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\*Eugene A. Jenkins, Jr. 63-64, 66-67  
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\*William Preston Williams, 67-68  
\*John H. Mitchell, 68-70  
\*Watson M. Perrygo, 70-78  
George Dyson, 78-82  
William Garvey, Jr., 82-  
\*\* Richard E. Heise, II 85-86  
Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., 86-92  
Dr. Lloyd Bowling, 93-98

\* Deceased

\*\* Acting President

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### Publicity:

Tom Pike

### Charles County Heritage Committee:

Vacant

### Coalition to protect MD Burial Sites:

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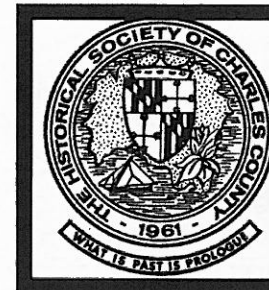
### Small Museums Association:

Ross Pike, *Representative*

### 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.

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



# The Record



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## The President's Message

*It's been a while since you received a newsletter. We had problems, our editor, Donald Schatz went back to work and no one was willing to become editor. Well, after missing two issues I became editor. I'm going to hang on and see if we can keep this going. I purchased a new printer so we can do our newsletter in house and we now have a docent at the train station on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays through the end of October. The docent will be helping with the articles as well as helping get the newsletter out.*

*On a sad note Eugene A. Jenkins, second president of the Historical Society, passed away. He donated many hours to this organization to make it what it is today.*

*We are still making changes at the La Plata Train Station, our home. We will be adding a model train display, a pot bellied stove and some new furniture. We also have added pictures of the past. We have many of La Plata but need pictures of other areas in the County. If you have any you would like to share please call us or drop them by on the weekend.*

*We still have furniture in the Friendship House at the College of Southern Maryland. I will be asking for volunteers to help inventory everything, then return the items to their owners or donate them or sell.*

*In October of this year we will be electing new officers in a couple of positions. I will be leaving the Office of the President after 6 years but will remain on the Board. Lloyd will be leaving the Board of Directors after 20 years. Judy Norris will be heading up a nominating committee and may be giving you a call. If you are interested in a position on the Board please call her on 301-934-9230.*

*Wayne Winkler, President*

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

# Ellenwood

Nestled on a small promontory, surrounded by 31.5 acres of trees over 150 year old, "Ellenwood" is steeped in Southern Maryland History. Its original owners played a key part in the struggle between the North and the South, as well as the development of the Town of La Plata in that much of the Town is situated on the "La Plata Farm". Ellenwood was built between 1850 and 1857 as the Manor House for the then sprawling La Plata Farm, owned by one of Charles County's most prominent families—The Chapman's.

The construction of "Ellenwood" began in 1850 and it was nearly 7 years before it was completed in 1857. The house was constructed almost entirely from materials on the farm. Bricks were formed from clay from nearby Clarks Run. The house consisted of 6 bedrooms. The construction is unique from several perspectives. It is all brick and unlike many houses in past eras was constructed all at one time. The house is "T" shaped with the top of the "T" enjoying 3 floors while the base of the "T" soars a full 4 floors due to the fall off of the area in the rear. The center hall features an 88 foot hanging stairwell floating to the upper floors with no apparent support interrupted only by landings on each floor.

The house was built by Marshall Chapman, the second son of General John Grant Chapman. Marshall Chapman was a prominent lawyer and a State Senator much involved in politics of the day. In 1850, Chapman became betrothed to a young woman from a prominent ship-building family in Annapolis Maryland—

Ellen Stockett. The story has it that he built "Ellenwood" in secret over the following 7 years as a wedding gift to his beloved Ellen. In the spring of 1857, as the house was nearly complete, they were married in the then newly remodeled St. Ann's church in Annapolis. The new Mrs. Chapman believed that they were to set up housekeeping on her father-in-law's estate (John Grant Chapman) known Chapman's Landing at Indian Head. Instead, their carriage traveled up the La-Plata-Newtown Road that evening to this magnificent sprawling mansion named in her honor—"Ellenwood".

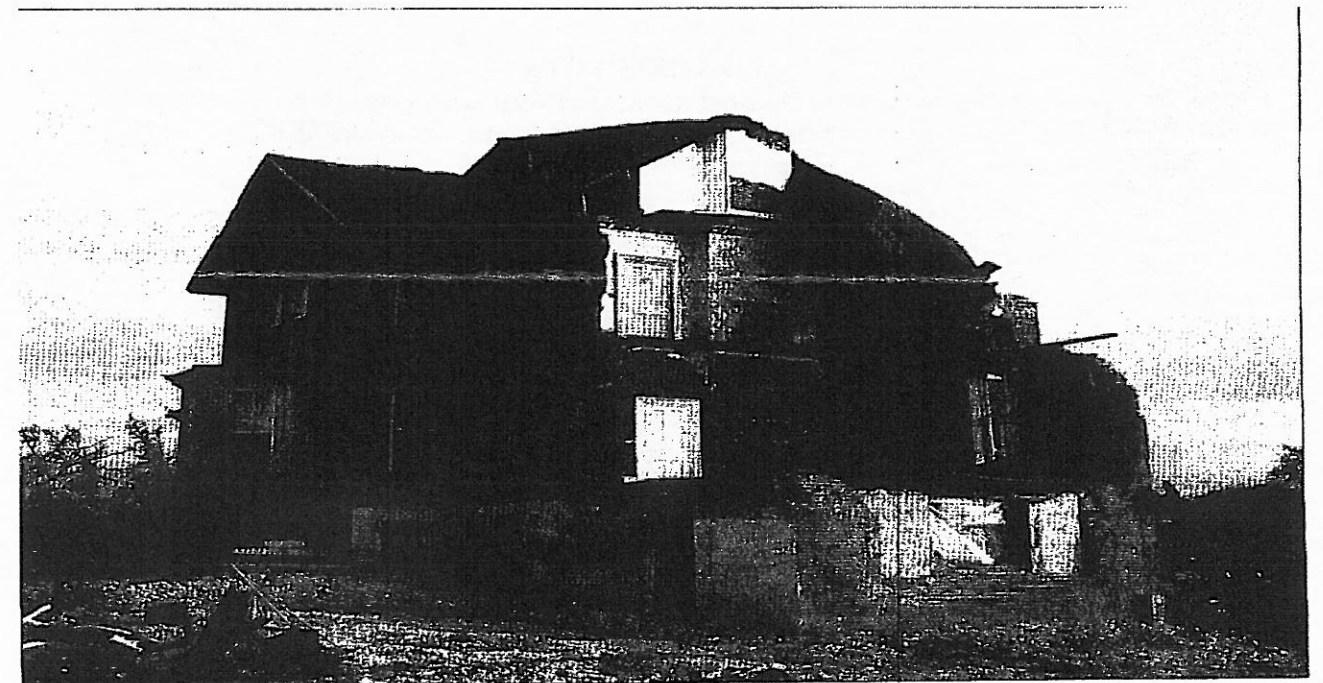
Much history surrounds the home. Accounts place "Ellenwood" on the escape route of John Wilkes Booth after he left Dr. Mudd's house in Bryantown. History also places a young slave named Flossie Mae as the resident ghost of "Ellenwood". Flossie Mae apparently died after her clothing caught fire while boiling lard to be used to make soap. The Chapman's kept this unhappy event from their two young daughters. The children "sent" correspondence and gifts to Flossie Mae as the parents regaled them stories of her life elsewhere.

"Ellenwood", which suffered considerable damage in the tornado of April 28, 2002 is being lovingly restore to its original by its current owners—Mr. & Mrs. Louis Grasso.



Ellenwood 1963

Ellenwood Now



Ellenwood, built in 1857 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is a grand Italianate manor house located just outside the town of La Plata. The recent tornado severely damaged the home and ripped away most of the 150 year old trees that surrounded the property.