



# NEWSLETTER

of the

**HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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

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May 2008

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## NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: **Sunday, May 18, 2008** Time: **2:00 PM**

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

Program: **Using PastPerfect™ at the Historical Society of HA Co.**

Our speaker, **Mrs. Judy Rogers** will present to us an introduction and demonstration of the **PastPerfect™** Museum Software being implemented 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 materials are also available for many entries.



Her talk will introduce us to features and contents of this new electronic catalog that will eventually replace existing card catalogs. After laying this groundwork, Judy will teach our group how we can search the HSHC collections using PastPerfect™ especially for items pertaining to genealogy.

Mrs. Rogers is the PastPerfect Team leader at **Historical Society of Harford County**, and is presently coordinating efforts of converting the HSHC print index to an electronic index as well as collecting and entering different databases that have been compiled by many of the volunteers of the HSHC.

Judy comes to the HSHC well prepared for this task. She has taught in the Harford County Public School system for 34 years, the last 24 as a media specialist. During her tenure as a media specialist, she supervised computer networks that included research and circulation software, where she was responsible for converting tens of thousands of items, both book & audiovisual items, from a card catalog system to an electronic database. She also trained others in the use of this software.

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### **MEETING SCHEDULE: March, May, July, September, & November**

We hold five meetings per year, usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### THANKS FOR THE HELP!!!

My message for this issue is a big **thank you** to all members who took the time and effort to complete and return our program desires questionnaire included in the January Newsletter. Your responses confirm that program and activity interests of our members range across the spectrum.

For example, the data tell us that there is virtually equal interest in programs on church records, court records, post office records and military records. Suggestions of other program topics were nearly as numerous as the respondents. Some more prominent items included how to validate documentation of research evidence, member reports on their respective projects, genealogy software reviews, newspaper research via the internet, plus fact and fiction in obituary notices among an abundance of other ideas.

Do know that your comments and suggestions will be given serious consideration by the Board of Advisors. In the meantime, as other thoughts and possibilities pop into your heads, please send them our way. We board members continue to seek guidance on publication topics, means of building our membership and increasing member involvement; as well as suggestions on regular program features.

Thanks again for you thoughtful assistance – see you May 18<sup>th</sup> when we have a stellar program to bring us up to speed on new technology at the Historical Society of Harford County to enhance our research abilities.

...Arch

### GIFTS FROM LOVELY LANE MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

During our March meeting, Ms. Wanda Barnes Hall, assistant archivist at Lovely Lane Museum & Archives in Baltimore City, bestowed us with gifts. Since we have merged our collections with the HSHC, they were subsequently transferred to the Historical Society for cataloging and preservation.

The following is an inventory of these gifts:

*Pamphlet*; “Havre de Grace UM Church, A Historical Sketch of the Church 1773-1976”

*Booklet*; “A Brief History of Cokesbury Memorial Church 1794-1983,” Price, Richard

*Booklet*; “Presbury Methodist Church 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1772-1972;” 5”x8” ~20 pages

*Booklet*; “History of Jarrettsville Methodism 1805-1945;” ~50 pages

*Booklet*; “One Hundredth Anniversary, Centre Methodist Church 1865-1965;” 7”x11” ~14 pages.

*Booklet*; Illustrated Annual for the year 1887, by the Havre de Grace Republican; 5”x8” ~100 pages

*Notes*: Jos. E. Eggleston, Dealer in Hardware, Tinware, Woodenware, Pumps and Agricultural Implements, General Blacksmithing, Machine Repairing, and Plow Work a Specialty. Jarrettsville, MD March 11<sup>th</sup> 1898; 4 sheets 5”x8”

*Report Card*; Union School, Harford Co; Student: Emma Norris; Parent: Cardiff D. Norris; 1858

### DIRECTORY

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**eMail:** [HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net](mailto:HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net)

## GENEALOGY FEATURE

### STEAMBOATS OUT OF BALTIMORE

Along the journey to put “meat” on bare-bones genealogy, I have been reading *Steamboats out of Baltimore*, Maryland. In particular I am seeking information related to a great-grandfather, a private in the Civil War, who was detached with a couple of squads to guard the steamer *Balloon* on the lower eastern shore. Moreover, if by some chance I fell across an early 1900s bay Captain James Mathaney, another ancestor, that would be a bonus.

Every steamboat, side-wheel and screw, every steamboat captain, every steamboat company, every steamboat company executive, and a few others are mentioned along with a little “meat.” I am talking about a plethora of steamers, not just the *Tolchesters* (there were three), *Betterton*, *Bay Belle*, *Rock Creek*, and *Stony Creek*. This story starts with the first steamboat out of Baltimore, which was built in Baltimore in 1813 and named *Chesapeake*, all the way through the last survivor the *S.S. Potomac* taken out of service in 1967. All of which were STEAM powered vessels.

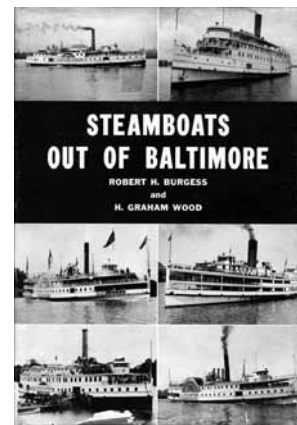
As for surnames, this text abounds. I counted 253 individual persons named in the index. These included local Harford County surnames like Carr, Davis, Harlan, O’Neill, and Turner. About two dozen persons, usually Captains, were identified in photographs.

This text chronicles the birth, life, and death of hundreds of steamers that frequented the port of Baltimore between 1813 and 1940. Each boat is represented by a short story that includes popular routes, and Captains. Many of these vessels burned to the deck, and then refurbished to sail again. The authors were avid photographers and included 282 illustrations of boats, wharfs, Captains, and schedules. It is definitively not a novel, just a compilation of detailed facts, with a few graphical stories of major accidents.

What I knew from military orders was that Brig-Gen. Dix sent the steamer *Balloon*, at that time in the service of the U.S. Government, to Salisbury (Wicomico River port) to intercept smuggled goods headed for Virginia. Dix also ordered Gen Lockwood to provide security for the *Balloon*. The great-grandfather’s service record shows he was one of the Union soldiers in this security detachment, from October to December 1861. Unfortunately, this text only mentions the steamer *Balloon* after being purchased by a Capt. Standberg in March of 1866. Not all was lost, because now I have an image of a typical side-wheel steamer of that era, plus several new sources mentioned in this book that I absolutely must track down. It just goes to show you that the fun in genealogy is also in the hunt for the “meat!”

“Burgess, Robert H. & Wood, H. Graham; *Steamboats Out Of Baltimore*; Tidewater Pubs; 1968; 236 pages; call no. 386.22B.

...Rich Appel




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### 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, 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.

## GENEALOGY RESOURCES

### HISTORY OF HARFORD COUNTY, MD –Preston

Here is a book that most of us want in our personal library. Walter Preston published his first edition of this early history “1608 ...1812,” of our area, in 1901. I have seen used copies on sale with prices ranging from \$28.50 to \$308.77, depending on condition and edition plus S/H.

In the July 2007 issue of this Newsletter, I mentioned that this book was available in .pdf form on a CD for about \$25.00. Now you can have your very own copy for free, just download it! You get a fully searchable 6.2MB .pdf file that can be viewed with Adobe’s free Acrobat Reader program.

Go to <http://books.google.com> and search on “Preston, History of Harford County,” then click on the result with “Full view” in its description. From the Navigation Bar on the right, select “**Download** PDF – 6.2M”

Preston, Walter Wilkes; *History of Harford County, Maryland From 1608 (The year of Smith’s Expedition) to the close of the War of 1812*; Press of Sun Book Office, Baltimore, MD; 1901; 360pp.

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## 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 Harford County Genealogical Society” Address orders to: ATTN: Genealogical Pubs, The Harford County Genealogical Society, 143 N MAIN ST, BEL AIR MD 21014-3539.

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## GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

### Maryland Historical Society -Family History Workshop Series:

Date: **June 7, 2008 (Sat) 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Program: **Land, Court, and Probate Records**

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

**For Details and Registration** Call 410-685-3750 ext. 321 or email [ekimes@mdhs.org](mailto:ekimes@mdhs.org)

Sessions (watch for additional dates) will include continental breakfast and box lunch. Each session is \$40/ MdHS Member, \$50/ non-members, or you may purchase the series for \$140/ MdHS members and \$175/ non-members.

Join noted author and genealogist **Robert Barnes** for this new series of workshops designed to introduce new family historians to techniques and allow seasoned researchers to find new resources. Mr. Barnes will be joined by guest speakers throughout the series. Each session will include a chance to ask questions of our experts and a chance to visit the MdHS Museum and Library during breaks. All sessions will include information on both print and online sources.

Date: **October 4, 2008 (Sat) 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Program: **Immigration & Naturalization Records**

**Maryland Genealogical Society BASICS+ Summer Workshop "Census Records"**

Date: **July 26, 2008 (Sat)** Reg: 12:30 PM Sessions: **1:00 – 5:00 PM**

Place: **McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, MD**

Free parking is available within a short walk of the workshop site.

Registration: before July 20<sup>th</sup> = \$15.00 (MdGenSoc members), \$20.00 (non-members)  
after July 19<sup>th</sup> and walk-ins will be assessed an additional \$5.00

For Details: see <http://www.mdgensoc.org/>

The Maryland Genealogical Society & The National Archives Present "*Census Records.*"

**Staff from the National Archives and Records Administration** will share their knowledge on United States census records, some of our most valuable genealogical sources. The workshop will both highlight the fundamentals and offer in-depth insights. Presentations will address both widely used and less well-known census schedules, including: **general population schedules, 1890 veterans schedule, 1850 & 1860 slave schedules, 1880 dependent/delinquent/deficient, mortality schedules, agriculture schedules, manufacturing schedules, plus social statistics schedules.**

**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.

**Maryland Historical Society -Library Orientation Series:**

The library staff holds Library orientation sessions titled **Introduction to Genealogical Research** 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.

Topics, that rotate each session, include: **Using Special Collections, Introduction to Building Research, Introduction to Genealogical Research, Finding Photographs, & Introduction to Building Research.**

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>

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## 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, send eMail to: [MDHARFOR-L@rootsweb.com](mailto:MDHARFOR-L@rootsweb.com)

**To subscribe** or request service, send eMail to: [MDHARFOR-L-REQUEST@rootsweb.com](mailto: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.

Here are extracts from some recent inquiries posted on the **Harford MailList**. Only 25% of our society members are subscribers, so these are presented to spark your interest in sharing answers and questions with other subscribing genealogy enthusiast.

### Bishop, Issac

information on Isaac Bishop b/1815 per the 1860 Harford, Havre de Grace census, the 1870 census shows him born abt. 1819, the 1880 census show about 1830,. so I'm not sure his exact birth date. However, he was married to Rachel b/b/t 1815 and 1820. Isaac was in a magazine as a decoy carver about 1880. his trade according to the census was a carpenter. They raised their grandson Gus Bishop who was born abt. 1875. They lived in Havre de Grace from the 1860 census to the 1880 census and have lost them after that. [Leta Sheaffer]

### Books We Own Website

here is the url to search and sign up for this site. What is really nice is the fact that once you sign up, you don't have to leave your house to help someone. You just reach up on the shelf and get the book!

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~bwo/>

### Donahue / Donahoo

information on the origins, birthplace, or parents of Henry Donahue who d. in Harford County in 1722, and his wife, Honor \_\_\_ (who m. after Henry's death to Jeremiah Henley). Three known children -- Roger (m. Elizabeth Gilbert), Henry (m. Rachel Smithson), and Eleanor (m. (1) William Hunter, (2) John Kinsey). At least some of Roger's descendants went by the surname Donahoo. [Gordon Bonnet]

### Moore, Jonathan

searching for...Jonathan Moore born around 1808 in Sussex County Delaware but believe his parents may have moved up from Maryland. [Kathy Stillings Moore]

### Sanders, James & Blanche

grandparents lived in Aberdeen for years. He was a retired CWO. Their name was James and Blanche Sanders. He retired from the Army and the Post Office on APG. Any info? Or where to look? [Ron Byrd]

### Stillings, James

Searching for parents of James Stillings, married to Mary Barnes. James born 1785 in Harford County, was a constable there for several years and moved to Ohio in 1829. The Barnes genealogy is a published one, it's James that is the toughie. [Kathy Stillings Moore]

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## JULY MEETING

Our **Sunday, July 20, 2008** Society meeting will be held at Harford County's **EDEN MILL Historic Mill Museum** in Pylesville at 2:00 PM. Our tour guide will be Roland Beckman who will discuss the History and Families of the area starting in 1805 with the house and gristmill that Elijah Stansbury built on more than 200 acres. Family surnames associated with the mill include Eden, Stansbury, Anderson, Smith, Mays, McFadden, Vaughn, and Webb.

Please, mark your calendars for a delightful experience and picnic. Look for details and lunch orders in the JULY 2008 issue of the NEWSLETTER.

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