



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

July 2010

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: **Sunday, July 18, 2010** Time: **2:00 PM**

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

Program: **Bush Declaration Signer Descendants**

Six years ago, Henry Peden and Christopher Smithson founded The Hereditary Order of the Signers of the Bush Declaration, a patriotic society of the descendants of those men who signed that historic document in Harford County on March 22, 1775. So, what is the Bush Declaration and why is it so important? It has nothing to do with either President Bush, so guess again.

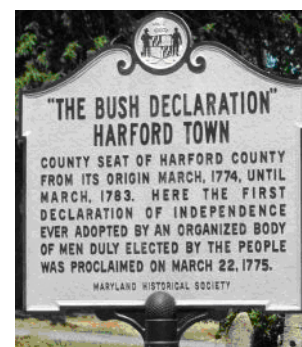
Just three days before Patrick Henry made his well-known speech: a committee of thirty-four colonial Maryland citizens met in Harford Town at the Bush Inn/Tavern, and after deliberations, signed the famous Bush Declaration. This document of colonial solidarity, considered the first American Declaration of Independence ever adopted by an organized body of men duly elected by the people, pre-dates the Declaration of Independence ratified by the Continental Congress.

Join us at this meeting as Christopher T. Smithson and Henry C. Peden, Jr. discuss their recent work *Descendants of the Signers of the Bush Declaration of March 22, 1775 in Harford County, Maryland*, self-published in 2010, and learn more about the document and people who signed it.

Smithson and Peden have compiled the first genealogical record ever published of all known descendants of the signers of the Bush Declaration, one of Harford County's most important and most beloved documents. They worked from both primary and secondary sources to compile over 400 pages of genealogical data covering approximately 5,000 direct descendants of the local elected representatives who "*at the risque of our lives and fortunes*" signed the Bush Declaration prior to the Revolutionary War.

Researchers can use this information for family history purposes, as well as to help gain membership in the **Hereditary Order of the Signers of the Bush Declaration**, and the **Sons of the American Revolution**. More information about this Order is available online at their website: <http://www.bushdeclaration.org/>.

Copies of *Descendants of the Signers of the Bush Declaration of March 22, 1775 in Harford County, Maryland*, will be available for purchase in CD (pdf files), and soft-cover book forms can be ordered.



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.

DIRECTORY

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

Web Site: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/ eMail: HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Turn One More Stone!

Summer is here – the season for family vacations and travel. Inveterate as well as casual genealogy buffs often arrange an itinerary to seek out an ancestral home or obscure burial ground. Searching out these locales can provide wonderful opportunities to share a slice of family history or discover an unknown relative, especially for accompanying children and grandchildren. More often than not, such ventures take us along winding country roads into quiet villages and country churchyards far from the madding crowds.

As many of us well know, searching for burial sites of ancestors cannot be without its trials, bug bites, and scratches. One is readily reminded of Peggy Bishop's tales of cutting through the brambles in search of the Old Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery at Cherry Hill, or Gary Wasielewski's struggles documenting and restoring Cedar Hill Municipal Cemetery in Havre de Grace. Several years ago, I was searching for the graves of my great-great-grandparents in a patch of briars and other noxious vegetation. Dismayed and about to call it quits, I spied two piles of stones deep in the brush. Now determined, I cut through. I had to turn over one more stone – and there it was – John Taylor; and the next one I turned was inscribed "Rachel, Wife of John" – the two graves for which I had been searching. Stone by stone, family members were revealed giving me a real sense of accomplishment and belonging. (Now we still do not know who Rachel was, reinforcing my wife's just cause to assure that a woman's maiden name be on her grave marker!)

We are truly indebted to many society members, past and present, who have persevered to turn countless stones and preserve the records of their discoveries. Henry Peden and Chris Smithson are to be commended for turning the many, many stones in order to bring us the documented stories of the descendants of the 34 signers of "The Bush Declaration" – one of Harford's most historic documents and our country's first declaration of independence.

Do join us on July 18th for what promises to be delightful afternoon 'in the Bushes'!

Arch

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

Descendants of the Signers of the Bush Declaration

Descendants of the Signers of the Bush Declaration of March 22, 1775 in Harford County, Maryland, is a compilation of over 400 pages of genealogical data regarding approximately 5,000 direct descendants of the these Harford County representatives. This genealogical secondary reference, published in 2010, is now available on CD and spiral bound soft-cover book forms. The CD (pdf files), is \$25.00 plus \$4.00 shipping, and the spiral bound soft-cover book is \$50.00 plus \$6.00 shipping for each copy. Make checks payable to "Christopher T. Smithson" and mail your order to: Christopher T. Smithson, 127 N MAIN ST, PORT DEPOSIT MD 21904-1211.

GENEALOGY FEATURE

"We Always Spelled Our Name that Way!"

David Roberts, May 2010 Courtesy St Mary's County Genealogical Society, Inc. *Used with permission of the author.*

No, you didn't! One of the most common errors new genealogists make is to say "We always spelled our name that way!" and blind themselves to only one spelling of their family surname, ignoring all other spellings. The real problem is that this is not only an error for new genealogists, but also a trap that more experienced genealogists. They might know better, but that "one spelling only" syndrome can also mess up their family search.

Here is an example from an important local family for which I posted [data](#) to FindaGrave.com. A woman using the name "Hope" posted gravestone [pictures](#). *Notes on Genealogy: The Family of Thomas Mattingly and Related Families* by SMCGRS members Loretta Beavan Norris, and George A. Norris confirm that this is a family group: father, mother, and children.

At Mount Zion United Methodist Churchyard in Laurel Grove, you will find the graves of A. Kingsley Mattingly [1874-1950] and his wife Odie Bond Mattingly [1882-1967]. Their stones use the spelling "Mattingly" and are located in the same plot as stones marked George W. Mattingly [1910-1936], M. Pauline Mattingly [1905 -1906], Helen Rosalie Mattingly Smith [1916-2004], and Laura Evelyn Mattingly Wood [1901-1938].

The parents are "Mattingly" per their gravestones; the children "Mattingly." If we were to follow the "one spelling only" philosophy, A. Kingsley and Odie would not be related to George, Pauline, Helen, or Laura. Norris' book tells us otherwise.

Recently, I was adding information about my Aunt Ruth's mother to FindaGrave.com. Aunt Ruth's mother was Sadie De Veau, who I knew from when I was a child. From discussing Sadie's family with a few on-line Long Island genealogy friends, I found that Sadie's family members were originally French Huguenots who had settled at New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York, in the years after Louis XIV revoked the religious freedom that his grandfather granted to the Huguenots (France's Calvinist Protestants).

I had figured that Sadie was from a Huguenot background. What my friends told me was that her name was "De Veaux" in France, and that spelling came to New Rochelle. Over the years, "De Veaux" remained "De Veaux," or became "De Veau" or "De Voe" or "Devoe" and a variety of other spellings. If a new genealogist had started with Sadie's "De Veau" line, looking only for that one spelling, and ignoring the final "x," he or she would have missed the connection to the original "De Veaux" refugees fleeing from the religious persecution in France. No, "De Veau" was not "always" spelled like that!

Ronald C. White, Jr. in his *A. Lincoln: A Biography* {2009} shows actual deeds signed by Lincoln's more prosperous ancestors in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. Some of these prosperous landowners signed their names "Lincoln" and others "Lincon." Does that mean these men named "Lincon" were not the President's ancestors? Does this mean they were too ignorant to spell their own name? Neither, it just means that before the 20th century, names did not always have just one spelling.

Some "conspiracy theorists" claim that William Shakespeare could not possibly have written the famous plays we credit as his body of work. They claim he was far too ignorant to have written these great plays. Part of their "proof" is the "fact" that he was too ignorant to spell his own name. They cite his 1616 will, where he spells his name "Shaksper" on one page, and "Shakspeare" on another. We "know" the name is spelled "Shakespeare." If this man was too ignorant to know that, he could not possibly have written *Hamlet* or *Macbeth*. Besides, a person named "Shaxberd" was credited in a 1604 listing as having written *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Measure for Measure*. Hopefully, you can see where "we always spelled our name that way!" led to these erroneous "credits."

I am sure that we all have similar examples in our own family lines. Just do not let "Mattingly" and "Mattingly" or "De Veau" and "Devoe" fool you. I will admit that if I found an ancestor named "Shaxberd," I might not think he was a "Shakespeare." Keep your mind and eyes opened to all possible name spellings.

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

Maryland Genealogy Society -Basics+ Workshop

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: “**Immigration – Point Lookout to Locust Point**” Speakers are: Bob Barnes – **Immigration to the Chesapeake Bay area in the Colonial Period**, Wayne Schaumburg – **19th Century Baltimore – A City of Immigrants**, and John Deeben – **By Way of the Chesapeake: Maryland Passenger Arrival Records at the National Archives, 1820-1957**

The National Institute on Genealogical Research

Date: **11-16 July 2010** (Sun - Fri)

Place: **National Archives**, Washington, DC

Registration: A brochure is online at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~natgenin/ Tuition is \$400.

Program: The National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR) will hold its **Annual Conference** in Washington, DC at the National Archives and College Park, MD. This is an intensive program offering on-site examination of federal records. **Designed for experienced researchers**, it is *not* an introduction to genealogy.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies

Date: **18-21 August 2010** (Wed - Sat)

Place: **Knoxville Convention Center**, Knoxville, TN

Registration: Fee \$185 for 4-days, \$99 for a single-day, Banquet \$45.

For more details visit www.fgs.org/2010conference/

Program: The Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold its **Annual Conference** in Knoxville, TN. Each of the four days is divided into seven sessions, with about seven lectures/workshops per session. Seventy-six lecturers are scheduled to speak on a variety of topics. There are over 100 booths in the Exhibit Hall.

2010 Baltimore Family History & Genealogy Workshop

Date: **11 September 2010** (Sat)

Place: **Baltimore Maryland Stake**, Essex, MD

Registration: Registration for Classes opens July 15. No cost.

Program: There are many **beginning** classes, including Where to Start, Beginning Maryland Research, Beginning Genealogy on the Internet, and African-American Research with a Maryland emphasis, **as well as intermediate and advanced classes**.

This workshop will feature at least 50 classes in 6 time periods covering all aspects of genealogy. There is no charge for the conference. Online registration will open in late summer and participants can go to the website and request to be put their email list for notification when registration has begun. For more info visit www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org.

This FREE workshop is sponsored by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 120 Stemmers Run Rd, Essex, MD, 21221

The Maryland Historical Society – Workshop Series

Date: continuing **October 02, 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: **Immigration & Naturalization Records**, the final 2010 program in the **Family History Workshop Series** hosted by Robert Barnes.

MidAtlantic German Society -Fall Meeting

Date: **02 October 2010** (Sat) 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Place: Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, Harrisburg, PA 888-465-4329 - Room Reservations & Rates.

Registration: Details are online with a registration form. Fee \$45 non-members.

Contact is Diane Kuster, 252-281-5000. For brochure, registration form and more information see:

http://www.magsgen.com/images/MAGS_Meeting_Flyer_-Fall_2010.pdf

Program: **EXPLORING AN ARRAY OF RESOURCES. The Origins of Eighteenth-Century Immigration**, by John Humphrey, CG; **An Immigrant's Life in Little Germany**, by Sharon Hodges; **Military Records and Their Benefits to Genealogists and Family Historians**, by Martin Andresen; **German Ahnentafel by the Thousands!**, by John Humphrey, CG.

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

To subscribe or request service, send eMail to: 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.

War of 1812

I am new to this list having just found that my ggg uncles may have past through Harford County on their way to western PA. I know that they had an aunt living there in 1788 - **Martha Jenny Burnside Aken**. Would anyone be able to tell me if your county has tax lists for the period of 1810-1815? Also, what impact did the War of 1812 have on Harford County? -Linda Holley

During the time period of 1810-1815, there is only one published tax list and that was in 1814. The Tax List of 1814 covers the person being taxed and the name of some properties that they owned. The tax list the original and transcribed copy is at the Historical Society of Harford County in Bel Air, Maryland. The society has a research service by mail. You may view the Historical Society's research by mail information at the website at www.harfordhistory.org there is a \$25 or \$30 nonrefundable fee.

As for the effects during the War of 1812 was the burning of Havre de Grace. There is a lot written about the burning of Havre de Grace. As well as Lt. John O'Neill who defended Havre de Grace during the burning. He was captured by the British and later set free based on his daughter Matilda's pleas.

As for other information, Henry Peden and I are working with the National Park Service at Fort McHenry on identifying the soldiers from Harford and Cecil County, Maryland, that took part in the Battle of Baltimore in 1814. Henry identified about 900 soldiers from Harford County that were there. I have about 400 from Cecil County. We are looking for when the soldiers died and where, taking pictures of their tombstones, and getting pictures of the soldiers themselves. This information was first based on the companies from Cecil and Harford Counties were known by muster rolls as being at Baltimore during the Battle. There was some duplicate information, as well as some errors, and a few men with the same name. After the information is compiled, it will be available at Ft. McHenry. -Chris Smithson

HSHC Call# CD-ROM 929.2 Laylon, index shows "Burnside" surname on p.165 of Amos / Amoss Family genealogy binder. Not able to locate "AKEN" surname. Did find "Akins" surname on p.5 of the same binder.

continued on page 6...

WAR of 1812 *continued*

Visit www.harfordhistory.org website of the Historical Society of Harford County to perform online searches. Researchers will gather and send you info. for a small fee (see www.harfordhistory.org/LibraryRsch.htm). -RA
Oh how exciting! The Aken name has been spelled so many ways it is hard to keep track. -Linda

Harford County to North Carolina circa 1777

We are researching Robert West, son of Robert West Jr. and grandson of Robert West Sr. of Harford County. This Robert West was baptized March 5, 1734 (St. George's Parish Register, Bill & Martha Reamy, page 45). We believe the family of this Robert West was enumerated in the 1776 Census of the Susquehanna Hundred: Robert West age 39, Ann West 36, Elisabeth West 15, Benjamin West 12, Hannah West 10, John West 8, Mary West 7, Martha West 4, Michael West 3, Ephram West 2. Sometime shortly after this census, the family removed to Lincoln County, NC.

1. Does anyone have any ideas for finding out the maiden name of Robert's wife Ann? 2. According to on-line genealogies, Robert had a first wife named Betsy. Does anyone have any ideas on how to confirm this? And how to find out Betsy's maiden name? 3. Has anyone run into others from Harford County who moved to North Carolina? This seems an unusual relocation, and we are trying to figure out why. Steve and Nancy Mabie

In answer to your third question, Yes, I have ancestors who came from Harford County, MD to Surry County, NC sometime after the 1776 census. James Chappell (born about 1769) and his sister, Mary, were listed in the home of Mary Thompson with several other children in Susquehanna Hundred, Harford County MD 1776 census. He next appears in the 1850 census of Surry County, NC but I have found nothing in between! The 1850 census says he was born in Maryland, but I've hit a brick wall in trying to find his ancestry! I have heard from another researcher that their father was George Chappell, who left them in Mary Thompson's care (I don't know why), but I have found no record of George in Harford County and the other researcher says he saw this in a book in the Library of Congress but didn't get a copy. A librarian at the Library of Congress has not been able to find this article for me. I've tried to piece all this together as I have James and Mary's descendants. My mother descended from James and I would really like to find someone in Maryland who could get me proof of James and Mary's parents, etc. -Larry Sledge, Lexington, South Carolina.

I suggest you read *Marylanders to Carolina: Migration of Marylanders to North Carolina and South Carolina Prior to 1800*, and *More Marylanders to Carolina: Migration of Marylanders to North Carolina and South Carolina Prior to 1800*, both Published in 2006, by Henry C. Peden Jr. I have no idea what is inside these books. From what I've seen of Peden's work, they are pretty good. -K

The road was pretty hot between MD, VA, and NC with some eastern PA thrown in. Suggest you check out the counties that are now Alleghany, Ashe, and Wilks for your people. Surry County was broken up several times and in several ways. Also, check the web for a Len Chapel. He grew up in Bel Air, Harford County seat, but is now in NC and FL. Very savvy about this topic, and is publish, but it might have been private. -Bettie

Other Surname Inquiries:

FUHRER, HADAWAY, HOWLETT, KNIGHT, REDMAN, SCARBOROUGH, WALLER, & WEBB.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our **Sunday, September 19, 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 be a discussion of **QUAKER Records**. Our speaker is James "Jim" E. Pickard, retired Harford County teacher, and Quaker Historian. Look for details in the September 2010 issue of the NEWSLETTER and on our HCGS website.
