

The kitchen was formerly attached to the east end of the middle section of the house by a frame hyphen; the hyphen and a large exterior chimney that once stood at its east end have been removed.

The staircase of the main portion has a very simple balustrade and rises along the west wall from the northeast corner. The adjacent double parlors are connected by large doors that slide back into the walls when opened. All doors, trim, hardware and the mantle (one has been replaced) appear original and while not unattractive, are devoid of any extraneous ornamentation. The same floor plan and general treatment of the woodwork, is repeated on the second floor.

Editor's Note:

Information for this article was obtained through the cooperation of Mrs. Roy C. Arehart (Louise Mudd) and the Maryland Historical Trust. The drawings show the Dr. Mudd house exterior and bedroom as they probably appeared in 1865. They were taken from "J. Wilkes Booth" by Thomas A. Jones in 1893.

Port Tobacco Historic Home Tour

A self guided tour of the 17th, 18th, and 19th century homes in the Port Tobacco Valley will be held on Saturday, October 23, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Travellers can participate in the complete tour for \$6.00 or visit a single house for \$1.50. Tickets are available at Howard Johnson's in La Plata and at the Port Tobacco Courthouse.

Sponsored by the Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco, Inc., this year's tour will raise funds for the restoration of "Cat Slide House" in Port Tobacco.

The Historical Society of Charles County
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677

Slate of Officers

The nominating committee of the Historical Society of Charles County announces the following nominees for officers for the 1977-1978 period:

President - Mr. Watson M. Perrygo

Vice Pres. - Mr. George C. Dyson

Secretary - Mrs. Oden Turner

Treasurer - Mrs. Robert O. Petri

The nominees for Director for a three year term for 1977-1979 are as follows:

Dr. Lloyd S. Bowling

Mr. William C. McWilliams

Mrs. Leo F. Middleton

Mrs. Rodrigo J. Moure

The election will be held at the November 5th. meeting.

Fall Dinner Announcement

The Fall Dinner meeting of the Historical Society of Charles County will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, November 5th. at Old Durham Church. The program will be a slide presentation and talk on Friendship House by George Dyson. The baked fresh ham and turkey dinner will be \$5.50 per person. Reservations MUST be in by Monday, November 1st. Please make checks payable to the Historical Society of Charles County and send to Mrs. Robert L. Mitchell, Box 966, La Plata, Maryland 20646.



The RECORD

Publication of the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.

October 1976

Watson M. Perrygo, President

Warren E. Barley, Editor

Writing A History Of Charles County

By Jack D. Brown

Have you ever thought about writing a book? Such an opportunity began for the Charles County History Committee on December 11, 1973. It was at that time that the Bicentennial Committee met and drew up plans for writing a Charles County History. Mr. William Bader was serving as Chairman of the Heritage Committee for the Bicentennial Commission and asked me to serve as coordinator. The Bicentennial Committee under the leadership of Mr. George Dyson approved and the work began.

A call went out to volunteers to help us on this worthwhile project. During the early meetings there were numerous people who attended one or two sessions and then dropped out. After the first year a strong nucleus developed and the project began to show real progress.

Initially, there were many questions to be answered. What type of history were we going to write? A general history was ruled out very early because P.D. Brown and Margaret Klapthor had written an excellent book along these lines. After much debate the group finally decided to develop ten individual monographs or dissertations on specific topics. We negotiated with four publishing companies concerning our needs and finally settled upon Custombook Company of New Jersey.

The following monographs were selected: History of Churches, History of Education, History of Agriculture, Genealogical Guidelines, History of Government, History of the Negro, Legends and Folklore, History of Transportation, History of Towns and Villages, and History of Social Life and Entertainment.

The committee decided to write on the time period of the Bicentennial era (1776-1976) but left the flexibility to overlap. It also was decided that one could get too close to contemporary affairs and people. For this reason the book does not come completely up to the present date.

With the questions of what we were going to write about and what period of time we were going to cover answered, the committee brought the project before the Bicentennial Commission. It must be made clear at this point that the Bicentennial Commission in no way interfered with nor acted as the governing body in matters pertaining to the book. Our group was undertaking a single project under the auspices of the Heritage Committee which in turn was a sub-committee of the Commission. We offered our project in its entirety to the Commission and they approved and encouraged us.

The next serious question we had to answer was who was going to pay for the publication of our book. As coordinator of the project I wrote unsuccessfully to numerous Federal and State agencies seeking to obtain a grant to help defray the costs of the book. Chairman Dyson did manage to secure a \$600.00 grant for our group. The Charles County Commissioners also were approached by George Dyson and they agreed to allocate \$18,000.00 to publish the book. This amount permitted us to print 3,000 copies of our book with 550-600 pages. The book, when published, will be case bound with sixty pound offset paper and eight point type. The cover will be hard backed in color measuring 5½ by 8½ inches. The Bicentennial Committee agreed to reimburse the county as receipts of the sale on the book came in. The book will sell for \$8.95 per copy and is scheduled for late October publication.

We are proud of our effort and wish to thank the many Charles Countians who contributed in some way to the book. I would like to give special recognition to nine people who gave freely of their time and effort in this project. If you will remember, the original objective was to write specific monographs on our county's history. The committee agreed to continue on this basis and so an individual was appointed the task of writing each monograph. Throughout the entire project one goal was stressed and that was citizen participation. Each monograph

chairperson was asked to get as many people involved as possible in the actual research and writing. We adopted a catcy phrase from the beginning of the project and called our work "Home Cooking." It has been just that for our group consists of typical Charles County people.

The area of agriculture was handled by Mr. John Karpiak, of St. Charles Communities. He is relatively new to Charles County and one of the youngest members of our committee. The treatise on education was complied by Mr. Elwood M. Leviner of La Plata who holds a B.S. Degree in History and is currently serving as Director of Personnel for the Charles County school system. Mrs. Rona Schaepman of La Plata was one of the stalwarts on our committee, and compiled the materials on folklore and legends as well as the history of government. She is an editor by profession and served in this capacity for the committee on the total book. For this service she was a paid staff member of the Bicentennial Committee. Miss Mary Claire Matthews headed the genealogical guide. She is a native Charles Countian and her family dates back many years in the heritage of Charles County. Another untiring worker was Mrs. Gladys Jenkins of La Plata who wrote the monograph on the social life and entertainment of our county. Her family has made long standing contributions to Charles County. Mr. William Diggs of Indian Head compiled the history of the Negro in Charles County. Mr. Diggs is currently a teacher at the F.B. Gwynn Education center in Charles County and his family is one of the oldest in the county. Mr. Fred Tilp, an architect by profession, served our committee in the area of transportation. Mrs. Janis McInnis of Pinefield wrote the history of towns and villages. She is relatively new to Charles County and is working towards an advanced degree in Urban Studies at the University of Maryland. I compiled the document of church histories in Charles County.

Editor's Note:

Jack D. Brown was born in Boone, North Carolina and grew up in Coshocton County, Ohio. He has a B.S. Degree in Social Studies and M.A. in Secondary School Administration from Appalachian State University in North Carolina. He has been employed in the Charles County school system for the past twelve years and is currently serving as principal of the Bel Alton Middle School.

What's It All About

By Rona R. Schaepman

Book Coordinator Jack Brown has already talked about the thought and planning that went into the

selection of authors and topics for Charles County, Md.: A History; and of the logistics of carrying out those plans.

As Editor of the project, I want to tell you something about the content. I'll be precise -- but not comprehensive. For that, you'll have to buy the book.

The individual styles of the scores of writers and speakers involved in this project were preserved as far as possible. This may be termed "inconsistent" by the purist, but we recognize the variety of styles as one of the main benefits of having many people work independently.

Still, we were attempting a coherent narrative. Therefore, one of my most important tasks was to tie together separate references to the same place or event, to come up with a chronology that could be followed by the reader, with enough consistency to make the account easily understood.

We wound up with some 400 pages of text; nearly 100 pages of pictures -- some of them quite old, from private and public collections; a lengthy Bibliography (and shorter ones for Religion and Genealogy). This, with the citations contained within the text, documents the book, and also suggests additional reading. There is also an Index -- in itself most informative.

To go through the book by chapter:

We begin, as the early Charles County settlers did, with AGRICULTURE. Subtitled STILL A TOBACCO ECONOMY, it emphasizes the role that crop played in our founding. It gives detailed information on the environment of Southern Maryland, and on the process of tobacco growing, and how both have changed.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES: CHANGES WITH TRANSPORTATION, is half history, half collection stories about the places Charles Countians live, and how they came to be that way. Chapter 3, TRANSPORTATION: MOBILITY ON THE POTOMAC, discusses far more types of water conveyance than I can remember. It also covers land and air travel - the latter having a significant history here.

RELIGION: DIVERSE AND FREE, is divided into sections on Episcopal Churches, which were the first established in Charles County; Roman Catholic; Baptist; Methodist; and Other County Churches. The last covers many faiths, none of which has a large enough number of churches in the county to warrant a separate section A three-page Bibliography has

many entries that are unpublished and available only at particular churches.

The second half of our book contains much information that, to my knowledge, has not been printed elsewhere. GOVERNMENT: WE THE PEOPLE, starts with settlement before County incorporation and traces Charles County's government through the present day, even covering home rule.

BLACK HISTORY: HERE AT THE BEGINNING, we believe offers readers much they could not know before about our Black population - because no one ever researched it so thoroughly and wrote it down before. More unique history is told in EDUCATION: HOW THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, compiled largely from personal reminiscences and Board of Education records.

Chapter 8, SOCIALITY: JOUSTING, JOINING, AND COOKING is self-explanatory, though not limited to these activities. Dozens of recipes, many unpublished, are given.

LEGEND AND FOLKLORE. WHO ARE THE PEOPLE? Tries to answer that question for all the people, beginning with a detailed study of the Piscataway Indians. The well known legends, like the flight of John Wilkes Booth, are touched on (and added to), and many lesser known figures appear.

The final chapter is a guide to GENEALOGY : DO YOUR OWN FAMILY HISTORY, with sources, census lists from as far back as 1850, catalogues of professional people, and instructions.

Editor's Note:

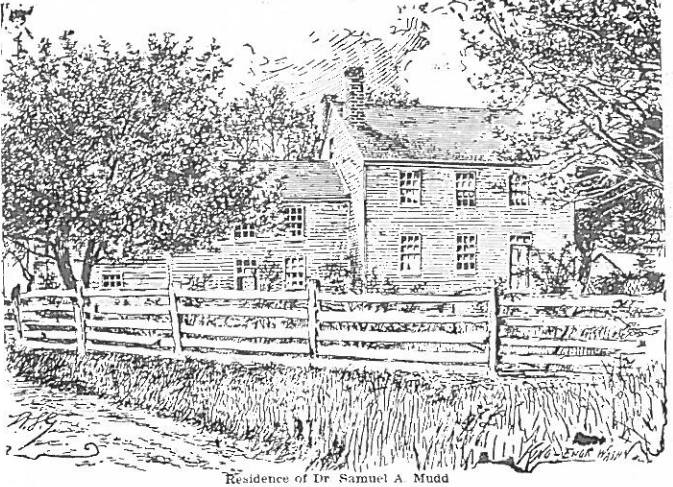
Rona R. Schaepman was born in New York City, has a B.A. Degree in General Studies at the University of Chicago and has done post graduate work in History at the University of Illinois. She has extensive experience in teaching, newspaper work and professional editing. She will be moving from Spring Hill to Culpeper, Virginia in the very near future.

The Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House
A Restoration

The State of Maryland has purchased the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd house and ten acres located on Route 232 between Beantown and Bryantown, Maryland.

The house is to be made into a museum with as many authentic items as can be located. The grounds and outside buildings will be maintained in keeping with the time of the Civil War period. The restoration will be made by the Maryland Historical Trust, which after restoration, will deed the property to Charles

County, Maryland to be maintained. The Dr. Mudd house, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, has been cited by the Charles County Commissioners as being "of national historical significance, being the location where Dr. Mudd set John Wilkes Booth's leg after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln," and "architecturally representative of Charles County farm houses in the period of the 1860's." The property known as "St. Catharine" in the Land Records of Charles County had been in the Mudd family continuously for over 300 years until the State acquisition.



Residence of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd

The main portion of the Mudd House is two stories in height and three bays in length; the transomed entrance door occupies the first bay from the northwest corner. The fenestration, door location, and two interior chimneys at the east end of the roof are the only original features that can be definitely established. Positioned back from the principal facade at the east end of the main block is a smaller two-story, two-bay wing that appears to be contemporary to the main block.



Room at Doctor Mudd's where Booth Slept. Left-hand Bed the one Booth Slept in