

Project Committee

In cooperation with the Genealogical Council of Maryland, the Historical Society has agreed to participate in a state-wide survey of Church Records. This project consists of inventorying the titles of the volumes of marriages, baptisms and burial



records a church has, not what is contained within each volume. Thanks to the St. Mary's County Genealogical Society, the hardest part of our job has already been completed: identifying the volumes of Charles County Church

records outside the county in the Maryland State Archives, Maryland Historical Society and the Church of Latter Day Saints Library. What remains is to inventory church records within the county. A committee has been formed and completion will be forthcoming. This project, along with the Society's Cemetery Project, will serve as yet another invaluable tool in aiding the researcher and preserving the heritage of Charles County.

Did you Know...

That, according to our zip codes, over 15 states have members in our organization including Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin...

We have only ONE member from Aquasco, Bel Alton, Cobb Island, Hughesville, Ironsides, Rock Point and Welcome...

Most of our members reside in LaPlata, Indian Head, Waldorf and Nanjemoy respectively.

The Historical Society of Charles County

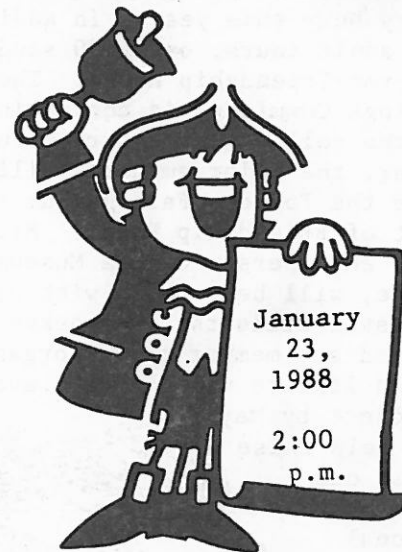
Post Office Box 261
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677

Mr. Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.
Rt. 1, Box 65
Indian Head, Md. 20640

Historic Sites

The following list, compiled by Board member J. Richard Rivoire, names the Charles County properties on the National Register of Historic Places:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Araby | Mt. Air |
| Ballast House | Mt. Carmel Monastery |
| Cedar Grove | Oak Grove |
| Ellerslie | Oakland |
| Green's Inheritance | Rich Hill |
| Habre De Venture | Rose Hill |
| La Grange | Sarum |
| Linden | St. Catherine's |
| Locust Grove | The Exchange |
| Marshall Hall | Timber Neck |
| Maxwell Hall | Waverley |
| McPherson's Purchase | Bryantown Historic District |



News and Notes from The Historical Society of Charles County

Publication of the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.

No. 42 January, 1988

To better serve our membership, The Historical Society of Charles County will be increasing its publications to four in the coming year. In January and July, "News and Notes" will be issued and in May and October, to coincide with our dinner meetings, "The Record" will be issued. We are continually attempting to provide more benefits to our members. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

The Future of Habre De Venture

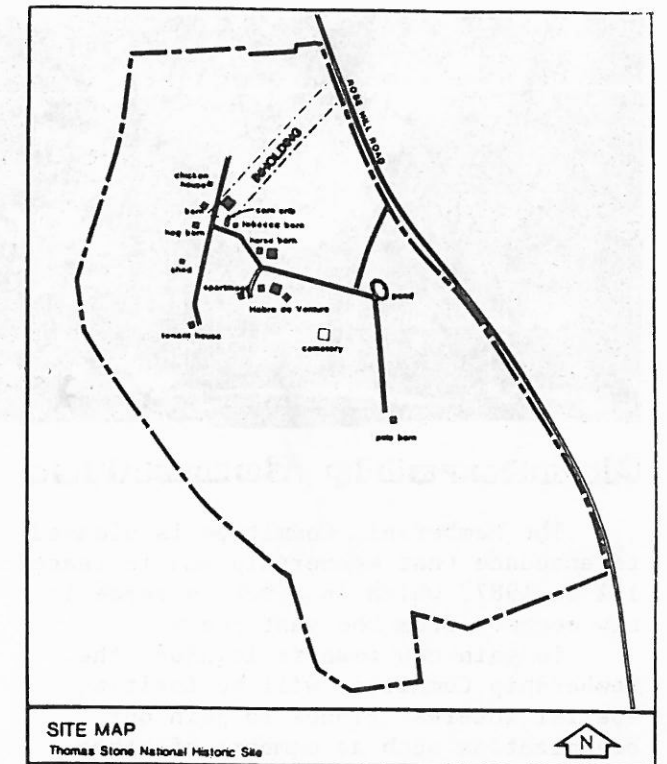
The National Park Service is working on a General Management Plan for the Thomas Stone National Historic Site. This will be a working document for the Park for the next five to ten years. The first draft is scheduled to be completed by June of this year, with the final draft in August, 1988.

Planning stages for the management of "Habre De Venture" have included research by historians, historic architects and landscape architects. The National Park Service will make recommendations as to the purpose of the Historic Site based on the studies, cost, and will enlist community input through workshops and public forums.

The Board of Directors of the Historical Society was recently involved in the first of a series of workshops to "brainstorm" ideas for possible uses of the property.

President Reagan recently approved a bill that includes \$400,000 to help preserve the Thomas Stone National Historic Site. At present, the park includes the five-part mansion house, a carriage house, horse and tobacco barns, corn crib, tenant house, octagon gardener's shed, sheep shed, apartment/garage, cemetery and several other outbuildings as well as gardens and pond.

The next public meeting on "Habre De Venture" will be held sometime in the spring.



A Timely Tour

Historical Society members and guests traveled to Fredericksburg, Virginia on Saturday, October 31, 1987, for a tour of Historic Kenmore Mansion and an afternoon of antiques in the town.

After a slide presentation and an overview of the workings of Kenmore, guests were given a specialized tour of the house. The Georgian Mansion was built in 1752 by Colonel Fielding Lewis when he married George Washington's youngest sister, Betty.

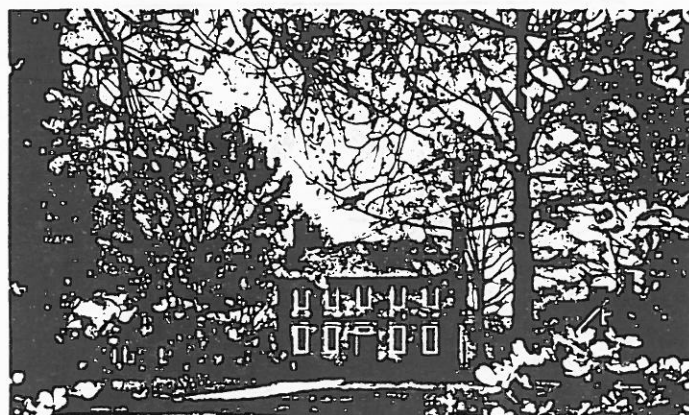
continued

A Timely Tour (continued)

The list of "The 100 Most Beautiful Rooms in America" compiled by Helen Comstock includes the Great Room at Kenmore, the most distinctive feature of which is the ornamental plasterwork. Washington was a frequent guest at the estate since both his mother and brother also resided in Fredericksburg.

Following a garden luncheon and an afternoon of shopping, members returned to Kenmore for Mary Washington's famous tea and gingerbread before departing for Charles County.

The spring trip promises to be equally exciting.



Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that membership has increased 10% in 1987, which is a 90% increase in new members from the past years.

To gain new members in 1988, the Membership Committee will be inviting special interest groups to join our organization such as members of other historical groups within the county; Charles County Social Studies Teachers; the Charles County Garden Club and the Antique Arts Association. In addition, a special invitation will be extended to all members to bring a guest to the May dinner meeting to encourage new members. Currently, membership lists over 365 members.

As an incentive, any Historical Society member that brings in a new member, will receive a free chance to the Friendship House Painting Raffle. A dollar of the new member's dues will go toward the raffle. A membership application is enclosed for you to give to someone. Simply write your name on the bottom and the membership committee will forward your free chance to the Friendship House raffle once your new member joins the Historical Society.

Dues Notice

It's now time to pay your 1988 dues. We value you as a member and encourage your support and help throughout the year. The special programs and exhibits we are planning for 1988 will not be possible without your help. Please complete the Membership Index Card and drop it in the mail with your dues payment. We would appreciate your dues payment by March 1, 1988.

New Members

The Historical Society held a very successful "New Members" reception at our Fall Dinner Meeting, attended by over twenty of our new 1987 members. The Board of Directors has recommended a reception of this kind at every fall dinner meeting due to the outstanding participation we experienced.

The Historical Society would like to WELCOME the following new members since October 1987:

Mr. & Mrs. C. Richmond Gough, Jr., Newburg
Mr. & Mrs. George S. Goodale, Pomfret
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Petrash, Issue
Ms. Jerrilynn W. Zaccarrelli, Waldorf
Mrs. Jane H. Chapman, LaPlata
Mrs. Orva G. Clubb, Fort Washington
Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Rowe, LaPlata
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W. Cross, Clinton
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Jackson, Newburg
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Werking, Port Tobacco

Southern Maryland Studies Center

The Historical Society has continued its close and supportive relationship with the Southern Maryland Studies Center of the Charles County Community College. The Society has provided funds to purchase a microfilm reader for the Center and has recently donated \$435 to assist in the purchase of a Xerox copier for use in the documents room.

Volunteers from the Society's membership have contributed many hours of work doing genealogical research, maintaining the historic sites file, editing transcripts of oral history tapes and clipping newspapers for the obituary and vertical subject files as well as assisting researchers and processing collection materials. More help is needed. Please contact Sally Barley if you can give a few hours of your time to preserve our region's heritage.

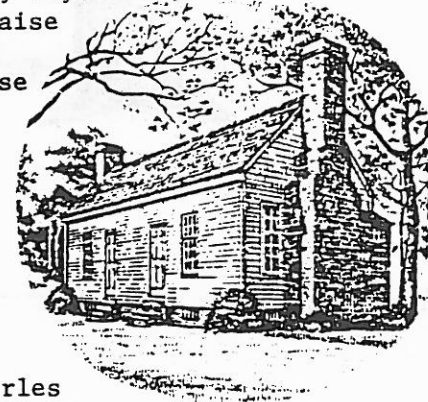
Friendship House

The Friendship House Tours Committee has created and implemented for student tours, an educational packet for teachers, a docent manual and docent training program. In order to impart a lasting experience for the students, four types of exercises have been incorporated into the tour: (1) Trained costumed docents bring the Dent family alive through a cultural explanation of the house and its contents with a TOUR; (2) a student participation PLAY allows personal introspection about how the family lived in the house; (3) a SLIDE-PRESENTATION about the rescue at Nanjemoy to its rebuilding on its present site; and (4) GAME ACTIVITIES that reinforce the learning experience.

The Friendship House docents have been very busy this year. In addition to several adult tours, over 600 students have toured Friendship House. The Furnishings Committee is continuing to add to the collection of period furniture. This year, the major emphasis will be to complete the Tobacco/Farm Museum in the basement of Friendship House. Ms. Janet Andrews, chairperson of the Museum Committee, will be working with creative, enthusiastic students from Lackey High School and any member of our organization who would like to volunteer to accomplish this project by May.

To help raise funds for our Friendship House Educational Programs, the Historical Society will conduct a raffle of a watercolor of Friendship House in its setting at Charles County Community

College. The artist, Carmen Ruiz Wallace, is well known in the Southern Maryland area for her works of historic sites. The painting will be available at our January meeting. Tickets will be available in March and the drawing will be held at our spring dinner meeting May 14th. We encourage the participation of our members in this project.



Program Committee

In 1987, the Program Committee has sponsored: A January meeting, at the Hawthorne Country Club, with Hal Kasso, State Highway Administrator, who gave a slide presentation describing plans for the new Potomac River Bridge; in May, at Old Durham Church, Professor David Fogle gave a slide presentation on Kiplin Hall, home of George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore; in September, co-sponsored



with the John Hanson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the marking of the Thomas Stone gravesite; and in October, co-sponsored with the Charles County Community College, at Christ Church, Wayside, Dr. L. Tomlin Stevens, professor of history at St. Mary's College, who gave a lecture on Maryland and the origins of the Constitution.

Mark Your Calendar

The Program Committee has planned its winter meeting on Saturday, January 23, 1988, 2:00 p.m. at the Hawthorne Country Club. Laurie Verge, Park Historian and Manager of the Mary Surratt House and Tavern in Clinton, will give a slide presentation on Mary Surratt and the Surratt House. In addition to Civil War buffs, devotees to Friendship House will enjoy learning how others maintain and manage a historic property.



Our spring dinner meeting will be held May 14, 1988 at the Christ Church, Port Tobacco Parish, LaPlata, in honor of the LaPlata Centennial.

For 1988, the Board of Directors will be implementing a car-pooling program for those in need of transportation to our meetings. If you are interested or willing to provide transportation please call 743-3452 after 5:00 p.m.