our constitutional government from the perspective of 1787!
- Sep 29 Bush Declaration Part II: Life in Harford County in 1774-1775: Winter is just around the corner! The family needs to prepare! Join people at the Hays House as they work to set aside the summer's bounty to enjoy in the coming winter. Stir the kettle as we make apple butter! Listen to their conversation about the events of the times.

October through December: Temporary Exhibit—*The African American Experience in Harford County*.

Sandra R. Wallis, Hays House Chairman

### THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HARFORD TRAVELING EXHIBIT UPDATE

With two professional researchers and a third researcher/curator hard at work, the Traveling African American History Exhibit of Harford County continues to move forward. Under the direction of Historical Society Executive Director Ms. Chris Potts and Historic Hosanna School Museum Executive Director Dr. Iris Barnes, our committee has been hard at work conducting interviews, combing through dozens of newspapers, digging deeply through Historical Society holdings, and encouraging the public to get involved in this "first-time venture."

We cannot neglect to thank our exceptional Historical Society volunteers, who have been assisting with providing information, pulling holdings from our collections, and ensuring items are properly cataloged and filed for future use. To open this exhibit to the public at our Hays House Museum this fall, we still need your assistance in lending or donating memorabilia to enhance this exhibit. So, take a few minutes to think about the items you may have inherited from your parents, grandparents, or others which may be languishing in the attic or basement of your home and consider how they could be used to help enlighten the public about the vast contributions African Americans have made to the history of Harford County.

For more information on how to contribute to what promises to be an enlightening and one-of-a-kind exhibition, please call the Historical Society at 410-838-7691. Watch for a coming recorded interview in which Chris Potts will discuss with our researchers the collections they have been studying and the history they have been gathering while building this exhibit.

Roxann Redd-Wallace, HSHC Trustee



### DAR RECOGNIZES HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS

At its fourth annual awards brunch this spring the Governor William Paca Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, presented awards to outstanding Harford County residents in many fields of endeavor.

Over ninety honorees and guests attended, including Elizabeth Deering, vice-regent of the Maryland State Society DAR, who presented certificates to those being honored.

Two awards in historic preservation recognition went to a group and an individual connected with the Historical Society. This award recognizes and honors an individual or group that has done recent remarkable volunteer work at the community level and recognizes achievements in all areas of historic preservation: buildings, landmarks, monuments, cemeteries, historic districts, statues, museum collections, manuscripts, documents, and archival materials.

The group receiving the award was the *Harford 250 Project* for its many fine activities during the past year to commemorate the 1773 founding of Harford County and to celebrate its history. The committee's stated goal, in part, was "By engaging county residents, we will help them continue to shape our county, unite our residents, and recognize the common bonds that we share. The Harford 250 Project will inspire county residents by educating, engaging, and uniting them in a celebration of the county's past and in seeking a positive pathway to its future." HSHC Trustees and Harford 250 Committee Chairs, Carol Deibel and Jackie Seneschal, were present to receive the award.

The second recognition award went to Jacob Bensen, Preservation Planner for Harford County, for his many volunteer activities in historic preservation. These included assisting in the planning of the museum at the Society, lectures and presentations at the Society, preservation of documents and digitization efforts, chairmanship of the Collections Management Committee at the Society, assistance in the relocation and preservation of the historic B & O Train Station in Aberdeen and the Joesting-Gorsuch House to the County Agricultural Center in Street.

A DAR Historic Preservation Medal was presented to C. John Sullivan, Jr., author, long-time member of and donor of the Historical Society and the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

Ms. Elizabeth Deering also presented certificates to the following honorees: Joan Henderson Hodous, Women in American History; Emily Beaver, Aberdeen Middle School, Outstanding Teacher of American History; and Matt Button, Harford County Government, for Excellence in Media.

The William Paca Chapter also conferred awards of recognition to High School Senior Good Citizens Award recipients, Winner of the Patriots of the American Revolution Essay Contest, Winner of the American History student essay contest, DAR Youth Citizenship recipients, and two outstanding Cadet Silver Medalists.

The awards ceremony was videotaped and will be broadcast on *HarfordTV* throughout the summer at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAR9oIV9CiE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAR9oIV9CiE)

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a non-profit, non-political women's service organization. The Governor William Paca Chapter, based primarily in Bel Air, MD, has over 110 members who carry out the timeless mission of promoting historic preservation, education, and



patriotism. Membership is open to any woman who can trace her lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Persons interested in learning more about DAR membership should visit [govwmpaca.marylanddar.org/](http://govwmpaca.marylanddar.org/) or contact Chapter Registrar, Deborah Sprouse at (410) 452-0082.

*Emily Andrews, Library Department*

### 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAFAYETTE'S FAREWELL TOUR

Lafayette is coming back to America as the Nation's Guest! On August 16, 2024, he will arrive in New York to much fanfare, much as the Marquis de Lafayette did in 1824. For the next thirteen months, he will follow the path laid out by the Marquis in 1824 and 1825. Cities across the country are preparing for his visit and replicating the festivities that were held for him on his original visit.

Lafayette will visit Harford County on July 29, 2025—more than a year away. His stop in Havre de Grace occurred as he was winding up his visit. (He returned to France in September 1825.) The local planning committee is working on a fun evening of activities at Hutchins Park in Havre de Grace. Festivities will be conducted in Port Deposit earlier in the day, and Lafayette will leave Cecil County and arrive in Havre de Grace by boat around 4:00 pm where he will be greeted by citizens in period attire and welcomed ashore. Havre de Grace resident Jean Johnson is working with a group of seamstresses to make period attire for the event. If you are interested in making period attire for yourself or others, please contact Jean at [Jeanmjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanmjohnson@gmail.com).

Lafayette's first appearance in Maryland will be in October when he will be received at Fort McHenry just as he was on October 7, 1824. The day will include a historic re-enactment of General Lafayette's October 1824 arrival by boat. Visitors will have the opportunity to see a replica of George Washington's dining tent just as Lafayette saw the original in 1824, interact with costumed re-enactors, enjoy a program of commemorative celebration accompanied by music played for Lafayette's arrival, and witness the authentic Star-Spangled banner flying over the Fort. Admission is free.

Lafayette remained in Baltimore for several days following the October 7 visit. (An Oct 2024 calendar will follow in a later newsletter.) If you are interested in learning more, please go to [lafayette200.org](http://lafayette200.org).

*Sandra R. Wallis, Chairman Lafayette Farewell Tour Planning Committee*

### ON DOING HISTORY

For much of my life, I thought that my father, Wayde Chrismer, was among the world's fastest typists. He was, after all, a working journalist who had produced copy for over fifty years as a reporter and editor for newspapers throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. I had personally witnessed his speed and productivity for years as he pounded the keys of his 1940s Underwood manual upright typewriter, producing copy for the *Aegis* and the various books, articles, and research notes he crafted. I didn't think I'd ever encounter anyone who could challenge his prowess. Then I met Henry Peden.

As I became increasingly active with the Historical Society of Harford County, sometime in the mid-1980s, I discovered on its library shelves a large and growing collection of genealogical books prepared by Henry. The volume of typing required to produce manuscripts for these tomes (even if, likely, by an IBM *Selectric*) impressed me as staggering. This, mind you, was long before computer software accelerated the pace with which publications could be written and produced.

In the past two-plus years (I think of it as the COVID-19 era), Henry has outdone himself. When he learned that I was preparing this article, Henry or Hank as he is known by his friends, kindly sent an inventory of his “recent books” to assist me in my endeavor. The list, divided into titles that he designated as “Self-Published” and those as “Published by Heritage Books” included a modest eight items. By my count, however, between 2022 and June 2024 Henry has had a hand in producing at least nineteen works of history and genealogy, including those identified as “Privately Published Special Limited Editions.”

Henry C. Peden is an adopted son of Harford County. Born in Baltimore City in 1946, during his early years he lived with his parents in several different states, including Kentucky and California. The family re-settled in the Baltimore area in 1958. In the following years, Hank served in Vietnam, completed his education, and married Veronica Clarke, also of Baltimore. The couple initially settled in Baltimore County before moving with their son to Edgewood and eventually to Bel Air, where they currently reside. Both Mr. and Mrs. Peden are retired administrators from Bethlehem Steel. In addition to her own civic life, Veronica Peden assists with her husband’s projects.

Henry Peden is not your typical author, especially one whose works can be counted in multiples of ten. First, many of his books are compilations or assemblages of raw data; many are reproductions of original sources or older, often out-of-print primary sources. Genealogists and family researchers seeking information about persons in central Maryland and the Eastern Shore, as well as in a number of states slightly south of our own, owe an enormous debt to Hank’s publications. Visit [heritagebooks.com/collections/author-henry-c-peden-jr\\_](https://heritagebooks.com/collections/author-henry-c-peden-jr_) or Amazon Books (search for Henry Peden) for an impressive, illustrated sampling of his works.

Second, Henry’s publications, especially those he has produced in recent years, cover an amazingly wide range of subjects. In addition to reference works on Marylanders to various nearby states, think cemeteries, baseball players, militias, homicides, slave owners, teachers, bridges, biographical directories, lightning strikes, African-Americans, religions, funeral homes, duck hunters, physicians, general stores, and early Harford County bred horses. Coming soon: Residents of the County’s Alms House and Harford County Inns and Taverns. Interested persons may buy copies of many of these titles at the Historical Society of Harford County during regular business hours.

Third, Henry is driven by a force other than a “wanton desire for wealth.” No doubt he enjoys receiving an occasional royalty check, but a writer/editor who produces volumes that many persons would consider odd or esoteric, does so for the research value they hold and the enjoyment he experiences in providing them to the genealogical community. Additionally, he donates copies of virtually everything he produces to the Harford County Public Library and the Historical Society of Harford County. A number also go as gifts to friends and persons who assisted him on certain projects.

Fourth, Henry seems unmotivated by a desire for recognition, though he deserves and has received many honors. Among these are the Historical Society’s *Archer Fellow Award*, and the 2009 *Preservationist Honor Award* of the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). In 2011 he and co-author Jack Shagena received another preservation award from the HPC for their multi-volume ‘Harford County’s Rural Heritage’ series. The Historical Society in 2017 named its Library, *The Henry C. Peden, Jr. Research Library*.

Henry served as President of The Historical Society of Harford County in 2012 and 2013 and is a member and officer of the Aquila Hall Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution and the Descendants of the

Signers of the Bush Declaration. He is a past president of the Maryland Genealogical Society. Previously Hank was the Research Director with Family Line Publications, a precursor to Heritage Books.

So how many books has super-typist Henry Peden produced since 1979, when he completed the Peden Family History? That is a very difficult question to respond to with any assurance. The Heritage Book site currently identifies 69 items; as of June 6, Amazon's "Famous Authors" page cites 118, but a search of its holdings gives 159 results. Henry's autobiographical profile on the webpage of Heritage Books concludes with the sentence, "He is an award-winning author who has written over 170 books and is recognized in the mid-Atlantic region for his genealogical expertise." For now, we will take that statement as our answer - - but, then again, it's been almost a week since I started this article. "Henry, do you know how many books carry your name as author?"

*Jim Chrismer*

### *TOWSON UNIVERSITY GRAD COMPLETES INTERNSHIP*

Towson University requires its Anthropology majors to complete an internship in a related field. Some students might consider this obligation to be burdensome. To me, the requirement provided a pleasant and fulfilling experience. Of the possible opportunities available, spending several weeks at the Historical Society of Harford County proved to be my advantageous option.

Having been raised in Harford County by a father who was a Professor of History, I have always had an interest in history, but never an opportunity to learn about it on the local level. Anyone who has ever performed as a volunteer at the HSHC will acknowledge that learning local history is contagious.

I spent most of my internship cataloging the large collection of newspapers housed in the lower level of the headquarters building. Examining old newspapers, bound or loose, is a very practical way to encounter lesser-known aspects of history and provides an exciting and direct way to hear voices from the past. One of my primary goals was to record which issues of county newspapers the Society has and to compare that information (particularly for lesser-known local periodicals) with those held by other locations, such as the Library of Congress and the Maryland State Archives.

This involved going through the archival boxes and recording the names, dates, volumes, and issue numbers of each issue. Secondly, I wanted to find as much information as I could about the history of newspapers that are no longer published.

One of the most valuable research aids I discovered was a site entitled [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com). Because I could not find much information about the *Bel Air Times* (published from 1881 to 1941), I decided to search for mentions of it in other papers. One interesting discovery was a surprisingly unprofessional, ongoing partisan political rivalry between the *Times* and the *Aegis*.

In the end, my experience at the Historical Society was both successful and enjoyable. The other volunteers were extremely welcoming, and I'm happy to say that I will continue volunteering now that I have completed my degree. For those looking for a place to intern or volunteer, if you have an interest in history, I highly recommend the Historical Society of Harford County.

*Sean Silence, Intern*

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
*Mary Schweers*

**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.
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