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EDITOR'S NOTE

Articles of historic interest on Southern Maryland are requested for possible publication in future issues of *The Record*. Please send your typewritten manuscripts to: Publications, *The Record*, Box 261 Port Tobacco, MD 20677

The Historical Society of Charles County
Post Office Box 261
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677

Museum: (vacant position)

Tours and Educational Programs: Robert and Naomi Petrash

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mazzeo. Jr. 6795 Normadie Woods Dr. LaPlata, MD 20646



The RECORD

Publication of The Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.

No. 84 April 1999

R. Wayne Winkler, President

Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., Editor

VOLUNTEERS IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LOUISE B. TURNER

BIOGRAPHY: Louise is an 11th generation Southern Marylander. She has a Masters Degree in History and Design from the University of Maryland and taught for 21 years in the public school system. Among her many heritage society affiliations are:

- 1. National Society of Colonial Dames of America
- 2. Port Tobacco Chapter of the NSDAR (charter member)
- 3. President of the Smallwood Foundation
- 4. Charles County Garden Club
- 5. Historical Society of Charles County (life member)

PROJECT NAME: Historic Sites Committee

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The committee was established by the historical society to locate historic Charles County buildings and document their social and architectural history. The committee's records include:

- 1. The Historic Sites File
- Containing over 250 folders with information on 179 Charles County buildings; 55 Prince George's County buildings.
- Folders are also maintained for Virginia/ Northern Neck; St. Mary's County; Calvert County and other early Maryland sites related socially and culturally to Charles County history.
- Folder contents include photographs; property histories; National register nominations; location maps.
- 2. Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage Tour Books
- Six volumes; 1937 1998, excluding WWII years (1942-1945).

COMMENTS: "This has been a very worthwhile project under the aegis of the historical society and the Southern Maryland Studies Center. This is the only record we know of for many Southern Maryland structures; it's especially important because many of the old houses have disappeared from the landscape. The sites file is also an important resource for people searching for their sociological/genealogical roots."

PROJECT NAME: A Days Journey — From James C. Wilfong publications.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: As a special project, partially funded by the Charles County Heritage Commission, Louise undertook the compilation of the writings of local historian, James C. Wilfong, into a five volume set. Wilfong, from Calvert County, wrote extensively about Southern Maryland life for over 40 years. Many of his articles were in the studies center files, but Louise discovered a number of articles, uncataloged, in the Calvert County Library in Prince Frederick. She made several trips to Calvert County to photocopy these articles on acid-free paper so they could be included in her compilation.

COMMENTS: "This collection is very important because, easily, one-eighth of the buildings he reviewed no longer exist. I am very pleased that the information he so carefully recorded is now available to the public."



RUBY DYSON

BIOGRAPHY: Ruby's family history goes back to the early 1700s in Charles County. She shares her interest in history with her husband, George, whose family settled here in the 17th century. They have three-children and six grandchildren. Her community activities include:

- 1. Port Tobacco Chapter of NSDAR (past regent)
- 2. Maryland NSDAR (past officer)
- 3. Lady Jane Sewall, CDXVIIC (past president)
- 4. Historical Society of Charles County (life member)

PROJECT: Genealogical/Research Committee

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The committee originally worked out of a basement room in the Charles County Public Library in La Plata then moved to the newly opened Southern Maryland Studies Room at Charles County Community College in 1976. The committee has developed a research file of over 400 individual surname folders and handles reference inquiries from all over the United States concerning Charles County history and genealogy. Ruby has chaired this committee since the early 1980's devoting approximately one full day a week to the work.

COMMENTS: "I think we are very fortunate in Charles County to have official records which go back to the founding of the country. If your ancestor was a landowner or made a will in Charles County his name will still be here. I enjoy doing the genealogical research for others, but wish I had more time to do my own. My father's family came from Germany in the mid-1700s and traveled down the Shenandoah Valley settling in the southwest tip of Virginia bordering Kentucky and Tennessee.

On a recent research trip to that area I found records absent or in disrepair. It made me realize how fortunate we are in Charles County to have our records well taken care of by the state, and copies available at the Southern Maryland Studies Center.

I want to thank the people who have helped me over the years. If any historical society member would like to work on this committee in the future their help would be welcomed."

JOYCE CANDLAND

BIOGRAPHY: Joyce Candland's family roots are in Charles County. She served for 20 years as the Director of the Washington D.C. Temple Family History Center in Kensington and currently serves as regent of the Port Tobacco Chapter of the NSDAR. Joyce and her husband, John, live in Riverside and enjoy their 10 children and 33 grandchildren. They are life members of the historical society.

PROJECT: The Harry Wright Newman Collection

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A noted authority on Maryland genealogy, Mr. Newman wrote more than 20 books on the history of early Marylanders. Upon his death in 1983, he left his personal research collection to the Southern Maryland Studies Center. These papers include surname files and fill more than 100 document boxes. Joyce Candland has embarked upon a multi-year project, to organize each file, replacing deteriorating paper and small scraps of notes with copies on acid-free paper, and properly labeling files as to content indicating geographic location as well as surname identification. The Charles County Heritage Commission funds supplies for the Newman Project.

COMMENTS: "I feel it a privilege to work on this project, not only because Harry Wright Newman was a great genealogist, but because this is a contribution I can make to future generations of researchers.



Friendship House, Charles County Maryland



Left to Right: Mesdames Joyce Candland, Ruby Dyson, Louise B. Turner and Sally Barley

A Partnership At Work: Preserving Our Community's Heritage

By Sally Barley, Director Southern Maryland Studies Center

The Southern Maryland Studies Center was founded in 1976 as a partnership endeavor between Charles County Community College and the Historical Society. Over the years the center's collection has grown to include 211 manuscript collections, 338 oral history tapes, and thousands of books and photographs. The center has sponsored public programs and exhibits and produced two books: Home Places by J. Richard Rivoire, on Charles County Architecture, and Praising the Bridge That Brought Me Over, a history of the Indian Head, Naval Station community.

Researchers come from all over the county to

consult our genealogical and historical resources. It is the constant and generous support of volunteers from the historical society working with the center's collections that make all of this possible. Volunteers have prepared indexes, maintained the vertical file, conducted oral history interviews, and helped sort manuscript collections. The three volunteers profiled above contribute their hours on a regular weekly basis to achieve the goals of the Southern Maryland Studies Center and the Historical Society of Charles County, which is the preservation of our community's history.