



THE RECORD



Volume 106, No. 1

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

January 2012

Joyce Candland, President

Mary Ann Scott, Editor

Winter Meeting

Susan Proctor, Education Coordinator of the Surratt House Museum will present.....

"The Conspirator: the Trial of Mary Surratt"

Saturday, January 21, 2012
2:00 p.m.
La Plata Methodist Church Hall

Your Society at Work

Our thanks to Mike Mazzeo and his committee members, Anne Boone and Madelyn Irish, for their efforts with the Friendship House period clothing display. Please see pages 3-5.

Howard Post, HSCC War of 1812 Commemoration Committee Chair, reports on the status on page 6.

Your Historical Society Officers and Board members are continuing efforts to promote and safeguard Charles County history and to plan interesting meetings. Please respond to the survey questionnaire on page 7 and 8. Your input would be greatly appreciated.

President's Message

Our very successful Fall meeting was held October 22, 2011 at Old Durham Church. This occasion marked the debut of *The War of 1812 in Charles County's Backyard*. Presented by the producer and narrator, Geoffrey Hamersley, and the DVD production team of Matthew Bellerose, Casey Gaskins, Jennifer Munoz, Christopher Cheney, and Jonathan Teeney, students at La Plata High School. The idea began with Mary Pat Berry and a grant obtained by the Ella Virginia Houck Holloway Chapter of the National Society Daughters of 1812. Mary Pat contacted Mike Mazzeo, and the project was on its way.

Also attending the meeting were guests USD 1812 National Vice President, Ginger Apyar, USD 1812 Holloway Chapter President Carol Whitsell, Commissioner Ruben Collins, and Amy Richmond, Director Southern Maryland Studies Center, CSM.

Welcome to new members Thomas Candland and Morgan Sullivan.



Cast Members of the War of 1812 in Charles County's Backyard:
Front row: Dorothy Barbour, Jennifer Munoz, Casey Gaskins.
Back row: Charles Boone, Matthew Bellerose, Christopher Cheney, Jonathan Teeney, Geoffrey Hammersley

Officers, Board of Directors, and Committee Members

OFFICERS

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Vice-President Mary Pat Berry
Secretary Danielle Webber
Treasurer Robert Pender

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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* W. Preston Williams 1967-1968
* John H. Mitchell 1968-1970
* Watson M. Perrygo 1970-1978
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** Richard E. Heise, II 1985-1986
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* Deceased ** Acting President

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Southern Maryland Studies Center

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Train Station:

Kaye O'Kelley, *Chairperson*

War of 1812 Commemoration Committee:

G. Howard Post, *Chairperson*

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you would like future newsletters sent to you by e-mail, please send us your e-mail address. Articles of historic interest on Southern Maryland are requested for publication in future issues of *The Record*. Please send your articles and photographs to: The Historical Society of Charles County, Publications, *The Record*, P.O. Box 2806, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Or you can email your articles and photographs to Joyce Candland at joyce.candland@gmail.com.

One of the largest expenses of our Society is the printing and mailing of our newsletter. In an effort to cut costs and keep our budget under control, we are asking those of you with email capability to consider receiving your copy of *The Record* by email. This would be of great benefit to the Society and you would receive your copy in color. If you can help us with this effort please notify Joyce Candland.

joyce.candland@gmail.com

Friendship House Committees

Administration

George C. Dyson, Administrator
H. Maxwell Mitchell

Cellar Museum & Shop

James H. Berry, Jr.
Mary Pat Berry

Foundation

Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., Chair
Madelyn Irish
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Joyce Candland, Chair
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Louise B. Turner
Anita L. Wood

Ways & Means

Ruby Dyson
Sandra Mitchell

Colonial Clothing Exhibit at Friendship House

The Historical Society of Charles County has received a matching mini-grant from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium in the amount of \$1,000.00 for a permanent Colonial Clothing Exhibit at Friendship House. This exhibit will be housed in the upstairs rooms of Friendship House and will consist of four mannequins displaying colonial clothing of an adult male, adult female, a boy and girl along with descriptive display panels.

The exhibit will be finished in early spring in time for our Spring Candlelight Meeting at Friendship House. As part of the grant guidelines, the Historical Society must provide matching funds of \$1,000.00 for this exhibit. To date, we have raised \$515.00 for this endeavor.

This edition of *The Record* will feature a brief history of Colonial Clothing along with descriptions and photographs of some of the clothing we will have for the mannequins.

Please join us at our Spring Meeting for the premier of this wonderful exhibit. Today, Friendship House continues to remind all who see it of the life and architecture of an early 18th century Colonial Tidewater Home. It is maintained with pride through partnerships with the College of Southern Maryland, the Charles County Garden Club, and the members of this Society. This new exhibit will make Friendship House more unique than ever!

Colonial Clothing

The history of colonial clothes of the 18th century is very fascinating. Men's colonial clothing was very difficult to make. Wealthy people were usually the only ones who could afford to buy clothes that were finished. Those who were considered middle class and poor usually had to make their own. Colonial clothing for the middle class and poor children was usually made to fit loosely so the children had room to grow.

Colonial clothing was usually made of wool. Young boys and girls dressed the same until the ages of 5 or 6 years old. They both wore loose fitting gowns and slippers. Once the boys turned 5 or 6, they were given their first pair of breeches and boots and started to dress more like their father, while the girls began wearing dresses more like their mother.

The middle and upper class men wore a suit that consisted of various parts of colonial clothing. The suit consisted of a shirt, which was usually worn closest to their skin. It was always made of white linen, and the tails on the shirt were almost down to the knees, and were tucked into their breeches. The breeches were pants that buttoned up and stopped just below their knees. The men also wore a waistcoat (which is like a vest) that was worn over the shirt. Depending on the weather, they wore a coat with their colonial clothing that was well-fitted and reached down to their knees. They wore colors that consisted mainly of white, black, beige, brown and earthy green.

The women's colonial clothing was very modest. They usually wore dresses that were long sleeved and down to their ankles. The bodice of the dress was full with a tight waist and a very full skirt. Women usually wore their hair up and pulled back tightly, and was almost always worn with a bonnet or a hat. The material of their colonial clothing was naturally homespun. They wore a variety of colors such as red, blue, gray, violet, brown, and earthy green.

As was noted at the beginning of this article, the children's colonial clothing was a little different. Boys usually wore dresses until the age of eight, and the girls wore them all of their life. The difference between the boys and girls dresses was that the girls wore aprons. Their dresses were usually made of wool or linen. The dresses were a full-length, long sleeved and had high collars. The color that children mostly wore was blue, but they were sometimes seen wearing other colors.

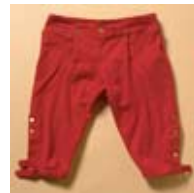
A Colonial Gentleman's Clothing



Shirt: A man's shirt of white linen is his undermost garment, with the shirt tails falling to the knees, worn tucked inside the breeches



Stockings: Males and females wore stockings that extended above the knee and were tied with a garter to hold them up. Fashionable stockings of silk or cotton were generally white.



Breeches: A lower-body garment, breeches reached just below the knee and closed with buttons, ties, or buckles.

Shoes: Men's shoes were made in a variety of styles and qualities. Fashionable low-heeled shoes were made of softer leather, and common shoes of sturdier leathers. Most shoes were black, but some were other colors. Metal buckles were the most common fastening.



Stock: A stock was the gentleman's most formal neckwear. Made of fine white linen, the stock was pleated horizontally to fit snugly around the neck. It fastened at the back with a buckle or ties.



Waistcoat: The waistcoat, or vest, was worn over a man's shirt and under his coat. Usually sleeveless, it fell to just below the waist, and buttoned in the center front.

Coat: A coat was the outermost layer of a man's suit. The coat was fitted to the torso, with full skirts that flared over the hips, falling to about the knee.



Wig: Wigs were fashionable in the 18th century, particularly for men. Men shaved their heads to wear wigs of human, horse, goat, or yak hair.



Hat: The man's hat was worn with wide brims turned up on one, two, or three sides, with three being the most fashionable.

Handkerchief

Handkerchiefs were fabric rectangles, used primarily to mop perspiration or for other personal hygiene needs.

Walking Stick: The walking stick aided injured people or was used for walking on rough terrain. It could be a plain stick or an ornamented, fashionable accessory for a wealthy gentleman.

Colonial Lady's Clothing



Shift: The innermost garment worn by the woman. Made of linens, usually with drawstrings, at neck and sleeves. Sometimes trimmed with lace.

Stockings: Males and females wore stockings that extended above the knee and were tied with a garter to hold them up. Fashionable stockings of silk or cotton were generally white.

Stays: Stays were essential undergarments that formed the torso into a conical shape, provided bust support, and encouraged erect posture. Stays were made of narrow strips of flexible boning.



Shoes: Shoes were made of different materials, in styles with high or low heels. Silk fabric shoes, fastened by metal buckles, were imported for wealthy persons. Leather shoes fastened with ties were worn by women who needed sturdy, economical shoes that were easy to clean.

Pocket: The pocket was a separate garment that tied around the waist under the petticoat, and held personal items such as keys, money, and handkerchiefs.



Hoop Petticoat: A hoop petticoat was worn under a gown. It was made with horizontal casings that held oval-shaped strips of wood, cane or metal – creating a wide-hipped look.

Underpetticoat: The underpetticoat was a skirt-like undergarment that tied around the waist, acting as a slip to the outer petticoat. It was usually linen or wool.



Cap: Caps were worn by females of all ages to protect the hair from dirt, so that it did not need to be washed frequently. Caps trimmed with lace, ribbon and ruffles were also fashion accessories.

Petticoat: The petticoat was an ankle- or floor-length garment, worn with either full-length or short gowns. It was not an undergarment, but designed to be seen. Wealthy women wore full-length gowns with matching petticoats, often of silk. Middling women could afford cotton petticoats, while working women, wore petticoats of different fabrics or colors beneath, and usually made of wool or linen.



Stomacher: A stomacher was a triangular-shaped piece of fabric used at the front of a gown and attached to the bodice or stays by pins, hooks, or lacing.



Gown: During the 18th century, a woman's dress consisted of a gown and petticoat. The gown was a bodice and skirt, with a stomacher at the bodice center, pinned into place over the stays. The gown skirt opened in front to reveal a separate petticoat, an essential part of the dress and not an undergarment.

Kerchief: Females wore kerchiefs around their necks and draped across their chests to protect against sunburn and provide warmth. Normally a square of fabric folded into a triangle, it could be crossed in front and tucked into the gown, tied in place or pinned down.

Apron: An apron was usually a rectangle of fabric, gathered into a band that tied about the waist with tapes or strings.



Hat: Hats were a fashion accessory and protected against sunburn. Hats had a very shallow, flat crown and a wide brim to provide shade.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, May 5th

Tours of Friendship House beginning at 2:00 p.m.
The Zekiah Fort by Dr. Julia King*
 Tours of Friendship House at 4:00 p.m.
 Historical Society Spring Dinner & Program
 at Friendship House at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 19th

Port Tobacco Market Days

Saturday, June 30th

Colonial Food by Mary Farrar*

Saturday, October 20th

Share Your History Day: *Farmers and Watermen*
 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Calvert County

* *Friendship House Lecture Series* sponsored by the College of Southern Maryland and the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium.

The Colonial Clothing Exhibit

is funded through a grant from
**The Southern Maryland
 Heritage Area Consortium**
 and
**The Maryland Heritage
 Areas Authority**



and
The Friendship House Foundation

with generous donations from

Sandra Bauer

Carolyn Billups

Charles & Anne Boone

Dave & Linda Creason

Dan & Carol Donohue

Elizabeth Linton deKeyser

Edward B. Edelen, Jr.

Ernest & Madelyn Irish

Samuel C. Linton

Chris & Evelyn Karlsson Merritt

George & Elsie Picyk

Howard Post

Hilda Karlsson Rodderick

Beverly Stone

Jerry & Kay Volman

Danielle Webber

Gary & Carol Whitsell

James & Courtenay Wilson

to make a tax-deductible donation to the Colonial Clothing Exhibit, please make checks payable to:
The Friendship House Foundation and mail to:
 The Historical Society of Charles County
 P.O. Box 2806, La Plata, Maryland 20646

Update on War of 1812 Activities

by G. H. Post

Since the last report there has been a considerable amount of activity on the part of those who are working to get Charles County – and in particular the Benedict area – ready for the Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the August 1814 British invasion during the War of 1812. The centerpiece of these efforts, the Benedict Village Revitalization Plan, was presented to the County Commissioners in November and was received favorably by them. If all goes well, the plan will both “spruce up” the village in anticipation of the attention and visitors it will receive during the 1814 Commemoration, and also provide some real and permanent improvements for the village that will last long into the future.

Cathy Hardy Thompson, the Community Planning Program Manager for the Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management, and David Bennett, a design consultant from AECOM, have been shepherding the plan through its various stages and have been doing an excellent job. The County is fortunate to have two such able and dedicated people working on this project. I have consulted with Cathy and David a number of times on this project, helping to provide background and context on the history of Benedict. Most recently, we have been working on a tourist brochure on the history of the village which will be available soon. Anyone interested in the revitalization plan and/or the brochure is invited to check them out at www.charlescounty.org/benedict/.

I also have been talking with Catherine Carroll, the Tourism Marketing Specialist for the Charles County Office of Tourism,



asking what the County might have planned in the way of activities for the August 2014 Commemoration. The county does not yet have any activities planned, but I tried to emphasize the need

for an appropriate observance of this important historical event and sort of “get the ball rolling” in that direction. She was very receptive and promised to contact me when a meeting date to plan events is set. Hopefully that will be soon. When I know more, I will let Joyce know. Also, it would be good if the HSCC has a presence in whatever events do eventually result, so please be thinking of ways that we might be able to participate. Anyone with ideas or suggestions is encouraged to share them.

Also I have been talking with Nicole Sorensen-Mutchie and her team of archaeologists from the Cultural Resources Section of the SHA. More than talking, actually – I was out in the field with them as they were going over the site of the British encampment at Benedict with metal detectors, looking

See War of 1812, continued on Page 10

Sons of the American Revolution putting George Washington back in schools

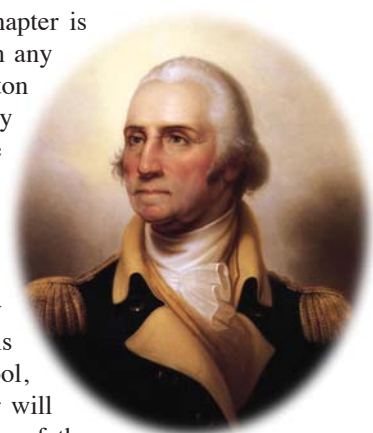
The Thomas Stone Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution is raising funds to purchase the Rembrandt Peale portrait of George Washington for elementary schools in Charles County.

The Mount Vernon Ladies Association, which maintains and helps preserve Washington’s historic home Mount Vernon, began a project in 2007 to return Washington’s portraits to schools as part of a commemoration of the 275th anniversary of his birth. The Mount Vernon Ladies Association commissioned reproductions of the Peale portrait of America’s first president in uniform. For a \$275.00 donation, the organization will give a portrait, along with an instructional resource kit, to a school. So far the group has given more than 7,000 portraits across the country.

The Thomas Stone Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution represents Charles, Calvert and St. Mary’s County. Thus far, citizens of St. Mary’s County have donated money for five portraits for their schools and are looking to put Washington into every school.

The Thomas Stone Chapter is now accepting donations in any amount for the Washington portrait for Charles County schools. Donations can be earmarked for a specific elementary school in Charles County or in the general account for the portraits for Charles County schools. Once the \$275.00 is reached for a specific school, the Thomas Stone Chapter will make a formal presentation of the portrait at the school with their Chapter Color Guard.

All donations are tax deductible and checks should be made payable to the Thomas Stone Chapter, SAR and mailed to: Thomas Stone Chapter, MDSSAR, P.O. Box 94, La Plata, Maryland 20646.



The Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.

Membership Survey

Because your membership is important to us...

We would like to know more about you and your opinion about the Historical Society. Your answers will help us assess recent events and services and will assist us in our future planning.

1. In order to help us plan for future programs, please rank these possible program subjects, according to your interest, from 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest.

- African-American History
- Agriculture
- Archeology
- Calvert County History
- Charles County and the Confederacy
- Charles County Churches
- Civil Rights
- Civil War Camps
- Colonial Life
- Colonial Women
- Family Folklore
- Genealogy
- General Smallwood & Smallwood's Retreat
- Historic Homes
- Historic Preservation
- Latter Day Saints Library- Genealogy
- Matthew Henson
- Military History
- Native American History
- Notable Charles Countians
- Port Tobacco
- Southern Maryland and World War Two
- St. Mary's County History
- The American Revolution
- The Lincoln Assassination
- The Southern Maryland Waterman
- Thomas Stone & the National Historic Site
- Women in the Civil War

Other: _____

2. For what reason(s) did you not attend any Society function:

- not enough advance notice
- schedule time not convenient
- price
- other: _____

3. When would you prefer Society events?

- Friday evening
- Saturday afternoon
- Saturday evening
- Sunday afternoon
- Weekdays

4. What is the best starting time for you for events?

- 2 p.m.
- 4 p.m.
- 5 p.m.
- 6 p.m.
- 7 p.m.
- other: _____

5. Rank in order of important, 1 to 7, with 7 being the highest, your reason for membership in the Historical Society of Charles County.

- Interest in history and research
- Friendship House
- Special Trips
- Publications
- Social Activities
- Programs
- Preserving Charles County Heritage
- Other: _____

6. Have you visited the Southern Maryland Studies Center?

- Yes
- No

7. Are you interested in Society trips?

Yes No

(If yes, check all that apply)

Charles County Historical Homes

St. Mary's County Historic Sites

Calvert County Historic Sites

Historic Annapolis, Maryland

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Old Town Alexandria, Virginia

Mt. Vernon

Gunston Hall

Colonial Williamsburg

Jamestown

Washington, D.C.

Other: _____

8. What types of projects would you like to see the Society get involved in or become more involved?

9. Currently, the Historical Society sponsors a monetary award (Savings Bond) to local school students for History Day each year. In what other way(s) can we monetarily contribute to worthwhile historical endeavors in our area?

10. Are you a member of any of the following historical organizations?

Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco

Dr. Samuel Mudd Society

African-American Heritage Society

Charles County Historic Trust

Charles County Genealogical Society

Other: _____

11. How long have you been a member of the Historical Society of Charles County?

1 year

11-15-years

2 - 5 years

16-20 years

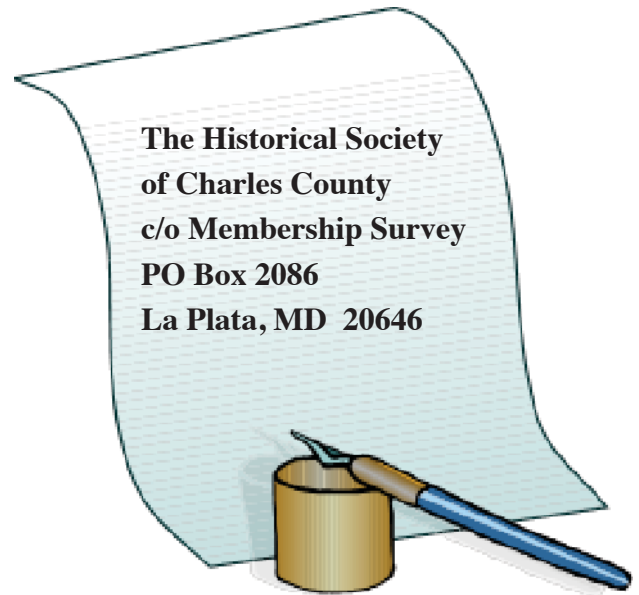
6 -10 years

21years +

12. In what county do you reside?

There is no need to sign this survey.

Simply mail the completed form by February 1, 2012 to:



**The Historical Society
of Charles County
c/o Membership Survey
PO Box 2086
La Plata, MD 20646**

Thank you for your help!

Friendship House Foundation

The Friendship House Foundation was established to preserve, refurbish and promote this unique treasure of Charles County. Donations will help to maintain the historical integrity of the house through its furnishings, tours and educational programs, and to honor those who have devoted countless hours of volunteer time in the preservation and promotion of this Maryland Tidewater Home.



Today, Friendship House sits proudly on the campus of the College of Southern Maryland. Please join the Historical Society of Charles County in contributing to the preservation of Friendship House for many generations to come.

Friendship House Foundation In Memory of

Warren E. Barley
Philip L. Griffith
Eleanor Higdon
Sue LaHood
Katherine S. W. Mitchell
Kathryn C. Newcomb
Velva Perrygo
Watson Perrygo

Friendship House Foundation

Levels of giving:

Friend	(\$ 25.00-\$ 99.00)
Colonist.....	(\$ 100.00-\$199.00)
Patriot	(\$ 200.00-\$499.00)
Statesman	(\$ 500.00-\$999.00)
Renaissance.....	(\$1,000.00+)

To make donations, please make checks payable to the Friendship House Foundation and mail to the Historical Society.

Friendship House Foundation Contributors

Friend

Ms. Sandra Bauer
Ms. Carolyn Billups
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Boone
Mr. & Mrs. David Creason
Mr. Edward B. Edelen, Jr.
Mrs. Elizabeth Linton deKeyser
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Colonist

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Patriot

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Chris & Evelyn Karlsson Merritt
Ms. Catherine Sturm-Hughes

Renaissance

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Irish

Errata for the Errata

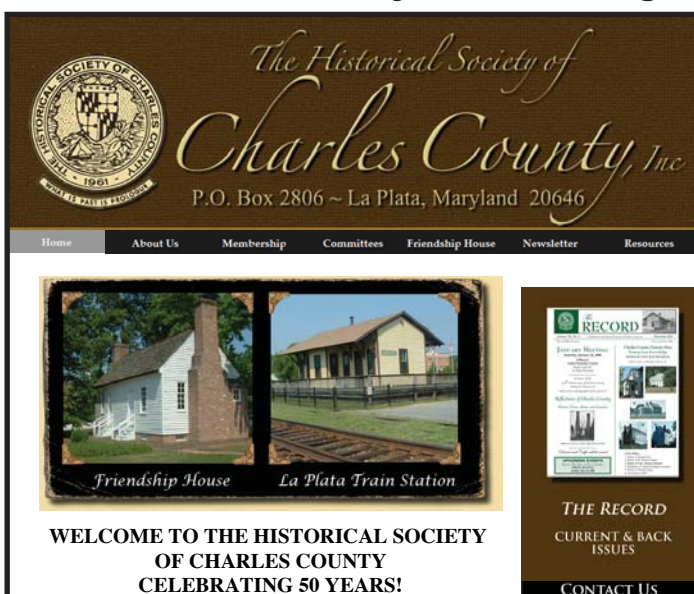
As an Historical Society of Charles County 50th Anniversary gift to our members, a copy of the book, *Windfalls of Inherited Treasures*, by Betty Carney Taussig, was given to those attending the Fall meeting. Included in each book was an errata sheet with some corrections.

Following is an additional errata: Page 29 – William Buckland (1734-1774) Architect. No homes in Southern Maryland have been attributed to Mr. Buckland.

Your Historical Society Now on World-Wide Web

*In honor of its 50th Anniversary,
the Historical Society of Charles County
is proud to launch their website!*

www.charlescountyhistorical.org



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc. The header features the society's logo on the left and the text "The Historical Society of Charles County, Inc." in a large, elegant script font, with "P.O. Box 2806 ~ La Plata, Maryland 20646" below it. A navigation menu includes links for Home, About Us, Membership, Committees, Friendship House, Newsletter, and Resources. The main content area is divided into three sections: a photo of the Friendship House with the caption "Friendship House", a photo of the La Plata Train Station with the caption "La Plata Train Station", and a section for "THE RECORD" with the text "CURRENT & BACK ISSUES" and a "CONTACT US" link. At the bottom, a banner reads "WELCOME TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!"

Postscript on Speak/e/s

The Speak/e/s Family Association visited Charles County where ancestor immigrant Thomas Speake (c1640-1681) began his life in America. Over 100 Speake descendants toured Charles County, visiting Port Tobacco Courthouse, Chimney House, St. Ignatius at Chapel Point, Habre deVenture, and Old Durham Church. Convention chairman Jerry Draney researched the land owned by Bowling Speake (c1674-1755) (with help from our own Anne Boone and Ned Edelen), where part of which now sits St. Peter's Catholic Church. The group enjoyed presentations from Mike Mazzeo and Dr. Julia King. The group was thrilled to walk on the ground their ancestors had trod.

The Speake family began its American history in Charles County and several descendants are currently members of the Historical Society.

War of 1812, continued from Page 6

for artifacts. This was really quite exciting. We were trying to get a better understanding of the site – not only because of the anticipated tourist interest, but also because we love history and just want to know. Results look promising, but it is too early to report conclusions. The site was also the location of Camp Stanton in the Civil War, and the items found have to be analyzed carefully.

Finally, on a more personal note, I can report that I have completed the *History of Benedict* that I am writing up through the section on the War of 1812. I am currently working on the chapter that deals with the years from 1812 through 1860, and will soon be into the Civil War. I hope to have it all ready for the August 2014 Benedict Commemoration.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY, INC.

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

(301) 934-2564

www.charlescountyhistorical.org