



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

September 2011

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

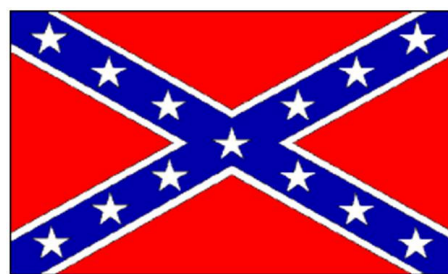
Date: **Sunday, September 18, 2011** Time: **2:00 PM**

Place: **Bethel Presbyterian Church, 4135 Norrisville Rd MD-23, White Hall, MD 21161**

Program: **Harford County during Civil War**



Our Society program for September will be a panel discussion dealing with loyalties, prejudices, and families torn apart during the Civil War. As the nation remembers this great tragedy on its



150th Anniversary, we will be reflecting on the family divisions that pitted brother-against-brother, father-against-son, and neighbor-against-neighbor. Cornelia Nixon's book titled *Jarrettsville: A Novel* has brought a resurgence of interest in how Harford County families, neighbors, and communities coped with relationships during and after the War. Our panelists will share family memories and stories of community interactions, where tensions festered, but rarely exploded into violence. Many of the local churches existed and continued to function with divisions of loyalties in their midst. Some of the oldest surnames in the county will be included in this discussion, including Jarrett, Turner, Cairnes, Hope, Tipton, McComas, Kirkwood, Kurtz, Henderson, Gross, St. Clair, Amos(s), Ward, Cathcart, Streett, and others. Those in the community, who were slave owners, slave lessees, and employers of freed blacks, will also be mentioned.

Please join us for an afternoon of memories and enlightenment.

2011-2012 HCGS DIRECTORY

President:	Doug Washburn	Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net
Vice President:	Michael Close	cmCjkC@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Arch Phillips	anmPhill@qis.net
Secretary:	Betsy Keithley	jeffkandBetsyK@comcast.net
Advisors At Large:	Jon H. Livezey	jLivezey@comcast.net
	Chris Smithson	ctSmithson@gmail.com
	Kathy Glackin	KathleenGlackin@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Rich Appel	Richard.Appel3@verizon.net

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

eMail: HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net

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

Have you Googled lately?

Being a seventh generation descendant in the northern Harford County / southern York County (PA) area on my mother's side, and still living here, has no doubt made it somewhat easier for me with my research. However, on my father's side, I am very much like the majority of our membership - - remote from the source by a considerable distance. My father came to Harford County, Maryland, from Flint, Michigan. His parents had moved to Reno Township in Iosco County, Michigan, from New York State with his grandparents (I believe their ancestors came from Vermont and before that, Massachusetts.). No doubt like many of you, I am not just "once removed" from much of my heritage. Just as our society has worked to make information available for its membership and researchers, I am happy to say that other organizations are doing the same.

I still have family in Michigan and we decided that it was time to make a visit. On the chance that something new might have been discovered, I took to the computer and to my delight I found that a gentleman in Michigan must have retired, volunteered at the local historical or genealogical society, and set about indexing years and years and years of a local newspaper. This information was computerized and made searchable. As I headed north in August, I was looking forward to unraveling some of my unknowns via 125 newspaper articles that his index indicated includes information about my grandparent, great-grandparents and my father's siblings.

Many would argue that good documentation is rarely found on the world-wide-web, and too many new researchers believe too much of what they read there, but it can be a tool that provides assistance getting you going in the right direction on the right track.

So if you have not researched one of your lines recently, it could be time to dust off your research cap and see what's new. And for Harford researchers, have you visited the Historical Society's *PastPerfect-Online Electronic Card Catalog* recently? Thanks to a ten-year effort by Mrs. Dorothy Stambaugh, one of many volunteers, there is a new 3,400 page Archives' Documents Index now available at www.HSHCcatalog.org/index.htm

- Doug

GENEALOGY FEATURE

Here are reviews of two books of interest to genealogists.

EVIDENCE EXPLAINED

All researchers and especially those dealing with historical records in every form need a high-quality guide book to keep them grounded in good practices. Elizabeth S. Mills has provided us with such a resource in *Evidence Explained: citing history sources from artifacts to cyberspace*¹. This book is a sequel to the author's 1997 handbook titled *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*,² the 1997 text that was a must have text for every genealogical researcher's library.

She begins both manuscripts with Fundamentals of Evidence Analysis, followed by Fundamentals of Citation, but the new version is greatly expanded in depth and breadth. These first seventy-eight pages deserve exhaustive study, and can build your research skills immensely. Take the time to digest the information and build your vocabulary.

The Analysis chapter is critical to properly evaluating what your finding is telling you, what it is not saying. The researcher is challenged to make a hypothesis, develop a theory, and then prove it. Remember "all sources lie," and the job is to prove the truth and fallacies as well as the degree of truthfulness. That is quite a challenge for those who believe all that is written.

Each of the next twelve chapters deals with a particular record series, Artifact, Business, Cemetery, State Court, State Vital, National Government, and the typical Book, Newspaper, Manuscript, etc.. These chapters hold the templates and examples that can be referred to on an as-needed basis. Each chapter begins with Quick Check Models or templates on gray paper, and then is followed by expanded detailed Guidelines on white paper. The gray color makes the Quick Check Models easy to locate.

For additional study, consider memorizing the contents of the 139 entry Glossary, unless you are already conversant with genealogical words like agnatic and morganatic.

¹ Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence Explained: citing history sources from artifacts to cyberspace*, Genealogical Publishing, Baltimore, MD, c2007, 885 pp., hdbk, ISBN -13: 978-0-8063-1781-6. Available online for \$50 -\$70, and for checkout at HCPL (907.2 M).

² Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*, Genealogical Publishing, Baltimore, MD, c1997, 124 pp., hdbk, ISBN -13: 978-0-8063-1543-0. Available online for \$10 -\$20, and for checkout at HCPL (929.1 M).

ORGANIZING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY SEARCH:

Although, most of us are well organized and experienced in research and records management, Sharon Carmack's *Organizing Your Family History Search*³ offers many practical and logical approaches.

This text is well written, easy to understand, and written as if Carmack was sitting at your kitchen table just talking to you. One of the better things she does is to offer several ways to accomplish a specific task. She states why you might want to use one over another and why she prefers a specific way. Handy tips from other professional genealogists and historians are provided, as are pointers to other relevant resources such as reference books, societies, and services. The appendices also include useful basic organizational forms that can be photocopied and used in your own research.

Novices and beginners in the field of genealogy will find this book especially useful because it puts structure into one's research, by giving the reader a perspective for what is useful, and what might be disregarded in the search for one's history.

Parts of this book are extremely helpful, but the problem with this book is that the author lets her own dated opinion keep her from seeing the bigger picture in the state of genealogical research. Organizing genealogical information in an ancestral database software program with accompanying electronic research log is critical to success! Her overarching concern for the preservation of her work is highlighted by her obsession for paper documents.

Carmack's practical, logical approach can guide your genealogical research to the next level of efficiency and success. But my preference is Ann Fleming's slightly newer, nationally acclaimed, and very robust text, *The Organized Family Historian*⁴.

³ Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *Organizing Your Family History Search: Efficient & Effective Ways to Gather and Protect Your Genealogical Research*. Betterway Books, 1999. ISBN 1-55870-511-2 (pbk), 150 pages. Call No.: 929.1 C.

⁴ Fleming, Ann Carter; "*The Organized Family Historian: How to File, Manage, and Protect Your Genealogical Research and Heirlooms*," Rutledge Hill Press, 2004; ISBN 1-4016-0129-0 (pbk), 292 pages. Call No.: 929.1072 F.

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

ANCESTRY.com FREE ACCESS

Harford County Public Library as well as the Baltimore Maryland Stake - Family History Center provide in-library free access to ancestry.com **Family History Library edition**. The Baltimore Stake is located at 120 Stemmers Run Road, Essex, MD 21221 (Enter at rear of building). Hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00am. - 4:00pm; plus 7:00pm - 9:00pm Tuesday; & Saturday 10:00am - 1:00pm. Phone: **410-686-8481**. Take your flash drive to collect your findings!

GLOVES OR NOT -RESEARCHER'S TOOLBOX

Most genealogical researchers rarely have the opportunity to handle original records or documents, but are we prepared when we do? It is a good idea to keep a pair of exam gloves in our toolbox, but better yet include a few foil-wrapped miniature moist towels.

Clean, dry hands, free of grease, oils, and dirt are recommended by most curators for those handling paper documents. With nothing between the fragile document and your very sensitive skin, a delicate sense of touch can aid in the reduction of mechanical forces applied to the document, thus preventing damage by smudging, pulling, and tearing. Of course, you must never moisten your fingertips to increase friction, or touch anything that might be transferred to the document.

Now, there are a few curators and a few situations that will mandate the use of exam gloves, but there are far more places that never let anyone actually handle original documents. When gloves are required, they are often provided for a fee, but clean and correctly sized (S-M-L-XL) Latex-Free and Powder-Free Purple Nitrile Gloves are your best choice. Gloves are priced at about \$7 for a box of 40 gloves (each fits either hand).

For those of us handling photographs and film, the lint-free cotton glove, placed on CLEAN HANDS is a must. Our skin has pores that exude oils and fatty acids. Usually microfilm rolls and microfiches can be handled by the leaders, or edges, and as such are often exempt from special handling, but beware of trying to correct a tangled jamb or spilled sheets, with bare hands.

Always check with the staff or owner before handling any archived materials.

LOST & FOUND: FAMILY PHOTO

The family photo at the right was brought into the Historical Society of Harford County by someone from St. Mary's Church in Abingdon. They claimed it was left at the church on May 17, 2009 [*Yes, that was a long time ago*] after our off-site picnic meeting at



Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, Emmorton Rd.

Please contact the HCGS if it is your photo, or you think you might know anything about its ownership. Let us know what you know, so we can try to get it back to its rightful owner.

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

Maryland Genealogical Society – MdHS Joint Workshop

Date: **10 September 2011** (Sat) 8:30am – 3:00pm

Free Parking available

Place: **Maryland Historical Society**, 201 W. Monument St, Baltimore, MD 21201

Registration: Fee is \$40 for non-members before Sept 07, and includes a continental breakfast & catered lunch.

Register online www.MDHS.org/events or eMail eStafford@mdhs.org.

Program: **Researching Your Civil War Ancestors** Presentation titles are: *Your Civil War Ancestors: A Guide to Research* by Michael Hait; *The Shriver Family: A Genealogical Perspective of the Civil War* by David Shriver Lovelace; & *Lesser Known Civil War Records at NARA* by Michael Musick.

Reginald F. Lewis Museum – Genealogy Series

Date: **24 September 2011** (Sat) 1:30pm, Gift Shop & Café are open 11:00am–4:00pm Museum open 10:00am-5:00pm

Place: **Reginald F. Lewis Museum**, 830 E. Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21202

Registration: eMail ResourceCenter@maamc.org or call 443-263-1816, \$8 Museum Admission

Program: **Fruit of the Earth: Using Land Records Effectively** Land records are one of the most widely available of all genealogical records. They hold a wealth of local historical information beyond land purchases. Join Genealogist Robyn Smith for an overview of land records and their use in your genealogical research. Ms. Smith, an engineer (BS, MS) by day, teaches an advanced African-American Genealogy class at Howard Community College, and is the author of a genealogy blog *Reclaiming Kin*.

The 17,000,000 Stories Of Ellis Island: What's Fact, What's Myth?!

Date: **9 November 2011** (Wed) 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Place: **Roland Park Country School**, Baltimore, MD

Registration: call **Kaleidoscope Lifelong Learning** at 410-323-5500, ext 3091 for additional information and directions. Fee is \$40 for this one session.

See also http://www.rpcs.org/Kaleidoscope/fall_kaleidoscope.aspx See Fall 2011 Catalog p.29 for more details.

Program is a single session hosted by **Kaleidoscope Lifelong Learning** at Roland Park Country School. The speaker is the popular genealogical lecturer and NARA Records expert, **John Phillip Colletta**, Ph.D.

Millions of Americans trace their ancestry to immigrants who arrived at Ellis Island. Yet many myths and misconceptions about the place hamper family research and distort the stories of our ancestors. When exactly was Ellis Island operating as an immigrant inspection station? Why did thousands of immigrants who came through the port of New York never set foot of Ellis Island? Were all the Ellis Island records lost in a fire in 1897? Did immigration officials change the names of immigrants? This presentation puts Ellis Island into its proper place within the larger context of U.S. immigration history. It sets the record straight regarding what's fact and what's myth.

2011 Baltimore Family History & Genealogy WorkshopDate: **15 October 2011** (Sat)Place: **Baltimore Maryland Stake**, 120 Stemmers Run Rd, Essex, MD nr Eastern Ave MD-150 & MD-702Registration: Registration for Classes opens late August. **No cost. No food service.**Program: Save the date and look for details www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org**Mid- Atlantic Germanic Society -2011 Fall Conference**Date: **29 October 2011** (Sat) 8:30am – 4:00pmPlace: **Plaza Hotel**, 1718 Underpass Way, **Hagerstown, MD** nr I-70 & I-81

Registration: Registration Fee: \$45 for non-members until Oct 15. Fee includes lunch.

See <http://www.magsgen.com/fallmeeting.html> for more information, flyer, and registration form, or call Diane Kuster: 252-281-5000 or 252-373-1684 (North Carolina).

Program: **A Fall Potpourri!** Presentation titles are: *The Cornerstone of Genealogy: Vital Records from an Untapped Source* by Susannah E. Brooks; *Correspondence Regarding “Applications for Pensions” for Veterans Living Outside the United States* by Gunter Schanzenbacher; *19th Century German Lutheran Church Records in New York City* by Bob Greiner; & *Underutilized, Underappreciated and Unknown Sources for German Research* by John Humphrey. Vendors and freebees available all day in Exhibit Hall.

I heard Humphrey speak in Charleston, SC, this spring and was thrilled with his presentation.

September 18th we will meet at BETHEL Presbyterian Church in Madonna.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Our **Sunday, November 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**. Please save the date, mark your calendars, and invite friends.

Our program for November will be “Harford County Cannery Families,” by Bernie Bodt. See the November Newsletter and our website for the latest information.
