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Mrs. Carol Donohue

Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites Representative:

Mr. George C. Dyson

Small Museums Association Representative:

Mrs. Naomi Petrash

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



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. 74 January 1997

Winter Meeting Program

February 1, 1997 – 2:30 p.m.

United Methodist Church Hall

La Plata, Maryland



Join us to hear a presentation of the facts on "Who is buried in John Wilke's Booth Grave" by noted speaker Jan Herman. Mr. Herman is the historian of the old Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. and author of *A Hilltop in Foggy Bottom*. His new book, *Battle Station Sick Bay: Navy Medicine in World War II*, will appear in the spring.

Jan has done extensive research on the subject of Mr. Booth's death and burial and has interesting facts that will cause you to have great wonderment on who is buried in an unmarked Booth family grave in Baltimore, Maryland. An excerpt from the December issue of The Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Society, Inc. newsletter says, "the government claimed John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin, was killed by federal troops at Garrett's barn in Virginia 12 days after he assassinated Lincoln. The truth is, Booth was never in the barn. The man killed was Capt. James William Boyd, a former rebel agent who worked for the War Department and who bore a striking resemblance to Booth. The government passed off the Boyd corpse as that of Booth at an official inquest in Washington. Meanwhile, Booth and contraband smuggler Edwin Henson escaped to freedom and were never apprehended by authorities.

An excerpt from *The Body in the Barn, the controversy over the death of John Wilkes Booth* this book is available at the Port Tobacco Courthouse) states: "Although it is a fact accepted by everyone that Booth had BLACK hair, there are three separate witnesses who state that the shooting victim had RED hair. These three individuals gave their statements at different times, different places, and independently of one another."

The first statement is from Wilson D. Kenzie, one of the members of the 16th New York Cavalry. He stated that "this fellow's a red-headed Virginian . . . he was red-headed and red-haired."

A second witness noticed the hair color discrepancy when the body was sent to Baltimore in 1869. Basil Moxley, a former doorman at Ford's Opra House in Baltimore, and one of the "pallbearers" at the 1869 internment in Green Mount Cemetery, told the *Baltimore News American* on June 6, 1903 that the 1869 burial was a "mock funeral," and the corpse had "red or reddish brown hair."

Yet another witness who saw the man's hair, and whose identification was stunningly corroborated in the aftermath of the "Unsolved Mysteries" TV program, was Lt. William C. Allen of the U. S. Secret Service.

MENU

A fine assortment of deserts such as cakes, cookies and cream puffs with coffee, tea and punch

FEE

This one is FREE !

You all come and enjoy the deserts and discover the answers to the Booth mystery.

(NOTICE: Meeting of Board Members will be held at 1 p.m.)

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

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mazzeo, Jr.
 4735 Mason Springs Rd.
 Indian Head, MD 20640



COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

We extend a special thanks to our Life Members:

Mr. & Mrs. William M. Albritten	Miss Mary Clare Matthews
Mrs. Hazel Dent Ballard	Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Warren E. Barley	Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Middleton
Mrs. Henrietta Barnhart	Mr. & Mrs. H. Maxwell Mitchell, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer S. Biles	Mr. & Mrs. Hillen Morgan, Jr.
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Mrs. Edward B. Edelen	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Smith
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Mrs. Anita Foote	Mrs. Edward C. Turner
Miss Mary Jo Frere	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph C. Wilbourne
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Mr. Eugene A. Jenkins, Jr.	Mr. Kemp B. Wills
Mr. & Mrs. George S. Jenkins	Miss Cynthia Q. Wilmer
Ms. Elizabeth Loker	Mrs. Anita Wood
Mr. & Mrs. James J. Long	Mrs. Peter Worrell
Mrs. Vivian S. Malczyk	

Bold face = new life members

The Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

Sidney & Jane Campbell - Louisville, Kentucky
 Norman & Carolyn Chlustra - Waldorf, Maryland
 Robert Petty - Annapolis, Maryland
 Douglas & Cynthia Shoemaker - Marbury, Maryland
 R. W. Jack Voigt - Newburg, Maryland

Membership Totals For 1996:

Life: 59
 Family: 96
 Individual: 85
 Student: 3
 Total memberships = 243. Total members = 339.

Dues Envelopes

Except for life members, please notice the enclosed "Dues Envelope" for your convenience. Please remit your dues as soon as possible.

Remember, we are a non-profit organization, and because we do not pursue many money raising events, we are solely dependent upon the membership for financial support



Life Membership Reminder

The price for a life membership is \$100 **per person**. This was not always clear on past membership applications, but will be clarified on our next batch of applications.



Please remember to send address and telephone number changes to:

Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.
 P.O. Box 261
 Port Tobacco, MD 20677
 or phone Pat Day (301) 934-3768

NEW OFFICERS and COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Please read the names on page four to see who has been newly installed and to correct any errors in spelling.

Our most notable new officer is the Treasurer, R. Wayne Winkler. We have no photo of Wayne, but managed to get a quick sketch of him shown below.



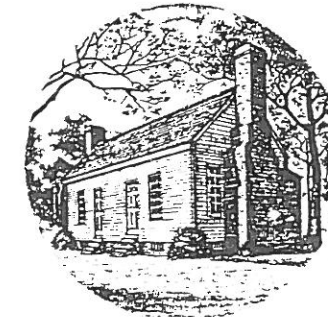
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE REPORT

At this time Friendship House is open by appointment only.

The Charles County Museum and Cultural Consortium has been given a grant to pay do-cents \$5 per hour. The hope is to have all small museums open from Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p. m. starting July, 1997.

Please call Naomi Petrash at 259-4279 if you are interested or know students who may be interested.

Friendship House has been very nicely repaired and painted recently, so it now presence an interesting glimpse of a typical home of yesteryear.



Friendship House.

Benjamin Franklin, A Short Note On His Long Life

Benjamin Franklin, printer, editor, author, humorist, moralist, and business man, was a whole crowd of men. But Poor Richard and Benjamin Franklin are far from being the same person.. Richard was economical; Ben enjoyed his money when he had it, though he was the same generous, contented man without it; Richard recommended temperance and silence whereas Ben loved wines and talk. Richard pointed out the virtue of orderliness; Ben found it easier to remember where he put things than tidy them. These are some of the human foibles of the most human of great men, Ben-of-all-trades.

Franklin was born in Boston, in 1706, of what he called the "middling people." His father was a candle maker, whose fathers before him had been honest yeomen of Oxfordshire. Ben's mother was a tidy Nantucket woman, and her mother had come to this country as a "bound-out girl" or indentured servant. Ben grew rich and famous without ever feeling that he need rise higher than the honest folk who made him. By his life he enobled his ancestors.

No learned man ever learned less from school. He had only two years of formal education, did poorly in Latin, and failed in arithmetic—the two subjects by which teachers then judged a boy's mental powers. Later, he taught himself mathematics as well as French, Spanish, and Italian and found they made learning Latin easier. In fact, Franklin taught himself almost everything that ever entered his encyclopedic mind—except printing. The "black art" he learned during an apprenticeship to his brother, James, who was then the best printer in America.

Franklin, the boy, soon became expert too. Jealousy in James and independence in Ben led James to raining blows on his younger brother. That's how James came to advertise for a 'likely lad' to learn the printing trade.

Maryland Archeology Month Celebration of Major Discovery

Don't miss the exhibit and video presentation at the Charles County Community College Campus Center building on Monday, April 7th through the 12th.

Archeologists have made a major discovery at a site located on the grounds of the Naval Surface Weapons Center Lab., Indian Head.

Archeologists from the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum recently completed the excavation at the Indian Head site.

No, they did **not** find a spare set of George Washington's teeth, nor the missing 18 minutes of tape from President Nixon's files. What these intrepid diggers did find was . . . well, let's leave that as a teaser so you will be motivated to go to the Campus Center building and see for yourself April 7th through the 12th.

But the likeliest lad in all America was then tramping then streets of Philadelphia, a sixteen-year-old runaway looking for work. When he found it, he meant to—and did—pull himself hand over hand up the ladder.

Ten years later Benjamin Franklin was the best and biggest printer in America, producing almanacs, religious books, text books, reprints of classics, and the finest in current English literature. He did all the government printing for Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey. He had founded the first German-language newspaper in this country, and was editing the magazine that later became the *Saturday Evening Post*. The runaway waif was now in easy circumstances and the head of a family.

Within twenty years Ben Franklin had become Philadelphia's most prominent citizen, clerk of the colony's Assembly, alderman of the City's Common Council, organizer of the first fire brigade, too. Ten years more and he was Grand Master of the Pennsylvania Masons, founder of the Philadelphia Academy, (Pennsylvania's first college), the colony's postmaster and its most potent politician behind the scenes.

He originated the American Philosophical Society, formed to link native scientists together; on its rolls are many of the most famous names in our scientific history, and today it annually distributes hundreds of thousands of dollars for grants-in-aid to research. Incidentally, he invented a stove, which gave twice as much heat for a quarter of the fuel and made his name as much a household word as even Poor Richard.

When he was forty and comfortably settled indulged in a bit of parlor magic, as it was then considered, and made important discoveries about electricity. After all this he went on to a distinguished career as our first diplomat in Europe!