



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

January 2010

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Sunday, March 21, 2010 **Time:** 2:00 PM
Place: Historical Society of Harford County, 143 N Main St, Bel Air, MD 21014-3539
Program: **HSHC RESEARCH DAY**

Gather your notes, thoughts, and sticking points. Start preparing by reviewing your genealogical data for brick walls and un-resolved clues. Genealogy help will be available, and HSHC research experts in Family History, Research Library, Court Records, Artifacts, Photographs, and Archives collections will be on-hand to assist with manual and PastPerfect™ database searches. History and Genealogy buffs interested in Harford County and surrounding areas are welcome to come and learn. Look for details in the March 2009 issue of the NEWSLETTER.

DIRECTORY

President:	Arch Phillips	anmPhill@qis.net
Vice President:	Jon H. Livezey	
Treasurer:	Doug Washburn	Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net
Secretary, Recording :	Rich Appel	Richard.Appel3@verizon.net
Secretary, Corresponding:	Mary White	Dundocin@zoominternet.net
Board of Advisors At Large:	Mary White, Claire Blackmer, Chris Smithson	
Inquiries & Publications:	Doris Barben	dBarben@aol.com
Newsletter Editor:	Rich Appel	Richard.Appel3@verizon.net

Web Site: www.rtis.com/reg/md/org/hcgs/

eMail: HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net

2010 Membership Dues

Attached is our 2010 Membership Application and Renewal form for your convenience. Payment is requested before **February 15, 2010**. We are always interested in speakers, program topics, and off-site venues for our May meetings. Please jot down your ideas in the COMMENTS section.

Your support allows the Society to publish research works, provide interesting speakers at our general meetings, and this Newsletter.

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

We hold five meetings per year, usually on the 3rd 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

As I write this, the first message of 2010, I would be remiss if I did not wish one and all a belated happy holiday season and hope for a productive and rewarding new year. Let us trust that the year ahead will bring us closer to world peace and better lives for those less fortunate.

With the outside world buried in snow, it seems a bit presumptuous to be writing about our HCGS spring and summer programs. We have the March meeting virtually in place and are actively reviewing interesting sites for our annual May picnic. Please do not be shy about forwarding program ideas to us – in terms of program planning, summer is just around the corner!

Your board of advisors has become quite adept at being “ahead of the game” in setting program agendas and directions for the Society – and to that end I, as President, (now into the concluding year of a second term) have been eternally grateful. Those efforts have borne fruit in many ways. We are now an organization of 80 plus members; our programs have been well advertised and attended; our special publications have been well on schedule; and our newsletters timely and informative thanks to our conscientious and persistent editor. From my perspective, our board members have functioned as a well-oiled team, and I thank each and every one of them for their special talents and contributions.

Having said all of that, I am taking this opportunity to remind all members that 2010 is our biannual election year. Now is not too early to begin thinking about the future! Among those 80 plus members on our rolls there are folks with expertise that needs to be tapped to assure ongoing leadership and vitality of the organization. As the demographics of the County and region shift, so may elements of the focus of the Society. I continue to urge wider membership participation and guidance for the Harford County Genealogical Society. Do let us hear from you via e-mail, phone, and snail mail or in person. Let’s keep the ball rolling.

...Arch

GENEALOGY FEATURE

Baltimore Sun Archives

The Baltimore Sun paper archives contain articles dating back to 17 May 1837. The Historical Archives contains many graphics, and only text is included in the current Archives.

[Baltimore Sun Historical Archive](#)

The Baltimore Sun Historical Archive on ProQuest contains digital images of issues of the Baltimore Sun from **May 1837 up to February 1901**. ProQuest Archiver is an e-commerce platform for publishers to distribute their content on the Web. The database is easy to search and contains images of the actual Sun Paper as it appeared on the date of publication. The Archive contains digitized article images, not text. Most classifieds, birth announcements, wedding announcements, photographs, charts, comics, and other materials are included.

[Baltimore Sun Archive](#)

The Baltimore Sun Archive on ProQuest has full text of most newspaper articles printed **after September 1990**. This Archive contains the full text of staff written news, feature stories, and editorials published in the Final Edition of the newspaper. Recent additions to the archive are: Death notices since August 26, 2002; Wedding announcements since February 8, 2004; and Freelance articles (those not written by Sun staff members) since January 1, 2004.

While most of what appears in the paper is available in the Archive, you will not find everything. Stock tables, sports statistics, weather forecasts, and classified ads are not included in the Archives.

Baltimore Sun Archives *continued*

You will also not find graphic material such as photographs, drawings, charts, comics, or display advertising.

There are extensive search tools to assist in filtering unwanted data. Logical operators such as AND, OR, ANDNOT, WITHIN, NOTWITHIN, PRE{cede by}/*number*, let you connect multiple search words or phrases together into a single search statement. There are two special characters you can use when you're unsure of a word's spelling, or when you want to look for words sharing a common root or stem. These wildcards are "*" for words beginning with a common word root, followed by several other characters, and "?" for any one character (one character for each "?" symbol). To search for phrases, use quotation marks around the desired word sequence.

These databases are accessible in all Pratt Library Locations, or from home with your Enoch Pratt Free Library card. Harford Community College Library Card holders can also gain access to these data.

Articles may be purchased online and immediately downloaded to your computer. After you do a search, a screen will come up with the results of that search, and you can view a summary of the document for free. Once you determine which document you would like to view in total, click on the icon with the '\$'. After confirming your purchase, the full image or text of the document will be displayed. Credit Cards are the accepted form of payment for purchasing articles. There are several subscription options available:

- **Annual Pass = \$249.95** Select up to **500 articles** while your annual pass is active.
- **Monthly Subscription = \$49.95** Select up to **75 articles** during each month (Note: Your credit card will be billed monthly unless you decide to cancel your subscription).
- **One Month Pass = \$59.95** Select up to **50 articles** while your month pass is active.
- **10-Pack = \$19.95** Select up to **10 articles** while your 24-hour pass is active.
- **3-Pack = \$8.95** Select up to **3 articles** while your 24-hour pass is active.
- **Per Article = \$3.95** Select **1 article** for immediate purchase.

The basic search includes the full text of the entire article, as well as text from the headline, author field, date range, subject terms, etc. You can choose the format you would like to view by clicking the icon next to the article title.

Preview - The free Preview provides bibliographic information about the article, such as author and publication date, and a brief summary. This format contains no photos.

Full Text - The Full Text version includes the citation and abstract, along with the complete text of the article. This format contains no photos.

Article Image - Article Image refers to a black and white scanned image of the article as it was originally printed, delivered in Portable Document Format (PDF).

The place where you can find the latest information about your ProQuest Archiver account is called **Welcome to myPQA**, and it includes, viewing your recent purchases, and changing your account profile. Your ProQuest Archiver account does not use the same login information as the Baltimore Sun, or Library websites.

SAMPLE SEARCH:

A search on my great-grandfather's name "William Henry Cage" resulted in the following hit:

HIS LIFE CRUSHED OUT

William H. Cage, Struck By Train At Van Bibber, Dies In Hospital Here

The Sun (1837-1985) - Baltimore, Md.

Date: Dec 25, 1912

Start Page: 10

Pages: 1

Text Word Count: 265

Abstract (Document Summary)

Blinded by snow which was beating down fiercely at the time, William Henry Cage, 52 years old, of Van Bibber, Harford county, stepped from the path of a passenger train at Van Bibber yesterday morning directly in front of a freight train, receiving injuries from which he died at St. Joseph's Hospital, this city.

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This newspaper article happens to contain a couple more details about his demise that were not in THE AEGIS article, which I obtained elsewhere.

You may feel that this service is a little pricey, but you can always note the date and page number, and then search the free access microfilm files. If you like what you see, then print a low cost copy. Just remember, the digitized version is *sooo...* much better.

Courtesy of Baltimore Sun online Archives - edited by Rich Appel

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

Baltimore Sun Paper Issues

Enoch Pratt Library now makes available to the public the **Baltimore Sun Historical Archive** - containing issues of the Baltimore Sun from May 1837 up to February 1901. The database is easy to search and contains images of the actual Sun Paper as it appeared on the date of publication. You will need your Enoch Pratt Library Card or Harford Community College Library Card to access this data.. see GENEALOGY FEATURE.

Some Gravestone Rubbings Do's and Don'ts

Gravestone rubbing is fun. It is possible to collect some beautiful artwork that can be framed and displayed. A carver's skill can be preserved, or an ancestor's stone recorded and appreciated through this craft. However, gravestone rubbing is also controversial. Especially in cemeteries where a restoration project is in progress, rubbing is often banned. This is to enable the restorers to have an opportunity to preserve all the stones possible before more damage occurs. Even if a restoration project is not in progress, if those who care for the cemetery have determined that there are very fragile stones present, which may be damaged if pressure is applied to the surface, as happens in rubbing, there may be prohibitions in place. So be sure to check.

Below are some Do's and Don'ts that will make your experience in the cemetery a good one.

Please Do

- Check (with cemetery superintendent, cemetery commissioners, town clerk, historical society, whoever is in charge) to see if stone rubbing is allowed in the cemetery.

- Rub only solid stones in good condition. Check for any cracks, evidence of previous breaks and adhesive repairs, defoliating stone with air pockets behind the face of the stone that will collapse under pressure of rubbing, etc
- Become educated; learn how to rub responsibly.
- Use a soft brush and plain water to do any necessary stone cleaning.
- Make certain that your paper covers the entire face of the stone; secure with masking tape.
- Use the correct combination of paper and waxes or inks; avoid magic marker-type pens or other permanent color materials.
- Test paper and color before working on stone to be certain that no color bleeds through.
- Rub gently, carefully.
- Leave the stone in better condition than you found it.
- Take all trash with you; replace any gravesite materials that you may have disturbed.

Please Don't

- Don't attempt to rub deteriorating marble or sandstone, or any unsound or weakened stone (for example, a stone that sounds hollow when gently tapped or a stone that is flaking, splitting, blistered, cracked, or unstable on its base).
- Don't use detergents, soaps, vinegar, bleach, or any other cleaning solutions on the stone, no matter how mild!
- Don't use shaving cream, chalk, graphite, dirt, or other concoctions in an attempt to read worn inscriptions. Using a large mirror to direct bright sunlight diagonally across the face of a grave-marker casts shadows in indentations and makes inscriptions more visible.
- Don't use stiff-bristled or wire brushes, putty knives, nail files, or any metal object to clean or to remove lichen from the stone; Soft natural bristled brushes, whisk brooms, or wooden sticks are usually OK if used gently and carefully
- Don't attempt to remove stubborn lichen. Soft lichen may be thoroughly soaked with plain water and then loosened with a gum eraser or a wooden popsicle stick. Be gentle. Stop if lichen does not come off easily.
- Don't use spray adhesives, scotch tape, or duct tape. Use masking tape.
- Don't use any rubbing method that you have not actually practiced under supervision.
- Don't leave masking tape, wastepaper, colors, etc., at the gravesite.

Courtesy of the Association for Gravestone Studies

<http://www.gravestonestudies.org>

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

The Maryland Historical Society – Workshop Series

Date: starting **February 6, 2010** (Sat) 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Place: **The Maryland Historical Society**, Baltimore City, MD

Registration: non-members \$65 per session or \$200 for all 4 sessions, Pre-registration is required.

Discounts apply for MHS members. Fee includes snacks & boxed lunch.

Obtain registration form at <http://www.mdhs.org>

Program: **Family History Workshop Series**. This series is hosted by Robert Barnes.

February 6th **Getting Started**; April 3rd **Census, Church, & Vital Records**; June 6th **Land, Court, & Probate Records**; and October 2nd **Immigration & Naturalization Records**.

The Maryland Genealogical Society - Winter Luncheon

Date: **March 6, 2010** (Sat) 12.00 noon

Place: **Dimitri's International Grille**, Catonsville, MD

Registration: pre-registration is required plus \$25.00 for lunch
obtain menu and registration form at <http://www.mdgensoc.org>

Program: **Unknown Soldiers – Family History, Biography, and Military Experience**. This lecture is to be presented by the MD State Archives Education Director, Dr. R. J. Rockefeller, and includes lunch.

Conference on Computerized Family History & Genealogy

Date: **March 12–13, 2010** (Fri-Sat)

Place: **Brigham Young University**, Salt Lake City, Utah

Registration: General Registration Fee \$120, for BYU Credit add \$50
online registration closes March 11, 2010
see <http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwcompu/>

Program: **Building a Lasting Legacy** -This conference is designed to be a how-to guide for everyone—beginning, intermediate, and advanced researchers. The focus of the conference is to help everyone learn how new computer programs and advancements in existing programs can improve family history and genealogy work.

Mid-Atlantic German Society - Spring Meeting

Date: **10 April** (Wed-Sat) 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Place: **Comfort Inn Conference Center**, Bowie, MD

Registration: Fee is \$45 for non-members, with pre-registration ending March 31, 2010
after April 1st Fee is \$50. Members receive a \$5 discount.
See <http://www.magsgen.com> for more information, flyer, & registration form..

Program: **Exploring Additional German Resources** by Kory L. Meyerink, BS, MLS, FUGA, AG. –His four 50 minute lecture titles are: **Gazetteers of Germany: Getting the Most from Meyers** and other German Geographic Tools, **Internet Sources for German Research**, Family Search: **The Basic German Toolbox**, & **German Resources in the Family History Library**.

2010 NGS Family History Conference

Date: **28 April–1 May 2010** (Wed-Sat)

Place: **Salt Palace Convention Center**, Salt Lake City, Utah

Registration: Online registration begins 01 November 2009
See http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info for more information.

Program: **Follow Your Ancestral Trail** -Whether your family helped settle the nation, migrated across the country, stayed in the same place, or recently arrived in America, this conference has much to offer. The family history resources in Salt Lake City, Utah, will provide a depth and breadth to your research. The Family History Library has an extensive collection of international records. A major focus of the conference will be increasing research skills in foreign countries.

MARCH MEETING

Our **Sunday, March 21, 2010** 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**.

Research Day. Genealogy help will be available, and HSHC research experts will be on-hand to assist with PastPerfect™ database searches. Look for details in the March 2009 issue of the NEWSLETTER.