



# The RECORD



Volume 101, No. 1

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

September 2006

Kaye O'Kelley, President

Jackie Zilliox, Editor



## Fall Dinner Meeting

**Saturday, October 21, 2006**

*Christ Church, Durham*

8685 Ironsides Road • Ironsides, Maryland

5:00 p.m. – *Tours of the Church*; 5:30 p.m. – *Social*

6:30 p.m. – *Dinner, followed by Election of Officers*

The next meeting of the Historical Society of Charles County will be Saturday, October 21, 2006 at Christ Church, Durham (8685 Ironsides Road). Tours of the church will be offered at 5:00 p.m. for anyone interested. Social will be 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m. A short business meeting and election of officers will be after dinner; and Mike Mazzeo will give a great presentation on the Friendship House along with a slide show of the Friendship House.

### Menu

*Crab Imperial, Steamship Round*

*All the Trimmings*

*Dessert, Coffee, Tea*

\$25.00 per person

*The favour of a reply is requested by October 10 to:*

*Michael and Judy Ruth*

*9050 Bridgett Lane*

*La Plata, MD 20646*

*301-934-5717*

*Your check is your reservation.*

### Friendship House

*A Charles County Treasure*

**A Panel Program on  
Its Past, Present & Future**

In 1968 the Historical Society of Charles County dismantled "Old Friendship," piece by piece, methodically numbering everything so it could be re-erected on the campus of the College of Southern Maryland in 1976. Please join us as we look at its history, dismantling, rebuilding, architecture and furnishings of this unique Tidewater Home.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Reserve This Date on Your Calendar!*

**Business Meeting . . . . . Saturday, January 20**



# A Charles County Soldier Writes Home

Letters from Corporal Garth Bowling

## *March 13, 1943 – Africa*

Little things I use to worry about never worry me now. I have bigger things to worry about now. The main thing on all our minds is to get back home safe and sound. The main topic in our conversations is home. Well, we know what home and freedom means now. We will all no doubt be better men when we come back. Of course, some won't be. I still say war or the army never does any man any good. None of us will be the same after this...

## *March 15, 1943 – Africa*

I am in the best of health... Please don't worry about me...

## *March 20, 1943 – Africa*

Here's hoping I can finish this letter before something turns up. It seems I hardly have time to do anything, as we are kept very busy...

I read the 43rd chapter of Psalms. It is very helpful. Have been reading quite a bit of the book of Psalms. I believe as I was reading the 46th chapter in one place it said, "Be still and know that I am God." It kind of struck me, 'cause lots of times we don't stop and think of God enough...

## *July 26, 1943 – Africa*

Am so glad to hear you have a nice crop of tobacco set out and that it is looking so nice...

...So "Babs" has ten puppies! I hope I am back before they get big enough to hunt!...

## *August 7, 1943 – Africa*

These people in these countries are really hurting...

...The native children are crazy about the American soldiers. You know, it is funny, but the average American soldier is crazy about children. Well, they give them anything they have and that is the reason the children like them so well. I know as soon as we take a town over, the children soon gather around and learn how to ask for things in English. They will all be speaking English if we stay here very long...

...There are people in this world that don't have anything to eat. I have seen cases like this...

...Guess Daddy and Jr., are cutting tobacco now. Tell them to send me some pictures of the tobacco and them in the field...

## *September 9, 1943 – Africa*

I dread to think of winter and the rainy season coming on, 'cause sleeping out like this is bad. I know just how it feels to be out in the rain, etc., and not having any place to go. I went through that on the front last winter and spring.

I am not in combat or on the front now so I don't want you all to be worrying. The news sounds very encouraging these days. I believe Hitler will get sick soon just like his pal "Muss."

My bed is much better than it was as I have some straw in a mattress cover and it is much better than sleeping on a blanket. I have my bed built up off the ground and made some changes in the tent... Regardless of whether I go in action again or what ever is my fate, I want each one of you to pray night and day and never cease. That is the best weapon in this war... I don't know what God has in store for me. I could be put back on the front in a flash... The 91st Psalm gives me so much comfort. ..."A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee." Thus, all through the chapter is so much comfort. I know when you get out there on the battle field and shells are screaming and bursting all around you, the old flesh gets in a nervous state, but I have found out it can be controlled. God is the only refuge then!

## *September 13, 1943 – Africa*

The news sounds good these days, but this war isn't ending fast enough for me! We have a long way to go to get to end this thing. It is hard to be joyful in long suffering at times, but that is what God has told us. Well, I have so very, very much to be thankful for. I have been in some pretty close places and come out alright. Then too, I have a home to come back to and all of you are safe and in good shape. A lot of boys are fighting and they have no home or family to go back to, 'cause they have been bombed to the ground. Oh, if the people in America would only stop and think!!



**OFFICERS,  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**OFFICERS**

President . . . . . Kaye O'Kelley  
301-259-0028  
kayeokelley@yahoo.com  
Vice-President . . . . . Michael Mazzeo, Jr.  
301-659-5369  
Friendshiphouse1968@yahoo.com  
Recording Secretary . . . . Cheryl McGuire  
Corresponding Secretary . . . . Judy Norris  
Treasurer . . . . . Judy Ruth

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Charles Boone - '07      Maureen Golding - '06  
Joyce Candland - '07      Tom Pike - '06  
Suzanne Carr - '07      Robert Pender - '08  
Carol Donohue - '06      Michael Ruth - '08  
George Dyson - '06

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

\* Bennett Crain, 62-63  
\* Eugene A. Jenkins, Jr., 63-64, 66-67  
Maxwell Mitchell, Jr. 64-66  
\* W. Preston Williams, 67-68  
\* John H. Mitchell, 68-70  
\* Watson M. Perrygo, 70-78  
George C. Dyson, 78-82  
William E. Garvey, Jr., 82-85  
\*\* Richard E. Heise, II, 85-86  
Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., 86-92  
Dr. Lloyd Bowling, 92-98  
Wayne Winkler, 98-04  
  
\* Deceased  
\*\* Acting President

**COMMITTEES**

**Arrangements:**  
Vacant  
**Cemetery:**  
Vacant  
**Genealogy and Research:**  
Ruby Dyson, *Chairperson*  
**Historian:**  
Tom Pike  
**Historic Sites:**  
Louise Turner, *Chairperson*  
**Historic Trust Representative:**  
Vacant  
**Membership:**  
Michael Ruth, *Chairperson*  
301-934-5717  
**Programs:**  
Suzanne Carr, *Chairperson*  
301-645-5203  
smcarr@verizon.net  
**Projects:**  
Robert Pender, *Chairperson*  
**Publications:**  
Editor, *The Record*, Jackie Zilliox  
**Publicity:**  
Tom Pike  
**Charles County Heritage Committee:**  
Carol Donohue, Representative  
**Coalition to Protect Maryland  
Burial Sites:**  
George C. Dyson, Representative

**Historical Sites to Visit**

For those of you who have not visited the La Plata train station or Friendship House, let me encourage you to do so. There have been many improvements in both of these sites. We would be glad to open either of these sites for visits at your convenience.

Many volunteers have donated their time, efforts and energies to making these two places sites to visit for visitors or residents of Charles County. School groups and others are encouraged to come and see.

At the train station, we have exhibits from the History Day Projects. Each year, we contribute bonds for students who participate in the this project and their work is to be commended.

Take time to drop by on Saturday or Sunday between 11 a.m.-4 p.m. until November at the train station. Make arrangements with either Kaye O'Kelley at 301-259-0028 or kayeokelley@yahoo.com for the train station or Mike Mazzeo at 301-659-5369 or Friendshiphouse1968@yahoo.com for Friendship House.

**January Meeting**

The January Meeting will be Saturday, January 20 at La Plata United Methodist Church, Route 6 (Port Tobacco Road) at the intersection of Route 301. The meeting will start at 2:00 p.m. with a short business meeting, followed by a presentation by Christine L. Bergmark, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. Dr. Bergmark will explain the role of the Agricultural Development Commission and their efforts to establish tourism trails in Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's County.

**Important Notice**

**THE MEMBERSHIP WILL VOTE**  
**ON AN INCREASE**  
**FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES**  
**AT THE OCTOBER MEETING.**  
**BE SURE TO ATTEND.**

## Help Us in the Search

Michael Ruth, Membership Chair, is interested in locating two lifetime members. Their newsletters have been returned as undeliverable. Ms. Anita W. Foote, last known address 111245 Annabelle Drive, Issue, Maryland 20645 and Mr. Kenneth J. Posey, last known address 425 Leaf Ave, Bellmawr, New Jersey 08031. If you have any information on them, please contact Michael at 301-934-5717 or 9050 Bridgett Lane, La Plata, Maryland 20646.

## China Donation

The Historical Society of Charles County was presented with china used at the La Plata Hotel. It was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Carlisle Martin Stickley, the grandson of Conrad Posey, who owned the hotel and was the Clerk of the Court in Charles County in 1915 when he died. The china will be on display at the train station. The hotel was also known as Bowling's Hotel. Many thanks to the Stickley's for another piece of La Plata history that has been preserved.

## Membership

In January 2007, membership renewal notices will be sent to members. Please return your money by the deadline in the notice so the Historical Society can avoid incurring the expenses of reminder notices and additional postage. It is helpful if members include any change in name, address, or phone number on the return envelope so we may keep our database current. Lifetime members may send any changes to:

Michael Ruth, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 2806  
La Plata, MD 20646

You may also contact Michael at 301-934-5717.

## 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 possible 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 Kay O'Kelley at [kayeokelley@yahoo.com](mailto:kayeokelley@yahoo.com)

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## Friendship House Committees

Friendship House is up and running. We have established committees and they are listed below. If you are interested in serving on a Friendship House Committee, please contact Mike Mazzeo at 301-659-5369.

### Administration

George C. Dyson,  
Administrator  
H. Maxwell Mitchell

### Furnishings

Joyce Candland, Chair  
Madelyn Irish  
Louise B. Turner  
Anita L. Wood

### Tours & Special Programs

Barbara Abell  
Carol Donohue  
Maureen Golding  
Katherine MacCormack

### Cellar Museum & Shop

James H. Berry, Jr.  
Mary Pat Berry

### Foundation

Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., Chair  
Madelyn Irish  
Vivian S. Malczyk  
Anita L. Wood

### Ways & Means

Ruby Dyson  
Sandra Mitchell

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY

P.O. Box 2806 • La Plata, Maryland 20646  
(301) 934-2564