NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

May 2010

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

<u>Date:</u>   **Sunday, May 16, 2010**   <u>Time:</u> **2:00 PM**

<u>Place:</u>   Genealogical Society off-site meeting and picnic will be held in Jarrettsville

<u>Program</u>:   **OLD BRICK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST**

The program consists of a docent-guided tour of **Old Brick Primitive Baptist Church**, followed by a brief tour of the **Jarrettsville United Methodist Church** sanctuary, then an indoor picnic lunch. See the enclosed LUNCH RESERVATION form for more details and directions. Remember to make your reservations early!

Old Brick was formed in 1742, with this structure being built in 1760c., and then renovated in 1787. Early names were Baltimore Meeting, Harford Mtg, Baptist Mtg, and Old Brick. In 1798, it was the only Baptist church out of 17 churches in Harford County, whose population was 15,000 at the time.

Surnames of those buried in the Cemetery: Alderson, Alexander, Amos, Amoss, Anderson, Arthur, Baldwin, Barrow, Barton, Bay, Billingslea, Bull, Calder, Carman, Carnan, Cartin, Chappell, Clark, Coats, Corroum, Dance, Davis, Denbow, Durham, Elgin, Ely, Ensor, Funhouser, Gilbert, Gladden, Glenn, Grafton, Green, Hall, Hamilton, Hanway, Hardisty, Harkins, Hatso, Hawkins, Henderson, Honore, Hoopes, Hurst, Igon, Jarrett, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones, Kennedy, Kimes, Lancaster, Lindsey, Maize, Martin, Mechem, Meyer, Morris, Nicoli, Norris, Pantzer, Parker, Patterson, Patton, Pearce, Pearson, Phillips, Poteet, Pusey, Regel, Richardson, Rogers, Scarborough, Scarff, Sherman, Smith, Spencer, Streett, Thomas, Thompson, Tolley, Tucker, Vanhorn, Varns, Ward, Waters, Watkins, Whitaker, Whiteford, Wilson, Wood, Woodward, & Young, [March 2010 www.findagrave.com data]

DIRECTORY

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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

In addition to highlighting our upcoming off-site program, I am again making a sincere plea for help in building a cadre of members to step into leadership positions in our Society. The Board of Advisors has named a nominating committee to identify candidates for the upcoming election this November. Yes, that is six months away, but in reality, is just around the corner in terms of maintaining viable organizational leadership.

PLEASE help this committee by volunteering to serve and/or suggesting members to fill an office or board position. During the past year, we have operated with fewer than optimal board members. Several of our officers and board members who have served in leadership roles for a number of years are increasingly less willing to continue serving in those capacities. It is not my intent to paint a picture of gloom, but a leadership vacuum will not bode well for the sustainability of our Harford County Genealogical Society.

We have made great strides within the last several years in membership growth, program staging, and publication development. Our Research Day in March had an excellent turnout and was a most successful member and non-member service event. We are indebted to the Department Chairs of the Historical Society whose services made it all possible.

The Harford County Genealogical Society has tremendous potential and resources within its ranks. Do help bring those able folks to the fore with a call or e-mail to Chairwoman Mary White, any other Advisor, or HCGS (see Directory for contact info). Thanks for rising to the occasion.

Hope to see you all on May 16th. *Arch*

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

HCGS Special Publications for 2010

Two recent HCGS Special Publications are available for purchase at the HSHC HQ. Members can pick-up their free copy during HCGS General Meetings. These publications are:

   SP 41   **Abstracts of Estate Distributions, Harford County, MD 1846-1854** (34 pages) 2009, Compiled by Christopher T. Smithson. $8.00 plus tax.

   SP 42   **Business Ledgers JC Taylor Marble Co 1930-1934, Vol. IV** (64 pages) 2010, Compiled by Richard A. Appel, & Douglas M. Washburn. $12.00 plus tax.

Jacob's Cane

Jacob's Cane: A Jewish Family's Journey from the Four Lands of Lithuania to the Ports of London and Baltimore; A Memoir in Five Generations, New York, Basic Books, 2009, 328p. ISBN: 9780465015252 is a recent hardback book by Elsa New. Drawn to an image of **her great-grandfather's ornately carved cane**, Elisa New embarked on a journey to determine the origins of a precious family heirloom. Through her experience, she reaches her own new understanding of her ancestors, one that is far different than described in the classics of Jewish immigration. This is not an easy read, but I think it is an excellent example of the things that genealogists strive to uncover when we try to put "meat" on our lifeless ancestral charts. Available from HA Co Public Library, and sells for $4 used -$28 new.

225th Anniversary of the Cokesbury College

June 20, 2010 (Sun) at Times: 10:30am Worship, 12:00n Luncheon, Celebration 1:00 to 3:00pm. At Cokesbury Memorial United Methodist Church, Cokesbury & Abingdon Rd, Abingdon, MD. Celebrate the 225th Anniversary of the Cokesbury College. For more information call: 410-676-6295.

GENEALOGY FEATURE

HSHC *PastPerfect*-Online

Searching The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. files is now available online from the comforts of your home, local library, at the HSHC HQ, or anywhere in the world with an internet connection. Tens of thousands of computer records plus a few images of photos, postcards, and artifacts are already available, and more are being added every month.

If you are tired of slicing your fingers on index cards, or scribbling notes that may never be readable, then you are ready for an exciting new experience. With just a few keystrokes, the computer will quickly search indices you never knew existed, and printout (to paper or a file) comprehensive notes you can actually decipher!

PastPerfect Software, Inc. offers us online access to a copy of HSHC PastPerfect records, images, and data fields that HSHC wants to make public. Original images, transcripts, and documents are available at HSHC HQ. HSHC provides the data and Museum Software, Inc. who uses *PastPerfect*-Online to build a fully searchable, collections-based website, using a search engine called MWeb™ by Systems Planning, Inc. What we see are MWeb™ functions and webpages that have been tailored by HSHC staff and Museum Software, Inc. for HSHC needs, plus data and watermarked images provided by HSHC staff.

The following topics will help you get started, and enhance your research efforts: accessing, orienting, using, hanging, & results.
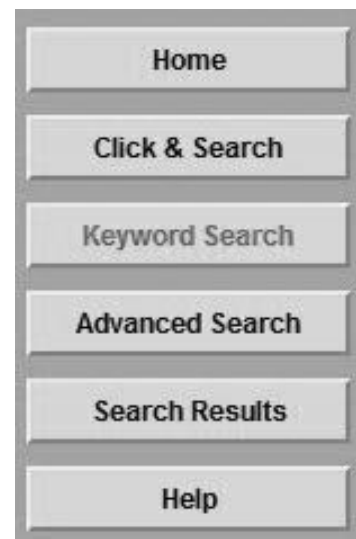
Accessing

From the HSHC website www.harfordhistory.org click-on the NEW ONLINE CATALOG link. There is no logon protocol at this time. Depending on the final implementation (as of this writing things are still being tweaked) you will be directed to one of two pages, a HSHC staff generated **Welcome to The HSHC *PastPerfect*-Online** screen, or a *PastPerfect* customized search-screen . From the navigation bar on the left side, selections such as Click & Search, Keyword Search, Advanced Search, and Search Results will take you to one of the previously mentioned *PastPerfect* customized search-screens. This article does not address other links that are unrelated to HSHC online data (ex. store, books, etc.).

Orientating

The **Welcome to The HSHC *PastPerfect*-Online** screen has a large table of links to various data Inventories. Most of these inventories are in the form of searchable "pdf" (portable document format) files that are typically displayed using Adobe's familiar Acrobat Reader. After selecting one of these inventories, use the Reader's **Find** box, or pull-down the Reader's **Edit** menu and select **Search** at the top of the screen to locate the desired characters (typically Surnames) in this file. Beware that several matches could be in the file, so keep stepping-on to the next match until all have been exhausted. HSHC Cemetery burial inventory is in this format and it may take a long time to search through 900+ pages of 36,800+ names, but the computer is better at this than we are. If you find the desired name, then you will know that HSHC has additional information, making a trip to the HQ or a Research Request worthwhile.

Displayed on both the HSHC developed **Welcome to The HSHC *PastPerfect*-Online** screen, and on all *PastPerfect* customized search-screens is a navigation bar down the left side, with selections similar to those shown here. To the right of this bar on the *PastPerfect* customized search-screens is a window related to one of the middle four selections that was clicked-on. Clicking on **Help**, pops-up a new browser window with a generic MWeb™ User Guide.

What you are able to search is many of the thousands of records for items available at the HSHC HQ. Each record consisting of several fields containing specific data such as Title, Subject, Object Name, Description, Call Numbers, etc. In essence, this is an online card catalog.

Home

Click & Search

Keyword Search

Advanced Search

Search Results

Help

Three search methods can be selected, with **Keyword Search** being the basic method. One or more important words or phrases are specified, so that the search engine knows what it needs to match in a record destine to be copied into your "Results" bucket. The *PastPerfect* customized **Keyword Search** screen is shown to the right.

The **Click & Search** method provides a means to browse or snoop around. You should explore the data fields listed here, in order to gain an understanding of the contents and syntax of the data in each field. You will quickly realize that searching the Title field will not yield the Creator's name, that Call Numbers may or may not begin with a numeral, Titles may start with "A" or "The", that Subject terms do not start with given names, and that people make mistakes, and are not consistent when entering data.

Using the **Advanced Search** method is great when you get overwhelmed with results from a simple search. You can structure a record search that avoids some fields, and specify different data to be searched in different fields with results that only show records that meet all your conditions.

The remaining navigation selection labeled **Search Results** enables you to toggle back and forth between developing new search criteria and the last set of search results.

Using

The default or "by design" search, will result in records with all of the specified criteria. This is known as an "AND" search. Example: Searching **Archer Phillips** results in the same records as searching **Archer** AND **Phillips**. Using an "OR" search like **Archer** OR **Phillips** results in records containing both sets of characters, plus records only containing "Archer", plus records only containing "Phillips". Using quotes around the characters "Archer Phillips" limits the results to an exact phrase (ie. no middle name). You may not mix ANDs and ORs in a single search command. You may not use ANDs or ORs with quoted phrases. In addition, a wildcard function can be used at the end of a word to find all words starting with a particular set of characters. Example: Searching for **Richard*** will find records containing "Richard", "Richardson", "Richard-The-Nut", etc. Another important point is that all searches are insensitive to case. This means searching for **archer** will also find records containing "Archer", and "ArChEr". Use the MWeb™ **Help** selection to learn more about constructing search criteria, and to hone your snooping techniques.

Date searching has some special considerations that need to be remembered. First, search dates need to be specified with numbers only. Date formats are YYYY or YYYY/MM or YYYY/MM/DD, with Y being year numerals (normally 4 digits), M being month numerals (1 or 2 digits), and D being day numerals (1or 2 digits). The delimiters (symbols that separate numerals) can be a slash "/" or dash "-" or a few others mentioned in the **Help** User Guide.

Second, when specifying a date range to be searched, <u>exact</u> dates are entered as both the Start date and End date. If only a Start date is specified, your Search Results will be <u>after</u> on or that date. If only an End date is specified, your Search Results will be <u>before</u> or on that date.

Hanging a search

Whenever a search takes an inordinate amount of time and the progress bar does not seem to be moving, you may want to abort the search by pressing the **ESC** key. Usually what has happened is that an enormous number of records are being found that match your search criteria, most of which are probably useless to you. Re-think your search criteria and try to narrow the realm of acceptable results.

You will need patience when using searches with truncated character strings, like "Richard*" because the criteria is not a simple fixed set of characters, thereby slowing the matching process.

Results

What is found in the initial search, are pointers, references, or what is better known as links to more details, and possibly a thumbnail-size image. Links are usually underlined blue character strings, that when moused-over, cause the pointer to change to a "finger pointing hand," and when clicked-on take you to another screen. Images also have hidden links, so when clicked-on, explode into a larger format. You should take notice that characters shown in purple bold typeface match your search string (ex. **Print "Rock Run Mill"**) so as to remind you of why the record was selected.

These links could take you to a Full Record display page, or to a file with hundreds of records in a table format. In the second case, you will need to search that file, which is usually a "pdf" file, for the exact record(s) of interest.

Search On

These new search tools provide new ways to look at old data, for those who have manually labored through the indices, card files, and microfilm files. Keep in mind, that how this data is presented to the researcher will continue to evolve, as well as the volume of computerized indices. Try your hand at it and *search on*.

In the end, your search results will move you closer to requesting copies of original documents or images of items stored at the Historical Society of Harford County. It is this last step that we all cherish in our pursuit of ancestors, their history, and their environment.

by: Richard Appel   Copyright © 2010 HCGS

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

North Bend Church Open House

Date: **May 30, 2010** (Sun) 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Place: **New Life Church of God**, 1249 North Bend Rd, Jarrettsville, MD

Registration: none required

Program: The North Bend Church & Cemetery Association will host **tours of the original North Bend Presbyterian Church building and historic cemetery**. Light refreshments will be available. Originally built as a daughter church of Bethel Presbyterian in 1861, it is located on North Bend Rd. not far from its intersection with St. Clair Bridge Rd. Presbyterians continued to worship in this building until 1954.

Using HeritageQuest online to Find Your Family Roots -Workshop

Date: **June 6, 2010** (Sun) 10:30am - 12:00n

Place: **Delaware Public Archives**, 121 Duke of York Street in Dover, DE

Registration: contact Tom Summers (302) 744-5047 or e-mail thomas.summers@state.de.us .

Program: HeritageQuest Online is a unique resource for both genealogical and historical researchers. With coverage dating back to the late 1700s, researchers can use HeritageQuest to find their ancestors, trace their paths across America, and learn what life was like in the areas where they settled.

Among the collections included on HeritageQuest are the U.S. Census 1790 – 1930, UMI Genealogy & Local History books collection, PERSI (Perodicals Source Index), and Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files.

This workshop is presented by Beth A. Reiten, MLS. **Ms. Reiten is a ProQuest Customer Education & Training Specialist** and she has substantial experience teaching researchers how to utilize research tools, including HeritageQuest. This training workshop will last approximately 90 minutes.

The Maryland Historical Society – Workshop Series

Date: continuing **June 6, 2010** (Sat) 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

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

Registration: non-members $65 per session, 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.
June 6th **Land, Court, & Probate Records**; and October 2nd **Immigration & Naturalization Records**.

Maryland Genealogy Society -Spring Meeting

Date: **10 July 2010** (Sat)   9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Place: **The Stable at Carroll Park** (Mount Clare Museum House) Baltimore, MD

Registration: Details are online with a registration form. Fee $30 non-members
See http://www.mdgensoc.org/whatsnew.html#1   for more information.

Program: **SPRING BASICS + SEMINAR**
"**Immigration – Point Lookout to Locust Point**" Bob Barnes, Wayne Schaumburg and John Deeben will offer talks highlighting our ancestors' travels to Maryland during the colonial period through 1957.

JULY MEETING

Our **Sunday, July 18, 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**.

The program will discuss **descendants of the thirty-four BUSH DECLARATION Signer**s. CDs containing this data will be available for purchase after the program. Look for details in the July 2010 issue of the NEWSLETTER and on our HCGS website.