



# NEWSLETTER

of the

**HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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

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**November 2008**

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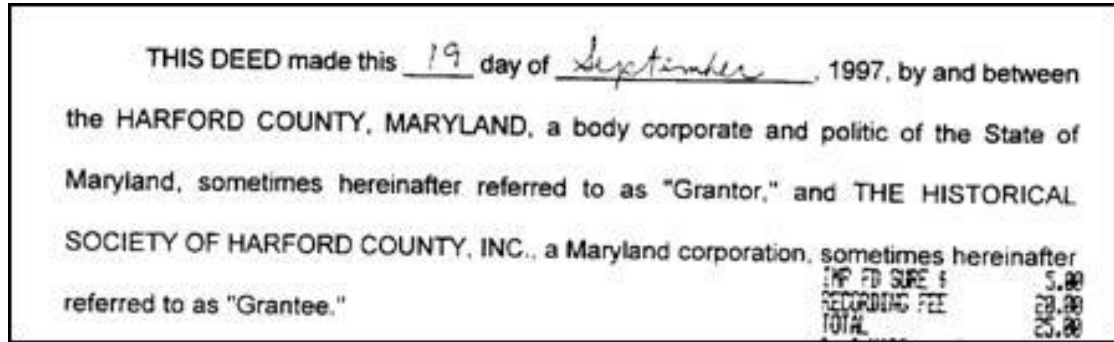
## NOTICE OF MEETING

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

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

Program: **Deed Searching using Maryland's Digital Imaging System.**

Our speakers, members of our own society, **Douglas Washburn** and **Richard Appel**, will demonstrate searching deeds online using the Maryland Digital Imaging System for Land Records. Our July 2008 Newsletter featured a quick look a how to find deed documents using this system. Since that time, many comments have been received that indicate a desire for a live tutorial and hands-on activities to better understand the available features.



Sample Search Result -portion of a deed for the Historical Society HQ building.

As Doug and I began to use this resource, we started making notes of our mistakes and surprises. We hope to share with you some of this pain and show you the system's versatility and ease of use. Doug will tell us by example, how he traversed this system and found new information about his ancestors here in Harford County. Rich will provide a brief example of navigating to and logging onto the system.

Our hope is that we can convince you how wonderful and inexpensive it is to research deeds without having to visit the Harford County Court House -no parking fees, no lunch bills, no security screening, no lugging around heavy deed books, and free copies of deeds.

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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, July, 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 May meeting is a box lunch held at various historical locations in the county.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

How quickly time passes! Can it possibly be election time again for the HCGS? Over the past two years it has been my privilege to get to know many of you better, to meet new folks and interact with numerous interesting and informative contributors to our programs. Our accomplishments during my tenure would not have been possible without a thoughtful, diligent, and supportive Board of Advisors; and to them, a big thank you! We are all deeply indebted to Rich Appel and Doug Washburn whose tireless efforts have made possible our publications, and in particular Rich, for his yeoman's work to produce a stellar newsletter, and Doug for maintaining our website.

A new election is upon us and you will see at a glance few new faces on the ballot. Numerous members were asked and declined the invitation to serve. A viable organization has a vibrant and growing membership. It is membership that makes possible quality programs, publications, and services to the members. Hence, I challenge each of us to pledge to bring at least one or more new members into the Genealogical Society of Harford County in the coming weeks.

Your Board of Advisors has had several discussions about the impact of a declining membership. Starting now, a serious and successful membership campaign will assure continuation of quality programs and activities, and will inject new ideas, new resources, and renewable energy into a long established, working society. See each of you, plus one, on Nov. 16.

...Arch

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## NOVEMBER HCGS ELECTIONS

This November is the time for our biennial changing of the guard. Please plan to attend this meeting, cast your vote, and support those who keep our society ticking.

**Nominations for Elected offices will be open until the voting at our November meeting.** Currently the nominees are: President –**Arch Phillips**, Vice President –**Jon Livezey**, Secretary –**Rich Appel**, Treasurer –**Doug Washburn**, and three Board of Advisor Members –**Claire Blackmer**, **Mary White**, and **Chris Smithson**. All of the incumbents are more than willing to step-aside for new blood, willing to help our Society. Volunteers for any or all positions are still welcomed.

Our **Nominating Committee** has been struggling to attract new candidates for office and urges all members to submit nominations, including yourself. Please contact Rich Appel by eMail, or by snail-mail Attn: Richard Appel, c/o HCGS; 143 N Main St. Bel Air, MD 21014-3539, or at [richard.appel3@verizon.net](mailto:richard.appel3@verizon.net) with your willingness to serve our Society, and preferred contact method.

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## DIRECTORY

<b>President:</b>	Arch Phillips	<a href="mailto:anmphil@gis.net">anmphil@gis.net</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jon Harlan Livezey	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Doug Washburn	<a href="mailto:Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net">Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net</a>
<b>Secretary, Recording:</b>	Gwyn Poole	
<b>Secretary, Corresponding:</b>	Mary White	<a href="mailto:Dundoccin@clearviewCATV.net">Dundoccin@clearviewCATV.net</a>
<b>Board of Advisors At Large:</b>	Claire Blackmer, Mary White,	
<b>Inquiries &amp; Publications:</b>	Doris Barben	<a href="mailto:dBarben@aol.com">dBarben@aol.com</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Rich Appel	<a href="mailto:Richard.Appel3@verizon.net">Richard.Appel3@verizon.net</a>
<b>Web Site:</b>	<a href="http://www.rtis.com/reg/md/org/hcgs/">www.rtis.com/reg/md/org/hcgs/</a>	<b>eMail:</b> <a href="mailto:HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net">HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net</a>

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## GENEALOGY RESOURCES

### Civil War "Widows' Pension" Applications

Approved pension applications of widows and other dependents of Civil War veterans who served between 1861 and 1910 are now becoming available online.

The first digital output of an ongoing project to digitize and index Civil War Widows' Pension Files and put them on the Internet, is now available from <http://www.footnote.com>. In cooperation with the National Archives and FamilySearch™, the first batch of about 5,700 records has been released.

After the Civil War, the Dependent Pension Act of June 27, 1890, was approved to allow for widows and dependents of men who served, survived the war, and then died afterward to apply for pension benefits.

The files are grouped under the soldier's name, but the widow's name and names of minor children are listed on the first page within the pension file. A pensioner's name (typically the widow's) is searchable, often giving her maiden name as well. Case files include where and when a man served, details of his service, his life before the war, and his family, including information about his widow, children, and sometimes his parents. These files are previously un-filmed textual records.

Documents include Cover page, Original application, Proof of soldier's service, Proof of death, Proof of marriage, Proof of children, and Widow Dropped from roll pages. Images of these documents are digitized from the original paper records. Fees apply. *courtesy of footnote.com*

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## GENEALOGY FEATURE

### Evaluating Written and Oral Evidence ..... *.....courtesy of MyFamily.com*

by Raymond S. Wright III, Ph.D., AG. Author of *The Genealogist's Handbook: Modern Methods for Researching Family History*

Before examining the verification process, it is essential to understand the difference between primary and secondary sources. A primary record or source is one created by an eyewitness of an event. Whether the writer records the event as it occurs or describes it at a later time does not change the fact that a record created by an eyewitness at any time is a primary source. However, the period of time between the event and the recording of the event could dramatically affect the source's accuracy.

Examples of primary sources are a midwife's journal entry describing the birth of a child she delivered; a christening entry in a parish register, recorded by the priest who performed the rite or by the parish clerk who witnessed it. The oral testimony of a mother describing the birth of one of her children would also be a primary source for that child's birth.

A secondary source is based upon evidence gathered after an event occurred by a person who was not an eyewitness. A death certificate is a secondary source of birth data as well as marriage data, although it is a primary source for verifying a person's death date and place. A daughter's testimony about the date and place of her parents' marriage is a secondary source because it is based on her knowledge of documentary evidence and the observation of when her parents celebrated their wedding anniversary.

Secondary sources are as valuable as primary sources if they contain accurate descriptions of events. In general, however, primary sources are more reliable descriptions of events, especially if the eyewitness recorded his or her testimony at the time of the event.

Dates and personal and place names can be erroneously recorded in both primary and secondary sources. When several conflicting names or dates exist, the researcher should determine the earliest occurrences of the names and dates in primary sources. Normally evidence from primary sources would take precedence. If a census reported a person's age as 20 in 1850 and yet their birth record gave 1835 as the date, the birth record would take precedence. Nevertheless, sometimes a primary source may be wrong.

When in doubt compare primary sources with other sources, especially records based on the testimony of close relatives of eyewitnesses: children, siblings, spouses and parents.

When verifying oral or documentary evidence, it is not necessary to evaluate every date, name and place. A researcher can take a sample — one in ten, for example — of the dates, names and places found in a genealogy or an interview and check them against primary sources: birth, marriage and death records are examples.

Often during interviews, oral historians will encounter descriptions of events in a person's life or in the history of a family that are turning points or points of contention or controversy. There may be no single right interpretation of these events. In this case, it is best to interview two or three other persons about these events, trying always to find witnesses who were present at the time of the event. If eyewitnesses are no longer alive, the researcher should look for journals and letters from these eyewitnesses. If no written testimony from them exists, the researcher should interview two or three persons who had long and intimate contact with the eyewitnesses.

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## GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

### **Harford County Public Library Genealogy Discussion Group**

Date: **The first Thursday of each month, 6:30 pm** (6 pm informal discussion)

Place: **Jarrettsville Branch Harford County Public Library .**

Programs:

**November – Obituaries -including an optional write your own.**

**December – Conference Reports – FGS & LDS**

**January – Church Records & Archives**

**February – Newspapers, Periodicals & City Directories**

For Details: **Contact Ann Winkler, Librarian 410-638-3608** Registration is not required

Join them as the group shares tips, techniques, and information on topics of interest to the serious genealogist.

### **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. Each 45-minute session begins 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 each session for non-MdHS members.

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

### **Carroll County Genealogical Society -A City of Immigrants**

Date: **Monday, November 17, 2008 7:30 pm**

Place: **Carroll County Public Library Westminster Branch, Dixon Rm, 50 E. Main St, Westminster**

Program: **Nineteenth Century Baltimore: A City of Immigrants**

Registration: Non-members should **register to attend by calling** 1-410-526-4878

Wayne Schaumburg will explore the dynamics of the waves of immigrants who arrived at the Port of Baltimore from 1840 until the start of World War I, including their origin, their reasons for coming, and their impact upon the city, especially after the Civil War.

### **Baltimore County Genealogical Society -Irish coming to Baltimore**

Date: **Sunday, November 23, 2008 12:00 – 4:00 pm**

Place: **Parkville Senior Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Flr, 8601 Harford Rd (MD147) Parkville, MD 21234.**

Program: **Short History of the Irish Coming to Baltimore**

The speaker will be **Thomas Ward**, Retired Baltimore City Judge and Co-founder of the Irish Shrine and Railroad Workers Memorial on Lemon Street. Judge Ward is very active in Irish genealogy and knowledgeable about the Irish who were a critical part of the growth of Baltimore.

### **Historical Society of Harford County -Christmas Concert and Tea**

Date: **Monday, December 14, 2008 4:00 pm**

Place: **Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 303 N. Main St, Bel Air, MD**

Program: **Colonial Candlelight Christmas Concert and Tea with 18th and 19th Century Instruments and Costumes**

Registration: Tickets are **\$20.00** for Concert and Tea and \$10.00 for the Concert only. Advance reservations for the TEA in the “British tradition,” follows the concert and are required, and concert only tickets might be available at the door. Tickets can also be obtained by sending checks payable to **The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.**, to: Historical Society of Harford County, 143 N. Main St., Bel Air, MD 21014. For additional details or reservations, call 410-592-8693 or 410-838-7691

Musica Antiqua has performed at The Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery, Church of the Presidents, Mount Vernon, Maryland State House, and Historic Annapolis, among other notable venues. Their music has been included in several documentaries and has been featured on PBS.

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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.

**Donahue/Donahoo, Henry**

Q: I would like any information earlier than 1704 on the origins, birthplace, or parents of Henry DONAHUE who d. 1722 in Harford County, and his wife, Honor ?unk? (who m. Jeremiah Henley after Henry's death). 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]

**Green**

Q: Looking for information on the ancestors of Henrietta GREEN (1759-1858) who married Joseph Austin Wheeler (1794-1860) in Hickory Parish, St. Ignatius Church, Forest Hill, Harford Co in 1820. [Morgan Wheeler]

**Griffith, Mary**

Q: Does anyone know anything about my ancestor Mary GRIFFITH, b. ca. 1715, who married a William Willett of Prince George's County, MD or Samuel Griffith. Various descendants of Mary & William ended up in Baltimore and Harford Co. I just bumped into a record of a Samuel Griffith, who in 1699 sold land in Prince George's County that was witnessed by Edward Willett, Mary Griffith's father-in-law. [Gordon Bonnet]

**Harris & Hopkins**

Q: Seeking family of Samuel HARRIS and Margaret HOPKINS, particularly son George HARRIS b. abt. 1765. They lived in Harford Co and were Quakers. Later moved to Lycoming Co. PA. [Carol Harris]

Q: Seeking HOPKINS family info in Harford County. Our ancestor was Wellmore Hopkins (22 Dec 1813 - 17 Jun 1880), who gave the land for Churchville Presb. Church, but we have none of his ancestors. [Fred Jenkins]

**Quinn**

Q: Does anyone know anything about QUINN families or where in Harford County QUINN persons are buried? I'm looking for information about the QUINN family in the Bel Air area. Mary Catharine QUINN was born in Harford Co. about 1846, and died in Aberdeen in 1911. She married Robert Lingham Asher 21 Dec 1867 at St. Ignatius Church. [Judith Adam]

**Richardson**

Q: Does anyone know about the parents of Margaret Hill RICHARDSON who was married to William Bradford Sr. of Harford Co, MD. [Kim Fomica]

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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.

I am begging you to submit articles! Writing and sharing is what we are supposed to do.

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**MARCH MEETING**

There are no General Meetings held in December, January, or February. Our **Sunday, March 15, 2009** Society meeting will be held at the Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters, 143 N. Main St; Bel Air, MD 21014 at 2:00 PM. Our programming for March has not been finalized.

Please, mark your 2009 calendars for our “almost Spring” meeting. Look for details in the March 2009 issue of the NEWSLETTER.

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