

House, Cat Slide House and the impending reconstructed Habre de Venture. Being on the list of the area museum houses and getting to know personally the curators, whether volunteer or professional can only lead to an awareness of common problems and increase the exposure to our local heritage.

GENEALOGICAL NOTE

The "Worthington Descendants" quarterly newsletter has recently commenced publication. All branches of the Worthington surname and Allied Lineages will be included. The newsletter includes a query column, abstracts, ancestral charts, wills, deeds, coats-of-arms, tombstone inscriptions and family history. Contact The Editors (Frances Brengle and Bette Brengle Poole) 6619 Pheasant Road, Rt. No. 16, Baltimore, Maryland 21220. Annual subscription is \$12.00.

CORRECTION

The current membership list enclosed with your issue of **The Record** should read: Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Petri, Box 605, La Plata, MD 20646.

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 and other communications to: Editor, **The Record**, P. O. Box 261, Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677.



The RECORD

Publication of the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc. No. 26 September 1982

George C. Dyson, *President*

Charles G. LaHood, Jr., *Editor*

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Serving as your president for the past four years has been a privilege. I thank all of you for the opportunity and support you have given me and the Society.

The past four years have seen continuing growth and accomplishments, as we have worked toward our overall objectives. We have continued with many projects and added additional projects. Countless hours have been spent by our members in support of these projects:

- Surveying, recording, and indexing church and private cemeteries.
- Collecting and indexing our historical documents, newspapers, and photographs. (This collection has proven to be invaluable for visitors and for our own research.)
- Salvage and storage of an early-19th century barn.
- Continuation of the oral history program.
- Expansion of historical sites file.
- Relocation of an early Smoke House to the Friendship House site.
- Landscaping of Friendship House site in cooperation with the Garden Club and the College.
- Continuing our research in Genealogy through the Correspondence Committee.
- Establishment of an index file for births, marriages, and burials.
- Addition of furniture and furnishings for Friendship House.
- Coordination of visitors to Friendship House with the Board of Education.
- Development of two slide presentations on the assembly of Friendship House.
- Establishment of a marriage index file, using court records, dating from 1865.
- Provided the forum for the inception, and provided assistance for the study on the "History of the Slot Machine Era." (See Article below).

The Board of Directors has made one of its most important decisions for the Society through the establishment of procedures for an endowment fund. These endowments will be used to generate funds to provide financial support for projects. This financial support will assist the Society in its response to the preservation of historical projects which may be lost due to lack of funds. I encourage all of you to give serious consideration to contributing to this endowment fund.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Purpose

The Historical Society of Charles County is the only organization which has a county-wide objective for preservation of all elements of Charles County history. Major progress has been made in historical research, collection, and preservation of documents and records, identification and location of historical sites, preservation of buildings, and public awareness of the county's contribution to the history of our state and nation.

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide funding to the greatest extent possible from the Society's own resources to assure the continuation of this effort.

Types of Endowment

Endowments can be contributed through numerous sources such as:

1. Memorial contributions
2. Cash gifts
3. Pledges
4. Personal property
5. Society-generated funds
6. Fund raising events
7. Life memberships

Memorials

Endowments for memorials can be given to the Society in remembrance of an individual under this category. A Memorial Book will be maintained which shall list the donor and the name of the person to be remembered. A letter of acknowledgment of the memorial will be sent to the donor and to the family of the memorial designate.

Cash Gifts

Cash gifts to the Endowment Fund will be accepted and the name of the donor will be recorded in the Memorial Book. Each gift shall be acknowledged by letter from the Society.

Pledges

Pledges may be utilized for the long-range planning of the Society. Pledges will be recorded by donor and amount by the Treasurer. Prior to the annual meeting, the individual making the pledge will be notified as to the current status of his or her pledge.

Control of Endowment Funds

Cash endowments will be invested at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The principal amount of the endowment will always be retained. Gifts may be converted to cash at the discretion of the Board of Directors and in accordance with the donors initial request. Funds received from the sale of gifts shall be considered the principal amount and shall always be maintained as the principal. Interest may be utilized at the discretion of the Board of Directors or invested.

Other funds received shall be invested or utilized at the discretion of the Board of Directors. However, the Board of Directors shall always be guided by the intent of the endowment fund to have funding available through interest resulting from investments.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to act for the Society in the selection of projects for the utilization of funds generated by the endowment fund.

A complete and separate accounting of endowments will be maintained by separate records as a part of the Treasurer's record books. The Treasurer shall provide the Board of Directors with a complete endowment report at its meetings. The Treasurer shall report to the membership at its regular meetings the endowment amount, interest available for use, and the utilization of funds since the last meeting.

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for fund raising projects, endowment awareness to its membership, and methods to assure continued growth of the endowment fund.

HISTORY OF THE SLOT MACHINE ERA

Susan A. Shaffer

Friday, 24 September 1982, the Charles County Community College hosted its first history forum. The topic centered upon the Slot Machine Era in Charles County, and over 150 people attended in Bruce Jenkins Hall. History began with an audio-visual presentation outlining the period, followed by a panel discussion. The guest panelists, moderated by John T. Parran, Jr. spoke briefly about various aspects of the period. They outlined such diverse topics as "Slot Machine Legislation" and "Effects of the Newspapers upon the Machines." Afterward a lively question and answer period concluded the program. The discussion was taped to add to the Southern Maryland Room collection of the period.

Now, the audio-visual presentation will be available to organizations interested in seeing it, and copies will be made for the Chamber of Commerce, the Library and the Board of Education. This study was the result of a grant from the Maryland Committee for the Humanities to the Community College, all tapes, transcripts and collected material are arranged in collection number 850062 in the Southern Maryland Room.

The following oral history abstracts are representative of the numerous interviews recorded as an essential segment of this historical study. The reader may wish to consult the transcripts located in the Southern Maryland Room.

Narrator William Edward Berry
Interviewer Susan A. Shaffer
Place Mr. Berry's home in Waldorf
Date 15 March 1982
Length 2 hours
Transcript 45 pages

Mr. Berry, born in 1912, grew up in Waldorf in the days when Berry Road was gravel, and required three horses to drag it smooth. He attended a two-room school, which is currently the site of the Barley Building on Berry Road, near the intersection of Route 301. Mr. Berry, a farmer, politician and employee of Smittys in Waldorf, reminisced about the appearance of Waldorf in the 1930s and 1940s and the changes which occurred with the legalization of slot machines and dualization of Route 301. In addition, he served an interesting three terms as County Commissioner during a lively period of the county's growth. Finally, after his last term in office ended, he worked at the Waldorf Smittys. Mr. Berry's observations of the area, and its changes through the years, plus the impact of gambling and politics on the period are acute and interesting.

Narrator Harry W. Lehman
Interviewer Susan A. Shaffer
Place Mr. Lehman's home near La Plata
Date(s) 23 February 1982
2 March 1982

Length 2 hours
Transcript Not finished

In two interviews, Mr. Lehman's lively style and fascinating life are vividly pictured. Mr. Lehman, as a youth, lived in Washington and traveled all over the country. When he came to Charles County he built the restaurant Kabin on the Korner in Bryans Road, one of the first restaurants in the area. Also, Mr. Lehman managed the games at Marshall Hall and remembered when the amusement park was growing so fast that a lumber mill operated right on the grounds! Mr. Lehman recalled the changes in Bryans Road from 1930 onward, and had many observations about Indian Head as well. For anyone interested in the Bryans Road-Indian Head area, this is an excellent reference for research.

BOOK REVIEW

H. Chandlee Forman, *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*, Baltimore, Bodine & Associates, Inc., 1982. \$35.00 (includes postage). Maryland residents, please add \$1.75 sales tax.

This work by Dr. Forman has been considered for many years as one of the classic books on historic architecture in Maryland, gaining its reputation to some extent from the fact that relatively few books have been written on early Maryland houses and, of those, none contains the photographic and descriptive detail of this work. Dr. Forman is one of the best-known authors on the subject of Maryland historic architecture, having published five works since he published privately in 1934 the original edition of *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*. Since the 1934 edition has been very difficult to obtain for at

least the past two decades, the publisher of this new edition, Bodine & Associates, is to be commended for bringing this significant work back into print. Unfortunately, the prepublication advertising has created a somewhat misleading impression that Dr. Forman has prepared a revised edition; new material consists only of one page of 41 corrections. The Bodine edition is essentially a reprint of the 1934 edition, but it is a reprint of excellent quality and is well worth the price to collectors of Marylandiana.

Dr. Forman was a young graduate in architecture from Princeton when he became interested in Maryland's early houses. According to the "Preface" to *Early Manor and Plantation Houses*, he made a personal survey of 1,500 of these old houses. These represented fewer than a third of the 5,000 seventeenth and eighteenth century buildings that Dr. Forman believed to exist in Maryland in the early 1930's, out of an estimated 25,000 to 50,000 that were built during those centuries. Of the 1,500 buildings surveyed, Dr. Forman has described in his book in some detail over 230, chiefly houses, but also a few other buildings. For most buildings there are one or more photographs as well as a measured drawing in many instances.

The descriptions are organized by county, with 21 counties represented. (Southern Maryland has 93 of the 230 buildings described.) An architectural analysis precedes each county chapter and it is in this analysis that Dr. Forman's skill is most evident. He relates trends in the early architecture and cites various examples, including some houses that are not pictured or described in detail in the chapter. Well over 500 structures are cited in the book, listed in a separate and useful "Index of Houses." For Charles County, there are 15 houses described and pictured, with an additional 13 cited in the text.

In an opening essay, Dr. Forman treats briefly the architectural history of Maryland buildings, relating this history to the general history of the colony. As implied by the title, he was especially interested in the manor system in Maryland and its effects upon the houses of the settlers. He attempts to identify those houses that were built on authentic manors (numbering some 200), as distinct from other houses that used the term "manor" in their names, but were not authentic. The emphasis of this book, however, is on the small house, far more typical of the period than the better-known large houses of the eighteenth century. Dr. Forman specifically omits 40 of the great mansions (100 feet or more in length), except for five that he includes for special reasons. (Rose Hill and Habre-de-Venture in Charles County are two of the exceptions that are included.)

The photographs in the book were taken in the early 1930's and have a dated quality, to a large extent because many of the houses have since been restored. Charles County's Rose Hill, for example, is shown with the roof missing from the west dependency, and the Chimney House pictured would be difficult to identify with the present house were it not for the distinctive chimney structure. There are some houses depicted by Dr. Forman that no longer existed in the early 1930's; unfortunately, some that he included have since been destroyed.

The dated nature of the photographs is one limitation of *Early Manor and Plantation Houses*, but these older photographs add to the appeal of the book for those interested in how some of these structures have fared over the years. A more sensitive problem, however, involves the descriptive information. An example of this is Preston-on-Patuxent in Calvert County. Dr. Forman dates this house at 1650, whereas the *Inventory of Historic Sites* of the Maryland Historical Trust dates this as "early 18th century." Several other examples of dating differences occur in the buildings in Calvert and St. Mary's counties, some of considerable significance. Such differences in details, of course, are not uncommon among students of architectural history; readers of any of these works should be wary of dates cited.

Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland is not the book for everyone. It does not have the "coffee table" appeal of Don Swann's *Colonial and Historic Homes of Maryland* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1975). Nor does it contain the more extensive treatment found in Dr. Forman's later books: *Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens* (Bonanza Books, 1956) and *Old Buildings, Gardens, and Furniture in Tidewater Maryland* (Tidewater Publishers, 1967). This is clearly an important work, however, reissued in a handsome edition. It is certainly a book for the library of anyone seriously interested in early Maryland buildings.

Paul L. Berry
Port Republic, Calvert County

WORKSHOP ON CONSERVATION

by Mrs. Edward Turner

A one day workshop on conservation entitled "Coping with Collections" was held in March at Gunston Hall, Lorton, Virginia. Among the 95 participants from the museum houses of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia were several from Charles County - Mrs. George Dyson, Mrs. Ira Newcomb, and Mrs. John Hanson Mitchell (representing the Historical Society of Charles County and Friendship House); Mr. Michael Dyson (Smallwood Foundation); and Mrs. Edward Turner, Maryland Regent to Gunston Hall who also opened the Workshop on behalf of the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall.

The program was put together by Mrs. Virginia Deucher, Conservation Consultant to Gunston Hall and led by experts from the Smithsonian Institution, included lectures and open discussions on collection management, environmental problems in preservation, handling and storage of collections and preserving historic evidence. The agenda was focused on the care of any size historic or archeological collection. A tour of Gunston Hall Mansion and a buffet luncheon were enjoyed by all present.

Preservation is not a new concept in Charles County, which has an unusually large number of museum houses. In addition to those already mentioned, our Port Tobacco Court House, Mount Carmel Monastery, Dr. Samuel Mudd