



THE RECORD



Volume 119, No. 1

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

May 2024

Debra R. Scoggins, President

Mary Ann Scott, Editor

The Historical Society of Charles County

Spring Meeting

Saturday, May 11, 2024 • 2:00 p.m.

Garth E. Bowling, Jr. will present...

Garth Bowling is a noted historian and author.

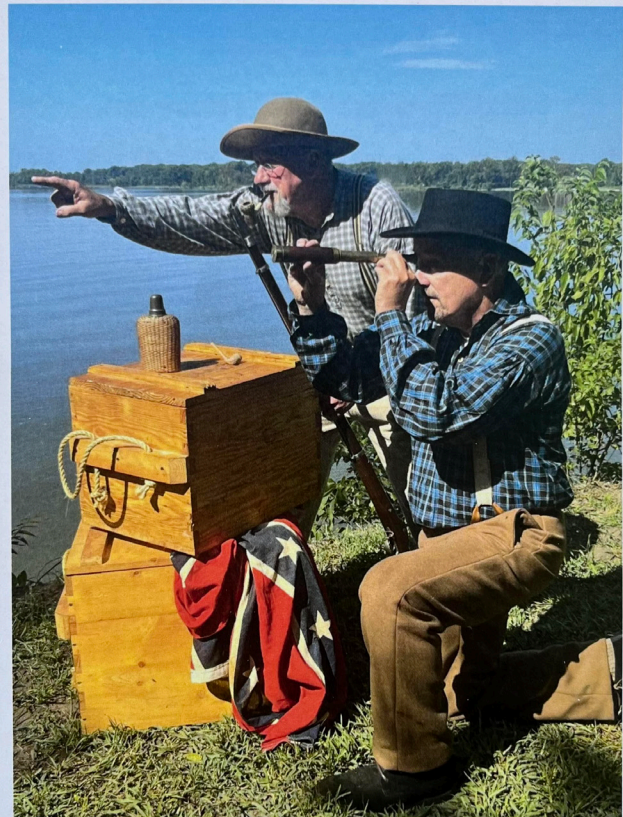
He has also published "Gateway to the Confederacy: Charles County Maryland," and "On the Confederate Border: Charles County, Maryland."

All of his publications, including his new book will be available to purchase at this meeting.

Maryland Veterans Museum
11000 Crain Highway • Newburg, Maryland
Desserts will be served after the program
This program is free and open to the public

SHADOWS OF WAR

CIVIL WAR COMES TO CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND



Garth E. Bowling, Jr.

Louise Boone Turner

*L*ouise B. Turner, a life-member of the Historical Society of Charles County, passed away October 27, 2023, at the age of 94.

Louise served on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society from 1973 to 1981. She was on the Friendship House Furnishings Committee and the creator of the Historic Sites Files. The Historic Sites File is an extensive collection of information on Historic Homes of Charles County and Maryland. It includes historic research, newspaper articles and photographs of each site and is housed in the Southern Maryland Studies Center at the College of Southern Maryland. In May 2016, the Historic Sites Files was renamed the Louise Boone Turner Historic Sites Files.

From her obituary:

On her father's side she was a twelfth-generation descendant of Robert Beheathland, "gentleman", who came from Cornwall to Jamestown, Virginia in 1607 with Captain John Smith. On her mother's side she was descended from Doctor John Brisco, Esquire, "gentleman adventurer", who came to St. Mary's City on the Ark in 1634.

Louise was very proud of her family and Tidewater heritage. She belonged to many heritage societies. Louise was active in the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, serving several terms as Chairman of the Southern Maryland Committee, the Board of Managers, and as Vice-President for the State of Maryland. She was twice an appointee of the Governor of Virginia to the Regents of Gunston Hall Museum House, Lorton, Virginia. Louise was a charter member of the Port Tobacco Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and member of the Ella Virginia Houck Holloway Chapter, US Daughters of the War of 1812, and held several positions in both over the years. In addition, she was a member of the Gunston Hall Board of Regents in Virginia, and past president of the Smallwood Foundation. She also held memberships in the Descendants of the Lords of the Maryland Manors, Northern Virginia Chapter of the Jamestown Society, serving the Northern Virginia Committee Council, the Society of the Ark and Dove, the First Families of Virginia, and the National Society of the Magna Carta Dames.



Louise received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Maryland in the fields of Education, Applied Design, and History. She was an alumnus of the Attingham Decorative Arts Symposium of the British Royal Oaks Society in Great Britain. The aim of this program was to offer expertise in historic preservation and appreciation of the past. Being a true anglophile, she realized how this related to the past of Southern Maryland, and how important this was to the locale before all was lost either from neglect or progress.

She taught school in both middle and high school classes in both Charles and Prince Georges County for twenty-one years. She was a published author, writing two children's books for the Gunston Hall Gift Shop, and assisted others in their publications. She felt a great responsibility toward promoting patriotism, as well as promoting proper social protocol, entertaining and etiquette in young people. She was a member of the national society, Phi Kappa Phi.

She championed our Maryland State flag, always vigilant and mindful that it be displayed properly with the Bottony Cross on top the flagpole.

Louise was a sixty+ year lifetime member of the Charles County Garden Club of Maryland, and a recipient of the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame, Inc. in 2010, and the Zonta Award of Appreciation, for work with the Charles County Garden Club and the Maryland State Pilgrimage Committee. In 2014, she was awarded the Charles County Historic Preservation Award.

Louise wrote the Forward to "Pathways to History, Charles County, Maryland 1658-2008." In the last paragraph she writes:

With the history of their ancestors to inspire them, it is now up to the progeny of Charles County to create new paths to peace and prosperity in the most wonder county in the most wonderful state in the most wonderful country in the world.

For all of us who knew Louise she will be truly missed. The legacy of her work in history and genealogy will be preserved for many generations to come.

Update on Historic Rich Hill

Historic Rich Hill has a new look. It has gone “Back to the Past.” Green shutters, funded by the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc. and installed by Southernwood Roofing & Siding, La Plata have been added to the exterior. A big thank you to Cathy Thompson who found the following source and determined the color scheme. The “shutter dogs” help complete the look.

In George Alfred Townsend, “How Wilkes Booth Crossed the Potomac,” 1884, he writes on p. 827:

...Accustomed to obey the summons of his old friend, Jones mounted his horse and went to Cox's. The prosperous foster-brother lived in a large two-story house, with handsome piazzas front and rear, and a tall, windowless roof with double chimneys at both ends; and to the right of the house, which faced west, was a long one-story extension, used by Cox for his bedroom. The house is on a slight elevation, and has both an outer and inner yard, to both of which are gates. With its trellis-work and vines, fruit and shade trees, green shutters and dark red roofs, Cox's property, called Rich Hill, made an agreeable contrast to the somber short pines which, at no great distance, seemed to cover the plain almost as thickly as wheat straws in the grain field...



SE Davis contractors have finished their phase of the work on the interior and exterior, including the new second floor windows and a new sub-floor on the first floor of the house. With the FY2025 budget, to be released July, 2024, the county is planning on finishing Rich Hill to include interior electric, insulation, an HVAC system, drywall and restoring the front and back entrances to the house.



The Friends of Rich Hill is funding the flooring for the first floor and have contracted a millworker to restore the original Arch in the main entrance hall as well as restoring/refurbishing three of the existing fire place mantels. Historical Society member Dennis Spears is creating a fire place mantel from discarded wood from Rich Hill for our “Behind these Walls” room, focusing on the architecture of the house. How unique is that?

In addition, “Southern Maryland Inspirations” will be creating souvenirs for Rich Hill made from much of the other pieces of discarded wood. Ornaments, coasters, cutting boards, picture frames, benches and other items will be made with “Rich Hill” engraved and the image of the exterior of the house burned in the wood. Where else can you go to a historic site and bring home a tangible piece of history?



THE FIVE THEMES OF RICH HILL

1. Dr. Gustavus Brown, the builder.

The large upstairs room will be designated as the Dr. Brown Gallery and will include reproduction Smithsonian portraits of Dr. Brown, the two Mrs. Browns, Reverend Richard Brown and Margaret Brown Stone; along with panel exhibits about Dr. Brown and his family.



2. Samuel Cox and the escape of John Wilkes Booth and David Herold to Rich Hill.

In the entrance hall will be an exhibit titled “Guilty or Innocent: Charles County’s Conspirators, Witnesses & Accomplices” and will include exhibit panels on Mary Swann, Oswald Swann, Thomas A. Jones, Dr. Samuel Mudd, and Mary Surratt.

The first-floor parlor will be furnished with Victorian furniture along with exhibit panels about Samuel Cox and Lucy Beall Neale. The second-floor bedroom where Samuel Cox, Jr. looked out and saw John Wilkes Booth on his horse will be furnished accordingly.

This room will include exhibit panels on Samuel Cox, Jr. and his brother, Henry G. Robertson. Here you will be able to push a button and listen to the words of Cox, Jr. about that fateful night when Booth and Herold arrived at Rich Hill.

3. “From Slavery’s Shadow to Freedom’s Light”

This exhibit room will honor the legacy of the enslaved African-Americans at Rich Hill. It will include 9 exhibit panels encompassing the 109 names of the known slaves from

Rich Hill. It is hoped by highlighting the families, we will find current connections and bring their stories forward.

4. Architecture.

“Behind these Walls” will contain images of the architecture at Rich Hill as well as exposed openings in the wall and actual pieces of some of the hand hewn wood from the house. The unfolding of the house’s architecture will allow visitors to travel through the doors of history and experience the many years Rich Hill has stood the test of time and weather.

5. Archaeology

An exterior exhibit sign along with an interior display case will highlight the archeological finds at Rich Hill. Can you dig it? Some of the events planned for the future will be “digs” to continue to reveal the rich history hidden here.


The Descendants of Lucy Beall Cox Neale



LUCY BEALL COX
(1878-1959)
Married James Francis Neale, (1877-1943), son of Augustine Wills & Jane Rose (Matthews) Neale.

Children of James Francis & Lucy Beall (Cox) Neale:

1. James Francis Neale, Jr. (1905-1988); m. Geraldine Jorgensen, (1916-1991).
2. Samuel Cox Neale, (d. in infancy).
3. Joseph Matthews Neale, (1910-2001); m. Elizabeth Bird Hynes, (1913-1992).
4. John Robertson Neale, (1912-1981); m. Sara Ellen Ganley, (1913-2000).



Married at Rich Hill
Lucy Beall Cox, the daughter of Samuel Cox, Jr. & Ella McCormick (Magruder) Cox, was born 20 March 1878, and died 2 July 1959. She was married 26 October 1904 at Rich Hill to James Francis Neale, the son of Augustine Wills Neale & Jane Rose (Matthews) Neale. He was born 11 February 1877 and died 29 January 1943. Both are buried at St. Ignatius Catholic Church Cemetery, Chapel Point.

JAMES FRANCIS NEALE, JR.
(1905-1988)
Married Geraldine Jorgensen, (1916-1991).

Children of James Francis & Geraldine (Jorgensen) Neale, Jr.:

- a. James Francis Neale, III (b. 1940); m. Susan Anne Schneider (b. 1940). Children:
 - i. James Francis Neale (b. 1968); m. Willa Susan McWhorter; children: David James Neale (b. 1998), Samuel Mulholland Neale (b. 2000), Margaret Mulholland Neale (b. 2003).
 - ii. Thomas Gilbert Neale (b. 1976); m. JoAnn Laumatin; children: Hope Angela Neale (b. 2002), Samantha Lima Neale (b. 2004).
 - iii. Katherine Allison Neale (b. 1972); m. Matthew William Cooper; children: Edward Neale Cooper (b. 2000), Virginia Neale Cooper (b. 2003), Gilbert Neale Cooper (b. 2006).
 - iv. Sarah Elizabeth Neale (b. 1973); m. William Cockney MacDonald; children: Lara Neale MacDonald (b. 2005), Jack Neale MacDonald (b. 2005), Fran Neale MacDonald (b. 2009).
- b. Ann Neale, (b. 1943); m. Philip J. Gallagher.
- c. John Cox Neale, (b. 1944); m. (first) Nancy Weyland; m. (second) Mary Sanford O'Malley; Children of John Cox & Nancy (Weyland) Neale:
 - i. Mary Bridget Neale, (b. 1981); m. Matteo Paris; children: Carlos Neale Paris, (b. 2000), Justine Neale Paris, (b. 2003), Taliah Neale Paris, (b. 2007), Leonardo Neale Paris, (b. 2009).
 - ii. John Jorgensen Neale, (b. 1970); m. Holly Elizabeth Shanaman; children: Devin Shanaman Neale, (b. 2001), Brady Shanaman Neale, (b. 2004).
- d. Susan Elizabeth O'Malley, (b. 1975); m. Robert Benjamin Neale; children: Alliam Anita Snod, (b. 2015), Ashton Benjamin Snod, (b. 2015).
- e. Sean Sanford O'Malley, (b. 1977); m. Cheryl Dong; children: Trent Dong O'Malley, (b. 2008), Taylor J. O'Malley, (b. 2009).
- f. Thomas Matthews Neale, (b. 1952); m. Barbara Waters Barrett; Children:
 - i. Patricia Barrett Neale (b. 1988); m. Samuel Scott.
 - ii. Caroll Bennett Neale (b. 1991).
 - iii. Amy Hooper Neale (b. 1994).
 - iv. Hope Jorgensen Duke, (b. 1997); Child of George Wesley Duke, step-child of Lucy Neale Duke.
 - v. Elizabeth Scherer Duke, (b. 1986); m. Omar Khan.

JOSEPH MATTHEWS NEALE
(1910-2001)
Married Elizabeth Bird Hynes (1913-1992).

Children of Joseph Matthews & Elizabeth Bird (Hynes) Neale:

1. Joseph Matthews Neale, Jr. (1935-1995); m. Elizabeth Burnett Bird Neale Overbaugh, (b. 1934). Children:
 - a. Joseph Matthews Neale, III, (b. 1958).
 - b. Anne Preston Neale, (b. 1961).
 - c. Katherine Loudoun Neale, (b. 1962); children: Taryn Kendall Rattansi, (b. 1992), Colin Page Rattansi, (b. 1994).
2. Elizabeth Anne "Laney" Neale, (b. 1942); m. Arthur Gilbert Hilgar, (1926-2004). Children:
 - a. Mary Elizabeth Hilgar, (b. 1968); m. Scott Brian Diacovitis; children: Samuel Scott Diacovitis, (b. 1999), Benjamin Willis Diacovitis, (b. 2002), Nathaniel Moore Diacovitis, (b. 2005).
 - b. Rachel Ellen Hilgar, (b. 1971); m. Elton Clarence May, Jr.; child: Rosemary Elizabeth May, (b. 2006).
3. Robert Preston Neale, (b. 1944); m. Mary Oratia Casella, (b. 1953). Children:
 - a. Mary Beatrice Neale, (b. 1971); m. Gregory John Sabin; children: Cole Stephen Sabin, (b. 2009), Lilly Carolina Sabin, (b. 2012).
 - b. Robert Preston Neale, Jr. (b. 1975); m. Dana (Tara) Waring; child of Dana Tara Waring: Michael Prince Waring, (b. 1977).
 - c. Laura Matthews Neale, (b. 1976); m. Charles Fleming Ramm; (children: Charles Stephen Ramm, (b. 2001), Kathy Matthews Ramm, (b. 2004), Jackson Neale Ramm, (b. 2006), Elizabeth Mae Ramm, (b. 2007).
 - d. Leslie Magruder Neale, (b. 1976); m. Timothy Boldt Struchan; children: Sophie Grace Struchan, (b. 2008), Olivia Hope Struchan, (b. 2009).
 - e. Stephen John Neale, (1978-2000).
4. Ellen Magruder Neale, (b. 1949); m. Roger Alexander McGaughey, (b. 1948). Children:
 - a. Andrew Herbert McGaughey, (b. 1973); m. Nichole Marie Costello; children: Cassandra Nichole Costello, (b. 1998), Caleb Andrew Costello, (b. 2002), Candace Elizabeth Costello, (b. 2004), Lillian Reese McGaughey, (b. 2010).
 - b. Sarah Elizabeth McGaughey, (b. 1976); m. Robert James Tremblay, II; children: Nicholas Robert Tremblay, (b. 2009), Natalie Ellen Tremblay, (b. 2011).
 - c. Matthew John McGaughey, (b. 1978); m. Elizabeth Jill Theroux; child: Daniel Joseph McGaughey, (b. 2004).

JOHN ROBERTSON NEALE
(1912-1981)
Married Sara Ellen Ganley, (1913-2000).

Children of John Robertson & Sarah Ellen (Ganley) Neale:

1. John Robertson Neale, Jr. (b. 1940); m. Katherine Hubban; Children:
 - a. Ashley Marie Neale, (b. 1969).
 - b. Kevin Michael Neale, (1966-2015).
2. Joseph Hickman Neale, (b. 1944); m. (first) Elaine Anne Kani; m. (second) Mary J. Oppenheimer; Children:
 - a. Heather Marie Neale, (b. 1971); m. Patrick Fleming; child: Ryan Fleming, (b. 2005), stepchild: Liam Fleming, (b. 1996).
 - b. Devone Anne Neale, (b. 1944); m. Steve Masiack; children: Cara Neale Masiack, (b. 2013), Ashley Neale Masiack, (b. 2015).
 - c. Brent Neale Oppenheimer, (b. 2001).
 - d. Ethan Neale Oppenheimer, (b. 2005).
3. Joan Marie Neale, (b. 1946); Child:
 - a. Deborah Leigh-Anne Neale, (b. 1979); m. Michael Bruce Radford, (b. 1977); children: Dylan Michael Radford, (b. 2012), Callie Anne Radford, (b. 2014), Gabrielle Leigh Radford, (b. 2015).

ARCHAEOLOGY PROVIDES A KEY TO THE HISTORY OF RICH HILL

Rich Hill was the home of wealthy landowners, enslaved African Americans and retired farmers. From the early 18th century through the 20th century, the land was used to produce tobacco, corn and dairy products and to raise sheep, pigs, chickens, cattle and horses.

The landscape of Rich Hill changed over time as the families living there added and subtracted buildings, gardens, fences, and driveways and created a multi-layered landscape, some of which is currently buried beneath the surface. Only the house is still standing.

Since the acquisition of Rich Hill, archaeologists, historical researchers, and volunteers have worked to uncover the forgotten landscape of this historic property.

Text and images courtesy of Esther Doyle Reed, Charles County Archaeologist.

EXCAVATIONS

In April 2015, outbuildings along one side of the house were uncovered to map them and provide protection for them during the restoration of the house. Archaeologists and volunteers excavated 11 test units, recovered over 4,000 artifacts and exposed the foundations of the dining room wing added by the Cox family.



Excavation trench with the dining room wing foundation in the foreground.



Jim Gibb making a south-facing view of the foundation found in the excavation trench. Dr. James C. Gibb is an Archaeologist and Consultant at Gibb Archaeological Consulting.

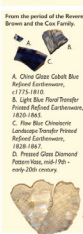
SHOVEL TEST PITS

Shovel Test Pits were uncovered at regular intervals of 15 meters and were excavated to verify anomalies found during the geophysical survey and to locate landscape features. Thirty-one STPs produced historic period artifacts. A total of 990 artifacts were recovered, most of which were 18th and 19th century domestic and architectural artifacts. Many early-18th century ceramics were found. Oyster shells and animal bones were found near the possible smoke house foundation and nails related to an 18th or 19th century barn were found in the area located by the survey.

From the various periods of the Browns Family's Occupation:



From the period of the Remond Browns and the Cox Family:



Richard Hill is an image of the remains of the old base shown in the LIDAR image.



A historic road was once present as part of the overall Rich Hill farm. The portion of the road to the east was used by the Browns family prior to being collected around 1960. The historic road was used by John Wilkes Booth as he crossed the swamp in April 1865.

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY: MAGNETOMETRY AND GROUND-PENETRATING RADAR

A combination of geophysical survey and shovel test pits (STPs) were used in 2017 to locate buried features associated with former landscapes.

The geophysical survey included magnetometry and ground-penetrating radar (GPR). Magnetometry measures magnetism in the soil, which changes when the ground is disturbed by human activity such as digging a foundation. GPR works like other radar systems, which use sound waves to detect objects.

The geophysical survey located several buried anomalies including a possible barn in a field near the house and a circular formal driveway in front of the house.



Matt Colburn with a site probe looking for unexcavated features of the dining room wing. Matthew Colburn is the Archaeological Field Director at the Oxley Group.



Funding for this project was provided in part by the County Commissioners of Charles County, Maryland and the Friends of Rich Hill.

RichHillFriends.org CharlesCountyHistorical.org

LIDAR

In 2016, LIDAR was used to guide a pedestrian survey of the property. LIDAR, or Light Detection and Ranging, uses light from a laser system mounted on an aircraft to measure changes in the topography of the earth.

One of the several square anomalies (impediments) in the LIDAR map turned out to be an in-house foundation hidden in the woods. Three other anomalies to the house that go with building shown on old topographic maps including a foundation believed to be a stable house.



Richard Hill is an image of the remains of the old base shown in the LIDAR image.



Mary Swann: Witness for Samuel Cox

Enslaved at Rich Hill

Mary Swann, the daughter of Nettie Swann, was born about 1850 in Charles County. Prior to 1864, she and her mother were among the slaves belonging to Samuel Cox who lived at Rich Hill.

Both Mary and her mother continued to work for the Cox family after emancipation.



Mary Swann lived at Rich Hill until her marriage to Samuel Kelly. Her mother, Nettie Swann, lived at Rich Hill until her death.

A Loud Knock

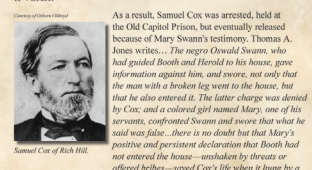
It was near midnight on April 15, 1865, that Mary Swann, sleeping in the dining room of Rich Hill, heard a loud knock on the front door. It was David Herold. He and John Wilkes Booth had been guided to Rich Hill by Oswald Swan.



According to Samuel Cox, Jr. in 1891: At about 1 o a.m. Sunday morning the 16th of April, there came a tremendous knock from our front door. It aroused every inmate of the house. There was at the time in the house, Col. Samuel Cox, his wife, his wife's mother Mrs. Lucy B. Walker, Ella Magruder, now my wife, two servant girls Mary and Martha and myself.

Her Persistent Declaration

Mary Swann would claim that Samuel Cox did not let John Wilkes Booth or David Herold in the house. Oswald Swan would contradict her statement saying that Booth and Herold went inside Cox's home and remained between 3 to 4 hours.



As a result, Samuel Cox was arrested, held at the Old Capital Prison, but eventually released because of Mary Swann's testimony. Thomas A. Jones writes: "...the negro Oswald Swan, who had guided Booth and Herold to his house, gave information against him, and swore, not only that the man with a broken leg went to the house, but that he also entered it. The latter charge was denied by Cox, and a colored girl named Mary, one of his servants, confronted Swan and swore that what he said was false...there is no doubt that Mary's positive and persistent declaration that Booth had not entered the house—unshaken by threats or offered bribes—saved Cox's life when it hung by a thread."

Oswald Swan was the only witness against Samuel Cox. When the ever-observant Thomas Jones, peering out from a window of the Old Capital Prison, spotted Swan leaving the prison, heading for the Navy Yard Bridge and Maryland beyond, he knew that Cox was safe. Jones informed his relieved friend, "You have nothing more to fear. The only witness against you has been dismissed and is going home."

Statement of Mary Swann

April 26, 1865
Bryantown, Maryland

Mary Swann, colored girl, living at the house of Capt. Samuel Cox, four miles from Allen's Fresh, Md. on the Centreville road states:

I remember some men come to our house on Saturday night before Easter Sunday. It was almost day when they came; the chickens had begun to crow for day. The men were both standing in the yard on the grass. I did not see their faces, but saw their clothes. One of them had on a pair of light pants, and one of them had on a black coat. One had a stick in one hand and he was leaning on it; it was at his left side, and he was leaning on it. They were standing in the yard when I went to bed. There was two of them, and another man was standing back, but I did not see any horses. They went on the piazza, but I do not know whether they went into the house or not. I was in the dining room. I did not see them out or drink anything.

Statement of Mary Swann

May 8th 1865

A Swann, a colored girl in charge of Col. Baker, living at Capt. Cox's says:

Three men came to the house on Easter Saturday night; do not know who they were. The people had all gone to bed. Someone rapped at the door, and Capt. Cox got up and put on his pants and went to the door. I was in the dining room, where I sleep.

The middle door, opening into the dining room, was open. Capt. Cox sleeps in the bedroom adjoining the dining room. They rapped at the door and I called Capt. Cox and told him someone was rapping. He told them they should not come into the house, as they were strangers to him. I got up and looked out at the window and saw three men in the yard. I could not see their faces, only their forms. They did not come in the house, as he refused to let them in. I did not hear any more. If they came in I did not see them. Did not put on my clothes. I did not lay awake long. I heard Capt. Cox shut the door on them. Nobody got them anything to eat or drink that I know of. The next morning Mrs. Cox asked Master (Capt. Cox) who they were, and he said he did not know; that they were strangers. The next night some persons came & stayed all night. I was not in the house when they first came. I saw a man standing in the front yard with a stick in his left hand. That was the first thing when these people came. I did not see any horses at all.

It was almost daylight when they went away.

A Long Life

On December 14, 1882, Mary Swann purchased from Dr. Hughes Wills and Mary Wills, his wife, 5 acres of land south of Cox's Station for \$78.75. She married Samuel Kelly and on November 16, 1888, they decided "to love and affection to Samuel Kelly, Jr., Sidney Kelly, Hanson Kelly, Sarah Kelly, Walter Ann Kelly, Mary C. Kelly, being the same 3 acres of land south of Cox's Station originally purchased in 1882."



Mary Swann Kelly lived in about 51 years old. She died October 3, 1941 and was buried in St. Ignace Catholic Church Cemetery, Chapel Point.



Henry Gerard Robertson: A Brother Lost

Statement of Samuel Cox, Jr.

I had just returned from Charlotte Hall School to go with Pa on the following Monday to Petersburg to assist in nursing my only brother, who had been wounded through the right shoulder in the battle of Hatcher's Run on the 2nd of April 1865. (Statement of Samuel Cox, Jr., July 20, 1891)

A Native Son

Henry Gerard Robertson was born about 1842 in Charles County, the son of John Richard Robertson and his second wife Rebecca (Cox) Robertson, sister of Samuel Cox. His brother was John Samuel Robertson, later adopted as Samuel Cox, Jr.

Henry G. Robertson enlisted August 27, 1862, in Company B, 2nd Maryland Infantry of the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War.

Battle of Hatcher's Run

Henry G. Robertson was wounded at the Second Battle of Hatcher's Run April 2, 1865, and received medical treatment at the Fairgrounds Hospital in Petersburg, Virginia. His uncle, Samuel Cox, and his brother, Samuel Cox, Jr. had planned to travel to Petersburg after Henry was wounded, planning to nurse him back to health. The two never made it to Petersburg due to the arrival of John Wilkes Booth and David Herold at Rich Hill April 16.



Battle flag of the 2nd Maryland Infantry, Confederate States of America (CSA).

The 2nd Maryland Infantry

The 2nd Maryland Infantry, CSA (known initially as the First Maryland Battalion), was a Confederate infantry regiment made up of volunteers from Maryland. The regiment saw action at many of the fiercest battles of the Civil War, taking part in the brutal fighting at Culp's Hill at the Battle of Gettysburg.

During the last year of the war, the 2nd Maryland Regiment was assigned to the defenses around Petersburg, Virginia. On April 2, 1865, the Confederate Marylanders clashed with the enemy at Hatcher's Run, Virginia, in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent General U. S. Grant's forces from breaking through the line of defenses. One week later, the 2nd Maryland Regiment surrendered with the rest of General R. E. Lee's army on April 9 at a little village known as Appomattox.

Buried Three Times

Henry Gerard Robertson died April 22, 1865, and on that same evening, Thomas Jones guided John Wilkes Booth and David Herold to the shore of the Potomac River in order to escape to Virginia.

Robertson was initially buried at the Fairgrounds Post Hospital Cemetery in Petersburg, Virginia. He was later reburied on Confederate Hill at the Loudoun Park Cemetery before his remains were removed to Mount Rest Cemetery, La Plata.



Generous Donations

Since 2015, the Historical Society, through the Friends of Rich Hill, have received donations for the exhibits and furnishings from our local members, throughout the state of Maryland and from across the United States.

Through your most recent generous donations we were able to fund the restoration of five pieces of original artwork that will now hang in Rich Hill.



Grants

- **Preservation Maryland** – to hire a Historical Consultant to create and Interpretive Plan.
- **Charles County Tourism** – Charles County Conspirators Panels.
- **Charles County Tourism** – Samuel Cox Exhibit Panels
- **Charles County Tourism** – Dr. Brown Exhibit Panels
- **Charles County Tourism** – Cox & Brown Genealogy “Pull-Up” Exhibits
- **Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium** – Rich Hill Brochure & Rack Cards
- **Preservation Maryland** – Enslaved African Americans Exhibit Panels
- **Charles County Tourism** – Three outdoor signs
- **Society of Colonial Wars in Maryland and the General Society of Colonial Wars** – Dr. Brown Gallery Portraits and the Dr. Brown Book

In addition, we received a \$25,000 capital grant from the **Maryland Historical Trust** for our part to finish specific interior items of the house including an alarm system, the new flooring, painting of the drywall, and all the millwork.



In December, 2023, we were awarded a \$10,000.00 grant from the **Maryland Humanities Council** for two events at Historic Rich Hill: The Grand Opening of Rich Hill, and a program titled “Know their Names; Hear their Voices: Remembering the Lasting Legacy of the Enslaved African Americans at Rich Hill.”

Forming Committees

Tentative Committees for Rich Hill are: Tours, Programs & Special Events, Furnishings, Collections, Exhibits, Gift Shop, Publicity, Fundraising, Archaeology, and Security.

If you would like to serve on a Rich Hill committee, please email Mike Mazzeo at mjmazzeo55@gmail.com.

Thanks to you, our goal of showcasing Historic Rich Hill will one day become a reality. We plan on providing visitors with unique experiences through the exhibits, tours and activities at Rich Hill. This diverse and multifaceted site will not only become a highlight for our community but for Southern Maryland tourism as well. History must be told, not ignored, and the good and the bad can only enable a better future.

Friendship Farm Piano To Be Donated To Rich Hill

*T*his Knabe piano was manufactured in Baltimore about 1855. It was a popular “parlor” piano of that era and sat proudly in the Friendship Farm house on Friendship Landing Road in Nanjemoy for at least 140 years.



The Friendship Farm house is located about a mile from the site of Friendship House that was saved by the Historical Society of Charles County in 1968 and then relocated to the College of Southern Maryland, La Plata campus.

The Friendship properties had been divided in 1820. Fannie Gray, who lived in the farm house from 1883 until 1925, played the piano frequently for parties and for her own relaxation and enjoyment. The piano and house were sold by George and Fannie Gray to Arthur and Rita Karlsson in 1925.



The piano was donated to Rich Hill by Derek & Anahita Hamner

*It will be restored by Schoenbauer Furniture Service
through generous donations of
the descendants of the Gray and Karlsson families:*

Patricia T. Barmeyer
Thomas L. Childs
Dr. Elwood Cobey & Mary Cobey
Munroe & Becky Cobey
Elizabeth Woodard Cook
Julia C. Gluck
Mrs. H. Scott Gregory
Laura Harris
Gerard & Elizabeth Joseph

Margaret Mac Cary
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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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SAVE THE DATE!

In 1776, history was made when Marylanders repelled the British army on St. George's Island.
Relive history at this special event.



A Southern Maryland Revolutionary War Family Event

REBELS & REDCOATS

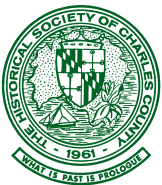
SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH, 2024
Piney Point Lighthouse • 10 am - 5 pm

RECREATION & PARKS
St. Mary's County
Museums

FREE
FUN FOR ALL AGES!

This event/program is part of the Southern Maryland 250th Semiquincentennial, Maryland 250th, and America 250th celebrations, commemorating Southern Maryland's contributions to our nation's founding.

- **April 6, 2024** – “Rebels & Redcoats: A Southern Maryland Revolutionary War Family Event” – Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, 10am to 5pm.
- **April 6 & 7, 2024** – Harvest House opens at Serenity Farm, 10am to 3pm.
- **April 21, 2024** – “Taste of Southern Maryland,” – Maryland Veterans Museum, 11am to 6pm.
- **May 4, 2024** – Port Tobacco Market Days (rain date May 18).
- **May 11, 2024** – Spring Meeting of the Historical Society – Maryland Veterans Museum, 2pm.
- **October 19, 2024** – Fall Dinner Meeting of the Historical Society: The 1st Regiment of Dragoons will present 18th century Cavalry Skills at Arms & Tactical Demonstration, Maryland Veterans Museum, 2pm.
- **October, 2024** – Colonial Faire at Historic Maxwell Hall.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY, INC.

P.O. Box 2806 • La Plata, Maryland 20646
www.charlescountyhistorical.org