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

The Charles County Historical Society

P.O. Box 2806
La Plata, Maryland 20646
(301) 934-2564

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mazzeo, Jr.
6795 Normadie Woods Dr.
LaPlata, MD 20646



Volume 95, No. 1

January 2002

The President's Message

We are making some changes to the format of our quarterly publication, *The Record*. With this issue, the publication will be one piece instead of the previous two distinct pieces. In addition, we have placed a picture of the historic La Plata Train Station at the head of the publication and added a dark green coloring scheme to the existing dark brown scheme.

Our goal is to have four publications a year: in January, May, July and October. The editor plans to have the receipt of this material in your hands three weeks prior to the next scheduled event. You are receiving this issue prior to Christmas because the next event is scheduled for Saturday, January 12, 2002.

Please let the editor know your thoughts as to how we can further improve the record for your reading pleasure. Write to:

Donald T. Schatz
Editor of The Record
2985 Marsh Hawk Drive
Waldorf, Maryland 20603

or if you prefer, you can share your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,
Wayne Winkler
President

JANUARY MEETING NOTICE How To Trace Your Ancestors

Saturday, January 12th, 2002 - 2:00 p.m.
United Methodist Church Hall, La Plata

Our guest speaker will be Joyce Candland, Past Director of Research at The Church of Jesus Christ of The Latter-Day Saints Library, and member of the Historical Society of Charles County. She will explain to us how to trace our ancestors through all of the records available at different libraries, church records, county records and by using the Internet. This is a MUST attend meeting if you are at all interested in genealogy.

COFFEE, TEA AND ASSORTED DESSERTS
WILL BE SERVED

The event is free and reservations are not needed.

In This Issue

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- Page 3 Cathy Currey Hardy reports on Phase II of the Charles County Historical Sites Survey.
- Page 4 Revisiting The Studies Center here in Southern Maryland. How and why it came about, what does it contain, and who were the persons most responsible for establishing this valuable resource.

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

Membership

After many years of volunteering as membership chairperson Pat Day has decided to retire.

Pat has done a wonderful job after taking over in 1995. Because of her hard work and dedication my life as President was made a lot easier. Michael Ruth will now be taking the reins and I'm sure will do a wonderful job. Welcome aboard Michael and I look forward to working with you.

New members for 2001 are:

Mary Louise Webb	Waldorf, MD
Mr. & Mrs. Don McGuire	La Plata, MD.
Mr. & Mrs. William Fallin	Newburg, MD.
Mr. & Mrs. William Evans	La Plata, MD.
Ms. Denise de Lozier	La Plata, MD.

Dr. & Mrs. Steve Davis	White Plains, MD.
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Landes	Cobb Island, MD.
Mr. & Mrs. William Eckman	La Plata, MD.
Mr. Fredrick Cobey	Washington, DC
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Stoorza	Issue, MD
Ms. Suzanne Carr	Waldorf, MD.
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Chopp	La Plata, MD.
Mr. & Mrs. Quick Carlson	Brandywine, MD.
Ms. Maureen Chiarizia	La Plata, MD
Ms. Laura Hawley	Ridge, MD.

If I missed anyone then please let me know and your name will be in the next issue.

Wayne Winkler
President

Coming Events

JANUARY 12, 2002

Speaker: Mrs. Joyce Candland
Topic: Recent Developments In Researching Genealogy
Location: La Plata United Methodist Church
Route 301 and Route 6 West
Time: 2:00 p.m.

This is the Annual General Membership Meeting for which there is no charge. There is also no dinner; however, light refreshments will be served after the meeting. Please reserve the date on your calendar now!

MAY 25, 2002

Speaker: Fr. Edward P. O'Connell
Topic: Archeological Findings at St. Ignatius Parish, Chapel Point
Location: St. Ignatius Church
Chapel Point, Maryland
Time: 6:00 p.m.

This will be a Dinner Meeting. Specifics on the menu and the cost will be sent out three weeks prior to the meeting. Please reserve the date on your calendar now!



EARLY SUPPORTERS OF THE SMSC
From let to right: Joyce Candland, Ruby Dyson, Louise Turner, and Sally Barley.
Picture courtesy SMSC

Below is a brief overview of the resources available to patrons. The SMSC is comprised of two main areas, the Reading Room and the Documents Room. The Reading Room consists of books and periodicals focusing on the social, political, and economic history of the Southern Maryland region. There are general histories of Maryland, genealogical works, microfilm, a subject vertical file, and various magazine and journals.

The microfilm holdings include: The Calvert Papers, Charles County Land Record, Charles County Register of Wills, church records, local newspapers, United State Census, federal tax assessment records and state tax assessment records. Other microfilm holdings include the Maryland Independent from 1883 to current, *The Times Crescent* from 1893 to 1991, and *The Port Tobacco Times* from 1844 to 1898.

Materials in the Documents Room include manuscript, oral histories, and photographic collections. There are over 200 collections consisting of personal papers, records of businesses and organizations, historic site files, genealogical research notes, maps, architectural drawings, newspapers and other documents. The Oral History Collection is comprised of 338 individual oral histories. There are ten photographic collections consisting of over 4,000 images.

A more detailed listing of resources can be acquired from the web site. That address is www.csm.cc.md.us/library/smsc.

For those new to the area, The SMSC is located on the grounds of The College of Southern Maryland, La Plata campus, and is housed in the library building. The facility is staffed by a coordinator, a staff person, and one or two students assistants. In addition, they currently have two volunteers. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Jennifer L. Pitts, Coordinator.

For those who wish to use this facility, there are some protocols and rules that apply. I will not list them here, but suggest that you speak with the coordinator who is on site daily. She will explain the log-in procedures, the materials available, how to access materials and various protocols that are appropriate when working with materials of an historic nature.

I was quite impressed with the extent of thought that goes into this operation. Where the material comes from, how it is documented, how loaned items are handled, what happens to materials not accepted or returned at a later date, etc.

The College Library is responsible for The SMSC and the library budget contains the budget for The SMSC. The SMSC is open and available the same hours that the general library is open and available. It is not staffed, however, the same as the general library. There currently is one part-time coordinator who is normally available daily in the afternoon hours. This person, Jennifer L. Pitts, can be reached at: 301-934-7626 or 301-870-3005, extension 7110, or you can e-mail Jennifer at: smsc@csm.cc.md.us. You can also check out The SMSC on the web at: www.csm.cc.md.us/library/smsc.

I have personally utilized this facility on several occasions. I have done historic research here and I compiled the information for this article at the facility. It is pleasant, clean, quiet, well lighted and well run; in addition, I actually found it refreshing and invigorating. I came across others who were doing genealogical work. According to Miss Pitts, genealogical work is a very popular use of the facility.

Begun in the mid-1970's, completed in 1976, renovated 1995-97, The SMSC is now celebrating twenty-five years of service to the community. I find The SMSC a wonderful place to do research. I highly recommend it to anyone who is serious about doing historical research on Southern Maryland.

Donald T. Schatz, Editor

Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year!

The Southern Maryland Studies Center Revisited

PREAMBLE TO THE STUDIES CENTER

Southern Maryland is one of the richest parts of our nation and its growth. Its numerous famous statesmen’s names and contributions to our nation are well documented and recognized throughout our nation. Throughout our nation, Southern Maryland’s genealogy can be identified with family names which had their beginnings in Southern Maryland. Southern Maryland’s 17th and 18th century architecture is unmatched anywhere in our nation and Southern Maryland can also be proud of its contribution toward the growth of agriculture, the national economy and politics during the 17th and 18th century.

Numerous organizations are active in the restoration, preservation, and documentation of Southern Maryland’s history. This was realized during the preparation for the nation’s Bicentennial when these organizations voiced their concerns not only for what has been lost and the potential for continued loss of our historical culture, but their concern for our ability to respond to the historical “consciousness raising” which has been developed throughout the nation. These organizations have restored national landmarks, 17th and 18th century architecture, and initiated historical research. Southern Maryland has also established museums throughout the three counties to support the continued preservation of our past and its culture.

It is recognized that there are adequate museums for the collection and preservation of artifacts for the various historical cultures; however, none of them has the capability for the collection, storage and preservation of historical documents, books, etc. The Board of Trustees for the Charles County Community College has designated separate rooms within the Learning Resource Center for the development of an historical collection of this type for the Southern Maryland area to include: Charles, St. Mary’s, Calvert, and Southern Prince George’s counties. This type of a Center is the major missing element in the overall historical preservation effort.

The preceding preamble was found among the organizational papers that were recently reviewed while I was preparing this article for *The Record*. In the mid-1970’s, a group of Charles County Historical Society members and interested citizens came together to form what has become The Southern Maryland Studies Center, sometimes called The History Room. This article is about why this facility was created, who participated in its creation, and what it contains.

The organizational documents that I reviewed provide us with a succinct definition of purpose. The facility was created to collect and preserve documents, manuscripts, rare books, prints, photographs, and original art which will provide the users with a true understanding and deeper appreciation of Southern Maryland and its historical and present culture. In addition, it will provide a facility which will be available for historical research by students, Southern Maryland residents, and visitors.

There are many people mentioned in the early records who had a large part in the creation of The SMSC. There was a Furnishings and Fixtures Committee, an Acquisitions Committee, and a Display Committee. The overall effort was co-chaired by Mrs. Louise Mudd and Mr. George Dyson. The membership of the three committees included:

Mr. Warren Barley	Mrs. Margaret Klapthor
Mr. Ronald G. Brown	Mrs. Barbara Kohl
Mrs. Eleanor Carrico	Mr. Rod Mouré
Mrs. Edward J. Edelen	Mrs. Kathryn C. Newcomb
Mrs. Elizabeth C. Hart	Mrs. Watson Perrygo
Dr. Raymond Hartjen	Dr. Leslie Reid
Dr. Anne Jameson	Mrs. Elaine Ryan
Mr. William P. Jameson	Mrs. Louise C. Turner

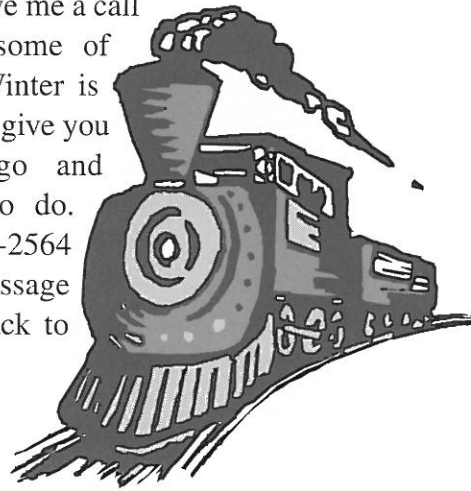
The earliest material was an architectural engineering plan dated February, 1974. This plan contained a drawing 67 feet by 27 feet, comprising approximately 1800 square feet.

The early correspondence, minute taking and other founding documentation is rich in taking into account all of the details that comprised their efforts. There are architectural drawings on file, correspondence with the Smithsonian Institute, listings of furniture and fixtures, and much, much more.

Train Station Update

Rlast reported that I hoped we could get a handicapped bathroom, screen doors, a film of Charles County, pictures on the walls and a train car. Well, things are happening. We now have a handicapped bathroom, have had tracks laid for a caboose, are looking at pictures for display, and will have a carpenter install screen doors this winter. In the July 2001 issue of the *News and Notes* I asked for volunteers to help with some of these projects. We still need help. The train station is actually a fun place to be and we have a computer to use, are on the internet, have a refrigerator and microwave, indoor plumbing and other neat

stuff. Why not give me a call and help with some of these projects. Winter is here and this will give you someplace to go and something fun to do. Call on 301-934-2564 and leave a message and I will get back to you. Thanks!
Wayne.



Report from Cathy Currey Hardy Charles County Architect and Planner

Rhase II of the Charles County Historic Sites Survey, covering Election Districts Eight (Bryantown) and Nine (Hughesville), is now complete. During this phase of the survey, 80 sites containing more than 150 individual historic resources were documented. Historic resources are defined as districts, sites, structures, objects or buildings that are greater than 50 years old, and are significant in local or national history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture.

Sites documented included numerous dwellings, commercial buildings, schools, churches, and cemeteries ranging in date from the mid-1700s to the early 1940s. Each historic resource was documented using photographs, locator maps, and historic research on the site's evolution.

Phase I, completed previously, covered the north-central section of the County, the Waldorf and Bryans Road areas, and resulted in the documentation of more than 190 historic resources. Phase III, covering Election Districts Four (Allens Fresh) and Five (Tompkinsville), in the southern region of the County, is currently underway. Phase IV will cover the western portion of the county including Hilltop and Nanjemoy and the final Phase V is intended to complete the sur-

vey and develop a comprehensive historic preservation plan using the survey data collected.

The County will utilize the information gathered in the Survey when complete to develop a program that will protect and enhance the County's most significant historic resources, promote intelligent growth, and stimulate economic development through heritage tourism.

The Phase II final report is available for review at the La Plata Library, the Southern Maryland Studies Center at The College of Southern Maryland in La Plata, and the Department of Planning and Growth Management (PGM). Copies of the report, which include capsule summaries on each of the 80 sites, are available for purchase at the PGM Permits Administration counter in the County Government Building for \$10 each. They will also be available at our January meeting.

If you know of any historic sites that help tell the "story" of Charles County, or can assist with identifying the County's historic resources in this area, please call Cathy Currey Hardy, Charles County Planning and Growth Management Historic Sites Planner, at 301-396-5815, or send e-mail to: hardyc@govt.co.charles.md.us.