



# NEWSLETTER

of the

**HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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

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May 2009

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## NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

**Date:** Sunday, May 17, 2009    **Time:** 2:00 PM  
**Place:** St Mary's Episcopal Church, 1 Saint Marys Church Rd, Abingdon, MD 21009  
**Program:** **The Families of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.**

Our **Sunday, May 17, 2009** Society meeting will be held at **St Mary's Episcopal Church**, on the corner of Emmorton (MD924) and St Marys Church Roads, southeast of the Festival Plaza Shopping Center. A boxed lunch will be served after the meeting. A **LUNCH MENU / RESERVATION form is attached** to this Newsletter and available on our website. Our speaker will be the current rector Rev. William L. "Bill" Smith.

The church building, was begun in 1848 is one of the earliest American churches to be built in the Gothic Revival style. It is one of the most authentic restatements of the Early English period, the earliest period of the Gothic style, which flourished in England during the thirteenth century. The style is characterized by a general simplicity of form and ornament with narrow lancet windows, lacking the complexities of later periods.

For over one hundred and sixty years, Saint Mary's has served as a house of prayer and a resource to the community that surrounds her. Saint Mary's was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Some of the prominent surnames associated with St. Mary's include: Barnard, Close, Dallam, Farnandis, Munnikhuysen, Preston, Stump, Webster, and Wilson.

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## DIRECTORY

<b>President:</b>	Arch Phillips	<a href="mailto:anmPhill@qis.net">anmPhill@qis.net</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jon H. Livezey	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Doug Washburn	<a href="mailto:Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net">Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net</a>
<b>Secretary, Recording :</b>	Rich Appel	<a href="mailto:Richard.Appel3@verizon.net">Richard.Appel3@verizon.net</a>
<b>Secretary, Corresponding:</b>	Mary White	<a href="mailto:Dundoccin@zoominternet.net">Dundoccin@zoominternet.net</a> <= NEW
<b>Board of Advisors At Large:</b>	Claire Blackmer, Mary White, Chris Smithson	
<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>

Web Site: [www.rtis.com/reg/md/org/hcgs/](http://www.rtis.com/reg/md/org/hcgs/)

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

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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

On behalf of our membership, I extend the warmest greetings to our new members. It is a delight to see your faces among us as we come together for our bi-monthly gatherings. We look forward with anticipation to hearing your stories and adventures in searching family histories. To our new out-of state members, it is rewarding to learn that our publications and communications are helpful and relevant. Please send us your stories that we might share via our newsletter and whenever you come this way, you can be assured that HCGS members will extend a helpful hand,

Our annual box lunch “picnic” at an historic site is fast upon us. Our Newsletter editor has ably detailed a bit of the significance of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church and Cemetery. In past years, this program has been scheduled in July. Several years of unbearably hot Julys, often at non-air conditioned sites, persuaded the Board to move the picnic to the more hospitable month of May. We always-welcome friends and guests to our programs – be aware that reservations for the St. Mary’s program and lunch are due in a few days.

In closing, we are approaching a grand celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Society. July 19th is the date. Our speaker for the occasion will be Craig Scott, President of Heritage Publishing, and nationally known authority on military records. Please do not be bashful about sharing with us what features you would like included on this memorable occasion –who should be recognized, what events should be highlighted, etc. Do call, write, or e-mail any of the officers with your ideas and suggestions as they come to mind – July 19th is just around the corner!

Looking forward to seeing you all at St. Mary’s. ...Arch

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## PERIWINKLE AWARDS

The **Coalition To Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc.**, will be conferring its annual Periwinkle Award to Harford’s own **Gary Wasielewski** of Havre de Grace. The Coalition is Maryland’s only non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the state’s old family and public cemeteries, historic churchyards, and Indian burial grounds.

During its Annual Meeting, the Coalition designates one or more persons or organizations to receive its Periwinkle Award in recognition of their outstanding efforts and perseverance in helping to save an historic cemetery from neglect, desecration, or other illegal activities. The periwinkle plant (*vinca minor*) was chosen for the name of this award because it was a plant typically used in 18th and 19th century cemeteries throughout the State of Maryland.

This year Gary is one of those being recognized for his efforts in documenting and restoring the old CEDAR HILL Municipal Cemetery on Elizabeth Street in the northern part of Havre de Grace. Cedar Hill graves date back to the 1830’s, and it has been long ago been abandoned. As a history teacher, he made a study of the cemetery – locating it, removing brambles and debris, photographing the few tombstones that were left, and researching the stories of some of those buried there. Civil War veterans, vagabonds and a murder are buried in the cemetery as well as baseball player Highball Wilson of the 1899 Cleveland Spiders.

Many of you may remember Gary speaking to our Society in September of 2006 about Cedar Hill Cemetery, and his efforts to restore it to a more respectable state. After being approached by the Coalition, Harford County Genealogical Society, Henry Peden suggested Gary’s name and Arch Phillips placed Gary’s name in nomination for this award along with a brief overview of his work.

This year the Coalition will be meeting on Saturday May 9, 2009 at St. George's Parish at the corner of Spesutia and Perryman Roads. Registration begins at 8:30 am. Award recipients receive a small monetary award plus a certificate decorated with a periwinkle motif.

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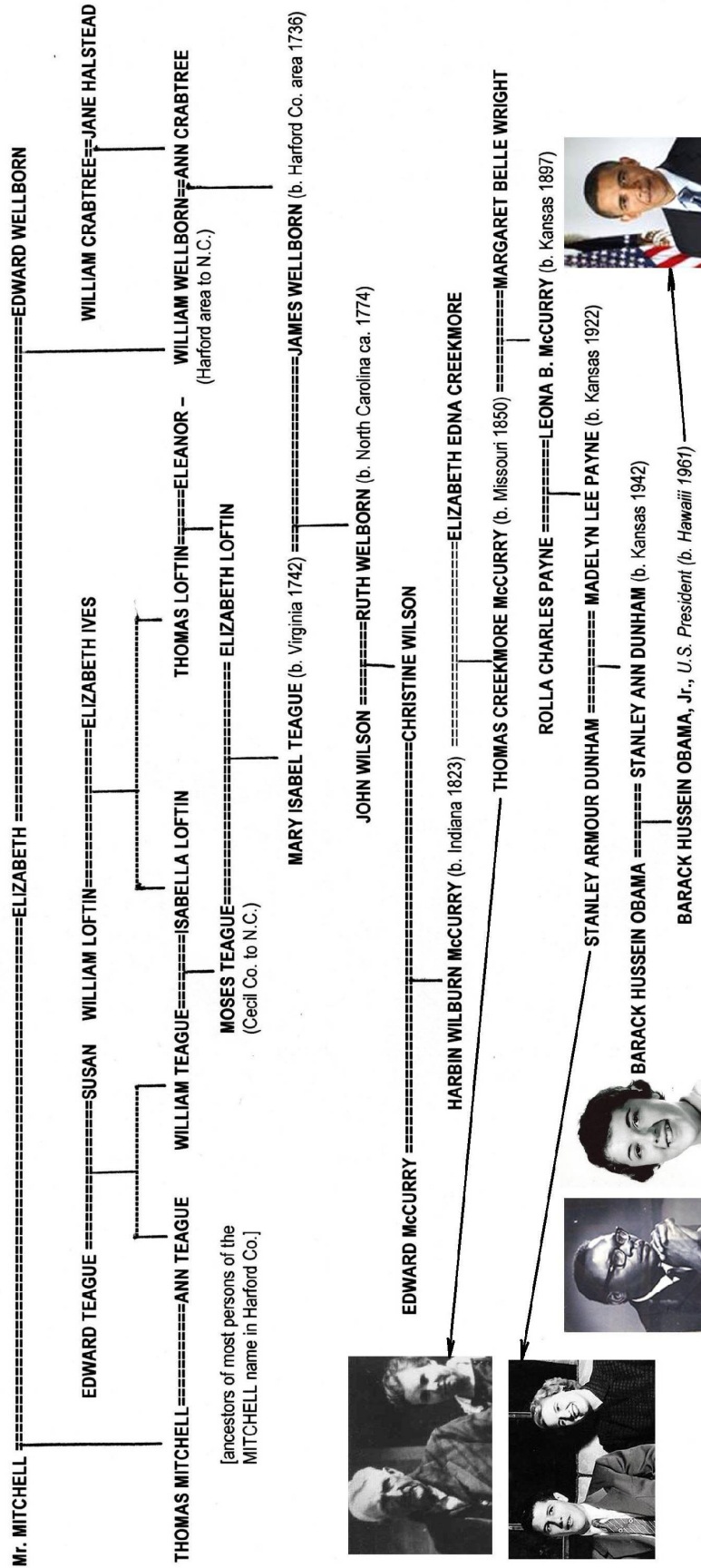
GENEALOGY FEATURE

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S HARFORD COUNTY ROOTS

HARFORD LINES OF CELEBRITIES [submitted by Jon Harlan Livezey]

prepared 2009

[Descent of President Barack Obama from early residents of what is now Harford County, adapted principally from Internet postings of W.A. Reitwiesner and other genealogists of celebrities]



Photographs from various internet postings.

**2009 National Genealogical Society -Conference**Date: **May 13-16, 2009** (Wed-Sat)

Place: Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh, NC

For Details: [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/register\\_online](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/register_online) for brochureor contact: **Rochelle Compton 1-800-473-0060** [rcompton@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:rcompton@ngsgenealogy.org)

The program is titled **The Building of America, from Roanoke to the West**, and consists of lectures, workshops, exhibits, tours, with over 45 speakers.

**Maryland Genealogical Society Workshop on Church Records**Date: **July 25, 2009** (Sat) 9:00 am – 1:00 pmPlace: **Old Otterbein United Methodist Church**, Baltimore City, MDFor Details: [www.mdgensoc.org](http://www.mdgensoc.org) for a brochureor contact: **Druscilla Null**, VP MGS [d.null@att.net](mailto:d.null@att.net)

The Maryland Genealogical Society will hold a **Basics+ Workshop** on church records, which will be held at Baltimore's Old Otterbein United Methodist Church on Saturday, 25 July 2009. The featured speaker will be noted genealogist **John Humphrey**, CG. His presentations will include *Using Church Records Effectively* and *The Genealogists' Handbook for Baptismal Records and Practice*. Members of the MGS Board will round out the program with a presentation and handouts on *Locating and Using Maryland Church Records*.

The program will run from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. (Registration will open at 8:30 am.) The cost for pre-registrants is \$20.00 for MGS members and \$25.00 for non-members. The deadline for pre-registration is July 13. Walk-in registrants will be accepted at an additional \$5.00 cost. Limited free parking is available.

A registration form and further details are available at [www.mdgensoc.org](http://www.mdgensoc.org). If the site is down for maintenance, please contact [d.null@att.net](mailto:d.null@att.net) to be emailed a registration form.

**Genealogy Conference at Kutztown University**Date: **September 12, 2009** (Sat) 8:30 am to 4:00 pmPlace: McFarland Student Union Building, Kutztown University, **Kutztown, PA**For Details: go online to: <http://www.kutztown.edu/hcl> or<http://www.kutztown.edu/community/pgchc/library/2009%20genealogy%20conference.html/>

For additional information and a registration form contact: Lucy Kern, Librarian

484-646-4165 or [pagermanlibrary@kutztown.edu](mailto:pagermanlibrary@kutztown.edu)

There will be three sequential seminars. A Fee applies.

- **The role of religion in the lives of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century PA German Emigrants.** Don Yoder
- **PA land and the opportunity for 18<sup>th</sup> century immigrant ownership.** Rosalind Beiler
- **PA Germans: creating ethnic identity through architecture and artifacts.** Cynthia Falk

There will also be an associated narrated bus tour of **Historic Oley Valley** with several stops, on Friday, September 11, 2009. -Preregistration and fee required.

The Heritage Center Library is open M-F 10 AM-12 PM; & 1 PM-4 PM. Fee is \$5.

**JULY MEETING**

Our **Sunday, July 19, 2009** Society meeting and **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** will be held at the **Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters**, 143 N Main St, Bel Air, MD 21014 at **2:00 PM**. Look for details in the July 2009 issue of the NEWSLETTER.

Our guest speaker is the well-known publisher, Heritage Book proprietor, and military records expert, **Craig Scott**, who will talk to us about the availability of new military records. Reception to follow.