



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

March 2008

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: **Sunday, March 16, 2008** Time: **2:00 PM**

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

Program: **Methodist Church Archives and Research Services**



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.**

Ms. Hall has been with the Methodist Historical Society in Baltimore for four years, and loves getting paid to research family histories. She also teaches "Beginning Genealogy" at Harford Community College. To keep abreast of the latest happenings, she attends National conventions, local shows, and is a member of the Carroll County, Frederick County, Howard County, and Baltimore County Genealogical Societies.

Please join us for an inside look at the Lovely Lane Museum and Archives, in downtown Baltimore.

REMINDER

2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Attached is our 2008 Membership Application and Renewal form for the convenience of those who have not yet paid. Payment is requested immediately.

The free-to-members Special Publication is back from the printer and will be distributed to paid members during the March meeting. This year our Special Publication is No. 38, **Volume II of the J.C. Taylor Marble Works**, that covers the years 1891-1893, 1906, & 1925-1926. In this issue the index has been expanded to cover every surname mentioned, not just the "ordered by" surnames.

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

Archives Saved The Day

In anticipation of our upcoming March 16 program on Methodist Church archives, I was reminded of my own experience in which church archives saved the day.

When Jim Dalmas and I were working on the History of Christ Church at Rock Spring in preparation for the Bicentennial, we discovered that all vestry minutes prior to 1962 were non-existent. Consequently, had it not been for reports and documents residing in the Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland our work would have come to a sudden and wilting halt.

The nature and content of church archives varies considerably among denominations, from virtually none to all but overwhelming. Following the tradition of the Church of England from its earliest days, every Episcopal parish is required to maintain records of all births baptisms, and burials. These are held in trust within each parish. But in addition, every parish in the *Episcopal Church of the United States of America* (official name of the denomination) is required by Canon Law to file an annual parochial report with the Diocese.

In recent years parochial reports in the Episcopal Church have become primarily statistical accountings of membership, attendance, and financial statements, etc – all bones and no meat. In earlier years, however, they were rich sources of information about any particular parish. While they followed a more or less established format, many were informally written and noted numbers of communicants, Sunday school attendance, etc. They reported parish growth (or not); how buildings were changing; how African-Americans were being included (or not) in the life of the parish, donors of land, memorials received; sources of silver, brass and stained glass; how women contributed long before they were allowed to serve on vestries; and names of vestry members and Diocesan lay delegates, for example. In some instances we found complete lists of all communicants – often naming early movers and shakers in Harford County. The list could go on.

Jim and I spent days pouring over every parochial report from Rock Spring from 1803 forward, uncovering new insights with every page we turned. Without the blessings of those dusty, archival records, we could not possibly have re-created the rich past of that historic little church nestled across the road from Klein's in Forest Hill. It is the services of church archives, Methodist, Episcopal, and others alike, that enables us to continue our ancestral searches. For this, we give many thanks to all archivists.

Given the experience related above, I look forward with great interest as Wanda Hall speaks to us about the mother-love collection of Methodist Church archives held in the Lovely Lane Museum.

See you all on the 16th!.....Arch

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GENEALOGY FEATURE

PERSONAL CONTACTS AID FAMILY RESEARCH

by Millie Phillips

It should come as no surprise to many of you that one of the most useful sources of help in research comes from personal contacts. In my case, this proved to be the single most important aspect of my research.

Arch and I recently returned from a trip to Germany and Austria. One of our goals was to visit the birthplace of my grandfather who, unfortunately, I never knew. I wanted to learn more about him and his family and their lives in Germany before their immigration to the U.S. in the 1890's.

Prior to this trip, I had been working on a manuscript about the family and was having difficulty getting information from German records. Fortunately, I was able to connect with two valuable sources of information. One was the **German Genealogical Society of Southern California** (they have an extensive library of German records). Through several e-mail contacts with one of the researchers, I was able to get some information on the tiny village of Adelmansfelden, the birthplace of my grandfather. It is located in southern Germany, NE of Stuttgart. The researcher in California was very congenial and I almost felt, after our several correspondences, that we were close friends.

The other source of information came from a relative of one of my 2nd cousins. This person lives in Germany and, of course, would have first hand knowledge of the culture and customs of the German people. The most important information from him turned out to be the name and address of the Town Hall in Adelmansfelden. Subsequently, I wrote to them and, at first, didn't receive a reply.

It was possible, I surmised, that no one spoke English, so heeding the advice of my researcher friend from California, I asked a close friend to compose a similar letter in German. Bingo!! I promptly received a reply – in German!!! It quickly became apparent that language could become a barrier to our communication with the locals. Fortunately, I was able to encourage this same friend, who was born and raised in Germany, to accompany us on the German leg of our journey, after which she planned to visit her hometown. So armed with a translator, we set off.

Needless to say, our visit to Adelmansfelden proved excitingly successful. We found the birth records of all of the children, all 16 of them!!! Also, we found the marriage records of my great-grandparents, which in turn, was helpful in discovering the names of their parents. I now could continue with my research on my grandfather and his family.

Without these personal contacts, I'm afraid I would have ended up spinning my wheels and going nowhere.

GENEALOGY RESOURCES

Maryland Genealogy Web Project (Maryland) - <http://www.mdgenweb.org/>

The **USGenWeb Project** consists of a group of volunteers working together to provide free genealogy websites for genealogical research in every county and every state of the United States. Organization is by county and state, and this website provides links to all the state genealogy websites which, in turn, provide gateways to the counties. **The link above is to the Maryland page.** The USGenWeb Project also sponsors important Special Projects at the national level and this website provides an entry point to all of those pages, as well.

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

DIGITIZING CLOSED CHURCH RECORDS

The United Methodist Historical Society Board has signed a contract with Archive CDBooksUSA.com to digitize closed church records for the Lovely Lane Museum & Archives. They will be using state of the art techniques, which include "cleaning the page" of smudges, extra ink marks, etc. This will make the records much easier to view. However, since these records are handwritten, they were not able to use Optical Character Recognition processes therefore automated text searching is not available. [Lovely Lane description]

The UM Historical Society will offer copies of these CD's for sale at a cost of \$19.95 each, plus postage of \$1.00 per CD. Quantity discounts are available.

So far, they have: **East Baltimore Station.**- from 1801-1885; 1886-1908; and 1907-1958.

Soon to be ready are: **Broadway ME** - from 1868-1928.

Please contact the Lovely Lane Museum for ordering. **410-889- 4458** or Lovlnmus@cavtel.net

MARYLAND VOICES OF THE CIVIL WAR

Here is a book that caught my attention last month. In it the editor organizes excerpts from hundreds of civil war era letters, to chronicle the period from 1860 to 1865. The text is well organized, covering the Maryland portion of the war competently.

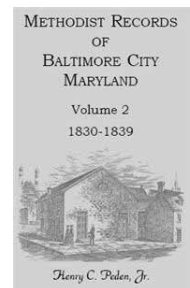
I was very pleased that the text contained surnames in the index, but saddened that Appel, Cage, Miskimon, and [my] Baker were not included. I did find letters from Jarrettsville family members Kirkwood and Cathcart. Personally, I could not read it like a novel. It was torturous getting through personal letters and diary entries, with their minimal punctuation, horrible grammar, and old style of speech.

"In Maryland Voices of the Civil War, Charles W. Mitchell draws upon hundreds of letters, diaries, and period newspapers—many previously unpublished—to portray the passions of a wide variety of people—merchants, slaves, soldiers, politicians, freedmen, women, clergy, slave owners, civic leaders, and children—caught in the emotional vise of war. Maryland Voices of the Civil War illuminates the human complexities of the Civil War era and the political realignment that enabled Marylanders to abolish slavery in their state before the end of the war." [JHU Press description]

\$35.00 hardcover ISBN 978-0-8018-8621-8 © 2007, 568 pp. 41 halftones, 52 line drawings

METHODIST RECORDS OF BALTIMORE CITY, Vol. 2, 1830-1839

By Henry C. Peden, Jr. Baltimore Lovely Lane in Baltimore City was the location of the meeting in 1794 which founded the Methodist Episcopal Church of America; and the city became a fertile ground for the rapid growth of Methodism. The mere existence of Methodist records this early is somewhat unusual. There are few records in the state before 1850 despite the phenomenal growth of Methodist churches in Maryland during this period. From these records Mr. Peden has abstracted marriages, births, and deaths, and has extracted information on deaths and removals from the membership and class lists. Marriages begin in 1799; marriages of "coloured people" begin in 1807. Baptisms begin in 1799; deaths in 1800. A brief history of the early Methodist churches of Baltimore City is given. (1994), 2005, 5½x8½, paper, index, 290 pp. **\$23.50 Heritage Books** Code P0361 ISBN: 1585493619 ****At Printer**** available mid March 2008. [Heritage Books description]



GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

Maryland Genealogical Society Annual Spring Luncheon

Date: **March 08, 2008** (Sat) 12:00 noon

Place: **Candle Light Inn, Catonsville, Maryland**

For Details & Registration form: www.mdgensoc.org

The Program is titled **Maryland Women I Would Like To Have Known** and features guest speaker Dr. Gregory A. Stiverson. This talk will highlight several of the many fascinating women in Maryland's history. For details, advance registration form, lunch menu, parking, etc. go to: <http://www.mdgensoc.org/whatsnew.html>

Lunch menu consists of Salad, Entree, coffee or tea, and Ice Cream. Entries are Chicken Cordon Bleu, Fresh Broiled Salmon, or Tenderloin Tips Burgundy. Lunch price is \$25.00

Maryland Historical Society -Library Orientation Series:

Date: March 15, 2008 (Sat) 9:10 AM – 9:55 AM	Using Special Collections
April 19, 2008 (Sat) 9:10 AM – 9:55 AM	Introduction to Building Research
May 17, 2008 (Sat) 9:10 AM – 9:55 AM	Introduction to Genealogical Research
August 16, 2008 (Sat) 9:10 AM – 9:55 AM	Finding Photographs

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

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

Details: see <http://www.mdhs.org/explore/library/research/Orientation.html>

Introduction to Genealogical Research

The library staff holds Library orientation sessions on the third Saturday of Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Aug, Sep, Oct, & Nov. The 45-minute sessions begin at 9:10 a.m. in the Library. Library hours are 10 AM – 4:30 PM Wed-Sat.

Lancaster Family History 29th Annual Conference

Date: **April 19, 2008** (Sat) 8:00-9:00 AM Registration (discounts for pre 03/15/08 registration)
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM Conference \$85, 12:30 PM Lunch \$18, 6:00 PM Banquet \$28

Place: **Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, PA**

For Details & Registration form e-mail: Donna.Pflum@lancasterhistory.org

The Program is titled **C.S.I. Meets Roots –How DNA and forensics change the way we research family history**. Twenty lectures are scheduled over four sessions after the keynote speech by Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD, genealogy author and columnist.

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2008 Conference

Date: **September 3-6, 2008**

Place **Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA**

Registration : Full Conference Registration (Wed. through Sat.)

Postmarked by June 02, 2008 = \$175 afterwards = \$225.

For Details: see <http://www.fgsconference.org/registration/index.php>

The Federation sponsors a national conference each year at different sites around the country for genealogists of all levels of experience. The conferences spotlight:

- Management workshops for organizational leadership training.
- Genealogical lectures by nationally recognized speakers and regional experts.
- Exhibitors providing access to genealogical materials and supplies.

HCGS eMAIL LIST

Our Society sponsors a mailing list for the discussion of genealogy related to Harford County families, including families of the part of Baltimore County that became Harford County in 1774. Let them know if you are willing to help with details, or tell them about good sources of information.

To correspond: Use MDHARFOR-L@rootsweb.com

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

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

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

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Harford County Genealogical Society publications can be purchased from the receptionist at the front desk of The Historical Society of Harford County. For a complete list of publications and prices, see our web page at: <http://www.rtis.com/reg/md/org/hcgs/pubs.htm>

For mail orders, please add \$2.00 postage for the first publication, plus 50 cents for each additional publication ordered. Maryland residents, add 6% MD Sales Tax. Make checks payable, in U.S. funds only, to “The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.” Address orders to: ATTN: Genealogical Pubs, The Historical Society of Harford County, 143 N MAIN ST, BEL AIR MD 21014-3539.

FROM THE EDITOR

SURNAMES AS GIVEN NAMES

We are still interested in collecting examples of Harford County persons with Surnames as Given Names. Please submit your illustration to the Editor at the address in our banner.

ARTICLES

I am not able to “see all” or “read all,” so make it a habit to tell the Editor about what’s happening, what you found, new places to search, good experiences, and the like. Send me an email, or drop a note in our Society’s mail-drawer. Feel free to call me at 410-692-6100 and chat, if you prefer.

...Rich

MAY MEETING

Our **Sunday, May 18, 2008** Society meeting will be held at the Historical Society of Harford County headquarters at 2:00 PM. Our program will be an introduction and demonstration of the **PastPerfect™** Museum Software being used by the Historical Society of Harford County. This software allows users to search consolidated indexes of the Historical Society from a single query screen. Thumbnail images of archived material are available for many entries.

Please, mark your calendars and look for details in the MAY 2008 issue of the NEWSLETTER.
