



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

May 2012

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: **Sunday, May 20, 2012** Time: **2:00 PM**

Place: **Grace United Methodist Church, 143 N. Main St, Aberdeen, MD 21001**

The Families and Churches that formed Grace United Methodist

Our guest speaker will be Joe Swisher, the Grace United Methodist Church historian, and former HSHC President. Please join us for his presentation on the many Aberdeen area Methodist churches that contributed five cornerstones to Grace U.M.C. These churches with roots as far back as 1765 include some of the oldest churches in the county: Bush Forest, Boothby Hill, and Paradise.

An optional box lunch can be pre-purchased, and will be distributed after the program. If you would like to have a box lunch prepared by the Jarrettsville Creamery & Deli, please complete the enclosed order form and send it along with your check. Note that **orders received after Tuesday May 8 may not be honored.**

2011-2012 HCGS DIRECTORY

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

*** * * PLEASE READ * * * PLEASE RESPOND * * ***

By the time this issue of our newsletter reaches you, the board will have met in April and once again we will have had a conversation regarding the future of this Society. While the 2012 total membership is not far behind 2011, program attendance continues to dwindle. Although we have attempted to expand our program attendance by advertising our meetings on the world-wide-web at The Patch, Dagger Press, and

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.

Facebook in addition to our own web page, and in the Historical Society's newsletter, generally we have less than four non-Board-Member members attending. Speaking for just myself, this is not worth the time, effort, and society expense it takes to make these programs happen.

Given that the majority of our membership is not local to Harford County or Maryland for that matter, I guess this should not be a big surprise. A number of our local members have passed away in recent years, and we have failed to entice younger members to replace them. Of our current 2012 membership of 61, only 2 are new. We ended 2011 with 73 members.

I have proposed several specific changes to keep the society alive and viable; the board will ponder my proposals and try to formulate alternative ideas. I propose we do not dissolve, but 'down size': 1) we continue to produce at least one Special Publication per year; 2) we reduce our program meetings from five to two (one for elections / research and one for our yearly 'off premise' meeting); 3) we reduce our Newsletters from six to four (one per quarter) or two (one per meeting). These actions would keep the majority of why I believe our members choose to belong – primarily, the Special Publication, and secondly, the Newsletters, while shedding some of the most expensive and least productive parts of what we have been doing. These actions would also allow us to consider a reduction of dues -- specifics will vary by what we continue to do, and more importantly, how many members choose to stay if we implement these changes.

Let us know, by e-mail, on Facebook or by snail-mail, **your reaction to these proposals**. The board would appreciate a definitive response from all members so that we make decisions that reflect member desires. To that end, we will consider a "no response" to be a preference to dissolve rather than down-size as described (or as determined via the alternative ideas). You need not write an essay on the subject – your response can be as brief as "down-size," "dissolve," or "no change." **If you have comments or suggestions, feel free to elaborate.** **NOW!**
Doug Washburn

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

Truth and Reconciliation Commission: *Research and Pilgrimage*

BY THE REV. CANON ANGELA SHEPHERD

The 2009 General Convention, of the Episcopal Church called on each diocese to continue gathering information about the history of slavery, segregation, and discrimination. We are one of a few dioceses to take this seriously. Although we have made progress, there are more stories to tell, and facts to be revealed.

The Diocese's Truth And Reconciliation Research and Pilgrimage working group enlists your help as plans are made to launch a pilgrimage in 2014. Current sites include the slave gravesite at the Bishop Claggett Center, Underground Railroad tunnels at Emmanuel Church, Cumberland, as well as others. We invite all Episcopalians to engage in telling their stories or experiences of their journey toward truth and reconciliation embodied in pilgrimage sites located within their geographic region as well.

Follow the example of St. Mark's Church, Lappans, and St. Paul's Church, Prince Frederick, whose research unveiled a remarkable story connecting significant pieces of slavery, freedom, and reconciliation in their respective parish histories. These stories craft a new synthesis of our diocesan history. Although, challenging, they empower us to understand our past and offer new insights as we continue to move toward better tomorrows.

Does your parish or church family have a story to tell from the 17th century to the present? We welcome you to be a part of the journey for truth and reconciliation by assisting us with additional pilgrimage sites or becoming a pilgrim. Embark on a journey with us as we open the doors of our hearts to the possibilities of truth and reconciliation.

Reprinted from: Journal of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, MARYLAND CHURCH NEWS, SPRING 2012; p.18

If your Genealogical research interest is in this area, consider sharing your stories with the Episcopal Diocese, or utilizing their findings held at 4 E. University Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21218, (800) 443-1399. Contact: Archivist, Mary Klein, via email at archives@ang-md.org

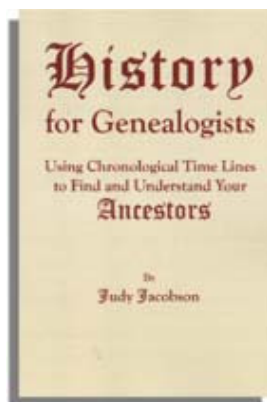
A new DVD titled "Sacred Ground, Sacred Stories" that portrays 15 stories of Buckeystown, Maryland, slave families in the early 1800s, is available for \$25 from the St. Bede's Bookstore, 4 E. University Pkwy. Baltimore, MD 21218.

Plats of Early Harford County Lands

Printouts of pre-1774 Harford County land plats (i.e., before Harford County was established from Baltimore County) are now available at the Historical Society. James McConnell, a Genealogical Society guest speaker in November 2007, has donated two five inch thick volumes of plats that were created as part of a collaborative effort with Michael Pierce to plot these early lands from the descriptions in deeds. The Historical Society and the Genealogical Society are working with Michael Pierce to develop a "How To Guide" web page to assist researchers in finding plats of properties that may be of interest (e.g., property of an ancestor, or the property where you now live). This will be available from the Historical Society's PastPerfect-Online Electronic Card Catalog portal. Watch for updates on this new resource in the future.

Review your files, gather your facts, and create research logs in preparation for the release of tools, later this year, to help search this collection.

History for Genealogists



For those who like to embellish their genealogical facts, by mentioning historical events that may have influenced people to make the choices they made, there is a handy guide to aid in your research. Jacobson's *History for Genealogists: using chronological time lines to find and understand your ancestors* is loaded with tables of major events in various locations. The beginning chapters briefly discuss the Why and How of creating timelines, which can enlighten most researchers to new avenues to investigate.

The bulk of this volume consists of specific historical time lines that answer fundamental questions about our forebears. For example, if you are trying to learn when your ancestors left one place for another, it would be helpful to ask the question, "Why did they leave?" Did it have to do with a military conflict, social injustice, religion, disease, economic hardship, a natural disaster? No matter what the explanation, Mrs. Jacobson has a historical time line that could lead to the explanation. For example, your ancestor's departure may have coincided with the outbreak of the Crimean War, a virulent epidemic, an earthquake, or a religious war.

Other chapters pose answers to other crucial questions, such as "How did they go?" and "What route did they take?" For these conundrums Mrs. Jacobson uses time lines to lay out the history of the transportation revolutions in America (roads, rails, canals, and air travel), as well as the history of the great western trails our ancestors followed in crossing the country.

Jacobson, Judy; **History for Genealogists: using chronological time lines to find and understand your ancestors**, Genealogical Pub; 2009; 286pp. ISBN 978-0-8063-5439-2; HCPL Call# 929.1072 J

1940 Census Records

The 1940 U.S. Census Records were released earlier this month on April 2, by NARA. All of the more than 3.8 million original document images, containing 130+ million records are available free of charge. The drawback is that Indexes are not part of this release, but should be completed by December. Different groups such as Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org will also have indexes available, but with different search criteria and fees. Eastman, Richard W; *Online Genealogy Newsletter*, www.eogn.com permission granted

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

Reginald F. Lewis Museum

Date: **05 May 2012** (Sat) 11:00 AM

Place: **Reginald F. Lewis Museum**, 830 E. Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21202, Hours: 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

Registration: call 443-263-1816 Fee: \$5. Parking available across the street in the Dodge PMI Garage, 815 E. Pratt St. \$6 validated parking is available. For more information see:

<http://www.africanamericanculture.org>

Program: **From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow Mamout and the History of an African American Family.** In his new book James H. Johnston, Esq. uncovers the life of Yarrow Mamout, a Muslim from Guinea brought to Maryland on the slave ship *Elijah* in the 18th century. Mamout, who later gained his freedom, became a noted figure in Georgetown. His portrait was painted by Charles Wilson Peal. The struggles and achievements his family which span some 6 generations are told through paintings, photographs, books, diaries, court records, legal documents, and oral histories.

Washington DC Family History Center -Workshops

Date: **05 May 2012** (Sat) 9:00 am - 3:15 pm

Place: **Washington DC Family History Center**, 10000 Stonybrook Dr, Kensington, MD 20895

Registration: FREE. Register on-line <http://www.wdcfhc.org/conf2012/index.php> or call the Family History Center at 301-587-0042 during regular business hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:30 am-4:30 pm & 7:00 pm-6:00 pm, Friday: 9:30 am-1:00 pm, Saturday: 9:30 am-3:30 pm.

Seminar descriptions on-line at <http://www.wdcfhc.org/conf2012/descriptions.php>

Program: **Digging into Our Roots Using 21st Century Tools.** This conference is free of charge with 17 classes from beginning to advanced genealogy. The keynote speaker will be popular Teacher, Author, Blogger, and Webinar Host, DearMYRTLE, who will also present two other classes.

National Genealogical Society 2012 -Family History Conference

Date: **09-12 May 2012** (Wed-Sat)

Place: **Duke Energy Convention Center**, 525 Elm St, Cincinnati, OH.

Registration: see 16 page brochure

http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2012_Conference_Registration_Brochure.pdf

Conf. Fee \$210, if NGS member. Lodging, Luncheons and Social Events are extra. The drive from Bel Air is ~530 miles by taking I-70 to Columbus, OH, then south on I-71. I recommend staying away from the downtown Hyatt, Hilton, & Millennium for lower lodging costs.

Program: **The Ohio River, Gateway to the Western Frontier** This four-day conference will include more than fifty national speakers providing over one hundred lectures including: genealogical skill building, research methods, military records, working with photographs, ethnic records, migration patterns,; religious records; technology updates; and much, much more. Your days can be filled from 8:00am to 8:00pm. See NGS Flyer for details. Hosted by the Ohio Genealogical Society, and its Hamilton County Chapter.

The 2013 NGS Conference will be in Las Vegas, NV.

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2012 ConferenceDate: **29 Aug-01 Sep 2012** (Wed-Sat) Wed= Librarian's Day Reg: +\$10Place: **Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex**,
2100 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd, Birmingham, AL 35203Registration: see website for details, <http://www.fgs.org/2012conference/>Download 16 page brochure: <http://fgs2012media.weebly.com/fgs-2012-conference-brochure.html>Conference Fee: \$245, or **\$195** before 01July2012. Lodging (varies), Luncheons (<\$25) and Social Events (<\$30) are extra.

Program: **Indians, Squatters, Settlers, and Soldiers.** This year's FGS conference offers an exciting opportunity for anyone interested in researching their family history. Over 175 educational sessions and 13 luncheons are designed to balance the needs of genealogists at all levels, exploring a variety of records, strategies, and other tools available to those interested in researching their family history. Special sessions include a wide variety targeting members and leaders of genealogical and historical societies. In addition, special events, such as the Alabama Genealogical Society Opening Social at the Alabama Theater, the FGS Evening Social at the historic Sloss Furnaces, Spotlight on Societies, and daily sponsored lectures provide an excellent environment to meet and network with others interested in family history and genealogy.

KEEPING IN TOUCHSee our **HCGS** website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/ for the latest information.

“Like” our  at “**Harford County Genealogical Society**” Or specifically:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harford-County-Genealogical-Society/181956435224989>We also post our upcoming events on the **BelAirPatch** www.BelAir.Patch.com/events/

And on  www.DaggerPress.com

HCGS 2012 Special Publication

Special Publication 44, Harford County Land Records Vol. A.L.G. 1777-1778, has been completed by Jon H. Livezey and is now being distributed. This Publication will be handed out to our 2012 Society members of record during our May meeting, and then mailed to other members.

JULY MEETING

Our **Sunday, July 15, 2012** Society meeting will be held at The Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters, 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014 at **2:00 PM**. Please save the date, mark your calendars, and bring a friend.

Our program for July will be “**Researching Harford Countians**” by Jon Livezey. See the July Newsletter and our website for the latest information.
