



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

January 2011

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

There are no winter (Dec-Jan-Feb) Society Meetings.

Date: **Sunday, March 20, 2011** Time: **2:00 PM**

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

Program: **Research Afternoon at HSHC**

Gather your research schedules, notes, thoughts, and sticking points. Start preparing by reviewing your genealogical data for brick-walls and un-resolved clues, and then update your research schedules. Genealogy help will be available, and **Historical Society of Harford County** 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.

After a brief orientation with highlights of collections added over the past year, everyone will be free to ask for help, ask questions, start searching, or participate in PastPerfect user training. Every Historical Society department will be open at the same time, without charge, and staffed with a knowledgeable Historical Society volunteer. Your specific written research objectives will be a big help to the experts, as well as you.

Light refreshments will be available at no charge in the lobby, especially for those whose head is starting to spin or going into overload. You might even strike-up a conversation with someone who can help with your research. *-Please join us for a little digging.*



2011 Membership Dues

Enclosed is our 2011 Membership Application and Renewal form for your convenience. Payment is requested before **February 15, 2011**. Additional forms are available on our website. We are always interested in speakers, program topics, and off-site venues for our May meetings. Please jot down your ideas in the SUGGESTIONS 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.

HCGS ELECTION RESULTS

This past November we elected new Officers and Advisors for the Harford County Genealogical Society to serve as our leaders for the next two years. The Board has the responsibility for forming committees, overseeing the preparation of special publications, scheduling meetings and programs, authorizing expenditures of Society funds, and proposing projects and policies. The Directory below lists our 2011-2012 Society leaders:

2011 DIRECTORY

President:	Doug Washburn	Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net
Vice President:	Michael Close	cmckjc@verizon.net
Treasurer:	Arch Phillips	anmPhill@qis.net
Secretary:	Betsy Keithley	jeffkandbetsyK@comcast.net
Advisors At Large:	Jon H. Livezey, Christopher Smithson, tba	
Newsletter Editor:	Rich Appel	Richard.Appel3@verizon.net

Web Site: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg/

eMail: HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net

FROM THE PRESIDENT**I'M BACK ... *not that I ever really left.***

My first duty as returning president is to thank Arch Phillips for the last four years of his leadership. Luckily, he has not gone far, and I look forward to his continued support. If we can convince him to resume his position at the helm in the future, our Society would be well served.

My second duty is to extend a special thanks to Betsy Keithley, the Society's new secretary, and Michael Close, the Society's new vice-president, for taking a more active role in our organization. The Society's officers and Advisory Board members from the last several years have been playing musical-chairs with these positions, and it is, to say the least, *nice* to have some new blood in our midst. Looking forward to 2011-12, each member is asked to consider *picking up a bat and stepping up to the plate*, since open-positions that could be filled by Presidential appointments, remain. The Board has considered dissolving the organization on more than one occasion, and this is our first glimmer that we may not have to consider it again for a while.

Our 2010 membership ended at 74. I hope that this number will grow, or at least hold, in 2011. No doubt, the Society's worthwhile Special Publications, and excellent newsletters by Rich Appel, have kept membership interest. As always, anyone with an idea for a pub or newsletter article is asked to contact someone on the board with the information. The membership form has space for both of these types of suggestions or you can send us and email. Please note you should USPS mail all Society payments to: **Harford County Genealogical Society, 143 N. MAIN ST, BEL AIR, MD 21014-3539.**

Unless you have been a continuous member for several years, you may have missed a complimentary Special Publication that comes with a paid membership. Moreover, if you have not visited our web page recently, you may have missed that the indexes for several of our Special Publications, plus our Newsletters back to March 2005 in PDF format. In the past, we never had enough storage space, but since moving to Rootsweb.com, we now have the luxury of unlimited web space. You should find these indexes helpful in determining if one of our Special Pubs is worth purchasing. See the SURNAMES tab on the left side of our Home Page.

I would be remiss not to mention the passing of Whitney Claire Blackmer. She was a longtime member who served on our Board of Advisors for many years, and often provided the "goodies" for the socialization part of our meetings. Claire was also a Director of the HSHC, and Chairperson of their Court Records Department. She will be greatly missed by both Societies. - *Doug Washburn*

IN MEMORIAM**Whitney Claire Blackmer 1926 - 2010**

It is with deep sorrow that we mark the passing of Claire Blackmer, on 10Dec2010, a long time member of our Society, long time Court Records Chairperson, for the Historical Society of Harford County, and a good friend. Claire was recently re-elected to our Board of Advisors, and has acted as our liaison to the HSHC Directors for many years.

GENEALOGY FEATURE

RESEARCH LOGS

In light of our upcoming March 20th Research Afternoon at the Historical Society of Harford County (HSHC), it would behoove all of us to take time to prepare for the hunt. In other words, we need to define goals that reflect what we want to learn, and then filter them based upon the probability that the Historical Society collections contain that information. Do this whenever you are planning to research a topic.

Preparing includes reviewing the current state of your genealogical project(s), thinking about what data could be relevant to Harford County, what data might be available in the Historical Society collections, what related facts you already know, what you believe to be correct, and what you would like to know or prove to be true. This preparation is known as developing research objectives, but it needs one more crucial step.

This most important step is to write down your research objectives in a form that helps keep your efforts on track. Once you walk into or logon to a repository (library, archive, courthouse, etc) of data, your time is limited, the available assistance is limited, and the frustrating disappointments or confusing excitement can be unlimited. Distractions, the enemy of any successful search, abound and will surely take away the precious time that you need.

As you write down your objectives, keep in mind the resources available at the repository to be searched. Do not plan to cull census data, military records, immigration data, death certificates, land records, or probate records at the HSHC, because they are not the focus of their collections, and online data is much easier to search and capture. Understand the strong points of available collections, and the respective search criteria (keywords). If you are unfamiliar with the repository, get familiar before you go, and develop a list to review with repository experts. You do not want to waste time looking for data that definitely is not available in the repository of interest.

Successful researchers stay intensely focused on their research objectives, and avoid distractions by creating **Research Logs** with pre-defined objectives, along with space for recording their findings. Always, always, remember to **annotate your findings by citing sources** for all findings on the Research Log. If you notice clues or realize ideas related to other objectives, write them down, FOR LATER. Remember to stay focused on your objectives, but do not scrap these thoughts for another time. They might be maps to gold mines of data.

Shown below is a partial sample of a Research Log for listing both your pre-search objectives and post-search findings. You can tailor this sample, or search books and the internet for others. You could also develop your own Log. First, put your name on the paper as the researcher (1st grade lesson). If the sheet is misplaced, a finder has an opportunity to get it back to you. Continue by completing the **Ancestor's name** with life-dates, **Objective(s)**, and **Locality** (place of Research).

As you examine each resource, record the following post-search findings: **Date, Location of source; Description of source** (bibliographical citing *so it can be found again*); findings (**Comments** -the data found or *not found*, to avoid future re-looking, a brief description of the source, plus your observations); and a **Document number** to associate your findings with any copies of data. This "document number" also needs to be placed on your new image or document, to create a link to your source description.

A blank Research Log form is attached, and can be downloaded from the web at:

https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/File:Research_Log.pdf

Sample form:

--Researcher's Name--

Research Log

Ancestor's name

Objective(s)	Locality
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Date of search	Location/ call number	Description of source (author, title, year, pages)	Comments (purpose of search, results, years and names searched)	Doc. number

See you in March, with your Research Logs in-hand.

Rich Appel

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

RootsTech Conference

Date: **10-12 February 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.

Reginald F. Lewis Museum -February Program

Date: **26 February 2011** (Sat) 10:30 am (snow date: 12 March)

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/februaryprograms2011.html> for more information.

Program: **Brothers in Blue: Uncovering Civil War Ancestors**

Genealogist Leslie Anderson discusses methodology for identifying and researching her maternal and paternal ancestors who served in the U.S. Colored Troops in Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Colored Cavalry in Virginia.

Mid-Atlantic German Society - Spring Meeting

Date: **02 April 2011** (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 15, 2011
after March 15th Fee is \$50. Members receive a \$5 discount.

See <http://www.magsgen.com> for more information, flyer, & registration form..

Program: **Underutilized Twentieth Century Records.** *The Broad Spectrum of Family History Resources at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* -Megan Lewis; *Records of the US Department of State, National Archives* -Chris Naylor; *A New Deal For Family History Part 1: Intro to Using Records of New Deal Agencies* - Dr.Ken Heger; *A New Deal For Family History Part 2: The Civilian Conservation Corps* -Dr. Ken Heger.

National Genealogical Society 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
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.

MAY MEETING

Our **Sunday, May 15, 2011** Society meeting will be held off-site at **Susquehanna State Park** at **2:00 PM**. We will be touring the **Archer/Stump Mansion Museum** and **Rock Run Grist Mill**, followed by a box-lunch picnic. Please save the date, mark your calendars, and invite a friend.

History buffs will also be drawn to the restored Rock Run Historical Area with its working gristmill, the Archer/Stump Mansion, Jersey Toll House, and remains of the Susquehanna Tidewater Canal.

More information plus lunch order forms with directions will be announced in the March issue of this NEWSLETTER, and posted on our website.
