

The RECORD



Volume 102, No. 2

A Publication of the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.

December 2007

Kaye O'Kelley, President

Mary Ann Scott, Editor

JANUARY MEETING

Saturday, January 26, 2008

2:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church

Route 6 and 301

La Plata, Maryland

*In honor of the
350th Anniversary of Charles County
Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.
will present a photographic power point on*

Reflections of Charles County

Historic Towns, Homes and Churches



Mulberry Grove, 1938, after fire of 1934

Dessert and Coffee will be served

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reserve This Date on Your Calendar!

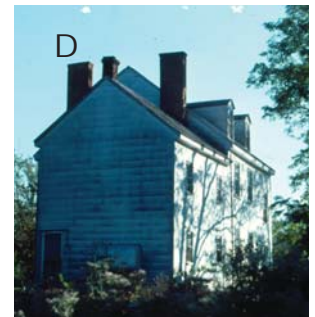
SPRING MEETING

Sunday, May 18, 2008

Charles County Historic Sites Testing Your Knowledge

HOMES OF CIVIL WAR NOTABLES

Photos courtesy of Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.



A Few Hints...

1. Home of Samuel Cox
2. Home of Dr. Samuel Mudd
3. Home of Capt. Thomas Dement
4. Birthplace of Admiral Raphael Semmes
5. Home of Thomas Jones
6. Two built in 1850

OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OFFICERS

President Kaye O'Kelley
301-259-0028
kayeokelley@yahoo.com
Vice-President Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.
Friendshiphouse1968@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary Vacant
Corresponding
Secretary Danielle Webber
Treasurer Judy Ruth

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mary Pat Berry - '09 Vivian S. Malczyk - '08
Charles D. Boone - '10 Thomas Pike - '09
Joyce B. Candland - '10 Robert Pender - '08
Carol Donohue - '09 Michael Ruth - '08
George Dyson - '09

PAST PRESIDENTS

* Bennett Crain, 62-63
* Eugene A. Jenkins, Jr., 63-64, 66-67
H. Maxwell Mitchell, Jr. 64-66
* W. Preston Williams, 67-68
* John H. Mitchell, 68-70
* Watson M. Perrygo, 70-78
George C. Dyson, 78-82
William E. Garvey, Jr., 82-85
** Richard E. Heise, II, 85-86
Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., 86-92
Dr. Lloyd Bowling, 92-98
Wayne Winkler, 98-04
* Deceased
** Acting President

COMMITTEES

Arrangements:

Vacant

Cemetery:

Vacant

Charles County Heritage Committee:

Carol Donohue, Representative

Coalition to Protect Maryland

Burial Sites:

George C. Dyson, Representative

Genealogy and Research:

Ruby Dyson, Chairperson

Historian:

Tom Pike

Historic Sites:

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Historical Trust Representative:

Ruby W. Dyson

Membership:

Michael Ruth, Chairperson
301-934-5717

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Vacant

Projects:

Robert Pender, Chairperson

Publications:

Editor, *The Record*, Mary Ann Scott

Publicity:

Tom Pike

La Plata's Stumble Inn

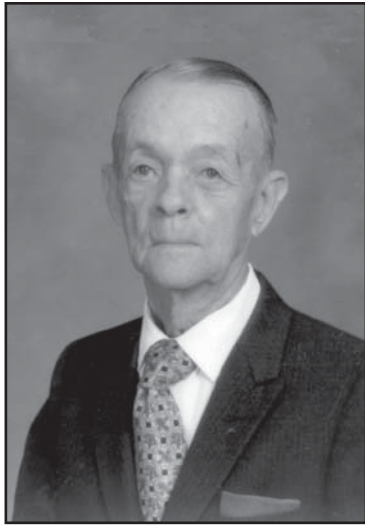
The following is a reprint from an article written
by Roger Horn, Associate Professor of English
at Charles County Community College.
Consequently no part of it has been changed.



The Stumble Inn was a prominent La Plata establishment from its founding in October 1929 until its closing in May 1961. Wallace Barnes was the co-owner of the Stumble Inn and was interviewed in the 1970's by Vicki Minni, then a student at Charles County Community College.

The Stumble Inn, named by Mr. Barnes after a comic strip restaurant, had no contemporary replacement. He offered something for everyone. Business and families dropped in for sirloin steak, salad, french fries and rolls, all for fifty cents. Children paid their nickels for Meadow gold ice cream trucked in from Washington packed in salted ice, then transferred to ice boxes that were drained and rinsed by the truckers. Lawyers from offices upstairs over the Stumble Inn or from the courthouse across the street had lunch and discussed their cases, perhaps, according to Barnes, settling some before going back to court. Afternoons, men with time to fill played pitch, a popular card game, in one of two game rooms. Six days and nights a week, men bowled on

the two alleys added to the rear of the two-story frame building a couple of years after it opened. The seventh night the alleys were reserved for the ladies. Not only did Mr. Barnes talk about the Stumble Inn his colorful interview he also discussed bootlegging in Charles county during Prohibition: *“Every district in the county, I suppose, had a moonshine still in it. And there were a lot of big bootleggers in the county at that time...[they] transported it to Washington and Baltimore in automobiles. Lots of excitement all the time including raids, but generally people were opposed to local option[sic] and finally threw it out.”*



Wallace Barnes, who ran the Stumble Inn, an important gathering place in Plata from 1929 to 1967

When it became legal, liquor was served in two bars, a large one for Whites and a smaller for blacks, because those were times when segregation still flourished in the county. Friday night was poker night in the back room, while Saturday nights the same room housed a crap game. Frequently the games went on all night, the players still there when Mr. Barnes arrived to open for business the next day. The

Stumble Inn was a community gathering place, a social center. It was, Mr. Barnes said, *“a great gathering place. Come in at 10:00 and stay until*

“Children paid their nickels for Meadow Gold ice cream trucked in from Washington”

3:00 and you’d see everybody who came to La Plata on business.”

Heating and lighting changed as years went on. When the Stumble Inn opened in 1929, the first person in on a cold winter morning had to stoke the coal fires in the air tight stoves and pump up and light Coleman gas lanterns like those we use now on camping trips. Several businesses in town went together to buy a whole railroad car of coal at one time.

Landmark Falls To Progress

“The southern Maryland National Bank of La Plata has purchased the Stumble Inn, a landmark



in La Plata, from Wallace and Alec Barnes, who have operated it for many years. Alec will continue to operate the Stumble Inn until some time next year, when the bank plans an extensive expansion program.”

Robbie Baldus remembers...

“Stumble Inn was the town hangout for men. Court was not in session year round so lawyers and judges met there. There was always a crowd for lunch and many of the town and county decisions were made there. That was where you got your Sunday paper. I remember getting a hamburger there with my father, and getting ice cream as a child at Stumble Inn.”

Charles County Schools – Did You Know?

Compiled by Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.

The last issue of *The Record* featured an article on the Origination of Charles County School Names, but did you know the following were the names of what used to be One or Two Room Schools in Charles County?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Bel Alton</i> | <i>Harris Lot</i> | <i>Marbury</i> | <i>Red Hill</i> |
| <i>Benedict</i> | <i>Hawkins Gate</i> | <i>Mason Springs</i> | <i>Ripley</i> |
| <i>Berry</i> | <i>Hill Top</i> | <i>McConchie</i> | <i>Rock Point</i> |
| <i>Brice's Chapel</i> | <i>Holly Springs</i> | <i>Middleton</i> | <i>Sandyfield</i> |
| <i>Cedar Point Neck</i> | <i>(Nanjemoy)</i> | <i>Middletown</i> | <i>Shiloh</i> |
| <i>Chicamuxen</i> | <i>Holly Springs</i> | <i>Newburg</i> | <i>Simms Hill</i> |
| <i>Dentsville</i> | <i>(Newport)</i> | <i>Newport</i> | <i>Swann</i> |
| <i>Federal Hill</i> | <i>Hughesville</i> | <i>Oak Grove</i> | <i>Tomkinsville</i> |
| <i>Friendship Landing</i> | <i>Indian Head</i> | <i>Piney</i> | <i>Turner Gate</i> |
| <i>Glasva</i> | <i>Jackson Town</i> | <i>Pisgah</i> | <i>Waldorf</i> |
| <i>Glymont</i> | <i>La Plata</i> | <i>Pomfret</i> | <i>Wicomico</i> |
| <i>Greenleek</i> | <i>Malcolm</i> | <i>Port Tobacco</i> | <i>Winkler's Shop</i> |



*McConchie One-Room School,
now located at the
Charles County Fairgrounds*



Port Tobacco One-Room School



Indian Head One-Room School



La Plata Two-Room School

Friendship House Foundation



The Friendship House Foundation was established to preserve, refurbish and promote this unique treasure of Charles County. Donations will help to maintain the historical integrity of the house through its furnishings, tours and educational programs and to honor those who have devoted countless hours of volunteer time in the preservation and promotion of this Maryland Tidewater Home.

Today, Friendship House sits proudly on the campus of the College of Southern Maryland. Please join the Historical Society of Charles County in contributing to the preservation of Friendship House for many generations to come.



Friendship House Foundation *In Memory of*

*Warren E. Barley
Philip L. Griffith
Eleanor Higdon
Sue LaHood
Katherine S. W. Mitchell
Kathryn C. Newcomb
Velva Perrygo
Watson Perrygo*

Friendship House Foundation *Levels of giving:*

Friend (\$ 25.00-\$ 99.00)
Colonist (\$ 100.00-\$199.00)
Patriot (\$ 200.00-\$499.00)
Statesman (\$ 500.00-\$999.00)
Renaissance (\$1,000.00+)

To make donations, please make checks payable to the Friendship House Foundation and mail to the Historical Society.

*Friendship House
Foundation
Contributors*

*Friend
Mrs. Hilda Karlsson Rodderick*

*Colonist
Ms. Shiela Smith*

*Patriot
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Donohue
Mr. Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.*

*Renaissance
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Irish*

A Charles County 350th Event

Embracing Our Past, Celebrating Our Future



The Friendship House Foundation

in Partnership with

*The African-American Heritage Society &
The College of Southern Maryland*

Celebrating the Craftsmanship of Colonial Maryland

Survival of the skills and crafts that enabled early Marylanders to prosper and endure

Calendar of Events

Partnership Reception

For all Historical Society Members and partners

February 10th

2:00 p.m.

Themed Weekends

April 5th & 6th

May 3rd & 4th

June 21st & 22nd

Saturdays 12:00 to 2:00

Sundays 2:00 to 4:00



Special Event

Sunday, October 19th

2:00 p.m.

Colonial Holiday Event

Sunday, November 16th

2:00 p.m.

All events take place at Friendship House, on the campus of the College

New Acquisitions for Friendship House



A hand-made stool and colonial lantern have been added to the upstairs of Friendship House.

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you would like future newsletters sent to you by e-mail, please send us your e-mail address. Articles of historic interest on Southern Maryland are requested for possible publication in future issues of *The Record*. Please send your articles and photographs to: The Historical Society of Charles County, Publications, *The Record*, P.O. Box 2806, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Or you can email your articles and photographs to Kay O'Kelley at kayeokelley@yahoo.com

Remembering Charles County

In honor of the 350th Anniversary of Charles County we would like to feature reminiscences in May's issue of "The Record." We are asking our members to submit brief anecdotes about places, people, stories or events in the past of Charles County. Your contribution would help make this celebratory edition special and unique.

Please send your reminiscence no later than April 1st to: maryann.scott@pgcps.org or contact Mary Ann Scott at 301-884-2655 after 6 p.m.

ANSWERS TO TESTING YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- A – Efton Hills in Grayton, 1820, birthplace of Admiral Raphael Semmes
- B – Huckleberry, in Popes Creek, 1850, home of Thomas Jones
- C – St. Catherine, in Beantown, 1830, home of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd
- D – Eutaw, in Pomfret, 1850, home of Capt. Thomas Dement
- E – Rich Hill, in Bel Alton, 1800, home of Samuel Cox

Friendship House Committees

Friendship House is up and running. We have established committees and they are listed below. If you are interested in serving on a Friendship House Committee, please contact Mike Mazzeo at 301-659-5369.

Administration

George C. Dyson,
Administrator
H. Maxwell Mitchell

Furnishings

Joyce Candland, Chair
Madelyn Irish
Louise B. Turner
Anita L. Wood

Tours & Special Programs

Barbara Abell
Carol Donohue
Maureen Golding
Katherine MacCormack

Cellar Museum & Shop

James H. Berry, Jr.
Mary Pat Berry

Foundation

Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., Chair
Madelyn Irish
Vivian S. Malczyk
Anita L. Wood

Ways & Means

Ruby Dyson
Sandra Mitchell

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY

P.O. Box 2806 • La Plata, Maryland 20646

(301) 934-2564