

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Spring Meeting of the Historical Society of Charles County will include a dinner at 7 p.m. on May 4, 1985, at the William and Mary Parish Hall, Wayside Episcopal Church. The evening speaker will be Mr. Dennis Pogue, The Southern Maryland Regional Archeologist, who is employed by the Maryland Historical Trust. Mr. Pogue will be showing slides and speaking on "The Archeological Excavation of 'The King's Reach' site - A 17th Century Tobacco Plantation in Calvert County."



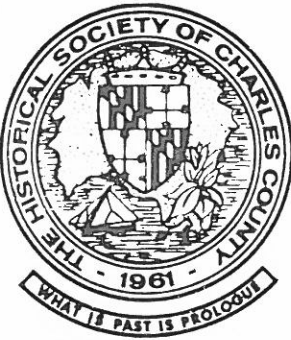
There will be an opportunity for society members to tour The Historical Society buildings in Baltimore on Saturday, June 8, 1985. There will be a further announcement that will state the time, cost and arrangements for food and transportation.



Future plans include:

- ✓ a September tour of Stratford Hall - the ancestral home of Richard Henry and Robert E. Lee.
- ✓ a Fall meeting on October 19th that includes a visit to "The Lindens" - the home of the Warren Barley's, as well as dinner at the Hawthorne Country Club.
- ✓ a proposed Christmas tour with dinner in Chestertown, Maryland.

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The RECORD

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THE MUDD FAMILY AND
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND
A Speech presented by Dr. Richard D. Mudd, J.D.
at Old Line Days, Smallwood Park,
May 12, 1984

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honored to be able to have a small part in this celebration of the 350th birthday of Maryland here in Charles County. I came a long way from northern Michigan to give this 15-minute talk, but I'm sure it is worth the effort

First of all, I'd like to express my delight at the fine concert put on by the handbell choir of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd School. My grandfather, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, would be proud of them!

Charles County has meant a lot to the Mudd family. Thomas Mudd, our ancestor, (1647-97), came to St. Mary's County in 1665, but upon marriage to Sarah Boarman Matthews, he moved to the Bryantown area in Charles County about 1685. Some of the family have lived on that same land for 300 years.

I would like to list some of the important and significant people who have descended from this Thomas Mudd of Charles County:

- Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, sometimes called the Prisoner of Shark Island, the ancestor of 420 people, whose home (where I spent my childhood summers) is nationally known as a museum.
- Walter Mudd (1764-1849) who lived next to Thomas Lincoln, the father of President Lincoln, in Hardin County, KY.
- Four children of Jeannette Mudd (b.1873) and Daniel Allwine who were born in the famous Nellie Custis Mansion at Arlington Cemetery, VA.
- Roger Mudd, the well-known news commentator.
- Jerome Francis Mudd (1799-1846), the first Mudd graduate of Georgetown University who received a Ph.D. in 1818.
- Benjamin C. Welch of Louisiana, the champion muskrat skinner of the United States.
- Margaret Mudd Fletcher, who hunted elephants in Africa, for museums.

- Gary Andrew Mudd of St. Louis, MO, the champion hair cutter in America in 1969.
- Jodi Mudd, the well-known golfer, of Louisville.
- Bennett Mudd (1760-1830), who served with George Washington in the American Revolution and kept the president's pump at the White House after the war.
- The Honorable Sydney E. Mudd, member of Congress from Charles County, 1915-1922.
- His father, Sydney E. Mudd, a Maryland congressman for 20 years.
- Dr. George Dyer Mudd (1826-1899), the ancestor of many of the La Plata Mudds, among them, Patrick Conroy Mudd, who has been County Clerk for many years.
- Dr. Harvey G. Mudd (1855-1933), innovator of the U.S. Army Medical Reserve Corps.
- Dr. Stuart Mudd, the renowned research physician of the University of Pennsylvania.
- Seeley W. Mudd and his sons who have contributed countless millions of dollars to schools, churches and libraries.
- Henry Lowe Mudd (1798-1877) of Charles County who reared John Downey, an Irish orphan, who became the first governor of California.
- James Madison Mudd (1810-1877), who had 21 known children by three wives.
- Father Maurice Aloysius Mudd of Washington, D.C. who was a prisoner of the Japanese in the Phillippines, 1941-1945.
- Nina Irene Mudd of D.C. who married the Baron Tiro of Siam in 1912.
- Mary Mudd, daughter of Luke Mudd, who married Mordecai Lincoln and was the favorite relative of her nephew, President Abraham Lincoln.
- Dr. Joseph Mudd (1744-1816), of the American Revolution, and the first Mudd physician.
- Dayton Henry Mudd (1878-1928), who, along with J. C. Penney, founded that company in Salt Lake City in 1913.
- Ensign Kendall C. Campbell, for whom a U. S. Naval ship was named, for his heroic action in the Tulagi Sea in 1942.
- George W. Thornbrough, for whom Thornborough AFB, Alaska, was named, and who was the 1st American flyer

- to pilot a plane in a torpedo attack on the enemy fleet in World War II.
- Three Mudd homes have been converted to museums: the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd home of Charles County, the William Swearingen Mudd Home in Birmingham, AL., and the Henry Thomas Mudd home in Kirkwood, MO.
 - 21 Mudds served in the Revolutionary War.
 - 21 served in the War of 1812.
 - 6 Mudds served in the Texas Campaign of 1835-36.
 - 1 served in the Black Hawk War.
 - 3 in the Mexican War.
 - 21 in the Confederate Army and 21 in the Union Army during the Civil War.
 - 126 served in World War I. Several Mudds were killed in these wars.
 - There have been 56 Catholic nuns with the Mudd surname and, of course, that many more who were daughters of Mudd women.
 - There have been 47 physicians (M.D.) with the Mudd name but only one dentist!
 - Ten Mudds have been Catholic priests and several have been judges.

Kentucky has the most Mudd families - 347. Missouri has 245. Illinois, 168. Texas, 149. California, 112. Maryland has 71. And lesser numbers in all states of the union.

All these Mudds mentioned descend from Charles County Mudds. At every opportunity, I inform these Mudds of their Maryland origin.

The saga of other Charles County families is no different than that of the Mudds, as one would realize if the necessary research were done.

I see that I am listed in the program as an author. So it is only fair to mention that my 4th edition of the Mudd Family in America, 2 volumes, 1865 pages, came off the press first of this month. It is a glorified history of Maryland, and especially of Charles County, Maryland.

RECENT BOOK ON
MARYLAND PLACE NAMES

The Placenames [sic] *of Maryland, Their Origin and Meanings*, by Hamill Kenny. Maryland Historical Society Gift Shop, 201 W. Monument Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21201. \$20.00 including postage and sales tax.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Collectors of books on Maryland history, especially those interested in anecdotes about various places in the state, will enjoy this new book published by the Maryland Historical Society. The author has written earlier books on Indian names in Maryland, as well as on place names in

West Virginia. Some 2,040 Maryland places are listed alphabetically in this 352-page work, introduced by a 24-page essay - of considerable interest in itself in giving a general description of how place names developed in the state. Even a casual user could not help but be impressed by the evident thoroughness of the author's searching for information. He lists in the front of the book some 50 basic sources which are cited frequently in the individual entries. Listed here also are newspapers and magazines frequently cited, as well as over 30 catalogs, directories, and gazetteers. Even more impressive, however, is the extensive bibliography at the end of the book - over 200 articles and books relating to Maryland, followed by a long bibliography on Indians, including works on language and names. There is a list of maps consulted, since these are obvious sources for place names. The book has an index.

Despite this impressive scholarly approach, the actual entries leave something to be desired and some readers may not agree with the author's conclusions. Mr. Kenny starts each entry by locating the place, for example: La Plata is described as "A village near Waldorf, Charles County; "Waldorf is a "Village near Beantown. . . ;" Beantown is "Near Waldorf . . . ;" and Pomfret is a "Village near La Plata" It is unfortunate that some other means was not used to locate the places more precisely without reference to other places. The author then gives some historical background on the early use of the name, based on maps or various published sources. In some instances, however, information about a name is obtained from a resident, if no other source can be found. The following two examples illustrate the author's method:

LA PLATA. It is on Martenet's Map, 1866. La Plata became a scheduled stop, "La Plata Station," when the Pope's Creek railroad was built through here in 1873. The station stood on "La Plata," [which was] the Chapman farm . . . The land here is flat, and "Le Plateau" was the original name of Chapman's farm. Evidently "Le Plateau" became "La Plata." . . . Note: Earl Arnett (Sun., June 14, 1975) gives "another version," namely, that Chapman may have visited Argentina and named his farm after the Rio de la Plata.

IRONSIDES. Village, near Hilltop, Charles County. Steve Risko (Ironsides, 1971) attributes the name to "Old Ironsides" (the frigate *Constitution*). However, Lee Millstead (Ironsides) tells me that his house (built in about 1886) was once renovated by having its sides covered with tin. I prefer to explain the name by this fact. Note: For twenty years the tin has been covered by "Siding."

Charles County seems to be rather well represented in this book, but several omissions were noted: Bryans Road, Hughesville, and Pisgah. Both Hughesville and Pisgah are given as reference towns for other places, but are themselves omitted as place names. Since the Charles

County names constitute only about one percent of the total places listed, the appeal of the book is the coverage of the entire state. Copies should be available for consultation in local libraries.

Paul L. Berry
Port Republic
Calvert County

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 and other communications to: Editor, **The Record**, P. O. Box 261, Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677.

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