



NEWSLETTER

of the
HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

143 N. MAIN STREET,
BEL AIR, MD 21014

<http://www.rtis.com/reg/md/org/hcgs/>

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P.O. Box 489, Phoenix, MD 21131, 410.486.5016

SEPTEMBER 2006

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE !!!

Date: Sunday, 24-Sep-2006 Time: 2:00 PM

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

Program:

"Cedar Hill Cemetery Revealed", by Gary Wasielewski

Gary is a Havre de Grace City councilman, teaches history at Havre de Grace High School, and is the volleyball coach. He made a study of the cemetery - finding and photographing the few stones that were left and researching the stories of some buried there. Cedar Hill is the original municipal cemetery for Havre de Grace, which was long ago abandoned. Civil War vets, vagabonds & a murderer are buried there. The story of his investigation is a good lesson for genealogists.

For a preview of Cedar Hill Cemetery, with photos: http://www.acurse.com/hunt_cedarhill.html

For stats of Highball Wilson, of the 1899 Cleveland Spiders, buried at Cedar Hill:

<http://www.baseball-almanac.com/players/player.php?p=wilsohi01>

Thanks to Mary, Jon & Doug for this information.

Meeting Schedule: (Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)

Five meetings per year usually held on the 3rd Sunday @ 2:00 PM, at the Historical Society of Harford County, 143 Main St., Bel Air, MD. The July meeting is a box lunch held at various locations in Harford County.

Harford County Genealogy Email List:

To correspond: Use MDHARFOR-L@rootsweb.com

For service: Use MDHARFOR-L-REQUEST@rootsweb.com

To subscribe: Send service email with “subscribe” in the message subject and body.

To unsubscribe: Send service email with “unsubscribe” in the message subject and body.

From the President:

E-Mail Confusion!

If you have attempted to send an e-mail to the doug_washburn@verizon.net address and gotten a reject notice, I apologize. The account got “messed up” and Verizon was unable to re-establish it for me. If you are trying to respond to any of the previous requests (E-mail FYI alerts, working on the J. C. Taylor records, or volunteering to be the refreshments chair), please send the info to Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net.

My own fault! Sorry for any confusion. - Doug

From the Editor:

I'll be the editor of your newsletter for the next year or so. I'm new to this type of work, so your help, comments and positive feedback are always welcome. I've been researching my family since 1994, with large & small gaps of inactivity in between.

I was born and raised in Baltimore County. My wife and I purchased our first home in Harford County, in Joppatowne, and lived there for several years. Then we returned to Baltimore County to raise our family. But my roots are in Harford County. In fact my great grandfather Joseph, a carpenter, had his home and a shop right across the street from the Historical Society in Bel Air. It's on the 1858 Herrick map. Joseph married a local girl in 1855, Sarah Jane Ward. They raised a family of 7 children in Bel Air, then moved to the Chestnut Hills area, and are buried in the Deer Creek Methodist Church Cemetery.

I have some ideas I'd like to implement over the next year, but I'll need your help for some of them. I hope to follow in the footsteps of cousin Roberta Kimble and continue passing along information about what is available to you at the HSHC. Through the efforts of volunteers and others, we have very valuable genealogical resources available to us. I'm just beginning to discover what all is available, so as I find something that I believe may of interest to you, I'll pass it along. I am very impressed by the court records I've been given access to lately for Gorrells; many bad debts, summons & maybe even an arrest warrant, but that's a story for another time. I'll be passing along more information about genealogical events and local genealogical resources. I'd like to establish more communication and exchange of information between members. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge among our members. If you found a good book, internet site or HSHC resource that was useful, please send it to me for the newsletter. Favorite family stories, research experiences, tips for fellow researchers are also very

welcome. Send it to me with your first name or full name (or “anonymous” if you wish to remain so) at the bottom. I’ll use whatever name you send.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. My main email system is MSN TV, formerly Web TV. It’s great for reading and sending simple text emails while sitting on your living room sofa, but it chokes on large attachments. If you want to send me an attachment, let me know and I’ll give you another email address.

I’m looking forward to working with all of you, and actually, I’ll be happy to consider negative feedback as well. ☺ *Ken*

Society News:

PLEASE NOTE OUR ADDRESS CHANGE. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY ALL SOCIETY MAIL SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Harford County Genealogical Society, 143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS (SP):

SP-36, Ancestral Charts Vol. 8, is back from the printer. Local members can pick up at the Sept meeting. This issue looks like a battle of our genealogical Titans, and Doris Rehmeyer Barben may just have won this round with all her Swiss and German family details going back 11 generations. Perhaps Doris can be persuaded to share her knowledge about obtaining foreign records.

The Harford County Stud Book:

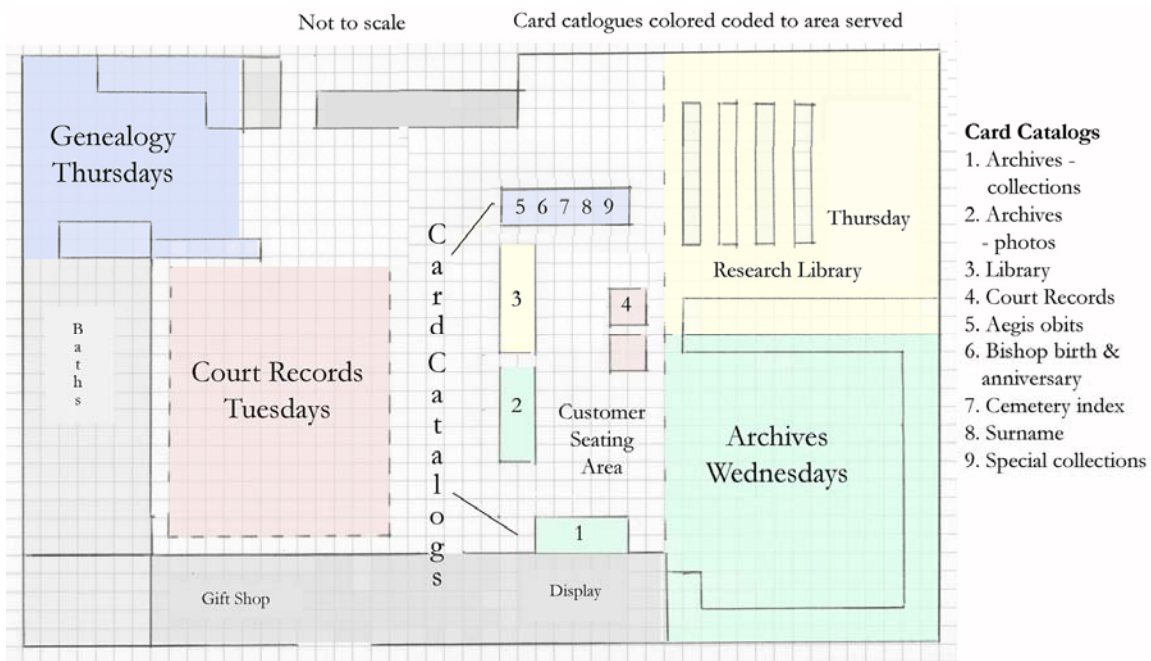
Board member and prominent genealogist Henry Peden has authored his 118th book. Now, before all you guys run out to check the index for your name, it’s a book about horse breeding. Much of the research for this book was done at HSHC, in the court section, using business license records and reviewing microfilm of local newspapers from 1822 to 1900. It catalogs pedigrees, descriptions and owners of stallions such as Nicodemas, Mountain Boy, Orphan Boy, Paddy Whack, and Oysterman. Another stallion in the book, Cola Di Rienzi, belonged to Harford County resident, John Wilkes Booth. I found a bunch of Gorrells in the index, so I’ll be getting a copy. The book can be purchased through the Historical Society for \$15.00, proceeds benefit the HSHC. The next time you see Henry, be sure to ask him about those year 1174 Cecil County records mentioned in the *Baltimore Sun* article of July 23, 2006.

The Historical Society of Harford County: (HSHC)

143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014, 410.838.7691, www.harfordhistory.net,
email: HARCHIS@msn.com, queries and inquires to Doris Barben.

Floor Plan: from Doug

For those that do research at the Historical Society of Harford County HQ building, the following floor plan may be of assistance.



(FYI: Colors appear all gray in Newsletter)

Genealogy Happenings:

British Isles - Finding your Overseas Roots

Date: September 23 & 24, 2006 (Sat & Sun), 8-9 Sat register, 9-4:15

Speakers: Maggie Loughran & Paul Blake

Sponsor: Maryland Genealogical Society

Place: Hilton Hotel, 5485 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045-3247

For details: www.mdgensoc.org/whatsnew.html

Websites, probate records, population listings, emigration sources before 1776, property & land records at the National Archives UK.

Conference on Early American Genealogical Research

Date: Oct 27 & 28, 2006 (Fri & Sat), 8-9 register, 9-5:30 (DAR library available Fri 5:30-8)

Speakers: Experts from the DAR and the National Archives

Place: DAR Headquarters, 1776 D Street N W, Washington, DC

For details: www.dar.org

Lectures and workshops about genealogical research spanning the Colonial period through the pre-Civil War era. Topics include: Research methods/best practices, Revolutionary War sources, Writing your family history, Historical events and military records, etc. Vendors of genealogical books, supplies and information will be available.

Genealogy Resources:

National Archives (NARA), Washington, DC:

Comments from Henry Peden: The Archives are more or less back to normal. But due to elevator problems, a smaller original records research room has been set up on the ground floor. The work space for each researcher is smaller, there are only two copiers, there are fewer computers and reader printers, and researchers are allowed only one request per hour and five minutes on a copier.

There is a proposal to discontinue evening and Saturday hours. To see the proposal details and accompanying statistics - www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/frcont06.html under Tuesday, July 25 and National Archives and Records Administration.

Genealogy Feature: Genealogical Research and the Use of DNA

Now it's time to go back to the good old days, when we were struggling through high school biology, with its genes, chromosomes and fruit flies. How a person could use DNA in genealogy research was a mystery to me. It didn't seem like a very good idea to contemplate digging up Grandfather Joe or Aunt Mary for a DNA sample, so I've done a little studying. Hopefully the following will help those of you that are in the same boat with me.

Basic Biology:

Genetics is the branch of biology concerned with heredity. The basic unit of living things is the cell. Humans have about 10,000 trillion cells that have learned to live together. Every cell has an outer membrane, surrounding a liquid called cytoplasm, and with a center mass called the nucleus. In the cytoplasm there are chemical plants that handle energy needs, called mitochondria.

Basic DNA:

DNA is an acronym for Deoxyribo-Nucleic Acid. The cytoplasm mitochondria pose DNA known as mitochondrial DNA. The cell nucleus contains DNA known as nuclear DNA. DNA is normally a stable molecule with the capacity for self-replication. DNA is organized into long molecules known as chromosomes. Human cells contain 23 pairs of chromosomes, one of each pair from a person's father, and one from their mother. The first 22 pairs contain ordinary chromosomes and DNA known as autosomal DNA. The 23rd pair contains the sex chromosomes, and DNA known as X- and Y-DNA. The sex chromosomes determine a person sex. Females have two X-chromosomes, and males have one X-chromosome and one Y-chromosome. The sex chromosomes are the most useful for genealogy, at this time.

Nucleotides are chemical units strung together in long chains. DNA molecules consist of two parallel chains of nucleotides, also known as bases that spiral around each other like two sides of a spiral staircase. The steps of the staircase are formed by side chains of opposing bases. Complementary pairs are known as base pairs. Human cells have three billion base pairs. A marker is a position on the DNA ladder that can easily be identified and measured, a segment of DNA with known genetic characters. Genes are larger units of DNA base pairs associated with hereditary characteristics. Humans are thought to have about 100,000 genes.

Wow, this is getting pretty heavy, let's move on. Just remember that markers are positions on the DNA ladder, and later you'll find that haplotypes are groups of markers, used to identify ancestors, and haplogroups are groups of haplotypes, used to identify geographic/ethnic origins.

History of DNA Studies:

In the 1950s DNA was identified as the source of all the major phenomena of heredity. This was one of the greatest scientific breakthroughs of the 20th century. By the 1980s DNA was established as a criminal investigation tool, and later as a means to establish paternity. In the late 1990s the potential for DNA use as a genealogical tool was illustrated by the testing of direct descendants of Thomas Jefferson and Sallie Hemmings. In 2000, two companies were formed to offer commercial DNA testing to the public. Genetic studies at the University of Arizona led to the formation of Family Tree DNA, and studies by Dr. Brian Sykes of Oxford, led to the formation of Oxford Ancestors.

DNA and Genealogy:

DNA testing for genealogical purposes is a fairly recent technological advancement that provides a level of scientific certainty of connections to family groups within a surname. DNA has been used to identify people for many years in forensics, but tests for genealogical purposes were not publicly available until 2000. Advances have been made at a very rapid pace since then, but limitations still exist.

An excellent tutorial on DNA by Charles F. Kerchner: www.kerchner.com.

DNA 101 by Blair Genealogy Project - <http://blairgenealogy.com/dna/dna101.html>

There are three types of DNA potentially of interest to genealogists; Y-chromosome DNA, autosomal DNA and mitochondrial DNA. For these tests, no bones need to be dug up.

Y-Chromosome (Y-DNA) Tests:

The Y-DNA test is based on the Y-chromosome, only present in males. The DNA in the Y-chromosome is passed on directly from father to son, unchanged, for many generations. Certain markers in the DNA can be tested to track descent along the direct male line of a family. Tests consist of a specific number of markers. Some less expensive tests use 10 or 12 markers, but a minimum of 25 markers should be tested to produce reliable results that can establish an ancestry connection. Anything less than 25 can often establish that people are not related, but can not confirm that they are.

Test results will come back as a string of numbers. These represent the repeats found for each of the tested markers along the Y-chromosome. Matching numbers at all or most of the tested markers can indicate a shared ancestor between two men who have both taken the test.

Every male direct descendant of a man living many years ago will have extremely similar Y-DNA profiles on their report. These profiles are called haplotypes. Groups of similarly patterned and related profiles are called haplogroups, and can suggest geographic origins.

Y-DNA testing is being used mostly in surname groups. A surname group is typically started by a male with a proven connection to a same surname male ancestor many generations back. Proof of the connection is through traditional genealogical research. Once this living male enters his marker numbers, or haplotypes, into the surname database, they are used as a base line for other same surname males to establish a connection to the same ancestor.

Many surname projects have been formed. They are usually operated by an administrator with close ties to the surname family members, associations and researchers. The administrator manages the database of test results and has tools available to compare DNA markers. Typically a person would contact an administrator and provide some proven details about a direct male ancestor. A test kit with DNA swabs for a mouth cavity DNA sample would be sent then returned to the testing lab. In about four to six weeks the results should be available. The administrator may then be able to match the test result markers to those in the database, identify an earliest known male ancestor and provide contact information for other people with the same direct male ancestor. Future new matches will be passed on to group participants.

This type of surname testing has been successfully used across international borders to reunite family groups lost to one another in the distant past. Keep in mind that adoptions, name changes and divorce, where children assume the mothers maiden name, can cause a break or confusion in this process.

A good place to learn more about genetic genealogy and surname studies is The GENEALOGY-DNA-L email list at RootsWeb.com.

You can check for a surname group for your surname by searching for "your surname DNA" with a search engine such as Google. Many are also linked to DNA testing company internet sites.

Another source is www.familytreedna.com/surname.asp or <http://worldfamilies.net/search.php>.

Some major DNA testing company web sites, with details about tests offered, tutorials and other aides:

- Family Tree DNA - www.familytreedna.com
- DNA Heritage - www.dnaheritage.com
- Relative Genetics - www.relativegenetics.com
- Oxford Ancestors - www.oxfordancestors.com

The technology in DNA testing is changing rapidly. In 2004, 37 and 42 marker tests became available.

Like anything else involving your privacy, do your homework. Make sure you are comfortable with the security and confidentiality of your DNA information before signing up for a DNA test. DNA test companies should not be reporting genetic defect or health information, and surname groups should maintain DNA reports by id number, not by name.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) Tests:

Technically this test can be done on males or females, but for practical purposes, the results are only somewhat useful for females. Due to its fairly slow mutation rate, mtDNA is suited for

anthropological research and determining very early human migrations, but is not practical for genealogical applications at this time.

Since the surnames of females change with each generation, there is no practical means of connecting specific maternal ancestors into groups. Other than confirming that two females are related in some manner and giving access to discounted test fees, surname groups provide little help using mtDNA.

Autosomal DNA (atDNA) Tests:

AtDNA is comprised of the first 22 of the 23 pairs of chromosomes of DNA in the nucleus of the human cell. These pairs contain randomly mixed DNA from both parents. Autosomal DNA contains almost the entire genome, or blueprint, for the body. Most of the genes that determine human characteristics, from eye color to disease susceptibilities, are found in autosomal DNA. This mix is approximately half from each parent, or one quarter from each grandparent, or one eighth from each great-grandparent, etc. As it is almost entirely randomly mixed, it is not yet possible to establish from which ancestor any specific portion is inherited.

One use of atDNA is the BioGeographical Ancestry test being marketed as DNAPrint, first offered in 2003. The testing company processes about 70 markers in atDNA, known as Ancestry Information Markers (AIMs), through formulas that it developed, to produce a report indicating your geographic/ethnic origins. Based on your atDNA markers, the report places you in one or more of four major population groups; Indo-European, East Asian, Native American, or Sub-Saharan Africa. You may be 100% in one group, or split between all four.

Use of atDNA for genealogy is minimal at this time, but it is considered to have great potential. It provides the only means of crossing the gender barrier, but major advances will take considerable time.

This is only my take on the subject after reading a little about genetics and a lot about the use of DNA in genealogy. I understand the process and potential benefits a little better now. I may, out of curiosity, check around for a Gorrell group. There does seem to be great potential for these groups in the future, after the haplotypes have had time to accumulate and more people become involved.

If you have comments, additions, corrections, etc., please send them to me. If you have had reports produced, I would like very much to see them at the November meeting. I can not attend the September meeting and will not be able to respond to emails in late September and early October.

An interesting book: *Trace Your Roots with DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree*, by Megan Smolenyak & Ann Turner.