



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

July 2012

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: **Sunday, July 15, 2012** Time: **2:00 PM**

Place: The Historical Society of Harford County HQ, 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

Researching Harford County Families

The speaker will be Jon Harlan Livezey, one of the founders and a past president of our Society. His topic will be "Researching Harford Countian Families." Jon will cover backgrounds of people that lived in the county, and the use and availability of the most pertinent records for researching their family histories. Some of these records include estate papers, family histories, ancestry charts, colonial, prerogative, and circuit court records, Anglican, Episcopal, Quaker, and Methodist church records, local court naturalizations, directories and maps. This should be a good refresher for experienced genealogists and a primer for those new to the ranks.

Jon is a well known researcher in the county and has authored several publications, most recently our Society's Special Publication No. 44 "Harford County Land Records JLG (A: 1777-1778)". Please join us for an informative talk by one of the Society's most experienced researchers.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to report that a significant number of the Society's membership took the time to read my May message and respond to my request for comments on downsizing versus dissolving our Society. Overwhelmingly, the response was to downsize.

Several of the comments included compliments to the board for providing interesting programs and/or Special Pubs. On behalf of myself and the other board members, I thank you.

Several members also offered suggestions as to how to (re-)generate interest in our programs and Society. The board's next meeting will be following the July program, so the other board members will not have a chance to consider these suggestions until that time. One is of particular interest to me, but I will have to see how the idea floats with the Board.

I would also encourage you to take part in managing our Society, by volunteering for an office.

Again, thank you for your time, comments, compliments, and suggestions.

Doug Washburn

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.

***** New Hours for The Historical Society of Harford County HQ *****

Tuesday COURT RECORDS 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Wednesday ARCHIVES 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Thursday RESEARCH LIBRARY <i>Genealogical Stuff</i> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	4th Saturday ARCHIVES & RESEARCH LIBRARY 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
--	---	---	--

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
	Rich Appel	Richard.Appel3@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor:		

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

KEEPING IN TOUCH

For the latest information see our HCGS website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg/	We also post our upcoming events on the BelAirPatch www.BelAir.Patch.com/events/
“Like” our  at “Harford County Genealogical Society” https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harford-County-Genealogical-Society/181956435224989	And on  THE DAGGER www.DaggerPress.com

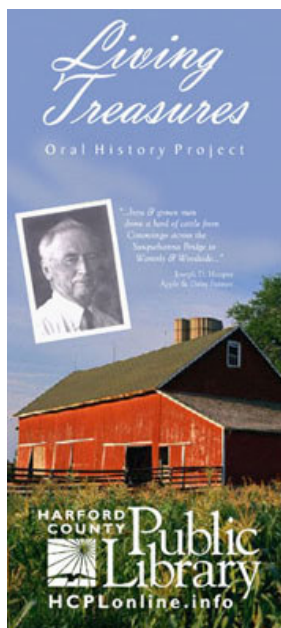
GENEALOGY TIDBITS

GOLDEN RULES for Genealogists from: got genealogy?™

- Spelling doesn’t count.
- Assume nothing.
- Use discretion.
- Always document your sources, *no matter how much they contradict one another.*
- Most dates are approximate.
- If unsure, say so.
- Computers are great, *but don’t forget the library!*
- Just because it's online *doesn't mean it's true.*
- Pass your research along.
- Don’t die with your stories still in you.

These rules are reprinted here without elaborations. Visit: <http://www.gotgenealogy.com/rules.html> for more in-depth rule descriptions, monthly newsletters, and other good stuff. This website is all about “Using the Tools of the Future to Discover Your Past.”

LIVING TREASURES of Harford County



In compiling genealogical records, one resource that is often ignored is the audio and video recordings of persons who have shared their life experiences in Harford County. The goal of the Harford County Public Library's **Living Treasures Oral History Project** is to preserve for future generations firsthand accounts of what life in Harford County was like for previous generations.

This Living Treasures project "identifies aging people whose memories of life in Harford County remain vibrant and record these memories for posterity." Trained library staff interview confirmed Living Treasures about their life experiences, including their trades, skills, community social events, and childhood memories. Recordings, transcripts and other memorabilia become part of the library's oral history collection. While the collection is most useful to those researching Harford County's history, and its rich cultural past, it often contains family genealogy.

Listed here in surname order (surname, given name, date of birth, & date of death if known) are the names of persons that have been interviewed prior to May 2012. Look for surnames that match those on your family tree, and those who lived in areas where your research is focused. I am sure you will find some surprises and useful information.

Harford's Living Treasures and many more of these types of collections are available through the **Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage (MDCH) Program**, at HCPL or the Enoch Pratt Free Library. You can visit the HCPL in person or online to search or browse these collections. Copies of the interview materials are available for loan from both libraries.

Information for this article was extracted from the HCPL website at: <http://hcplonline.org/other/specialcollections.cfm> May2012.

Amoss, Benjamin H., 1911-2001
 Anderson, Katherine E., 1924-
 Atkin, June Williams, 1930-
 Banks, Walter G., 1918-1994
 Berry, Mary Bond, 1925-
 Boggs, Julia Lochary, 1926-
 Boyle, Clarence, 1927-2011 & wf
 Burns, Ruth Schillinger, 1915-
 Burton, Clarence, 1890-1979
 Byrd, Joyce Bransford
 Carmen, Naomi Hanson, 1900-1987
 Carroll, H. Morrison, 1899-1986
 Chrismer, Wayde, 1910-
 Close, Lucile Robinson, 1917-2005
 Coale, Margaret, 1923-
 Cobb, Ruth R., 1933-
 Cronin, Charlotte Garretson, 1925-
 Cronin, William Royall, 1921-
 Curry, Augusta, 1923-
 Davis, Elmira
 Dennis, G. Graham, 1913-
 Ditzen, Eleanor Davies Tydings, 1904-2006
 Dixon, Irene, 1900-
 Dombrowski, Esther Everitt, 1931-

Dombrowski, Raymond J., 1929-2008
 Edwards, Lena Johnson, 1915-
 Edwards, Margaret A., 1902-1988
 Endslow, Katherine Viola Archer, 1907-2011
 Fahrney, Roenna, 1911-1994
 Fielder, James D., 1920-2002
 Fielder, Sam B., 1897-1987
 Fletcher, Blanche, 1904-1987
 Foard, Margaret, 1896-2000
 Foard, William Lorenzo, 1885-1981
 Galbreath, Grace Day, 1894-1992
 Getz, Payson, 1928-
 Green, William L., 1920-2007
 Grimmel, C. Edwin, 1923-
 Grimmel, Dorothy S., 1927-
 Hague, Herman, Sr., 1922-1997
 Hall, Mary H., 1904-2001
 Harkins, Dorothy O., 1914-2005
 Harlan, John Maurice, 1899-1982
 Harlan, Paul B., Sr., 1903-
 Herbert G. Jenkins, 1923-
 Hooper, J. Robert, 1936-2008
 Hoopes, Joseph D., 1905-2009
 Hubble, Harold L., 1932-

Jasper, Helen Regina Cain, 1923-2005
 Johnston, Imogene B., 1922-
 Jonas, George Herbert, 1928-
 Kaste, Elsie Wagner, 1927-
 Kefauver, Helen M., 1909-
 Kelly, Lee Anna McComas, 1920-2006
 Knight, E. Grace, 1913-
 Landbeck, Billie D., 1920-
 Lawrence, Carrie, 1907-2010
 Mahan, Ruth Williamson, 1920-
 Martinek, Lorraine Ward, 1919-
 McComas, Charles H., Jr., 1915-
 Mentzer, Roy D., 1920-2008-
 Mergler, Donald, 1908-2007
 Merryman, Violet, 1921-1998
 Mitchell, Edith Gorrell, 1924-
 Moore, Hannah, 1888-
 Moore, Mary Isabelle, 1911-1994
 Morey, Clarence A., 1929-
 Morgan, C. Curtis, 1907-2005
 Nagle, Lois Edwards, 1929-
 Neuburger, Arnold, 1932- & wf
 Orsburn, Lester Harry, 1921- & wf
 Overbay, Elsie Irene, 1921-
 Parker, Mitchell, 1903-1985

Pastelak, Michael, 1924-2007
 Peaker, John Henry, 1911-1987
 Reese, Katharine J., 1917-2005
 Riley, Marie Rahll, 1908-2011
 Roberty, Alfonso A., 1926-
 Robinson, Sara W., 1921-
 Scarborough, Mabel A., 1907-2006
 Simmeth, Lisa, 1930-
 Snodgrass, Thomas, 1908-
 Sparks, Hazel, 1918-2007

Stansbury, Helen, 1911-2010
 Stansbury, Russell, 1924-
 Strawbridge, John B., 1894-1989
 Streett, Mary Clyde Spencer, 1911-
 Struben, Francis L., 1920-
 Walker, Evelyn R., 1909-2002
 Walls, James Arthur, 1893-
 Weinzirl, John L., 1926-2010
 White, Mary Blackhall, 1933-
 Whiteford, Mary, 1909-2009

Whittington, Lawrence, 1909-2001
 Wiley, Flora Dean Hankins, 1910-1993
 Williams, Gladys I., 1920-
 Williams, Percy V., 1916-
 Wilson, D. Everett, 1924-
 Worthington, Margaret, 1928-
 Wright, C. Milton, 1881-1976
 Yoder, Edward D., 1930-

Harford County Land Grants

By now, most of you are aware of the partnership between HCGS, HSHC, and deed mappers Mike Pierce and Jim McDonald, who have collaborated to make Plats based on Certificate of Surveys available to researchers like us. If you have not yet visited our [HCGS website](#) look for the bright “NEW” icon, and take a test drive.

It has been over four years since the group began seeking ways to work together. It has been three years since Doug Washburn and I made presentations to our Society and provided materials in this Newsletter. With the recent donation of McConnell’s plat binders to the HSHC, and Doug’s hosting of a search engine on HCGS’s website this year, the tools are readily available. Our hope is that everyone will be surprised at the ease with which land research can now be done.

What you can find are images, held in the Maryland State Archives, of original Certificates of Survey for both Patented and Unpatented lands. These are useful in that the person requesting the survey is named, the metes and bounds are listed in a table, a description of the property is given, and a simple plat is diagramed. Other Surnames and tract names that abut the property are often included. These Certificate images make great additions to an ancestor’s life story. You will also be accumulating evidence of the ancestor’s existence, and the tract name of the original patent (land grant) issued by Maryland’s provincial, or state governors. Most significant and helpful result is the geographical location of that land tract as overlaid on a modern-day topographical quadrangle map.

Try it and let the Society know what you find, and how you liked the tools that we helped to provide. If you find other uses or benefits from this service, please share it with all of us.

Rich Appel

GENEALOGY FEATURE

Timelines Can Help

My wife recently found family history information that linked her grandmother to a 1640’s English nobleman of the same surname. What an exciting find, and someone else had done all of the hard research effort! As an extra bonus, the genealogy identified a Lieutenant who had served in the Revolutionary War. She was rightfully excited and went about assembling all of the details. She even created a tree diagram to share with a cousin.

Meanwhile, I am pouting in the corner over this pot of gold she fell over in just ten minutes with little or no effort. Being a natural skeptic, but wanting to share in some of the glory, and not be embarrassed, I looked closer at what she had found. I gathered my earlier research data starting with her most recent Sessoms ancestor, Grandmother Ida Sessoms (m. Powers), back to G₁Gfather Robert Sessoms.

To create a simple life-span timeline for several persons, I quickly taped together three sheets of lined legal paper short end-to-end. Along the top edge of this very wide scroll, beginning with the year 1970,

every other vertical line was labeled in decreasing increments of ten years. Ex. 1970, 1960, 1950, 1940... Below the year labels I drew a horizontal line from 1964 to 1890, then added markers for death (d), marriage (m), and birth (b), to represent the life-span of grandmother Sessoms, and the anchor for our base knowledge. Our base knowledge is the accumulation of documents, primary data sources, and our own presence, along with her husband and children, at her burial.

Progressing vertically downward on my crude timeline I added horizontal life-span lines for G₁Gfather Haynes Sessoms, G₂Gfather Robert, and some of the newly found G₃Gfather Solomon Jr, and G₄Gfather Solomon (Sr), etc. Each line was labeled with corresponding (d), (m), (b) markers, plus the actual year numbers. To “connect the dots,” vertical lines were drawn between generations that linked a child’s birth (b) down to a father’s life-span line. The intersection of the vertical link on the father’s line is typically located just after his marriage (m) marker.

By now you have probably guessed what we saw. Solomon Jr’s attributed son Robert was born before Solomon Jr was married, and just after Jr turned age 13. Not a reasonable event. In addition, Jr had only one son and his name was David. Remember: **Just because it's online doesn't mean it's true.** A portion of the timeline with just Robert and Solomon Jr’s life-span lines is shown in Figure 1.

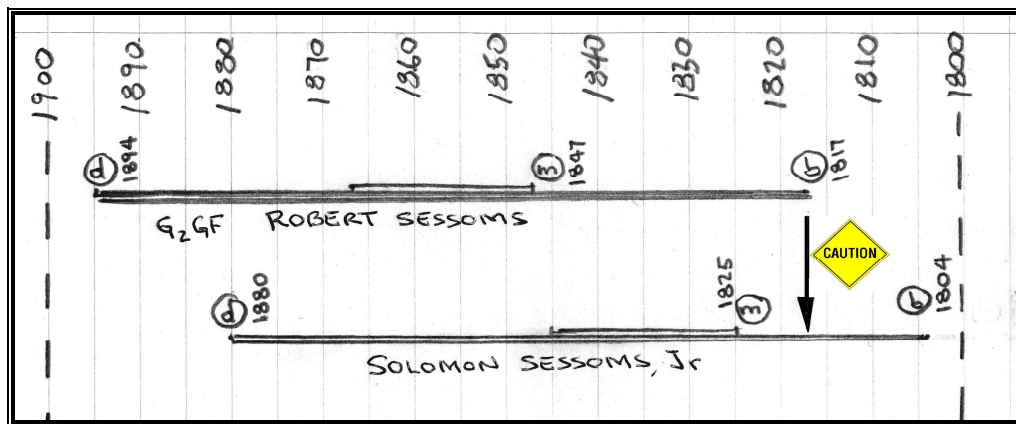


Figure 1: SESSOMS Family Timeline Extract

Talk about the “air escaping from the balloon!” My wife immediately faulted my analysis, and then became upset that I trashed her work, and then was irritated that a Sessoms ancestor/researcher got it wrong. In the end she would have preferred to be deceived and lived with the data she found. After all, she now had a WWI soldier, a Civil War soldier, a Revolutionary War soldier, plus an English nobleman with a family crest, and it was all documented (*sic*) in just a few minutes. A far cry from what I had accomplished over decades of researching my family.

This life-span timeline identified an erroneous relationship that shattered an extensive family history, but it also supported previous research that ran into a “brick-wall” with Robert Sessoms’ heritage. On the plus side, it helped us focus future research on a specific family group, in a specific time period, and in a definitive location.

Robert was a Baptist preacher, who did not stray from his roots, led a public life, and should have left documented evidence of his existence. Now, I just need to encourage my wife to press on.

Rich Appel

Copyright © 2012 Richard A. Appel

HCGS 2012 SPECIAL PUBLICATION

Special Publication 44, Harford County Land Records Volume J.L.G. #A, covering the period 1777-1778, has been distributed free of charge to all of our 2012 members. If you have not received your copy, please contact Rich Appel by email or at the Society’s address in Bel Air. All purchase orders are handled by the Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2012 Conference

Date: **29 Aug to 01 Sep 2012** (Wed-Sat) Wed= Librarian's Day Reg: +\$10

Place: **Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex,**

2100 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd, Birmingham, AL 35203

Registration: 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.



2012 Baltimore Family History & Genealogy Workshop

Date: **13 October 2012** (Sat)

Place: **Baltimore Maryland Stake,** Essex, MD (nr MD702 & MD150)

Registration: Registration for Workshops opens late July. **No cost !**

Program: Save the date and look for details www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org



SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our **Sunday, September 16, 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 friends.

Our program for September will be "**Making The Best Use Of The Internet For Genealogical Research**" by Ann Winkler, from the Harford County Public Library. See the September Newsletter and our website for the latest information.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Our **Sunday, November 18, 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 some friends.

Our program for November will include a short Annual General Meeting with the election of Officers and Board Members, followed by free-ranging **Genealogical Research** with assistance from HSHC Department specialists and HCGS consultants. Start creating your research logs now to keep your searches focused in November. See the November Newsletter and our website for the latest information.
