

# THE RECORD



Volume 114, No. 2

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

May 2019

Ronald G. Brown, President

Mary Ann Scott, Editor



*Please join us for a Field Trip to Historic Stratford Hall, home of the Lees of Virginia*

**Thursday, May 16, 2019**

- 8:30 am – Depart La Plata Courthouse Farmers Market Parking Lot
- 10:00 am – Special Guided Tour of **Stratford Hall**
- 11:30 am – Elegant Dining at the **Inn at Stratford**  
(Fried Chicken, Virginia Baked Ham, Candied Yams, Seasoned Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Biscuits, Fresh Mixed Berry Short Cake with Whipped Cream, Water/Iced Tea)
- 1:00 pm – Special Presentation at the **Council House**: *The Paleontology of the Stratford Hall Cliffs*,  
(with an option of collecting opportunities with the Paleo Patrol on the shore)
- 3:30 pm – Arrive back in La Plata

**\$40.00 per person**

Please r.s.v.p. to Carol Donohue by May 1, 2019 • 16401 Old Marshall Hall Road ~ Accokeek, MD 20607

*Please make checks payable to: The Historical Society of Charles County*



## *The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Rescuing of Historic Friendship House*

*T*he descendants of the families of Friendship House visited Charles County for a two-day celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the rescuing of Friendship House and to honor their ancestors who lived on the Friendship property for more than 200 years. Over 80 descendants of the Guither, Dent, Gray and Karlsson families came from all over the country to participate in this special event in September 2018.



*On Saturday, family members toured Historic Port Tobacco Village including Stagg Hall.*

On Saturday, participants toured Historic Port Tobacco Village then traveled to Friendship Farm where they were treated to a delicious luncheon hosted by Evelyn Karlsson Merritt. In the afternoon, everyone had the opportunity participate in a special tour of Durham Church and to visit the original Friendship House site along the Nanjemoy Creek.



*A special tour of Durham Church and the cemetery focused on the descendants of the families of Friendship Farm.*

On Sunday, a unique service (using the Colonel William Dent Silver Chalice) was held at Durham Church. The anniversary program and luncheon, along with tours of Friendship House, were held at the College of Southern Maryland. As part of the program, President Ron Brown, welcomed everyone to this



event and Friendship House Foundation members Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., Alex Colby, Evelyn Karlsson Merritt and John S. Morris, III introduced the descendants of Nicholas Guither, Joseph Gray and Colonel William Dent. Evie Merritt and Paula Dyson gave a history of the rescuing of Friendship House and Louise Turner spoke about the partnership between the Charles County Garden Club, the Historical Society and the College of Southern Maryland. George Dyson was honored for his efforts in saving Friendship House when he was presented with a life size replica of his patriot ancestor, Gerard Dyson. This will be displayed in Friendship House for many years to come.

The Anniversary Celebration was organized by Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr. & Evelyn Karlsson Merritt and the luncheon at the college was coordinated by Carol Donohue.



*Evelyn Karlsson Merritt hosted a luncheon for everyone at Friendship Farm on Saturday.*



## *The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Rescuing of Historic Friendship House*



*Evelyn Karlsson Merritt hosted a luncheon for everyone at Friendship Farm on Saturday.*

*On Sunday, a program honoring the descendants of the Friendship property was held at the La Plata Campus of the College of Southern Maryland.*



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*The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Rescuing of Historic Friendship House*



*The descendants of the Gray Family of Friendship.*



*The descendants of the Dent Family of Friendship.*



## *The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Rescuing of Historic Friendship House*



*George Dyson was recognized for his effort in rescuing Friendship House in 1968. Pictured here are George and his family and a special replica of George's Revolutionary War ancestor, Gerard Dyson.*



*Gerard Dyson sits proudly in the parlor of Friendship House.*

### *From the Desk of the Genealogical Committee*

The Genealogical Committee of the Historical Society is undertaking its biggest project to date. We are attempting to catalog all of our members' family genealogies. In order for this to be successful, we shall need the cooperation of all members. Please consider donating a copy of your family history or other family histories you may have researched, to include any copies of photos of family members or houses, etc. that you may wish to share, to our files.

To aid with this we have included a standard form with this newsletter. Feel free to Xerox this form if you need more than one page. Please fill out the form and return it to HSCC, attention: Debra Scoggins.

Forms may be emailed or snail-mailed.

Please fill each page out as thoroughly as possible.

#### ***Some directions for filling out the sheets:***

1. Please give each person's full name: First, middle, last, including any titles.
2. Please give complete dates, if known, and places, including counties, townships, etc.
3. Please give maiden names when known.

4. Please include your sources.
5. Repeat this process with the following generations of your family.
6. Feel free to xerox these sheets if you have more information you would care to share with us.

***Example: (All information below has been fabricated)***

Name: JOHN DOE SMITH		Sources
Birth:	23 Nov 1855, Cobb Neck, Charles, MD	Christening Record, All Faith Church
Death:	25 Nov 1885, Cobb Neck, Charles, MD	Maryland Wills, Liber V. Folio III
Burial:	26 Nov 1855, family Cemetery	
Occupation:	farmer	
Father:	Henry Wayne Smith	
Mother:	Ann Margaret Brown	



## *Friendship House on the Charles County Holiday Trail*

*F*riendship House was decorated in the holiday spirit as part of the 2018 Charles County Holiday Trail. Mary & Richard Posey performed colonial music as a special feature of this year's tour. Thanks to Mary Pat Berry for the beautiful greenery decorations and to Debra Scoggins for coordinating

our tour guides. A special thanks to our tour guides Ron Brown, Howard Post, Norm Saunders, Deb Scoggins, Jessica Poetker, Denise & Kevin Grote and Carol & Dan Donohue. A grand time was held by all.





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# *The Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage in Charles County*

Saturday, April 27, 2019 – 10am to 5pm



*Ellerslie*

The Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage comes to Charles County every three years. MHGP is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of architecturally significant properties since 1930. From its inception, the Charles County Garden Club has been the sponsors of this much loved and looked forward to pilgrimage in our county. With the CC Garden Club as its sponsor, the Charles County MHGP has become renown for the fabulous floral designs that are created by its members and placed in the venues. It's like two shows for the price of one, flowers and houses!

This year, the Tour is focused on the Port Tobacco River Valley. Properties include in Pheasant Farms, the magnificent home of Connie Bowling-Hurley; our own HSCC Friendship House at CSM; Haber de Venture, a National Historic site, home to Thomas Stone, signer of the Declaration of Independence; Ellerslie, lovingly restored by Denise & Kevin Grote, stomping grounds of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, signer of the US Constitution; then travel down to the Port Tobacco Historic Village where Staggs Hall, the Courthouse and Birch House will open their doors to patrons, topped off by traveling just a little

further to Mulberry Grove, birthplace of John Hanson, first President of the Continental Congress.

At many of the sites, an extra treat will be the opportunity to shop or engage in another activity. For example, at Mulberry Grove, throughout the day mini talks on the unique flora of the Port Tobacco Valley will be held. Burch House will display many of their archaeological treasures and at Ellerslie, why Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer himself will make a few cameo appearances!

Tickets are sold online up to 2 days before the Tour and are \$35 plus fees. Tickets can be purchased at any site for \$40 day of Tour. Staggs Hall will act as the Information Center where patrons can purchase and pick up their tickets and tour books. (cash or checks, please) Box lunches can be reserved and information for this and all about the Tour is available on the website [mhgp.org](http://mhgp.org). It's time to plan your visit and see these wonderful properties decked out in their finest and pay homage to our history and its past.



# Friendship House Foundation

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 Contributors

### RENAISSANCE

Alex & Whitney Cobey  
Dr. Elwood & Mary Cobey  
The Gluck Family Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Irish  
Elizabeth Cobey Joseph  
Mary Cobey Martin in memory of Mary Frances Gray Munroe

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Gertrude Wright McWilliams  
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Constance Hoffmaster Hutchins  
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In memory of Elizabeth Queen Farrall  
& R. Earl Farrall, Sr.  
Mrs. Candice Quinn Kelly  
Ms. Jane Keithley Linton

Mr. Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.  
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and Julia Cobey Gluck

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## Friendship House Foundation In Memory of

Warren E. Barley  
Philip L. Griffith  
Eleanor Higdon  
Madelyn Griffith Irish  
Sue LaHood

Katherine S. W. Mitchell  
Kathryn C. Newcomb  
Velva Perrygo  
Watson Perrygo  
Anita Wood

## 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 donate, please make checks payable to the Friendship House Foundation, and mail to the Historical Society.



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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.

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## Friendship House Committees

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Evelyn Karlsson Merritt  
John S. Morris, III

### Cellar Museum & Shop

James H. Berry, Jr.  
Mary Pat Berry

### Ways & Means

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Sandra Mitchell

### Furnishings

Louise B. Turner





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## Mark Your Calendar

- **April 27, 2019** – Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage, 10am to 5pm.
- **May 4, 2019** – Port Tobacco Market Day, 9am to 3pm.
- **May 4, 2019** – “We Are Still Here” The Piscataway Conoy Tribe; Stag Hall, 11am-3pm.
- **May 5, 2019** – “Gentleman or Traitor?” Visit Port Tobacco Village and involve yourself in the debate whether war requires honorable or cutthroat conduct!! The Benedict Whiskey Incident during the War of 1812 is the basis for an interactive theatre experience lasting approximately 20 minutes. Suitable for all ages, performances begin promptly at 11am. Presented by the Farm Heritage Conservancy and the Charles County Department of Tourism.
- **May 16, 2019** – Historical Society’s field trip to Stratford Hall.
- **August 3, 2019** – “Gentleman or Traitor?” (see above).
- **September 7, 2019** – “Gentleman or Traitor?” (see above).

## *In Memoriam*

### Lloyd S. Bowling

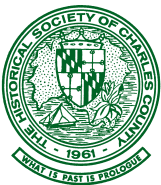
Lloyd S. Bowling, past President of the Historical Society and lifetime member died at his home, Westwood Manor, on December 4, 2018.

Lloyd was Professor Emeritus at George Washington University where he taught from 1967 until 1996 and chaired the Department of Speech and Drama and the Department of Speech and hearing. He held three college degrees including a doctorate in Education from the University of Maryland.

After retirement, Lloyd traveled extensively and served as a host for various cruise lines. His travels took him to every continent in the world, Antarctica, the Arctic Circle and to over 75 countries. At that time, he was fluent in German and Portuguese.

Lloyd had an extensive interest in community theater and was active in the Port Tobacco Players, Hexagon and the British Players. He acted, directed and supported dozens of productions in Maryland and Washington, DC. He was an active gardener, painter, and enjoyed living on his farm where he was born.

Lloyd served on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society from 1973 to 1979 and then again from 1987 to 1991. He was Vice-President of the Society in 1991 and then President from 1992 to 1997.



### THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY, INC.

P.O. Box 2806 • La Plata, Maryland 20646  
[www.charlescountyhistorical.org](http://www.charlescountyhistorical.org)