



THE RECORD



Volume 105, No. 1

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

January 2011

Joyce Candland, President

Mary Ann Scott, Editor

President's Message

Our October 2010 meeting at Old Durham Church Hall was a grand success. Our speaker, Dr. Bradley Gottfried, President, College of Southern Maryland, gave a very interesting account of Charles County in the Civil War. We thank Dr. Gottfried for his excellent presentation and for his kindness in answering questions and visiting with our members. Dr. and Mrs. Gottfried were one of the last to leave the Hall.

Member George Howard Post is writing a book on the War of 1812, and has shared with us some of the information he has gathered on Benedict. As the War of 1812 anniversary approaches, we will be hearing more about the part Benedict and Charles County played in this event. See his article on page 3. Thank you, Howard.

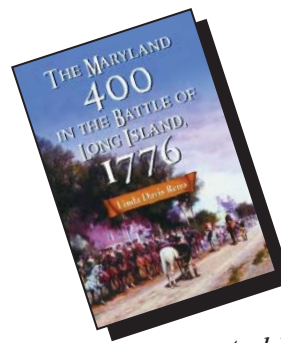
Included is another article from member John Morris. This discusses Chinquepin (or Chinquapin), a part of the original Friendship House tract. In addition, the tie between Catherine Elizabeth (Gray) Cobey and Sarah Elizabeth (Dyson) Prout with this specific location is documented as well. These two ladies created the samplers featured in the last issue of "The Record." How appropriate that the samplers should hang in Friendship House. Thank you, John.

Welcome to new members Janice Talley of La Plata, Paula Wayland of Calvert, Kentucky and new life member, Lowry Rush Watkins, Jr., of Louisville, Kentucky.



Painting depicting the 400 men from Smallwood's Maryland Battalion in the Battle of Long Island, August 27, 1776.

Winter Meeting



The Maryland 400 in The Battle of Long Island, 1776

presented by Linda Davis Reno

Saturday, January 22, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.

La Plata Methodist Church Hall

Your Society at Work

Please note our new banner for "The Record" approved at our last Board Meeting. This includes pictures of both the Train Station and Friendship House.

The samplers featured in The Record, October 2010 issue have been hung in the Friendship House along with plaques describing their creators.

The Charles County Garden Club has just about completed the garden behind Friendship House. The Friendship House Foundation is helping to fund a concrete table for the garden area. The Friendship House was open for the families and Charles County Garden Club members to tour on November 13, 2010, when the Charles County Garden Club dedicated four Memorial trees. See Friendship House Garden on page 9 for more details.

Thank you to our dedicated Board members. We look forward to another productive year for the Historical Society of Charles County.

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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

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A Look at Old Benedict

By George Howard Post

The historical marker at the entrance to Benedict states that the town was “founded in 1683.” The average person reading this sign would likely imagine a group of settlers coming to a vacant piece of land and starting to erect a town in that year. That is not what happened. The first settlers did not arrive at Benedict in 1683. In fact, the site had been occupied for a full generation before that time.

Everyone knows the story of the founding of Maryland, and how Lord Baltimore wanted a place where Catholics could freely practice their faith. It may come as a surprise to some readers, therefore, that the first settlers to come to the area we now know as Benedict were not Catholics but Puritans – a group that we usually associate with Massachusetts rather than Maryland. The Puritans had originally settled in Virginia some years before, but over time, conflicts arose between the Puritans and the Virginia colonial government, and the Puritans were forced out. Lord Baltimore graciously extended an invitation to the Puritans to come to Maryland, and the Puritans accepted. They arrived in 1649 and 1650 and settled along both sides of the Patuxent River, including in the area later designated as Benedict. It is not known exactly how many were in the original group, but by 1670, there were about seventy people living along the Patuxent between Swanson Creek and Indian Creek. Since there were no town boundaries at that time, it is impossible to say exactly how many of them were in the area we now call Benedict, but surely a good many were. Much of the shoreline between the two creeks is marshland, but the site of today’s village is not – and thus would be the logical location for a settlement.

So why does the historical marker say 1683? What happened in 1683 was that the colonial legislature passed the “Act for the Advancement of Trade” which officially “established” thirty-two towns, including Benedict. This act was an attempt by the legislature to get more control over the lucrative tobacco trade, and make sure that the government got its taxes. The act said that the sale of



Early Photograph of Benedict from the Mary K. Edelen Collection, Southern Maryland Studies Center, College of Southern Maryland

tobacco (and other goods) could only take place at certain “official” ports. Over the course of several decades the government sought to establish 130 of these ports. Some towns were indeed started from scratch. In other cases, however, existing communities were simply designated as official ports. This is what happened at Benedict, and this is why 1683 is on the historical marker. Of the 130 towns that the colonial government tried to establish, only 14 survive today. Benedict is one of those select few survivors.

If the Act for the Advancement of Trade had been implemented as written, Benedict would look much different than it does today. The act stated that the size of the town would be 100 acres. The land was to be surveyed, “...marked, staked out and divided into convenient streets, lanes and alleys, with open space to be left on which may be erected a church, chapel, market house or other public buildings, and the remaining part of the said hundred acres of land divided into one hundred equal lots to sell to the public.

See Old Benedict, continued on Page 4

In fact, none of this was done. The land was not surveyed. Streets were not laid out. No church was built, nor any market house. And no town-lots were sold to the public. For the people living in the little village, life went on exactly as before. The only thing that changed was that the village now had a name. Henceforth, it was to be called Benedict Leonard Town – in honor of Benedict Leonard Calvert, the 4th Lord Baltimore, then four years old.

Because the 1683 survey was never done, the early growth of the town was rather haphazard and clustered along the shoreline. The only “street” was the “rolling road” over which farmers rolled hogsheads of tobacco from their farms to the shore. This road meandered down the hill (Route 231), into the town, and ended at the foot of the dock.

Young Benedict was not neatly laid out, but it was well situated for commerce and soon began to grow both in population and in prominence. By the 1690’s the Patuxent was producing far more tobacco than any other waterway in the colony, regularly averaging three to six times the production Maryland’s Potomac shore and far exceeding any river on the Eastern Shore. At this time, the Patuxent was the richest, most productive area in the entire colony. And Benedict, as the chief port on the Patuxent, was one of the most important towns in the colony.

One detail in the early records may seem confusing to modern readers and needs some explanation. The records refer to “Benedict Leonard Town in Calvert County.” This was true, at least at the time, and brings up the odd fact that the town of Benedict has been in three counties. When the first settlers arrived in 1649/50 the land on which Benedict sits was part of what is now called “Old Charles County.” Old Charles County existed only from 1650 to 1654, when it was dissolved and absorbed into the newly-formed Calvert County. When the present Charles County was formed in 1658 it did not extend to the Patuxent River – this area remained part of Calvert County. Thus, when Benedict was “founded” in 1683, the town was in Calvert where it remained until 1695, when county boundaries were re-drawn and it became part of Charles. Why was Benedict added to Charles County? The legislators looked at the map and realized that if they used Swanson Creek and Indian Creek as boundaries, they could save the time and expense of having to do a survey. Switching Benedict to Charles County was simply easier and cheaper.

Between 1670 and 1700 the population in the Benedict area doubled, and the lack of a proper land survey was becoming a problem. For the town to grow and prosper, people would have to buy lots and put up houses and businesses. But this could not happen if there were no lots to buy. Accordingly, local citizens petitioned the governor to finally have a survey done. On March 29, 1707, their petition was granted, and a 100 acre survey was done later that year.

Unfortunately, this attempt to expand and improve Benedict failed – mainly due to bad timing.

At the same time that the surveyor was doing his work, the colonial economy was taking a serious downturn. Tobacco prices were low and stagnant, and tobacco production barely grew at all. This situation dragged on for years, affecting the entire first quarter of the century. Elsewhere in Maryland, other towns simply died and disappeared from the map. Benedict managed to hang on, but the planned expansion was stopped in its tracks. Few lots were sold, and lot markers on the unsold lots were lost. Over time the unsold lots reverted to their former owner and became farmland once more. Nothing much could happen until the economy improved.

Although it took a long time, the economy eventually did improve, and in August of 1731 local citizens once again petitioned to have the town surveyed – just as they had done twenty-five years before. The General Assembly considered the request and in August of the following year (1732) passed “An act for laying out anew fifteen acres of land, part of the one hundred acres of land formerly erected into a town, commonly called Benedict Leonard Town, ...besides those lots which have already been taken up.” The previous 100 acre survey, the General Assembly said, had been “far too much for that place,” so the size was reduced to fifteen acres. The lots “which have already been taken up” is a reference to the lots from the 1707 survey which were sold and occupied. Five commissioners were then named, and the commissioners were given until November 30 of that year (1732) to have the survey completed. The fifteen acres were to be divided into twenty equal lots – meaning that each lot would be three-quarters of an acre. The 1707 lots were one acre in size.

Although the 1732 survey plat no longer exists, we can piece together some parts of it using later property records. We can locate the boundaries of the village, and we can locate some of the twenty lots within those boundaries. Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, 19, and 20 appear

See Old Benedict, continued on Page 9

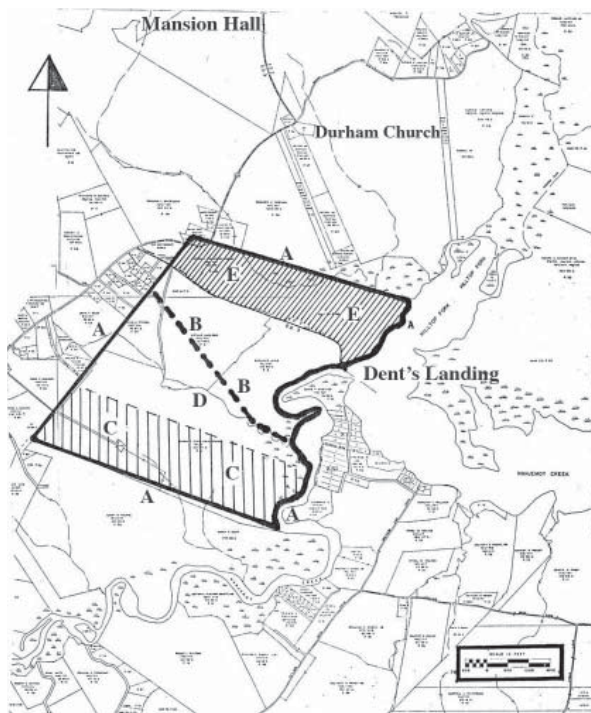
Chinquepin

By John S. Morris, III

The Reverend Harry Speake Cobey, my grandfather, was born and raised at “Chinquepin.” Harry was the son of William Winter (“Billy”) Cobey and Ellen Bettie Carpenter. He was born in 1890. His paternal grandmother, Catherine Elizabeth Gray, also grew up at “Chinquepin.”¹ Harry’s wife and my grandmother, Josephine Matilda Gray, grew up on the adjacent farm, “Friendship.”

Location

“Chinquepin” is located on the east side of Route 425. The driveway leading to “Chinquepin” is 1-1/4 miles north of the intersection of Route 425 and Route 6 and about 0.9 mile south of the intersection of Route 425 and Friendship Landing Road. It is the farm adjoining and immediately south of Evie Merritt’s “Friendship Farm.” I have attached a portion of the U.S. Geological Survey map for the Nanjemoy Quadrangle which shows the former location of the house at “Chinquepin.” I marked this on the map when Preston Williams took my wife and me to the site of the house in July 1981. This also matches the description of its location given by my mother and my grandparents. As you can see from the map, “Chinquepin” is located between “Friendship” and “Middleton.”



- Key:
- A. Original boundaries of the 1657 “Guither” patent.
 - B. 1663 divisional line; also Gray division, 1816, 1821.
 - C. Plantation of John and William Barker, 1685-1753.
 - D. Approximate location of Dent and “Chinquapin” mill.
 - E. Nanjemoy Nature Reserve property.

“Chinquepin” was described in a 1856 deed as adjoining “Middleton” and “Woodwards Industry,” and as being bordered on Queens Creek and Nanjemoy Creek. It contained 560 acres at that time.²

Origins of Chinquepin

“Chinquepin” was part of the original “Friendship,” which was initially a 900 acre tract of land granted to Captain Nicholas als Guither on 20 August 1658. It was originally known as “Guither” or “Guyther,” and had been surveyed for Captain Guither on 7 March 1657.³ Captain Guither sold the property to Judge Thomas Dent and Judge Dent’s brother-in-law, William Hatton, in 1662.⁴

“Friendship” stayed in the Dent family until 1816,⁵ when Joseph Gray, Sr. and his son, John F. Gray, bought it from William Dent. The Grays paid \$12,633.00 for “Friendship,” which was said to contain 1,052 acres at the time. The deed was dated 2 February 1816 and recorded on 18 April 1816.⁶

“Chinquepin” was created in about 1820 when the then 822 acres of “Friendship” was divided by Joseph and John. John got the southern most portion, which was renamed “Chinquepin,” and Joseph got the northern portion which continued to be called “Friendship.”⁷ Since Joseph, Sr. died in about 1820, it is not certain whether this division took place before or after his death. The northern portion of “Friendship” was divided into two lots as part of the division of Joseph Sr.’s estate.⁸ Since John had an ownership interest in the entire parcel, either he and his father split the property while Joseph, Sr. was living, or it was determined during the division of the estate that his ownership interest would be “Chinquepin.”

In the division of Joseph Sr.’s estate, the northern portion of “Friendship” was further divided pursuant to a survey by James Brawner in 1821. The northern part became Lot No. 5 and was allotted to his son, Robert.⁹ The southern part became Lot No. 6 and was apparently allotted to his son, Joseph, Jr.¹⁰ The dividing line of these two portions was what is now Friendship Landing Road.¹¹

The “Friendship” which is owned by the Historical Society of Charles County was on Lot No. 5, the northern portion. That house was built about 1700 by Col. William

See Chinquepin, continued on Page 6

Dent on the bank of Nanjemoy Creek, at what became known as Friendship Landing.¹² Evie Merritt's farm is on Lot No. 6, the southern portion.

The Owners of "Chinquepin"

John Franklin Gray owned "Chinquepin" from 1820 when it was created as a separate farm¹³ until his death on 26 June 1830.¹⁴ John left a will dated 22 June 1830 which was probated on 5 July 1830. His will left "Chinquepin," an adjoining 40 acre tract of land, and part of "Middleton" to his brother Alexander Gray (1788-1839).¹⁵

Although Alexander Gray owned other property in Charles County, he probably made his home at "Chinquepin," since his daughter, Catherine, grew up there¹⁶ and his widow was given "Chinquepin" in the division of his estate.¹⁷

Alexander Gray died on 25 July 1839.¹⁸ He left a will dated 7 April 1837 which was probated on 6 September 1839. In the will, he gave his widow, Elizabeth Price (1793-1857), a life estate in 1/3 of all real and personal property he owned,¹⁹ which included "Chinquepin."²⁰ At Elizabeth's death, the property was to be divided among all but one of his surviving children.²¹

Alexander's and Elizabeth's other surviving child, Hannah, did not receive an interest in his real estate and was virtually disinherited by Alexander.²² On 26 March 1837,²³ eleven days before Alexander wrote his will,²⁴ she married John H. Bush in the District of Columbia.²⁵ The marriage was apparently against Alexander's wishes. It is not known why he may have opposed the marriage, but it is perhaps because John was 15 years older than Hannah.²⁶

In 1841, Alexander's real estate was divided into lots to be owned by the seven inheriting children.²⁷ "Chinquepin" was allotted to his widow, Elizabeth.²⁸ The division of his estate was referenced almost 100 years after his death in a 1935 deed from his great granddaughter, Charlotte Matilda Gray Dorsett to Paul Gray, the great grandson of Alexander's brother Robert Gray.²⁹

On 3 March 1855, Alexander's widow and their children, Catherine Elizabeth Gray Cobey, John Gray, Thomas Gray, Joseph Gray, Jane Gray Speake, and Priscilla Gray Smith, and the spouses of each child, except Catherine and Joseph, signed a deed to John Millar, the husband of Alexander's daughter Sarah Gray. The deed noted that a life estate in "Chinquepin" had been allotted to Elizabeth during the division of Alexander's estate. She

gave up her life estate in the property when she signed the deed. "Chinquepin" contained 560 acres at the time. John Millar paid them \$4,285.72 for the property. For some reason, the deed was not recorded until 16 July 1856.³⁰

John and Sarah Millar sold "Chinquepin" to Richard Price in 1857. That deed was dated 13 May 1857 and recorded on 4 September 1857.³¹

Richard Price and his wife Sallie sold "Chinquepin" to Caroline E. Sturdivant, the wife of Eben W. Sturdivant, by a deed dated 21 October 1875, and recorded on 30 December 1875.³² However, they probably sold it to Mrs. Sturdivant earlier. In 1874, the Sturdivants sold a 40 acre portion of "Chinquepin" to Thomas S. Dent. The 40 acre parcel adjoined land Thomas Dent already owned.³³ Through his marriage to Matilda Gray (the daughter of Robert Gray), Thomas Dent would have been considered the owner of the southern half of "Friendship" at the time.³⁴ Therefore, this outparcel was probably along the border between "Friendship" and "Chinquepin" that had been created in the 1820 division. The Sturdivants could not have sold the 40 acres if they did not already have some ownership claim to the property. They probably did not realize they had never recorded a deed from the Prices until they were selling the rest of "Chinquepin," because the deed from the Prices was recorded the same day and immediately before their deed selling "Chinquepin."

By deed dated 9 December 1875 and recorded on 30 December 1875, Catherine Elizabeth Gray Cobey and two of her children, Billy Cobey and Ellen Winter ("Nellie") Cobey, bought "Chinquepin" from Eben and Caroline Sturdivant for \$5,500.00. "Chinquepin" contained only 520 acres, with the deed specifically referencing the 40 acre conveyance to Thomas Dent.³⁵ The family tradition is that they were able to buy "Chinquepin" as a result of the marriage of Catherine's daughter, Bettie, to the Rev. Robert Prout.³⁶

Billy Cobey and his family then moved to "Chinquepin" with his mother and his sisters Caroline Winter "Carrie" Cobey and Nellie.³⁷ They planned to divide "Chinquepin," with his mother taking the dwelling house with 200 acres around the house, Nellie taking 100 acres next to the land of Thomas P. Gray (the son of Alexander Gray), and Billy taking the remainder of the land, including the mill.³⁸ However, that division never took place.

While the Cobey family lived there, "Chinquepin" was mortgaged twice as collateral for loans. On 26 July 1880, Billy, Ellen Bettie, his mother and his sister Nellie

signed a mortgage on “Chinquepin” to Gustav A. Rasch to secure a loan of \$2,000.00. “Chinquepin” still contained 520 acres. That mortgage was released on 14 June 1886.³⁹ On 13 September 1886, Billy and his mother borrowed \$3,000.00 from his sister Bettie. To secure the loan, they gave Bettie a mortgage on “Chinquepin.” The mortgage was released on 21 April 1908.⁴⁰

With Billy Cobey’s five children and four adults, “Chinquepin” must have been very crowded. Therefore, it is no surprise that in 1894 or 1895, Catherine Elizabeth Gray Cobey and her daughter Nellie moved out of “Chinquepin” and back to “Efton Hills”.⁴¹ Although my grandfather was only 4 or 5 years old, Billy’s older children were beginning to be old enough to leave the nest at this time. James, the oldest son, graduated from medical school in April 1896.⁴²

By 1909, Billy had suffered an illness which required surgery. Although he recovered completely, Billy and Ellen Bettie decided it was time to give up farming. None of the children intended to take the farm, so they sold it.⁴³ By deed dated 29 June 1909 and recorded on 25 October 1909, Billy and Ellen Bettie as well as his brother, Dr. Alexander Dunnington (“Aleck”) Cobey, and his wife Sallie, and their sister Bettie (the other heirs of Catherine Elizabeth Gray and Nellie Cobey) conveyed “Chinquepin” to Richard F. Elgin for \$500.00. The deed stated that the tract contained 530 acres.⁴⁴ Richard Elgin was the husband of Leila H. Gray, who was the daughter of Ann Matilda Gray and Robert Truman Clagett Gray, and the great-granddaughter of both Robert and Alexander Gray.

The House at “Chinquepin”

The house was built about 1700. It was made of heavy timbers. Part of it was two stories tall. The ends of the two story portion of the house were almost solid brick. There were two huge chimneys at each end. The space between the chimneys was bricked out. On the inside, that extra space was used for closets. The area between the plaster and the exterior walls was completely filled with brick, which was probably made nearby.⁴⁵

The porch to “Chinquepin” was originally a piazza. The piazza was two stories high and had a brick floor on the ground. The downstairs rooms at “Chinquepin” had high ceilings. There was a large parlor and a good-sized dining room downstairs, as well as a back hall and two bedrooms. The ceilings upstairs were very low. There

were two bedrooms with a hall between them, and two large attic spaces called “cuddies” upstairs in the main part of the house.⁴⁶

“Chinquepin” had a long wing, with a passage in it and a pantry as large as a small bedroom. The pantry had good lighting and was sometimes used as a dining room when only the family was eating. The kitchen was “beyond the entry.” Above the kitchen was a half-story cook’s room. Beyond the kitchen was the “back kitchen,” a room 25 to 30 feet long. It had a large cooking fire place.⁴⁷ A sixty-foot deep well was in the back yard. There was a spring “a long city block away” from the house, at the foot of the old apple orchard.⁴⁸ Preston Williams described it as a nice spring “down below” the house.⁴⁹ The house also had a cellar.⁵⁰ However, “Chinquepin” did not have central heat, electricity or water in the bathroom or kitchen. Those were not available to the farm until after Billy and Ellen Bettie Cobey moved away.⁵¹

There was a mill at “Chinquepin”.⁵² It was located on the part of “Chinquepin” closest to “Friendship.”⁵³

“Chinquepin” was torn down sometime after 1909. Preston Williams, who was born in 1894, said he could “just remember” the house, so it was probably torn down not long after 1909.⁵⁴ My mother always said it was torn down by Dick Elgin.

In 1981, there was a house on the site, but it was built after the original house was torn down.⁵⁵

The Land

“Chinquepin” must have contained good farm land, because Billy Cobey planted a huge wheat crop in 1877, his first full year at the farm. He reaped 321 bushels of wheat that year.⁵⁶ Preston Williams stated that Billy had beautiful crops at “Chinquepin” and that it was a beautiful farm. He had a “bunch” of white horses. The horses were described by Preston as “great big Percheron horses.”⁵⁷ My grandfather, Billy’s youngest son, recalled that the farm was one of the best in Charles County, including the land, stock, and orchards.

Book Reviews

By Louise Turner

We bring our members attention to two recently published books on Maryland and Virginia history.

The Jamestown Century, A Collection of Essays by St. Julien Ravenel Marshall, Jr., published by the Washington & Northern Virginia Company, Jamestowne Society. A compilation of articles on 17th Century Virginia, Jamestown and St. Mary's City, Maryland. It may be ordered from the Society c/o Jacque-Lynne Schulman, 6649 McLean Drive, McLean, VA 22101-4002. \$21.00 plus postage.

Written in Bone, Buried Lines of Jamestown and



Colonial Maryland by Sally M. Walker. A colorful account of the archeology work at Jamestown and St. Mary's City. A study of human remains from the 17th and 18th century. Includes a chapter on the lead coffins found in St. Mary's City. It may be ordered through Amazon.com – \$13.49 plus shipping.

Chinquepin Footnotes

- 1 "History of Two Photographs", by Harry Speake Cobey; Letter dated 22 March 1957 from Harry Speake Cobey to Cobey Goodwin, page 2.
- 2 Charles County Deed Book JS 1, page 448.
- 3 Brochure, Friendship House, College of Southern Maryland, LaPlata.
- 4 Ibid.; The Record, Historical Society of Charles County, Volume 104, No. 1, January 2010, page 7, citing Maryland Patent Book Q, page 159 and Charles County Deed Book B 1, page 125; Brochure, Friendship House, College of Southern Maryland, LaPlata; Harry Wright Newman, The Maryland Dents (1963), pages 10-12.
- 5 Brochure, Friendship House, College of Southern Maryland, LaPlata; The Record, Historical Society of Charles County, Volume 104, No. 1, January 2010, page 7.
- 6 Charles County Deed Book IB 1, page 333.
- 7 The Record, Historical Society of Charles County, Volume 104, No. 1, January 2010, page 7, citing Charles County Court Proceedings, 1821-1822, page 400.
- 8 Charles County Deed Book WM 3, page 687 and Deed Book WMA 35, page 686.
- 9 Charles County Deed Book WMA 33, page 8.
- 10 Charles County Deed Book WMA 35, page 686.
- 11 Charles County Deed Book WM 3, page 687. Not this deed!
- 12 Brochure, "Friendship House, Charles County, Maryland", Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.
- 13 The Record, Historical Society of Charles County, Volume 104, No. 1, January 2010, page 7, citing Charles County Court Proceedings, 1821-1822, page 400.
- 14 Tombstone of Captain John F. Gray, Mansion Hall cemetery, Ironsides.
- 15 Charles County Will Book 15, page 367.
- 16 "History of Two Photographs", by Harry Speake Cobey; Letter dated 22 March 1957 from Harry Speake Cobey to Cobey Goodwin, page 2.
- 17 Charles County Deed Book JS 1, page 448.
- 18 Tombstone of Captain Alexander Gray, Mansion Hall cemetery, Ironsides.
- 19 Charles County Will Book 16, page 170.
- 20 Charles County Deed Book JS 1, page 448.
- 21 Charles County Will Book 16, page 170.
- 22 Ibid.
- 23 Pryor, Bush-Gray Family, page 6.
- 24 Charles County Will Book 16, page 170.
- 25 Pryor, Bush-Gray Family, page 6.
- 26 Pryor, Bush-Gray Family, page 6; Family Group Sheet prepared by Joyce Burgess Candland; Obituary of John H. Bush, Topeka, Kansas Daily Journal, 14 May 1885, page 4, column 3.
- 27 Charles County Deed Book IB 25, page 62, Deed Book WM 3, page 507, Deed Book BGS 14, page 434, Deed Book JS 1, page 277 and Deed Book WMA 60, page 427.
- 28 Charles County Deed Book JS 1, page 448.
- 29 Charles County Deed Book WMA 60, page 427.
- 30 Charles County Deed Book JS 1, page 448.
- 31 Charles County Deed Book JS 2, page 178.
- 32 Charles County Deed Book BGS 1, page 159.
- 33 Charles County Deed Book GAH 4, page 409.
- 34 Charles County Deed Book GAH 1, page 374.
- 35 Charles County Deed Book BGS 1, page 160.
- 36 Letter dated 30 April 1953 from Harry Speake Cobey to Elizabeth Cobey Morris, page 3.
- 37 Notes from diary of James T. Carpinter, page 3.
- 38 Charles County Deed Book BGS 1, page 160.
- 39 Charles County Deed Book BGS 4, page 455.
- 40 Charles County Deed Book JST 1, page 47.
- 41 "History of Two Photographs," by Harry Speake Cobey.
- 42 Notes from diary of James T. Carpinter, page 6.
- 43 Letter dated 30 August 1955 from Harry Speake Cobey to his children, page 3.
- 44 Charles County Deed Book FDM 20, page 638.
- 45 Letter dated 30 August 1955 from Harry Speake Cobey to his children, page 3.
- 46 Ibid.
- 47 Ibid., page 4.
- 48 Ibid.
- 49 Conversation with W. Preston Williams on 6 July 1981.
- 50 Letter dated 30 August 1955 from Harry Speake Cobey to his children, page 4.
- 51 Ibid., page 3.
- 52 Charles County Deed Book BGS 1, page 160.
- 53 Ibid. Conversation with Preston? or Deed to Elgin?
- 54 Charles County Deed Book FDM 20, page 638.
- 55 Conversation with W. Preston Williams on 6 July 1981.
- 56 Notes from diary of James T. Carpinter, page 3.
- 57 Conversation with W. Preston Williams on 6 July 1981.
- 58 Letter dated 30 August 1955 from Harry Speake Cobey to his children, page 3.

Friendship House Garden

By Peggy Schaumburg

The Charles County Garden Club has established a garden to the rear of Friendship House on the La Plata Campus of College of Southern Maryland, using funds raised during the 2010 House and Garden Pilgrimage. The garden replaces a bare area which contained sickly trees and visible utility fixtures. The Garden Club placed trees and shrubs around a new brick paver patio. The brick pavers were selected to match the existing brick walk. The patio will support a table with benches to provide a place for students or faculty to eat their lunch. A picket fence was constructed by the college to serve as a visual barrier from the adjacent parking lot.

Four memorial trees were planted in memory of

deceased Garden Club members through the Memorial Tree Project. These trees were dedicated in November to Gladys Jenkins, Ann Weaver, Frances Donohue, and Helen Lawlor.

In addition, a dead tree in front of the house was removed and a red maple planted in its place. Two boxwoods were planted around the maple to finish out the planting in the front.

The entire garden will be finished next spring and will be dedicated at that time. If you are in the area, do visit this project in which the Charles County Garden Club was pleased to partner with the Historical Society of Charles County and the College of Southern Maryland.

Old Benedict, continued from Page 4

in the records with enough descriptive information to allow us to place them on today's map. Lots 1, 3, 15, 16, and 17 appear in the records but without descriptive information that would help us place them. We have not (yet) been able to find lots 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, and 14 in the records. The lots were not laid out in sequence, and their arrangement does not seem to follow any logical order. The surveyor in 1732 marked the corners of each lot with corner stones with the lot numbers inscribed. It is entirely possible that some of these corner stones still exist, sunken below the surface, and that further research will allow us to reconstruct the plat in its entirety.

In the 1732 survey the town is a triangle. Surprisingly, one of the major survey lines is still very visible today. When you enter the village today, Benedict Avenue curves around in front of the Catholic Church, then becomes arrow-straight as it continues directly south to the river. The straight section of Benedict Avenue is the western boundary of the 1732 survey. To get the northern boundary you would draw a line west-to-east from the top of the western boundary to the river. The southeast border is, of course, the river.

The original road through the village no longer exists. In the northwest corner of the village was Lot 10. We know from property records that the road coming into town passed to the east of Lot 10 and curved down directly to the dock. Today the road (Benedict Avenue) passes to the west of Lot 10 and heads due south. To get to the former dock site you have to take a sharp left turn

and go down Wharf Lane. The town was burned in 1783, at the end of the Revolutionary War, and much of the town was not rebuilt. The original road was abandoned and the land reverted to farmland sometime between the Revolutionary war and the War of 1812. There is a fairly detailed 1814 map which was drawn by the British after they landed in Benedict. The original road was gone at that time.

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Share Your History: Churches, Church Life, and Other House of Worship

*The Southern Maryland
Studies Center Advisory Committee
invites you to*

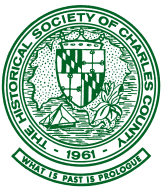
Share Your History Day “Churches, Church Life and Other Houses of Worship”

Saturday, March 12, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Auditorium, A Building, College of Southern Maryland
Leonardtown Campus

Please attend and help preserve the history of our places of worship by bringing written memorabilia and photographs from your church or other place of worship to be copied and placed in the collection of the Southern Maryland Studies Center. The staff of SMSC will digitally scan documents from the church community at the “Share Your History” event. Table space will be allocated to display the memorabilia and share it with other community members. Participants will take their materials home with them, and the SMSC will retain copies of materials scanned. Copies of documents and photographs will be posted on line for public use. SMSC welcomes information on church history, suppers, choirs, women’s groups, special projects, retreats, special events, and other religious community affairs.

Mark Your Calendar

- **Saturday, January 22** – Historical Society of Charles County Winter Meeting, La Plata Methodist Church Hall, 2:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 12** – “Share Your History” Churches and Church Life in Southern Maryland, College of Southern Maryland, Leonardtown Campus
- **Saturday, March 26** – Charles County Public Schools History Fair, McDonough High School, 6:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 14** – The Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco, Second Annual Market Day
- **Monday, May 16** – Charles County Garden Club dedication of the Friendship House Garden
- **Saturday, May 21** – Historical Society of Charles County Spring Dinner Meeting
- **Monday, July 4** – Thomas Stone Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Memorial Ceremony at the Thomas Stone National Historic Site
- **Saturday, October 22** – Historical Society of Charles County Annual Dinner Meeting, Durham Church Hall, 6:00 p.m.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY, INC.

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