



# NEWSLETTER

of the

**HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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

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**November 2010**

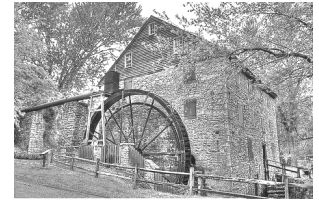
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## NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: **Sunday, November 21, 2010** Time: **2:00 PM**

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

Program: **Harford Mills & Mill Families**



**Rock Run Grist Mill**

In 2009, The Historical Society of Harford County started a project to map many of the old landmarks of the county including schools, canneries, post office-general stores, and mills. Our November speaker, Robert Marks, and his wife Patricia took on the mills portion of this project. They soon discovered that the number of mills, of all types, in the county numbered in the hundreds so they limited the scope of their investigation to gristmills, the type of mill most often thought of when referring to mills. The result of their efforts is the *Harford County Mill Seats* indexed map, available at the Historical Society of Harford County in both archival (\$54) and non-archival (\$25) quality for a 21"x30" size. Other sizes are available at different prices. Bob's talk focuses on the grist milling industry in Harford County, and the mill families whose names often garlanded the structure.

Mills have long been a popular topic for historians to research and write about. With Broad Creek and Deer Creek running through Harford County, mill history is rich. There have been several books published on the subject: *Bel Air Roller Mill: The Town's First Industry*, Shagena; *Eden Mill: An Illustrated History*, Shagena; *Mills: Saw, Grist, Bone, Flint, Fulling... and More*, Shagena, Peden & McGrain; *Jerusalem, A Preserved Mill Village*, Shagena; *Rock Run Mill & In the Land of Promise*, Shagena. The HSHC has several of these books for sale in their lobby.

Bob and Patricia live in a historic Churchville house once owned by the Reverend William Finney (1788-1873) a prominent Minister of Churchville Presbyterian Church. Bob attended the University of Maryland where he received a BA in History, and later took a number of postgraduate courses in American Studies at the same school. His experiences are wide ranging including: working as an assistant to a salvage archeologist in Alexandria, being involved in historic preservation for over 40 years, teaching seminars on antique collecting, collecting and selling antiques since the 1960's and traveling widely in the U.S. and abroad. Presently, he is retired from a 25-year career as a real estate appraiser. His memberships include the Northern Neck of Virginia Historic Society, the National Maritime Historic Society, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, the Transferware Collectors Club, and The Historical Society of Harford County. Since joining the HSHC a couple of years ago, he has completed his gristmill work, and has been writing the HAR-tifacts column for the Newsletter of the HSHC.

*-Please join us for a little milling around.*

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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.

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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:Dundocin@zoominternet.net">Dundocin@zoominternet.net</a>
<b>Board of Advisors At Large:</b>	Mary White, Claire Blackmer, Christopher 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.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/) eMail: [HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net](mailto:HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net)

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Changing of the Guard

The winds of change are always about us. Hence, this month our Harford County Genealogical Society is poised for the biannual election and a changing of the guard. Coming to the end of my second two-year term as President of the Society, it is with a bit of nostalgia that I reflect on the past four years. As many of you are aware, I was away from Harford County for 40 years and the Genealogical Society was one of the first re-connections I made. It has been heartwarming to renew old ties and make many new friends and acquaintances. I especially appreciate the opportunity to learn and serve as your President.

With the help of every member, these past few years have seen our membership stabilize; programs have reflected a wide range of pertinent topics; publications have been timely and on schedule; we have a stellar newsletter, and have maximized the advantages of moving our meeting place to 'home base' at The Historical Society of Harford County HQ. Just a year ago, we celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> year of our organization with great fanfare.

None of these accomplishments could have occurred without the cooperation and steadfast support of a superb cadre of Officers and Advisors. Thanks to each and every one of them for their individual and collective efforts. Their thoughts and hard work have made my tenure smooth sailing and personally rewarding. I would be remiss if I did not extend a sincere thank you to all members who have supported our programs and activities, and with deep gratitude, on behalf of all of us, I extend hearty thanks to the speakers and authors who have given so generously of their time and talents

I look to the future with great anticipation for the Society as some new faces are poised to join the leadership team. Now a recently "certified" octogenarian I am going to take a few deep breaths and charge ahead! I am not going away – just stepping aside, and will be here as Past President to lend a hand whenever and wherever on behalf of the Harford County Genealogical Society. And with my predictable final line, I urge you to come and bring fellow members on Sunday November 21 as we elect new officers and learn about the mills and miller families in Harford County. See you there!

*Sincerely, Arch*

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## GENEALOGY FEATURE

### Continuing Education

It has always been a challenge to encourage people to continue their education, to see what is available, to rekindle the passion flame, to grow in their understanding. Simple acts like reading a monthly periodical, or attending a seminar, or reviewing someone else's work, can open horizons, create new visions, and stir the juices. This article is an attempt to encourage all of you to attend a seminar, and write a short review that will tell others what they missed, and encourage them to continue their education.

Recently, I attended the one-day **2010 Baltimore Family History Workshop** in Essex, MD. To my surprise, the place was packed with about 300 attendees. If you missed this opportunity, then mark your September 2011 calendar for the next Workshop. Among those who also attended were Society members Jon Livezey, and Dan Shanahan, plus Society visitors Carol Bickel, and Kaye Yarrison.

After the opening session, there were six consecutive 50-minute sessions held in ten classrooms, starting at the top of each hour, plus five two-hour workshops mixed-in. Lunch had to be squeezed into a 10-minute break, or you missed a session. There were 48 unique seminar sessions, one of which was led by our own Jon Livezey. I selected six of the 50-minute seminars, finding them all informative and enjoyable. Did I mention that the conference was FREE? I did splurge \$4.00 on a CD with all of the class notes, which allowed me to read handouts for those seminars that I could not attend. You can still obtain some of these syllabuses online at <http://www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org/>

Two of the seminars were given by Angela Packer McGhie, an extremely well qualified genealogist, instructor, and Family History Librarian. Her first seminar titled "Creating an Effective Research Plan" focused on the elements of a research plan, a sample research plan, and a table of original records. The table linked 15 types of genealogy related information (ex. physical description) to 12 source records (ex. immigration & military records) that could yield the desired results. Plan your research trip to a repository by grouping surnames of interest for each source available at that repository, and avoid jumping to another source until all surnames have been exhausted. She encouraged us to tailor her chart for various locales.

Ms. McGhie other seminar titled "What's New at FamilySearch.com," reviewed several new online areas of interest. <http://pilot.familysearch.org> is digitizing records from their 2.4 million rolls of microfilm and has 185 teams in 45 countries filming more records. <http://indexing.familysearch.org> has 300,000 indexers working to index a million records a day. So far, more than 200 million records have been added using this process through August, and you can join the indexing effort from your computer. Transcriptions are crossed checked with other indexers, to assure quality control. <http://wiki.familysearch.org> provides free family history advice (similar to Wikipedia) from research experts and interested genealogists. <http://new.familysearch.org> allows users to build, share, and preserve their family histories online.

"Indexing Problems" was the title of another seminar led by Jane Thursby. She pointed out eight common problems with indexes, and provided fifteen strategies to minimize errors when using indexes. I also took away some thoughts on how to build better indexes. Her table of common errors and spelling alternatives was well done, and a handy reference.

Thursby also led the "Maryland Marriage Laws and Records" seminar that covered Laws for Marriage in Maryland, how those laws affect marriage (and divorce) records, and where those records are located. She began with marriages in 1633, and touched on legal changes made in 1640, 1654, 1666, 1651, 1777, 1863, 1865, 1882, 1886, 1890, 1914, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1949, 1951, 1972, 1987, 1963, & 1997. If you have had problems finding marriage records in Maryland, it is completely understandable.

One other seminar titled "Probate Records in Maryland" was led by Thursby. She enumerated the sixteen or so types of probate records, plus two types of related court records. Beginning with general information about the probate process, she provided some historical background information, then a glossary of the records, followed by identifying records that can be found at the Maryland State Archives, and the Family History Library. Most importantly, she reminded us that every State has different rules, so your Will needs to be in harmony with the laws in your State of residence at time of death.

One of the more well attended seminars was led by Jim Bartlett a Y-DNA Surname Project Leader who helps people group their results into family lines. His seminar title, "DNA: the Genealogist's Newest Tool," discussed uses for Y-DNA and mtDNA test results, their benefits, and costs. The simplest task being the matching of Y-DNA results to the results of other participants, in order to determine a common ancestor. Of course, both participants need to have a proven ancestral chart plus a common Y-DNA result, in order to match male ancestors with the same surname and given-name on each other's chart. Multiple occurrences of the same given-name in a surname ancestral chart, requires additional data (ex. spouses name) to confirm the common ancestor. The Y-DNA test data yields a string of numbers, but the Y-DNA Surname Project Leader can associate other participants with matching data, and facilitate the identification of a common ancestor. Both participants share their research, thereby confirming their research. Hopefully, one participant can piggy-back on the research done by the other, thereby increasing the vertical length of their ancestral surname line. If not, they can at least expand their charts horizontally.

Jon Livezey led a session titled "Genealogical Research in Harford County, MD," in which he identified eleven principal repositories of records related to Harford County families. His talk continued by elaborating on the types, content, and location of various genealogy related records. Also included was Jon's map sketch of the Harford Hundreds.

"Research at the D.A.R. Library" by Julia D. Coldren-Walker helped me understand the sources and finding aids at the library. I left thinking about what data I needed to make successful DAR Library online and on-site research trips.

I left the conference feeling exhausted, but enlightened. It is my sincere hope that you are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities like this conference to expand your knowledge and sharpen your research skills. It can also help rejuvenate your desires to push-on in the face of brick-walls, and make time for a wonderful hobby.

*Richard Appel*

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## GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

### **Reginald F. Lewis Museum -November Program**

Date: **20 November 2010** (Sat) 10:30 am

Place: **Reginald F. Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History & Culture,**  
830 E. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD. Parking at 815 E Pratt St. \$6

Registration: Call Lisa Crawley at 443-263-1816 to register. \$8 non-member admission fee.

See <http://www.africanamericanculture.org/novemberprograms2010.html> for more information.

Program: "Tracing Female Ancestors." Rebecca Koford and Prof. Donna Hollie will discuss research strategies for tracing female ancestors.

### **RootsTech Conference**

Date: **February 10-12, 2011** (Thur-Sat)

Place: Salt Lake City, Utah

Registration: see <http://rootstech.familysearch.org> for preliminary information. Fee to be determined.

Program: A new 3-day **RootsTech Conference** is designed to foster innovation by bringing technology users and creators together in a meaningful way. Thousands of genealogists who use technology in pursuit of one of the most popular hobbies in the world will discover how new and emerging technologies can improve and simplify their activities. Genealogists will be treated to technology prototype demonstrations, interactive workshops, and opportunities to test innovative new product and service concepts.

## NGS 2011 Family History Conference

Date: **11-14 May 2011** (Wed-Sat)

Place: **North Charleston Convention Center**, Charleston, SC.

Registration: see brochure [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/NGS\\_CharlestonFlyer\\_web.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/NGS_CharlestonFlyer_web.pdf)  
registration opens in December.

Program: **Where the Past is Still Present** The four-day conference will include more than fifty national speakers providing over one hundred lectures including: researching in South Carolina and the surrounding states; migration to Georgia, Tennessee and the Gulf states; military records; research methodology; record analysis; problem solving; religious records; technology updates; and much, much more.

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## HCGS ELECTIONS

Time for changing of the guard is here again for our Society. Every even-numbered year we elect a Board of Directors for the Harford County Genealogical Society at the November General Meeting. The Board has the responsibility for forming committees, preparing publications, scheduling meetings and programs, authorizing expenditures of Society funds, and proposing projects and policies.

The President has appointed a Nominating Committee, whose chairperson, Mary White, has compiled a slate of recommended candidates to fill all seven of the elected Board of Advisor positions for a two-year term. This slate of nominees has been approved by the Board, and is hereby presented to Society members in advance of the November elections. Members must be present to vote.

POSITION	NOMINEE	CURRENT BOARD STATUS
<b>President</b>	<b>Douglas Washburn</b>	currently Treasurer
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Michael Close</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Betsy Keithley</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Arch Phillips</b>	currently President
<b>Advisor 1</b>	<b>Jon Livezey</b>	currently Vice President
<b>Advisor 2</b>	<b>Claire Blackmer</b>	incumbent
<b>Advisor 3</b>	<b>Christopher Smithson</b>	incumbent

Nominations, including self-nominations, will continue to be accepted until the voting begins, with prior consent of the nominee. There are individuals willing to decline their nomination, if other members of the Society were willing to accept a position on the Board.

For clarity, the Newsletter Editor, Program Chairman, and immediate Past-President are non-elected voting positions on the Board of Directors. There are no term limits. There are no proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of our Society for consideration.

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## **MARCH MEETING**

Our **Sunday, March 20, 2011** 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 announced in the February issue of this NEWSLETTER, and posted on our website.

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