

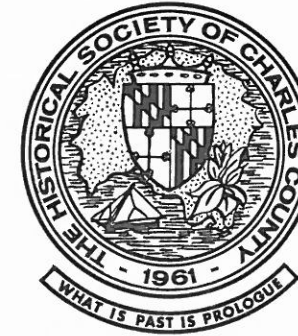
**NEW ACQUISITION . . .** The Historical Society recently purchased a collection of Charles County Postal Cancels containing many post marks of Charles County Post Offices no longer in existence. Many of the postal cancels contain the original envelope with a letter. They are housed in the Southern Maryland Studies Center of the Community College.

The following is a list of Charles County Post Offices and the date they were established, taken from *The Postal History of Maryland, Delmarva and D.C.*

Allens Fresh	June 12, 1792	Glymont	December 28, 1848	Patuxent City	May 28, 1853
Beantown	June 24, 1844	Grayton	May 23, 1891	Perry Wright	October 1, 1945
Bel Alton	January 8, 1891	Harris Lot	July 6, 1826	Pisgah	February 17, 1857
Benedict	April 27, 1796	Hilltop	October 24, 1800	Pleasant Hill	April 8, 1825
Bensville	January 31, 1817	Hughesville	February 14, 1866	Pomfret	December 10, 1879
Berry	March 5, 1902	Indian Head	November 21, 1828	Pomonkey	December 20, 1832
Berryville	1819	Ironsides	July 17, 1897	Popes Creek	February 9, 1882
Billingsley	June 19, 1914	Issue	July 9, 1885	Port Tobacco	June 2, 1792
Bolton	March 19, 1907	Ivy Cottage	February 13, 1882	Potomac H'ghts.	October 20, 1942
Bowling	May 27, 1886	La Plata	November 18, 1875	Ripley	January 19, 1901
Brentland	March 6, 1882	McConchie	January 15, 1887	Rison	June 21, 1905
Bryans Road	June 18, 1914	McGhiesport	October, 1910	Riverside	June 26, 1872
Bryantown	January 3, 1820	Malcolm	July 9, 1885	Rockpoint	September 17, 1883
Chapel Point	March 20, 1895	Marbury	October 5, 1906	Ryceville	January 4, 1898
Chicamuxen	May 17, 1902	Marshall Hall	October 7, 1868	Sandy Bottom	March 24, 1856
Chrispin	August 16, 1887	Maryland Point	April 30, 1936	Smith's Point	September 8, 1871
Cobb Island	August 8, 1927	Mason Springs	November 2, 1893	Spring Hill	October 27, 1887
Cooksey	April 7, 1891	Mattawoman	April 14, 1873	Tompkinsville	April 9, 1850
Cox's Station	January 20, 1873	Milstead's	March 22, 1834	Waldorf	March 8, 1880
Crossroads	December, 1895	Milton Hill	January 15, 1839	Wayside	January 3, 1884
Dentsville	June 25, 1885	Morgantown	October 17, 1912	Welcome	October 19, 1898
Doncaster	July 12, 1855	Mount Victoria	May 8, 1914	White Plains	April 15, 1873
Dubois	May 28, 1892	Nanjemoy	October 24, 1800	Wicomico	April 4, 1881
Duffield	April 18, 1849	Naval Powder Factory	1940	Winthrop	May 18, 1910
Faulkner	August 30, 1888	Newburg	January 11, 1860	Ycomico	February 3, 1881
Fenwick	September 28, 1914	Newport	January 21, 1795		
Gallant Green	April 18, 1834	Partnership	January 2, 1839		

#### The Historical Society of Charles County

Post Office Box 261  
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677



# News and Notes from The Historical Society of Charles County

## A Supplement to The RECORD

Publication of the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.

No. 45 January, 1989

### Washington Eastern Bypass Endangers Port Tobacco

This past November 25th, a letter was written to representatives of the Maryland State Highway Administration on behalf of the Historical Society's Board of Directors expressing our concern about the potential adverse impact the proposed Washington Eastern Bypass might have on the Port Tobacco Valley. The following are excerpts from that letter:

"While the Historical Society is cognizant of the fact that the routes shown in preliminary studies made available to the public represent an early phase in the planning process, we are unanimous in our concern that a project of this nature, were it to actually take place within or immediately proximate to the area under consideration, would have a profoundly negative impact on a section of Charles County that is unquestionably one of its most historically significant, and valued, cultural resources: the Port Tobacco Valley.

"Charles County currently has 27 individual properties and one historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Eleven of these—over one third the total number—are located in or near the Valley. Additionally, a National Register nomination was recently approved by the Governor's Consulting Committee on the National Register, and the Maryland Historical Trust, for the Port Tobacco Historic District as defined by the town's corporate boundaries. A National Register nomination for the property known as Thainston, on Mitchell Road just north of the community college, is currently being prepared for presentation to the Governor's Consulting Committee in April. When these entries are made in the National Register, the percentage of Valley-associated Register-listed properties will increase to almost half the county-wide number.

"There are a number of other properties in the same area that meet the criteria necessary for National Register listing, including standing structures, and colonial and pre-colonial archeological sites. Also, five historic buildings located within or immediately proximate to the study area are protected by historic preservation easements.

mate to the study area are protected by historic preservation easements.

"As the (attached) map illustrates, the Valley—generally defined as the lands bordering the Port Tobacco River and Port Tobacco Creek—possess an extraordinarily high concentration of buildings and sites of recognized historical significance. A project of this magnitude being considered would seriously diminish its visual integrity and historical and physical cohesiveness.

"We would like to take this opportunity to express our willingness to work with you, and other representatives of the State Highway Administration, and/or your consultants in planning a route or routes that will minimize probable or potential adverse impact on historic properties in this area or elsewhere in Charles County."

Our offer of "assistance," or at least input, was politely rebuffed. This is an extremely important issue, one none of us can take lightly. Historical Society members are encouraged to take an active interest in the corridor planning process, and to attend local public meetings scheduled for May and June, 1989. Bellomo-McGee, Inc., the consulting firm preparing the Washington Bypass studies offers an informational brochure outlining the current status of the project, a map showing the corridor routes being studied (there are two alternate routes being considered that pass through Charles County), and addresses where individuals may write for additional information or to express their views. This can be obtained by writing to:

Bellomo-McGee, Inc.  
8330 Boone Blvd., Suite 700  
Vienna, VA 22180  
or call 1-800-288-0283

We encourage everyone to write in regard to this matter. It is vital!

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Membership Committee:

At this time last year, the membership committee asked you to complete a survey to assist us in our future planning. We had an enormous response and would like to thank everyone for their prompt response to the survey.

With many positive comments, our survey was a success. What did we find out? In addition to being members of the Historical Society, most of our members also belong to the Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco, the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Society and the Maryland Historical Society. Sixty-one percent of those responding have belonged to our organization less than ten years, while twenty-seven percent have belonged for more than fifteen years. The majority of our members joined this organization because of their interest in history and research, preservation of Charles County's heritage and interest in lectures respectively. Fifty-three percent prefer meetings to be held on Saturdays and seventy percent have visited the Southern Maryland Studies Center.

The top five subjects for future programs were: Stage Coach routes in Charles County, Charles County and the Confederacy, Southern Maryland Architecture, Family Folklore and Steamboats on the Potomac River.

### New Members:

The Historical Society would like to Welcome the following new members:

Mr. Ronald G. Brown, Fort Washington \

Mr. James Buffington, La Plata

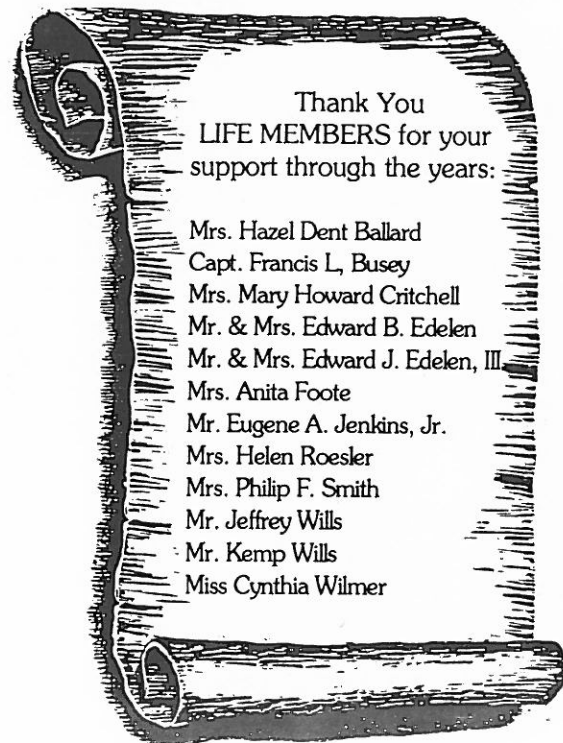
Mr. Danny M. Fluhart, Waldorf

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Haugen, Hughsville

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Volman, Port Tobacco

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth White, La Plata

Ms. Barbara Abell, La Plata



### Dues Notice:

It's now time to pay your 1989 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 1989 will not be possible without your help. Please complete the enclosed Membership Envelope and drop it in the mail with your dues payment. We would appreciate your dues payment by March 1, 1989.

### Friendship House:

Friendship House has been very busy this year with a variety of tours. In addition to over 400 Charles County school students, Friendship House has played host to Charles County Community College students and teachers, Spanish exchange students, Charles County Teachers and more recently, the wives of the Eastern Regional Bass Tournament.

The Friendship House Furnishings Committee added a spinning wheel, butter churn and many "food" items such as blackberries, tomatoes, bread, rolls, corn, carrots, peppers, eggs, strawberries and apples to the realistic decor of the building. A colonial broom, crafted out of dogwood, was made especially for Friendship House. Our most recent acquisition is a roped bed donated by Samuel C. Linton, III from Holly Springs Farm.



The Museum/Education Center will be completing the cellar project with funds provided by a grant from the Charles County Tourism Advisory Board and will be ready for its grand opening on Charter Day, the county-wide celebration of Charles County's Birthday to be held, Saturday, May 13, 1989.

The Charles County Garden Club has been working diligently with native plantings and shrubs in order to complete their landscaping project.

The Friendship House Educational Programs Committee will be holding another raffle this year to benefit Friendship House. Last year's winner of the painting of Friendship House was Bill Garvey, one of our past presidents. Please look for upcoming information on this year's raffle soon.

### Program Committee:

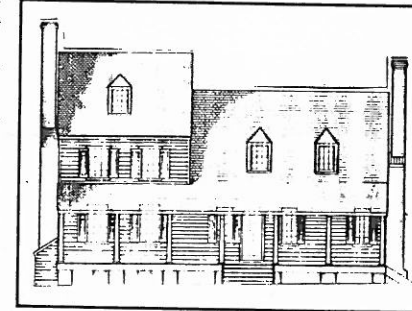
The Program Committee has sponsored a variety of very successful programs this year. In January 1988, Laurie Verge, Park Historian and Manager of the Mary Surratt House and Tavern in Clinton, gave a slide presentation on Mary Surratt and the Surratt House. Our Spring Dinner Meeting in May was in honor of the Centennial Celebration of La Plata. It included a very unique program on "La

Plata Reminiscences" as our guest speakers remembered the McDonough Institute, the La Plata Fire Department, the Charles County Courthouse, the tobacco auctions, the day of the La Plata Tornado and the social activities of La Plata. Our guides for our journey included Barbara F. Baldus, C. Russell Levering, Patrick C. Mudd, Kathryn C. Newcomb and Edward C. Turner.

In October, Mr. Daniel Hartzler, author of *Marylanders in the Confederacy*, gave a most interesting talk on Southern Maryland's role in the Civil War with a particular emphasis on Charles County. In addition, the Wallace Bowling Chapter of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans highlighted the evening with explanations of Confederate memorabilia while dressed in their Confederate uniforms.

Our most recent meeting this January was Steamboats on the Potomac River. Members were fascinated by the wealth of knowledge that fellow member Harry Jones has acquired on this topic.

Our Spring Dinner Meeting has been changed to Saturday, May 6, 1989 at St. Ignatius Church Hall, Chapel Point. Our guest speaker will be Historical Architectural Consultant, J. Richard Rivoire, who will speak on Charles County Architecture. The success of our programs this year cannot go unnoticed without recognizing all the hard work and planning of our Program Committee headed by Sally Barley and Melissa Willett and our Arrangements Committee, chaired by Ann Liebrecht.



### Southern Maryland Studies Center:

Over the past two years the Southern Maryland Studies Center has experienced significant growth. We now have 101 manuscript collections, over 100 oral histories and close to 2,000 photographs. In order to accommodate this growth, we have completed a reorganization of the Center to double the available shelving space in the secured document storage facility. At the same time, by shifting shelving, placing the exhibit cases outside the door in the library study area and eliminating some of the upholstered furniture, we continue to provide approximately the same amount of research area in the reading room. The location of a glass enclosed workroom in the reading room allows the staff to work on manuscripts while providing reference service to patrons and monitoring patron use of the collections.

We invite you all to stop and see us and to take that opportunity to volunteer for one of the many interesting jobs working with the collections in the Southern Maryland Studies Center.

### Did You Know . . .

—That your officers have been the guest speakers in 1989 at the Calvert County Historical Society, Prince George's County Genealogical Society, Genealogical

Council of Maryland and the Indian Head Lions Club?

—That your members have actively participated in La Plata's Railroad Days, Charles County's celebration of the Constitution, the Thomas Stone National Historic Site General Management Plan, the Southern Maryland Hospitality Seminar, the Charles County Historic Sites Group, the Charles County Tourism Advisory Board and the Southern Maryland Regional Tourism Committee?

### Coming Soon . . .

—Friendship House Dishes (for sale by the Charles County Garden Club).

—Friendship House Note Cards.

—A raffle, to benefit the educational programs at Friendship House.

### Mark Your Calendar:

Saturday, May 6, 1989 - Spring Dinner Meeting at 6:00 p.m., St. Ignatius Church Hall, Chapel Point.

Saturday, May 13, 1989 - Charles County Birthday Celebration and opening of the Charles County Tourism Season with a special program at Friendship House in honor of our Museum/Educational Center and the Charles County Garden Club. Heritage Commission Gala at Mt. Victoria.



A number of our members have requested that we provide a list of repairman or craftsmen who specialize in work on antiques and historic preservation. From time to time we will provide such a list, but in no way can the Historical Society certify the quality of the work or recommend a particular craftsman.

Recommended by Ray Liebrecht to repair clocks:

Al & Bob Keeler  
9502 Gwyndale Road  
Clinton, Maryland 20735

Any recommendations for our July issue must be received by May 1st.