



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

143 N. MAIN ST, BEL AIR, MD 21014-3539

www.rtis.com/reg/md/org/hcgs/

HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net

MAY 2007

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: **Sunday, May 20, 2007** Time: **2:00 PM**

Place: Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.
143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

Program: **“The Lively World of the Deceased:”**
by Patricia Fagan Tress

Patricia Tress is an investigator for the Office of Cemetery Oversight formed ten years ago in the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. Primary objectives of this Office are licensing and monitoring of individuals, and companies operating cemeteries, or providing burial goods and services to consumers. The Office is charged with determining and enforcing ethical standards related to the operation of cemeteries plus the sales of burial goods and services within the State, in order to protect the citizens of Maryland from unfair and unscrupulous practices.

Her primary task is to investigate, mediate, and resolve consumer complaints. She is also inventorying cemeteries throughout the State and handling an increasing number of calls regarding abandoned and/or neglected cemeteries.

Of special interest are the techniques used to research locations and trusteeship of older cemeteries. This program promises to be a rewarding opportunity, for genealogists who like to explore cemeteries and cemetery records.

OFFICE HOLDERS

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Inquiries & Publications:	Doris Barben	dBarben@aol.com
Newsletter Editor:	Rich Appel	Richard.Appel3@verizon.net

MEETING SCHEDULE: March, May, July, September, & November

We hold five meetings per year, usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month. The March, May, September and November meetings begin at 2:00 PM at The Historical Society of Harford County Inc., 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014. The July meeting is a box lunch held at various historical locations in the county.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was delighted to see a number of new faces at the March 18th meeting, and look forward to all of you being with us in the upcoming months. I often hear folks say, “I’m interested in, or I’m pursuing family history, but I can do it all via the Internet”. My thoughts then turn to why one should be a part of the Genealogical Society. With certainty, the Internet and its copious websites have transformed some aspects of family research. An abundance of records and documents are increasingly being made available at one’s fingertips, but these are usually the most popular records containing basic legal facts. The real research and documentation of our ancestors, the “putting of flesh on the bones,” has yet to be done.

Our Genealogical Society provides a setting for collaborative exploration, a time and place to interact with like-minded inquirers to test our assumptions and validate our hunches, plus honing of our research skills. A genealogical group is a safe haven to explore the nuances and gain new insight into our findings. On innumerable occasions, seemingly idle conversation and casual discussions have revealed unexpected family connections, new directions for research, or discovery of heretofore-unknown resources.

From a personal point of view, whatever I initially discover electronically leads me to new questions, as well as the need for conversation, and interaction with fellow ‘seekers’. In the pursuit of family research, no question is irrelevant, no scrap of paper extraneous. Active participation in a Genealogical Society extends the human touch to shaping one’s ancestral history.

...Arch

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Genealogical Society has moved its checking account in order to eliminate the significant monthly fees we were being charged.

Paid membership is now at 51 households.
...Doug

8-Mar-2007	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Balance			\$ 754.89
January Newsletter*		\$ 68.85	\$ 686.04
January bank fees		\$ 11.00	\$ 675.04
February bank fees		\$ 8.00	\$ 667.04
New checks		\$ 36.15	\$ 630.89
Membership dues	\$ 510.00		\$ 1,140.89
Pub sales	\$ 32.00		\$ 1,172.89
March Newsletter*		\$ 65.78	\$ 1,107.11
Balance			\$ 1,107.11

* Printer & postage

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, I raised my hand and volunteered to be the Newsletter editor. Please help me make this the voice of our Society by contributing news, interesting facts, and other information so that other members may enjoy and learn. I am not able to “see all” or “read all,” so make it a habit to tell the Editor about what’s happening.

Send me an email, or drop a note in our Society’s mail-drawer.

...Rich

GENEALOGY FEATURE

HERITAGE QUEST™ ONLINE



HeritageQuest Online™ provides a growing collection of research materials for tracing family history and American culture. You can gain **FREE** access to over 20,000 family and local history books, an index of over 1.9 million genealogy and local history articles, bounty-land and pension records, Freedman's Bank records and Federal census records.

Beginning or professional genealogists can now use this powerful online library, with original page images for all documents, from the convenience of their home or at the library. Indexes and original page images mean no additional trips, inter-library loan requests or work by researchers or staff. All Maryland Public Library cardholders may use HeritageQuest Online™ from their home computer, as well as those in library branches. Other state library systems also offer similar access.

To access HeritageQuest Online™:

- 1) Go to <http://www.sailor.lib.md.us/cgi-bin/hqo>
or from the Harford County Public Library Home Page, Select Online Resources & Articles then HeritageQuest Online, --or many other similar URLs
- 2) Enter your library card number then click-on Proceed to HeritageQuest Online™
- 3) From the opening page, you can currently select one of five data sources to search: Census, Books, PERSI™, Revolutionary War, and Freedman's Bank.

HeritageQuest Online™ provides some very satisfying results from most of their features. References are given to the actual microfilm image displayed. Users can print or download positive or negative images, and the magnifier helps in reading the very fine handwriting. You can also scroll through adjacent images on the same microfilm roll. The Notebook feature allows you to mark records to be saved into your personal notebook throughout your searching of HeritageQuest Online™. You can also take notes on what you find. Afterwards, you can email your Notebook contents to yourself, download them to your hard drive, or use the advanced print options.

The Search Census feature impressed me with its ability to find names in the early Baltimore City censuses without having to know the Election District. The page images were clear and it was easy to download images to my PC. The data contains microfilmed images of census records from 1790 to 1930, with Head of Household indices for all but 1830, 1840, 1850, and parts of 1930. Even without indices for all of the census years, you will probably find people in HeritageQuest Online™ that are not found in, for instance, Ancestry.com. Each census service uses the same record base, but easy data access depends on the accuracy of the index created by that service. Another interesting feature is access to "*The Census Book*", by William Dollarhide. This text provides a comprehensive review of census schedules along with many unknown facts and peculiarities about the census records. I have also found HeritageQuest Online™ to be more accurate in its spelling than Ancestry.com. So if you cannot find what you are looking for in Ancestry.com, check-out HeritageQuest Online™, and do not forget to try their advance search tools.

The Search Books feature allows you to search indexes: People, Places, or Publication Titles. Heritage then provided a table of contents from which you can select an interesting chapter to read, or go right to the page where the 'hit' is found. Then you can go from hit to hit, page to page or just browse through the entire book. The books returned for the above search were published between 1845 and 1971, with most in late 1800s and early 1900s. Each provide some interesting reading about what our ancestors experienced and give us a different perspective about life at that time. Some contain drawings of towns or homesteads as well as portraits and photos of individuals. It all depends on what the author included in the book. The data also included city directories, family, state, region, and place histories. A search for "Gorrell" returned 177 hits, one of which was an image of a RALPH GORRELL (1735-1816) family ancestry compiled by Rankin.
continued...

HeritageQuest Online™ continued from page 3...

The **Persi™ Index** (PERiodical Source Index) consists of four sources of periodical articles: **People, Places, How To's** (assistance to researchers) and **Periodical** titles. Searches result in a list of "hits" which when selected displays a typical card catalog style image. Harford County Historical Society Bulletins have been indexed here, so you have a handy catalog of all those articles at your command. There is a fee for many of the genealogy and local history articles referenced in **Persi™** and you cannot review the items here before purchasing them. They now however, provide a list of libraries and other sources where you may read these articles.

The **Search Revolutionary War** data yielded microfilmed images of selected pension and bounty-land warrant applications. These appear to be images from the National Archives.

The **Search Freeman's Bank** data contains account records of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company chartered by an Act of Congress to benefit ex-slaves, but after 10 million former slaves deposited more than \$57 million in the bank, it collapsed because of mismanagement and outright fraud, devastating the African American community. These microfilmed records are accompanied by typed transcriptions of hand-written pages, and a wealth of personal identification information. In an effort to establish the identities of patrons, bank workers recorded the names, family relationships, addresses, birth dates, former masters, plantations, occupations, physical description, and military service of account holders, sometimes even taking brief oral histories. In the process, they created the largest single repository of lineage-linked African-American records known to exist.

...by: Ken Gorrell & Rich Appel

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

HCGS in Prime Times

Many thanks go to our Corresponding Secretary, Mary White for publicizing our Society in the newspaper **Prime Times of Harford County**, dated March 2007 . The article titled "**What's in a name? Harford Genealogical Society can help you trace your family roots,**" was written by the Suzanne Streeter, Editor. In it, Mary talks about her and her husband's quests to trace their respective families' ancestry. In doing so, she promotes membership in our Society by highlighting some of the benefits such as education, entertainment, socialization, gifts to our younger generations, and histories of family medical conditions.

2007 National Genealogical Society Conference:

Date: **May 16-19, 2007** (Wed-Sat)

Place: Greater Richmond Convention Center, 403 North Third Street, **Richmond, VA 23219.**

For details: www.eshow2000.com/ngs/2007 or 1-800-473-0060

The conference program details are available on the website. About seven workshops run in parallel during each session. Topics include: DNA, Library of Congress, National Archives, Virginia records and repositories, court records, advanced Chancery record research, land platting and mapping, military records, migration paths, railroads, indentured servants, searching the Internet, researching women, English, Irish, Scots-Irish, German, African-American, and Indian research. Computer workshops on: **DeedMapper™**, **GenSmarts™**, **Legacy**, **The_Master_Genealogist™**, photo image digital manipulation, **Word & Excel** for the genealogist, optimizing your computer, and backup strategies and tools. Non-member registration is \$245 +Luncheons, and some discounts are still available.

2007 Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Fall ConferenceDate: **October 6, 2007** (Sat) 8:30 AM to 4:00 PMPlace: Plaza Hotel, 1718 Underpass Way, Halfway Blvd, **Hagerstown, MD**For Details: www.magsgen.com/ or registration@magsgen.com

or Diane Kuster 301-893-8588

The program is titled Putting the Family Puzzle Together! Research and Writing, and consists of four lectures by John Philip Colletta, PhD, author of three books and numerous articles about researching family histories. His website is: www.genealogyJohn.com

GENEALOGY RESOURCES

Promoting the Natural Marriage Between Antiques and Ancestry - www.JustaJoy.com

This web site was established to enable families to retrieve artifacts of the colonial times, world wars, Civil War, black history, and other periods in American history that may be meaningful to a family. All items have a surname associated with them and you can search by surname. You can also submit surnames of interest. At this time website access is free.

Business Ledger Transcriptions of the J. C. TAYLOR MARBLE CO. Jarrettsville, MD; VOL. No. 1, 1878-1890 Ledger; HCGS SP #37. This reference provides the possibility of determining previously unknown burial locations, plus some additional tidbits of information, like a relative's name or address. This publication will be available at our May meeting.

IMAGES of the J. C. TAYLOR MARBLE CO. Jarrettsville, MD; 1878-1890 Business Ledger. Photographic images of the original Ledger pages were made for our recent transcription process. Two facing pages of the Ledger are shown in each "jpg" formatted digital file. This particular ledger is captured in a set of about fifty files. Several Ledgers for later years exist and we are in the process of transcribing those also. We are considering making these images available to the public for a fee. Please show us your interest by expressing the format (paper, CD, ...), the delivery method (pick-up, USPS, electronic,...), and number of images you might desire. If sufficient interest is expressed, we will advertise the availability, formats, and pricing. Send email to Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net or write to Doug Washburn c/o HCGS at the address in the banner.

IN MEMORIAM

Miss Ella H. Rowe 1915 – 2007

A long time member of our Society, as well as a founding member, President 1975-1977, Corresponding Secretary for 27 years, Recording Secretary, Librarian, and Chair of the Records Committee of the Maryland Genealogical Society. Author of two books, including the *Clark, Rigdon, Wilson, and Durham Families of Harford County, MD*. Her high energy level and enthusiasm excited those around her.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would all like to welcome the following new members to our Society. Please make yourselves known to them and encourage their future participation.

Vincent & Karen Costanzi, recently from Colorado, now residing in Abingdon, MD, **Dr. Curtis W. Hawkins** (Akron, OH), **Christine Hough** (Valparaiso, IN), **Jeff and Beverly Purnell** (Bel Air, MD)

QUERIES

We have received the following queries, to which we invite your responses:

I am looking for the ancestors of **James S. Cage** b. 21 Feb 1828, d. 12 Apr 1906. He was married c.1857 and is buried at Cokesbury Methodist Church in Abingdon, Harford County, MD, with his wife, the former Mary J. Turner. Both of their parents are also believed to have been born in Maryland. Willing to share information on descendents. Please contact me at Richard.appel3@verizon.net or send info to Richard Appel c/o HCGS, using the address in the banner.

Send Queries to Doris Barben c/o HCGS at the address shown in the Newsletter banner. Queries are \$15.00, however free to HCGS members. Queries should be succinct, have a date, and be related to persons from Harford County, the portion of Baltimore County that became Harford County in 1774, or the immediate surrounding areas.

WHAT'S A QUERY ?

Each month our **Newsletter** indicates that 'QUERIES' should be addressed to Doris Barben c/o HCGS. The Board thought that it would be worthwhile to clarify its definitions of Queries, Inquiries, & Research solicitations.

- **Queries** are general questions about the existence of previous research activities. Queries are usually distributed to our membership through postings in our Newsletter. This is a free service for HCGS members; but for non-members the fee is \$15.00.

For example: Looking for ancestors of John McFadden, b. 1730, p.b. Ireland, d. 1811, p.d. Prospect, Harford County, MD, sp. Elizabeth, c1. James, c2. Elizabeth (m. Harvey), c3. John. Willing to share information on descendents. Please contact Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net or send info to me c/o the Genealogical Society address.

- **Inquires** are specific requests for commonly known facts.

For example: Dear Doris, are back issues of Special Publication No. 12 still available for purchase? If so, what is the price? Please contact me via e-mail at Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net or at (address) or by phone (number). Thank you. Doug Washburn.

Research solicitations require the employment of personnel to perform a methodical investigation into a subject in order to discover facts on behalf of the solicitor. As such, the HCGS refers all research solicitations to The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. ATTN: RESEARCH LIBRARY, at the same address as ours. Providing a response requires fee-based research, \$30.00 for the first hour, paid in advance. Checks to be made payable to "**The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.**", NOT the Genealogical Society. Re: <http://www.harfordhistory.net/LibraryRsch.htm>

We hope this guidance clarifies these processes and improves communications.

JULY MEETING

Our Sunday, July 15, 2007 Society meeting will be held offsite at **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church** in Churchville, with James T. Wollon as our host and speaker. The next issue of this NEWSLETTER will contain directions and times, along with a meeting reservation / menu selection form. A low-cost professionally boxed lunch will be available for us to enjoy. Please mark your calendars and look for details in the JULY 2007 issue of the NEWSLETTER.