



NEWSLETTER

of the
HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

143 NORTH MAIN STREET
BEL AIR, MD 21014

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MARCH 2007

Date: Sunday, March 18, 2007 **Time:** 2:00 P.M.
Place: The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.
143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

Program: “Old Surveys, Old Surveying Techniques and Old Deeds”
by Everette C. Smith

Come and learn about rods and chains and mysterious markers, as well as how to unravel the language of your ancestors’ deeds.

Everette Smith is a civil engineer, surveyor, and professional genealogist with interest in tracking old land grants and surveys. He is also an accomplished information technology specialist, systems analyst and corporate consultant. His presentation promises a lively discussion.

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 are at 2:00 P.M. in 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.

Harford County, Maryland E-mail List at ROOTSWEB

MDHARFOR-L-REQUEST@rootsweb.com or

MDHARFOR-D-REQUEST@rootsweb.com (digest version)

To subscribe: Send an e-mail with "subscribe" in the message subject and body.

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From the President

Among my challenges, as your recently elected President, is to maintain and enhance an already vital organization. As I think about our Society, I realize what a wealth of resources we are for each other – in short, 'our best informants are ourselves'. I urge each of us as we interact in our daily lives and activities in historical inquiry to keep the antenna up. Ideas for topics and interesting speakers as well as new technical support, and newfound information and sources relative to genealogical search may be right under our noses. Working together we will maintain a vital and dynamic organization dedicated to discovering and documenting our roots and heritage. So, when something strikes your fancy, do pass it on – it could well be a winner! *Arch*

From the Editor

Ken has decided to pursue other interests. The Board thanks him for his time these last several months. Much of the next two Newsletters will be based on information gathered by Ken before his departure. If there is anyone who would like to serve as *Editor*, please contact one of the Board members. In the meantime, I will serve as acting *Editor* to make sure at least meeting announcements are sent out. *Doug*

Genealogy Happenings

New Frontiers in Genealogy: Genetics and Technology in Family History

Date: March 17, 2007 (Sat), 10:30 A.M.

Place: Enoch Pratt Free Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 400 Cathedral Street,
Baltimore, MD

For details & reservations: www.epfl.net, (410) 396-5468, mdx@epfl.net

This is Enoch Pratt's annual genealogy program. In the morning, "Trace Your Roots with DNA" will be presented by Megan Smolenyak. In the afternoon, "Adding the Details to Your Family Tree" will be presented by Thomas Jay Kemp. Both presenters are nationally known genealogists. A light lunch will be served. Free.

Out of the Past, Vista to the Future – Michael McCormick, Director of Reference Services,
Maryland State Archives

Date: March 24, 2007 (Sat) Meeting, 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Place: Washington D.C. Family History Center, 10000 Stoneybrook Drive,
Kensington, MD 20895. Phone: (301) 587-0042

Web site: www.loriandpeter.com/fhlc/fhlc07.htm

Topics: Latin American, Native American, Polish & German research; Revolutionary War & WWI records; getting started in genealogy; organizing with computer software; probate, naturalization, immigration, research at the DAR, internet research, MD State Archives; producing a book; 'brick wall' tips.

Seldom Used Records at the National Archives – Jane Douma Pearson

Date: March 25, 2007 (Sun) Meeting, 2:00 P.M.

Place: Baltimore County Genealogical Society, 8601 Harford Road, Parkville, MD,
3rd floor.

Web site: www.BaltimoreGenealogySociety.org

Draft registrations, passports, post offices, State Department records, Civil War tax records, FBI files, maps & photographs will be discussed. This program is part of the regular monthly meeting of BCGS, and visitors are welcome. Parking lot is on Hiss Ave., behind the building. Use the Senior Center entrance.

Family History Seminar

Date: March 31, 2007 (Sat), 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Place: Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument Street, Baltimore, MD

For details & registration: www.mdhs.org, (410) 685-3750 ext-321.

This is a workshop for the beginner to intermediate researcher. Topics include organizing your research, church and vital records and the best use of internet sources. Presented by local genealogist Robert W. Barnes. \$50 members, \$65 others, including box lunch.

Virginia Beach 2007 Celebration – Ancestral Family Reunion Gatherings

Date: April 26-29, 2007 (Thr-Sun)

Place: Virginia Beach, VA

For details: www.VB2007.com

Come celebrate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first permanent English settlers in the New World at Jamestown, Virginia. Activities will include a reenactment of the first landing, exploration of the Lynnhaven River, boardwalk history festival, erection of a cross, departure of three ships and salute to the

military. For help organizing a family reunion during the celebration, contact the Historical Family Reunion Committee via e-mail to VB2007@cox.net.

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 (800) 473-0060

The conference program details are not ready yet, but 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.

Book Review by Jon Harlan Livezey

Wayne Carrol McGinnis, *Northern Baltimore Maryland Pioneers: the Land and their Descendants*, Heritage Books, Inc., 65 East Main Street, Westminister, MD 21157-5026, 2006, \$28.00; paper ii, 172 pp including full name index of persons; with folded tract map, full index.

Harford County genealogists will find this book of considerable interest. It is a collection of brief sketches of the founders of families of the treated area with tables of some descendants of many of them, along with illustrations and notes about houses and other buildings associated with those families. It is also accompanied by a map of the land tracts in the vicinity. While the title and cover does not indicate it, the headers show the coverage to be limited to the Seventh Election District, the northeasterly most region of Baltimore County, which borders northwestern Harford. Because of the usual movement of people between nearby areas for better opportunities and family connections, the adjoining Tenth District, whence many of the families were first established, and Harford County's Fourth District are well represented. Some of the tables bring lines down to the 20th century; other only touch earlier generations.

Apart from a list of some general sources for researching people in the area covered, there is no documentation provided. Accordingly, this work can serve only as a guide which can be followed up with research in the appropriate records to confirm relationships important to the reader. There are some items and usages in the book that would have benefited from a good editor, but they do not detract from its usefulness as a ready reference.

The book may be ordered from the publisher at the above address or at 1-800-876-6103 or E-mail Orders@HeritageBooks.com. Maryland tax is 5%; shipping for one book is \$4.00.

Book Review by Jon Harlan Livezey

Terry A. Noye, *History of the Harford County Sheriff's Office*, Turner Publishing Company, 2006, hardbound, 240 pp. including an index of persons mentioned.

A vast amount of research has gone into the preparation of this volume, which provides historical information about personnel and activities of the office of Sheriff of Harford County to the present time from its inception at the 1774 establishment of the county separate from Baltimore County. Most of the material dates from the latter part of the 19th century, as there is much less documentation available for earlier periods, but the compiler has attempted to provide some information about those times.

The book is handsomely produced and profusely illustrated. Color photo or prints of some of the equipment and badges and other paraphernalia of the department over the recent past add to the interest. Photographs of many of the incumbents of the office and more recent activities of the staff, supplemented by numerous anecdotes or stories derived from newspaper articles give a record of the department and its place in the community. The history of the jail and the executions by hanging when that was the responsibility of the local sheriff are treated separately.

Historians of local people will be pleased to see the large number of citizens mentioned in the historical sketches involving the sheriff's office.

The General Reference Library

at The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.

The books in the library, formerly available only by request to library staff, are now directly available to researchers. You are free to enter the library area and select your own books from the shelves. The vertical files and maps continue to be available only by requests to the library staff.

As you enter the HSHC, the General Reference Library is located on your right and at the back of the building. This library is open on Thursdays 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and on the fourth Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

The "Library Card Catalog", located near the research work tables, contains cards that index the books and vertical files in the General Reference Library, filed alphabetically by author, title and subject.

Among the many items you will find on the shelves are books about the U.S., Maryland, other state histories, Harford County and other county histories. There are also a variety of books about Harford County churches, ministers, and government, as well as high school year books, phone and city directories. Take a look on your next visit and you are sure to find something of interest.

Humor in History

Henry Peden offers the following about a local history he has been reading. The book, by Harold L. O'Donnell, is about Eugene Township, Indiana and was published in 1963. One chapter discusses the Chicago and Eastern Illinois (C&EI) Railroad coming to town, and the danger it was to livestock and how livestock was a constant source of trouble between the railroad and the farmers. Whenever livestock was killed, the farmer always thought it was the fault of the railroads. In one case a farmer had a hog killed by a train and since he believed himself to have some ability as a poet, he wrote the railroad claim agent the following:

My razorback strolled down your track
A week ago today.
Your #29 came down the line,
And snuffed his life away.
You can't blame me; the hog you see,
Slipped through a cattle gate;
So kindly pen a check for ten,
The debt to liquidate.

He was surprised a few days later to receive the following:

Old #29 came down the line,
And killed your hog, we know;
But razorbacks on railroad tracks,
Quite often meet with woe.
Therefore, my friend, we cannot send,
The check for which you pine,
Just plant the dead; place o'er his head;
'Here lies a foolish swine.'

Special Publication #37

The society's Special Publication of *J.C. Taylor Marble Works* business record transcriptions will hopefully be available for the May meeting. Only paid members will receive this document, so be sure to complete the membership form on the next page.

