



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

NOVEMBER 2007

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: **Sunday, November 18, 2007** Time: **2:00 PM**

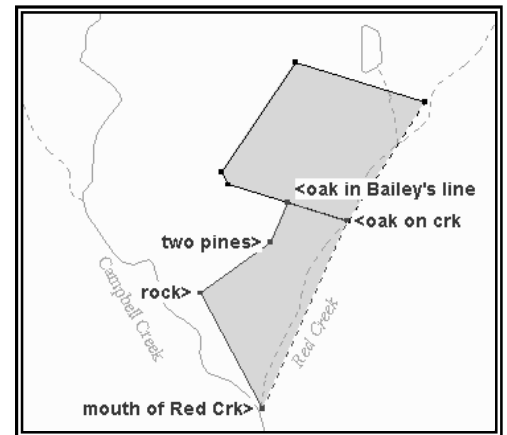
Place: **Historical Society of Harford County**
143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

Program: **Mapping 900 Early Land Patents within Harford County**

Michael Pierce & James McConnell will present their program titled "**Digging up your ancestors from the land (records).**"

Are you at a dead-end with your ancestors back in the 17th, 18th, or early 19th centuries? Are you frustrated by the lack of information in census, birth, death, and marriage records for that period? Don't overlook the land records, where many nuggets of information can be found.

We'll show you where to look, and explain the work we've done to map the 900 early land patents in Harford County and help you put it all into context. These maps are a starting point to expedite your own detailed search.



Sample from DeedMapper™ by Direct Line Software

Jim McConnell is a retired engineer, who lives in St Michaels. He has been researching his family history, beginning in Canada, New England, and South Carolina. This work has produced articles for the South Carolina Historical Society and South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research. Land records and mapping have been a major part of his research.

Mike Pierce lives in Kingsville, and he has been interested in mapping since an early age. He has spent the past 30 years tracing his family in Canada, New England, and Germany. He has mapped pre-1900 land deeds in Jerusalem Mills and Bel Air, and about 2 years ago, began mapping all of the early Harford County area land patents.

The two met through the Internet and began collaborating to complete their Harford County, MD effort. They are now working on publishing it.

Please join us for this interesting seminar.

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

From Whence Cometh Our Help???

On a recent visit to the Harford County Historical Society, I found myself sitting and pondering little or nothing as I eyed the rows of cabinets, file drawers and stacks, all neatly organized and labeled. It was then that I began to realize how this wondrous order out of otherwise chaos comes about to help a lone searcher find a much sought-after tidbit of information with ease and speed. My friends, that horrendous amount of sorting, listing, cataloging and arranging all manner of stuff is the work of a wondrous troop of volunteers. I also became aware of how easily one can go right to our research tasks and not stop to think about our volunteers' efforts, or pass on a word of support and appreciation. A bit more investigation led to the discovery that just shy of 50 stalwart souls invest more than 300 hours each week to make sense and availability of the 'stuff' we freely use (And these numbers do not include the many folks and hours devoted to preparation for special projects and activities of the Historical Society.).

As I pondered, I came to appreciate further, the extent to which the Genealogical Society and the Historical Society are integral parts of each other. Be it library, archives, court records, or family history; genealogical inquiry essentials are neatly tucked into those cabinets, file drawers, and stacks for ready access. Do take time on your next visit to 143 North Main Street and join me in a big thank you to all of our volunteers who, week in and week out, so willingly and patiently labor for all of us who cross the threshold.

With sincere appreciation- ...Arch

OFFICE HOLDERS

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IN MEMORIAM

James Franklin White, Jr. M.D. 1929 - 2007

It is with deep sorrow that we mark the passing of Jim White, a long time member of our Society, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, a local Family Physician, and good friend.

GENEALOGY FEATURE

NEW HSHC COLLECTION

Are you looking for a property inventory or a signature for an ancestor? A new, but small collection has been added to the Historical Society of Harford County Archives this summer that just might do the trick.

In 1896 the Maryland Legislature passed a Personal Property Tax Act that was in effect until 1902. During that time-period individuals, partners, trustees, administrators, guardians, agents, and corporate officers were required to Schedule (*provide an inventory with estimated values*) all “Personal Property Owned, Held, or Belonging” and Return it to a State Assessor. From this inventory, an assessor would negotiate property valuations then, along with the owner, sign and date the return.

The blank forms were printed on 17” x 14” paper folded once to make an 8-½” x 14” (legal size) pamphlet. A rare few had additional sheets for excessively large inventories. Since the inner second and third pages have text running across both sheets, they are a pain to copy.

Currently the collection resides in eleven legal size file drawers. Ten drawers are marked by Election District (1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5, & 6) plus one labeled “African-American –All Districts.” Each drawer contains folders grouped and alphabetized by the surname initial. That is, the surname of the “owner” (*i.e. individual, partner, trustee, administrator, guardian, agent, or corporate officer*) that swore to the “true, full, and complete” inventory.

In the front of each drawer, there are hand-written registers for each folder in the drawer giving the name of the “owners.” Most of the inventories were completed by individual owners, so chances of finding the desired inventory are excellent.

There are only six Election Districts in Harford County, so not knowing the exact ED is not a big handicap. The individual folder registers are slated to be entered into the HSHC Past-Perfect database for rapid searching, and without the need for the ED number.

I was able to locate my “*poor*” great grandfather James S. Cage’s Schedule quickly in the “C” folder of the only 1st Election District drawer. He owned 2 horses \$80, 1 cow \$20, 1 cart & hames \$5, household furniture \$25, and 3 shoats (young hogs) \$6, for a grand total of \$136. An assessor interviewed him and completed the form in his presence on 17 July 1896, then he just signed the oath of truthfulness.

If you are looking for Harford County, Maryland property inventories and signatures in the 1896-1902 years, this collection deserves your attention.

...Rich Appel

from an interview with Richard Sherrill, Archives Chairman, HSHC

GENEALOGY RESOURCES

Rudy’s List of Archaic Medical Terms - <http://www.antiquusmorbus.com>

Antiquus Morbus provides definitions of several thousand old medical terms, diseases, and causes of death, with modern-day equivalent terminology. This resource is helpful to those researching mortality lists, certificates of death, and church records prior to the early 1900’s.

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

Land Research Directory

<http://www.directlinesoftware.com/research.htm>

Direct Line Software, the folks who make **DeedMapper™**, a software program for working with old **land records**, hosts a simple directory of who is doing land research where. The **Land Record Research Directory** shows you over 800 citations of **who is doing LAND RECORD work** in various parts of the ~~country~~ world. Perhaps you can locate someone who has the same interest as you! Share ideas, share deeds!

Here are entries for those working with Harford County Maryland land records:

Area:	Jerusalem Mill, Bel Air
Time Period:	before 1900
Researcher:	<u>Mike Pierce</u> , 7448 Bradshaw Rd., Kingsville, MD 21087
Area:	Bush River, Cranberry Run, Perryman/Aberdeen
Family names:	Patterson, Hall, Little, Presbury, Carville, Phillips
Researcher:	<u>Susan Buyer</u> , 11805 Charen Lane, Potomac, MD 20854
Time Period:	to present
Watercourse:	Back R., Middle R., Gunpowder River. , Bear Cr.
Researcher:	<u>Michael Eder</u> , 7 Inverness Way, Bel Air, MD 21014

HCGS eMail List

Our Society sponsors the MDHARFOR-L@rootsweb.com online eMail List, and one of our members serves as its custodian. This mailing list is for discussion of genealogy of Harford County families (including families of the part of Baltimore County that became Harford County in 1774).

During September and October, participants in our Society's eMail List started posting names that represent "Brick Walls" to their research efforts. The table below is an attempt to compile a sampling of the current "Brick Wall" names, in hopes of encouraging more participation. Participation includes sharing useful information, as well as collecting it.

Most of the researching blocks seem to be in the 1700s & early 1800s where information is scarce.

<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>GIVEN NAMES</u>
Adams	Charles, Margaret, Richard, Richard Jr
Amos	Benjamin Bradford
Beach	Martha C, Morris
Brady	James
Barrett	Catherine, Elijah, Samuel
Brown	Katherine
Cooper	Ann, Henry, Susannah
Denbow	John
Dick	David, Elizabeth, James, Robert, Thomas
Divers	Elizabeth Ann
Donahue/Donahoo	Eleanor, Elizabeth, Henry, Roger
Eden	Benjamin, Elizabeth, Jeremiah, Mary, Sarah, William
Griffith	George, John, Mary, Samuel, William
Harris	Hannah

continued on page 5...

HCGS eMail List...continued

<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>GIVEN NAMES</u>
Heusler	Elizabeth, George, Georgianna, Joseph G, Louisa, Mary, Thomas, William G
Honoré'	Jean Antoine {John Anthony}
James	Elizabeth, Harriett, Joshua, Joseph, Katherine, Mary A
Jones	Dulsabella, Mary Ann
Kimberly	Mary
Leonard/Lennen	Francis
McFadden	Eliza, Elizabeth, Hannah J, Henry, Hugh B, James, John, John Jr, John H, John L, Laura T, Lydia, Margaret, Margaret Susan, Mary Ann, Mary C, Minerva, Robert, Robert O, Sallie, Sarah, Thomas, William, [plus modern day JoAnn McFadden]
Madden	Mary
McVey	Frances, Jonathan
Mitchell	Elizabeth, Thomas
Moulton/Molton	Charles Lewis
Quinlan	James
Ricketts	Mary, Rachel, William Blackiston, William H
Riley	Charlotte, Daniel, Doris, Elizah F, Georgeanna, James, Jemima, John, Laura, Lillian, Nancy Ann, Nancy C, Sarah B, Zachariah
Simpson	Martha C
Skipworth	George
Smith	Thomas
Smithson	Sarah
Stansbury	Darius, George
Stephens	Mary
Taylor	Cornelius, John, Moses, Thomas (Capt.), William
Thompson	Sarah
Thurston	Thomas
Turner	Abel, Ann, Elizabeth, Joseph, Thomas, Mary, William
Wann	Mary
Wilbourne	Ann, Edward, Thomas, William
Welch	Dulsabella, Elizabeth, Susannah, William
Wheeler	Bennett, Ignatius (Col.), Mary
Willett	Mary
Williams	John, Mary
Wilson	Mary
Wood	Elizabeth, Joshua, Margaret
Wayne	Mary Ann, Thomas

To subscribe to the list, send a service request to MDHARFOR-L-REQUEST@rootsweb.com with the word "**subscribe**" in the subject line and body of the message. When your interest wanes, please unsubscribe to the list by sending a service request with the word "**unsubscribe**" in the subject line and body of the message.

Subscribers receive a copy of every eMail posted. In order to reduce Mailbox clutter you might want to setup a separate eMail folder and create a Message Rule that files these postings automatically.

Let them know if you are willing to help with details, or tell them about good sources of information.

...Rich Appel

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

2007 Harford County Public Library, Family History Month -October

Date & Place: **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.

Maryland Genealogical Society Annual Fall Seminar

Date: **November 03, 2007** (Sat) 8:15 AM – 4:30 PM

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

For Details & Registration form: www.mdgensoc.org

The Program is titled **Finding Your Ancestors In State & On the Web.** and features guest speakers Claire Bettag, CG CGL & Patricia O. Shawker, CG. Each speaker will give two lectures. For details, registration form, lunch menu, parking, etc. go to:

http://www.mdgensoc.org/2007_Fall%20Seminar_page%201.html

This program consists of four presentations by two nationally recognized Certified Genealogists: Claire Bettag and Patricia Shawker. Lectures are titled: **Assumptions in Genealogical Research: Your Own Worst Enemy, National Archives Records and Information at Your Fingertips, Maryland Online, and The Old Line State: Research at the Maryland State Archives.**

Maryland Historical Society -Library Orientation Series:

Date: **November 17, 2007** (Sat) **9:10 AM – 9:55 AM**

January 19, 2008 (Sat) **9:10 AM – 9:55 AM**

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

Registration: Not Required, \$6.00 Admission Fee for non MdHS members.

Details: see http://www.mdhs.org/explore/library/user_info.html

Introduction to Genealogical Research

The library staff holds Library orientation sessions on the third Saturday of each month (excluding December). The 45-minute sessions will begin at 9:10 a.m. in the Library. Sessions are free with library admission. Library hours are 10 AM – 4:30 PM Wed-Sat.

MARCH MEETING

There will be no “Winter” Meetings until March. Our **Sunday, March 16, 2008** Society meeting will be held at the Historical Society of Harford County headquarters at 2:00 PM. Our speaker, **Ms. Wanda Barnes Hall**, Assistant Archivist at **Lovely Lane Museum and Archives**, will present a program dealing with **Methodist Church related Archives and Research Services available at the Lovely Lane Museum in Baltimore City, Maryland.**

There will be a brief business meeting at the start of the gathering. Please, mark your calendars and look for details in the MARCH 2008 issue of the NEWSLETTER.