



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

JULY 2007

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: **Sunday, July 15, 2007** Time: **2:00 PM**

Place: **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**
2929 Level Road, Churchville, MD 21028

Program: **“The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church”**

Our guest speaker and host will be Mr. James T. Wollon, a native of Havre-de-Grace, Maryland, a graduate of the University of Virginia, School of Architecture, and a vestryman of Churchville Parish, Holy Trinity Church.

He opened his architectural practice in his native city in 1972, limiting his architectural practice to historic preservation projects.

He has received many Maryland Historical Trust project awards plus the Trust's prestigious Preservation Service Award; awards from the National Trust for Historic Preservation; Baltimore Heritage Foundation; Historic Annapolis Foundation; plus Harford and Montgomery County governments.

Mr. Wollon has assumed leadership roles in several architectural professional and historical organizations, including our Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. His community involvement has also been extensive, including several Harford County and Maryland preservation committees, numerous Episcopal Diocese of Maryland committees, and many Holy Trinity Church committees.

Jim's talk will cover the history of Holy Trinity since its founding in 1842, its destruction in 1852, subsequent stone construction, and recent restoration activities. Along the way, we will get to know some of the families that helped sustain the life of Holy Trinity, and the village of Churchville.

After our program, we will gather for a **box lunch social at the church**. A Lunch Reservation Form is attached to this Newsletter. Please make your menu selections, then send your order and payment, to the address shown. **YES, there is Air Conditioning !**

Directions to Holy Trinity Church are on the back of the Lunch Reservation form.



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.

OFFICE HOLDERS

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the coming of summer, we Harford County genealogy enthusiasts look with anticipation to our annual July picnic traditionally held at a local historic site. At the risk of belaboring the obvious, I find myself frequently being reminded that family research cannot be separated from place; be it community, farm, industry, house or church. As one peruses C. Milton Wright's Our Harford Heritage, family names leap from the page in virtually every paragraph. On July 15 when we visit Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Churchville, we will delight in visiting a lovingly maintained and recently refurbished historic structure; but bear in mind it is really the vibrant family stories and histories, deeply embedded in the institution, that sustain its meaning and continuity.

Guests are always welcome at all of our gatherings – bring a relative, or two; and a friend, or two; to share in our afternoon picnic and learn about the place as well as the movers and shakers connected to this piece of our Harford heritage. See you all there!!

...Arch

TREASURER'S REPORT

Estimated expenses for the balance of 2007 total \$340 for printing, postage, & speaker fees.

Only Paid Members received the May Newsletter, others received a Past Due Notice. ...Doug

Paid membership now totals 64 households. ... Mary

| Treasurer's Report | Credit | Debit | Balance |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| Balance 08-Mar-2007 | | | \$1,107.11 |
| Membership Dues | \$315.00 | | \$1,422.11 |
| Envelopes, paper | | \$26.43 | \$1,395.68 |
| Postage (SP + Newsletters) | | \$104.01 | \$1,291.67 |
| Copy & Print (SP + Newsletters) | | \$282.19 | \$1,009.48 |
| Speaker Fees | | \$50.00 | \$959.48 |
| SP37 sales | \$24.00 | | \$983.48 |
| Balance 20-May-2007 | | | \$983.48 |

FROM THE EDITOR

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

Digitized Reference Books

Some of us keep our eye open for local history books, especially those that may help to add “meat” to our family biographies or aid in our family research projects. A few of these texts are even worth adding to our personal library. Henry Peden recently brought to the attention of our members a source for “digitized” books. Although you cannot just grab it off the shelf and cozy-up for an evening perusal, digitized books can be read on your computer screen, and they can be quickly SEARCHED!

One of the biggest benefits of digitizing text is that you can easily search for surnames and other phrases. Surname indices are rarely included in printed materials, but after text has been converted to computer readable symbols you can utilize some extremely powerful tools to aid your research.

Digitizing text is not simply the scanning or photographing of a page of printed material, then storing that image in a computer file. The digitizing process actually converts to text, those shapes that appear to be characters. An Optical Character Recognition (OCR) program performs the initial conversion, and then the results are often manipulated by a human using a Word Processor program. In most cases, the human manipulator uses the same Word Processor to generate new indices and other helpful information. When completed, the finished transcript is stored in a “.pdf” (portable document format) file. The result is a duplicate of the manuscript that a modern-day author would submit to a publisher. These .pdf files are eventually “burned” to a CD for distribution.

It is not necessary to load these books onto your hard drive. Just slip the CD into your CD drive whenever you want to read them. Adobe Acrobat Reader™ is the preferred program for viewing and navigating these books, and is available free from several online locations.

Nothing worthwhile in this world is free, but the cost of a digitized text is reasonable, given the provider’s cost of acquiring a book, effort to scan the pages, effort to “manipulated by a human using a Word Processor,” effort to build indices, cost to produce CD copies, cost to market, cost to collect payment, and cost to distribute.

For the text that Henry sighted, prices on the used book market range from \$34 (reprints) to \$305 (first printing original, in excellent condition), while a CD of the same text could be had for \$25. It may look impressive to have books on your library shelf, but “-times are a changing.”

The specific text that Henry mentioned is:

Preston, Walter W, **History of Harford County, Maryland, from 1608 (The year of Smith's Expedition) to the close of The War of 1812**, originally published 1901. The exact Edition, Printing, and Publisher are not clearly stated.

The specific bookseller that Henry mentioned is:

DMK HeritagE, Automating the Pages of Time <http://www.dmkheritage.com>

Alan Buckingham has been scanning another book, and posting pages online as they are completed. These are simple images, one per page. An Index is promised after all pages are scanned, after which a .pdf formatted file may also be posted. As of mid June, about 50% of the approximately 370 page images had been posted. On the Used Book market, various editions and printings of this text sell for \$15-\$25.

The specific text that Buckingham is scanning is:

Passano, L. Magruder, **History of Maryland, Written Especially For Use In Public And Private Schools**, 5th Ed, Pub 1904 by Wm. J. C. Dulany Co., Baltimore.

The specific Mid-Atlantic Archives webpage is (*scroll down to select a specific page*):

http://www.midatlanticarchives.com/db_md_statewide/history_of_md/index.html

...by: Rich Appel

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

90 Million War Records Put Online

By DONNA BORAK, AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON - On Thursday, May 24, 2007, Ancestry.com unveiled more than 90 million U.S. war records from the first English settlement at Jamestown in 1607 through the Vietnam War's end in 1975. The site also has the names of 3.5 million U.S. soldiers killed in action, including 2,000 who have died in Iraq.

"The history of our families is intertwined with the history of our country," Tim Sullivan, chief executive of Ancestry.com, said in a telephone interview. "Almost every family has a family member or a loved one that has served their country in the military."

The records, which came from the National Archives and Records Administration, include 37 million images, draft registration cards from both world wars, military yearbooks, prisoner-of-war records from four wars, unit rosters from the Marine Corps from 1893 through 1958, and Civil War pension records, among others.

Ancestry.com, part of parent company MyFamily.com Inc., spent \$3 million to digitize the military records. It took nearly a year, including some 1,500 handwriting specialists racking up 270,000 hours to review the oldest records. The 10-year-old Provo, Utah-based company does not have every U.S. military record. Over the past four centuries, some have been lost or destroyed. Some records remain classified. However, this is the first time a for-profit Web site is featuring this many military records as part of a \$100 million investment in what Sullivan says is the largest genealogy Web site with 900,000 paying subscribers. Ancestry.com users pay \$155.40 a year for unlimited access to thousands of U.S. record databases, Sullivan said.

...courtesy Henry Peden

For those of you who were able to "Test Drive" this new database during the Free Access period last month, please send your review comments to the Editor.

When Do Harford County Records Begin?

There was a lot of email chatter in April about the beginning date for Harford County. All of us are aware that Harford County was formed from the eastern portion of Baltimore County, Maryland just prior to the Revolutionary War. After that, the specific details seem to get muddy.

The Maryland Assembly passed legislation during its November 1773 session that stated, "Be it therefore enacted... that after the second day of March next, all that part of Baltimore County, which is included within the bounds following to wit... shall be and is hereby erected into a new County, by the name of Harford." (Liber R.G. 1773 p.239 No. 6 Maryland Assembly Proceedings).

full text can be seen at <http://aomol.net/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000064/html/am64--198.html>

Harford County was established in November 1773, but was not legally functional until after Wednesday, March 02, 1774. The first Harford County land records were recorded on March 22, 1774, and our Bush Declaration was signed one year later. As genealogists, we should communicate the March 1774 date because it marks the beginning of Harford County record keeping, and helps direct other genealogists. ...Rich... plus unwary contributors -Mike Pierce, & Mary Henderson.

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

2007 Summer MdHS Genealogy Seminar

Date: **July 07, 2007** (Sat) 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Place: **Maryland Historical Society**, Baltimore, MD

Cost: **\$50/** MdHS Members, \$60/ Non-members. Fee includes light breakfast and box lunch.
Reservations required and space is limited. Call **410-685-3750 ext. 321** for reservation information.

The lecturers, Robert W. Barnes, Vernon Skinner, and Allender Sybert are all noted area genealogists, who will expand your skills with in-depth discussions of **how to use land, court and probate records in family research**. The day will include several opportunities for you to research in the MdHS Library and ask questions of the experts.

2007 Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society -Fall Conference

Date: **October 6, 2007** (Sat) 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Place: 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

2007 Harford County Public Library, Family History Month -October

Dates & Places: October 17, 2007, 6:30 PM at the HCPL **Fallston** branch,
October 23, 2007, 6:30 PM at the HCPL **Edgewood** branch, &
October 30, 2007, 7:00 PM at the HCPL **Bel Air** branch.

Our own Henry Peden and Doug Washburn will present a program, titled “**Genealogy Research in Harford County**.” The program provides insight into specific resources available to researchers in Harford County. Topics include: the Research Library, Genealogy Library, Court Records, and Archives at the Historical Society of Harford County, Wills, and Land Records at the Court House plus, a few others.

GENEALOGY RESOURCES

Allison-Antrim Museum - <http://www.greencastlemuseum.org/>

Genealogical research on your Scot-Irish ancestors may benefit from the efforts of Gordon L. Crooks, II of Cockeysville, MD, an authority on the Ulster-Scots (Scots-Irish), a historian of the Presbyterian denomination, a researcher, and a genealogist, associated with the Allison-Antrim Museum. The Museum is physically located 13 miles north of Hagerstown, MD near Interstate 81 and PA 16 -Buchanan Trail in Greencastle, PA. Gordon's genealogy web page, **The Ulster-Scots of Cumberland Valley**, can be accessed online from the upper right side of the Museum's home page. The “Great Migration” of Ulster-Scots from northern Ireland to the colonies occurred in five waves from 1717 to 1775. On his web page are links to several documents to help in your research during this period. *—Mr. Crooks contacted HCGS in April 2007.*

...continued on page 6

...*Genealogy Resources continued*

Maryland Wills online – MidAtlanticArchives.com

Cotton, Jane Baldwin, Compiler & Editor; **Maryland Calendar of Wills, Vol II, 1685-1702**; Pub. 1906, Kohn & Pollock, Balto. MD. Scanned images of each page of this volume are being posted with free online access:

http://www.MidAtlanticArchives.com/db_md_statewide/md_cal_wills_2/index.htm

As of June 2007 there are 250 pages posted. When completed, we can expect to see a searchable index. This series of **Maryland Calendar of Wills** covers the period 1635-1777 in 16 Volumes. For each Will the following details have been summarized: Testator name, Maryland County where filed, date drawn, date probated, Legatees (*takers*), Executor (*personal representative*), Overseers, Trustees, and Testees.

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY 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.

QUERIES

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

Is anyone researching the **DICK** family from Maryland? I am trying to determine a **John F. DICK**'s parentage. John F. DICK, born November 1852, Maryland; married Clara Belle (Clarissa) ERTEL, November 1877, Harrison County, Iowa. I have found a John DICK listed on the 1870 US census in Franklin, Washington County, Iowa residing with: James, 69, b. MD Mary, 56, born MD Charles, 26, born MD John, 17, born MD Rosanna, 13, born MD. This family would fit with John's age. Please contact me at: Lwsylvstr@aol.com or Lynn Wilkinson Sylvester, 447 Southern Oaks Dr, Dallas, GA 30157-8572.

Does anyone have information on the following **Thompson** family descendants? **Daniel Thompson** was born circa 1740 in Baltimore Co., MD. He died in 1816 in Harford Co., MD. He married Mary Chalk, daughter of John Chalk and Mary (---). Daniel wrote his will on 21 May 1816 which was probated on 24 Sep 1816 in Harford Co., MD. Please contact me at: ctsmithson@peoplepc.com or Christopher T. Smithson, 4219 Paddrick Road, Darlington, Maryland 21034-1034

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.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our Sunday, September 16, 2007 Society meeting will be held at the Historical Society of Harford County headquarters at 2:00 PM. Our speaker, Ms. Sharon Swope will present her program titled “**DNA, Genealogy and You, Unraveling the Mystery.**” Please mark your calendars and look for details in the SEPTEMBER 2007 issue of the NEWSLETTER.
