



THE RECORD



Volume 119, No. 2

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

October 2024

Debra R. Scoggins, President

Mary Ann Scott, Editor

The Historical Society of Charles County

Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 19, 2024 • 12:30 p.m.



*The 1st Regiment of Dragoons
will present:
18th Century Cavalry Skills
at Arms & Tactical Demonstration*



Maryland Veterans Museum • 11000 Crain Highway • Newburg, Maryland

Menu • Assorted Sandwiches • Potato Salad • Fruit Salad • Broccoli Salad • Coleslaw
Assorted Fresh Baked Cookies & Brownies • Iced Tea & Water

Dream Weaver Events and Catering

\$25.00 per person • Please r.s.v.p. to Carol Donohue by October 9, 2024

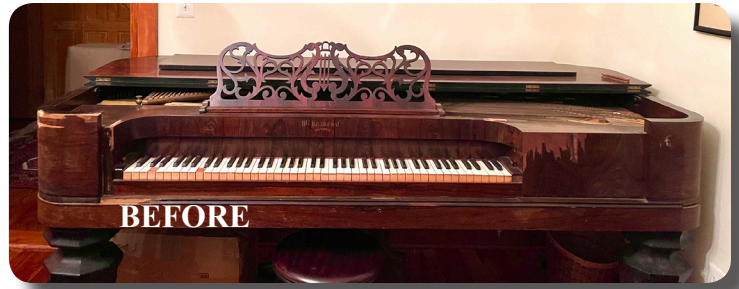
16401 Old Marshall Hall Road ~ Accokeek, MD 20607

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

Friendship Farm Piano Restored

Continued

*A*s reported in the May 2024 issue of “The Record,” p. 7, the Friendship Farm Piano would be restored by Schoenbauer Furniture Service in Charlotte Hall. The restoration has been complete and the piano is now awaiting its future home at Historic Rich Hill.



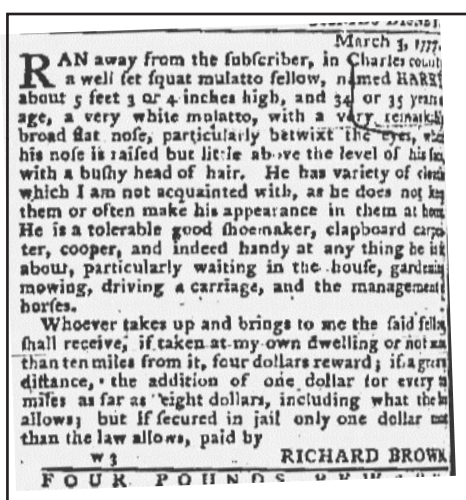
Escaping to Freedom

Historic Rich Hill encompasses over 350 years of Southern Maryland history. Rich Hill was part of an original 1666 land grant of 600 acres. In 1729, Dr. Gustavus Brown constructed the original house. During the 18th century it was a thriving tobacco plantation owned by the Brown family, and in the 19th century, under the Cox family. Records indicate a large community of enslaved African Americans under Dr. Brown through the Cox era of the 19th century lived and worked on the property.

Once opened, tours of the site will encompass five themes from the Rich Hill Interpretive Plan: Dr. Brown, Samuel Cox, Enslaved African Americans, Architecture and Archaeology.

The Historical Society of Charles County, through its Friends of Rich Hill Steering Committee has documented the names of over 100 enslaved persons at Rich Hill. Knowing their names makes their lives, their stories, and their resistance come alive. We feel Rich Hill is extremely forward thinking by providing genealogical verification for their descendants.

In the 18th century Reverend Richard Brown advertised as a runaway: Harry (Maryland Gazette, March 13, 1777). In the 19th century Samuel Cox advertised as runaways: Dick (Port Tobacco Times, July 15, 1852) and Isaac Nelson (Philip Sang Collection, July 1852).



Ran away from the subscriber, in Charles County, a well set squat mulatto fellow, named HARRY, about 5 feet 3 or 4 inches high, and 34 or 35 years of age, a very white mulatto, with a very remarkably broad flat nose, particularly betwixt the eyes, where his nose is raised but little above the level of his face, with a bushy head of hair. He has variety of clothes which I am not acquainted with, as he does not keep them or often make his appearance in them at home. He is a tolerable good shoemaker, clapboard carpenter, cooper, and indeed handy at any thing he is about, particularly waiting in the house, gardening, mowing, driving a carriage, and the management of horses. Whoever takes up and brings to me the said fellow shall receive, if taken at my own dwelling or not more than ten miles from it, four dollars reward; if a great distance, the addition of one dollar for every 10 miles as far as eight dollars, including what the law allows; but if secured in jail only one dollar more than the law allows, paid by Richard Brown

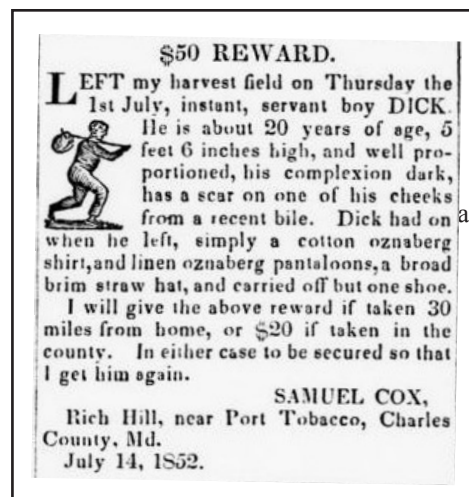
Source: *Maryland Gazette, March 13, 1777*

\$50 REWARD

Left my harvest field on Thursday the 1st July, instant, servant boy DICK. He is about 20 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high, and well proportioned, his complexion dark, has a scar on one of his cheek's from a recent bile. Dick had on when he left, simply cotton oznaberg shirt, and linen oznaberg pantaloons, a broad brim straw hat, and carried off but one shoe. I will give the above reward if taken 30 miles from home, or \$20 if taken in the county. In either case to be secured so that I get him again.

Samuel Cox, Rich Hill, near Port Tobacco, Charles County, Md. July 14, 1852

Source: *Port Tobacco Times, July 15, 1852*

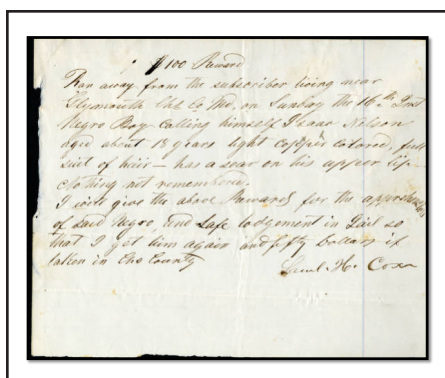


\$100 REWARD

Ran away from the subscriber living near Glymouth Charles Co. Md, on Sunday the 16th instant Negro Boy calling himself Isaac Nelson, age about 18 years, light copper colored, full suit of hair—has a scar on his upper lip. clothing not remembered. I will give the above reward for the apprehension of said Negro, and safe lodgment in jail so that I get him again and fifty dollars if taken in Charles County.

Samuel H. Cox

Source: *Philip Sang Collection, Chicago Library, Special Collections, July 1852.*



Friends of Rich Hill

Receive Preservation Project Award

On Sunday, June 23, 2024, the Friends of Rich Hill received a Preservation Project Award from the Charles County Historic Preservation Commission at Historic Pleasant Hill in Pomfret.



The Preservation Project award was given to a team of individuals and organizations who preserved and restored a mid-19th-century corn house that was originally located on the Dyson Farm in White Plains. The corn house, which was slated for demolition, was instead preserved when it was moved to Rich Hill and restored as part of the grounds of that historic house.



Rich Hill Award

Those involved in the project were Rachel Cohen and Ram Adar, the original owners of the corn house; Tim Lessner of Lorenzi, Dodds, and Gunnill, Expert House Movers of Sharpstown, Maryland, S.D. Lohr, Inc., who did the restoration work; students from the Ancient Studies Department of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, who provided help with the archaeological study performed at Rich Hill before the corn house was moved there; and the Friends of Rich Hill, who will interpret the corn house in its new location. On hand to accept the award for the Friends of Rich Hill was Mike Mazzeo and Carol Donohue.



The Charles County Archaeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (above) received the Preservation Service Award in recognition of 15 years of contributions to archaeological project work and education in Charles County. Among those accepting the award were Carol Cowherd, Elsie Picyk and Ned Edelen, all members of the Historical Society's Board of Directors.



A second Preservation Service award was presented to Lucille Ward Walker for her work in spearheading the creation of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, one of two National Heritage Areas in the state of Maryland. Charles County is part of this new National Heritage Area.

In addition to the Preservation Service and Project Awards, plaques were presented to three properties that were recently granted County Landmark status by the Charles County Commissioners. These were the St. Nicholas Creek Burial Ground in Benedict, the site of interment for 23 enslaved individuals during the late 18th and early 19th centuries; the Twiford Store in Marbury, which was the center of the community during the early 20th century; and the Joseph C. Parks house in Bryans Road, which was the home of J.C. Parks, the superintendent of the Charles County Colored Schools between 1919 and 1961.



You're Invited



As part of the celebration of America's 250th anniversary, the Thomas Stone Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution will be hosting a program honoring the Charles County Resolves, signed on June 14, 1774. The program will take place on September 21, 2024, from 12 noon until 2:00 p.m., at the Port Tobacco Courthouse.

Come out and enjoy the celebration of the local Charles Countians who began boycotting British goods, eventually leading to the American Revolution. More information will follow as details are finalized.

Charles County Resolves

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Charles County on the 14th of June 1774, at the courthouse in Port-Tobacco town, to deliberate on the effect and tendency of the act of parliament, for blocking up the port and harbour of Boston. Mr. Walter Hanson unanimously chosen chairman.

1st. Resolved, that it is the opinion of this meeting, that the act of the British parliament passed to block up the harbour and port of Boston, and suspend the trade and commerce of that town, is a violent attack upon the liberty and property of the inhabitants thereof, and in its [consequences]. tends to render insecure, and destroy the rights, and privileges of all British America.

2d. Resolved, That the town of Boston now suffering under the execution of the said act, justly demands the most speedy and effectual alliance of every colony in America to obtain a repeal of the same.

3d. Resolved, That the inhabitants of this county will join in an association with the several counties of this province, to put a stop to all imports from Great-Britain after the first day of August next, except the articles of medicine—until the said act be repealed.

4th. Resolved, That if the said act of parliament is not repealed by the [third] day of October, in the year 1775, that then the inhabitants of this county will join with the several counties of this province, and the principal colonies in America, to break off all commercial connection with Great-Britain, and the West-Indies.

5th. Resolved, It is the opinion of this meeting, that a congress of deputies from the several colonies will be the most probable means of uniting America in one general measure to effectuate a repeal of the said act of parliament.

6th. Resolved, That deputies than be sent from this county to meet at the city of Annapolis on the 22d instant and join with the deputies appointed by the several counties in a general, rational, and practicable association for this province, and to appoint deputies to attend a congress of those nominated by the several colonies, and to adopt any other measures for relief of the people of Boston, which to them seems fit and reasonable.

7th. Resolved, That the inhabitants of this county will break off all trade, commerce, and dealings with that colony, town, or county, which shall decline or refuse to associate in some rational and effectual means to procure a repeal of the said act of parliament.

8th. Resolved, That the inhabitants of this county will adopt a steadily pursue such measures, as tend to protect and secure the liberties of this county according to the true principles of the English constitution, and thereby shown themselves loyal and faithful subjects of his majesty, King George the third.

9th. Resolved, That Messrs. Walter Hanson, William Smallwood, Josias Hawkins, Francis Ware, Joseph Hanson Harrison, Thomas Stone, George Dent, Gustavus Richard Brown, John Dent, Thomas Hanson Marshall, Daniel Jenifer, Samuel Love, James Forbes, Robert T. Hooe, Philip Richard Fendall, Zephaniah Turner, James Key and James Craik, or any seven of them be a committee of correspondence to receive and answer all letters, and on any emergency to call a general meeting of the county, and that Messrs. Walter Hanson, William Smallwood, Josias Hawkins, Francis Ware, Joseph Hanson Harrison, Thomas Stone, John Dent, Daniel Jenifer, and Robert T. Hooe, are appointed deputies for this county to attend the general meeting at Annapolis, the 22d instant

God save the king and constitution.

Signed per order,

JOHN GWINN, Clk.

Charles D. Boone



*Thomas Stone Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard at the Thomas Stone National Historic Site, July 4, 2011.
Left to right: Ernest Irish, Ron Gibson, Charles Boone, Neal Johnson, Dave Langford, Jim Berry.*

Charles D. Boone, a life-long member of the Historical Society of Charles County died July 16, 2024. He was 86 years old.

Charles served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society for 18 years, from 1998 to 2016. He was also a past President of the Thomas Stone Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, serving in that capacity from 2008 to 2011, and a member of the chapter's Color Guard.

Charles was also a proud member of the Jamestown Society, the Society of the Ark and Dove, the Descendants of the Lords of the Maryland Manors, the Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters, the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and the Society of the Cincinnati.

He was one of the recipients of the 2012 Maryland Preservation Awards for Excellence in Media and Publications from the Maryland Historical Trust for his portrayal in *The War of 1812 in Charles County's Backyard: A Virtual Tour*.

Prior to moving to North Carolina, he and his wife Anne (Edelen) Boone, lived at his ancestral home Wiltshire Plains, in Bryantown.

He was the brother of the late Louise Boone Turner, and brother-in-law of board member Edward B. Edelen, Jr.



Wiltshire Plains, built in 1857 by Edward Dominic Boone.

Dendrochronology:

One of the leading and most accurate scientific dating methods

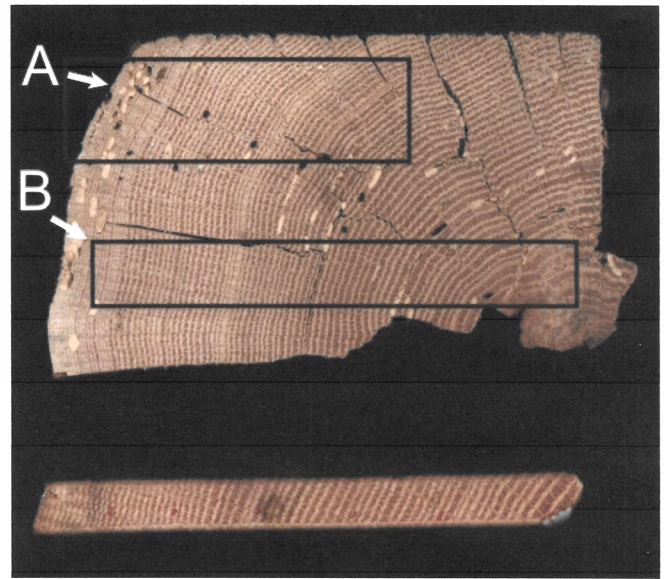
New discoveries change the way we interpret history. Whether it be new documentation, uncovering the past through archaeological digs, or in the case of Rich Hill, its age was determined by analyzing the patterns of the tree rings from the original timber within the structure.



Michael Worthington of Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory extracting samples to determine dates of construction.



Tree-ring dating to this degree of precision is well known for its use in dating historic buildings and archaeological timbers. A dendrochronology analysis, conducted in the fall of 2015, has shown that the timbers used to construct the original structure were felled from the summer of 1728 through the spring of 1729.

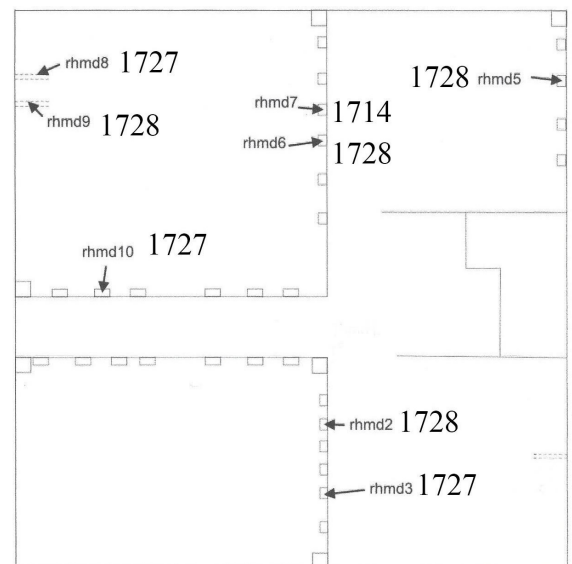


A cross-section of an oak timber with sapwood rings on the left-hand side. The boxes illustrate conversion methods resulting in A) a precise felling date and B) a terminus post quem or felled after date. Also pictured is a core showing complete sapwood.



Rich Hill is a one-and-a-half story building that has been much altered since its initial construction. Of the original first-floor plan, which consisted of four rooms and a short stair hall to the rear, only the stair hall and the northwest room retain their original dimensions. The original hip-on-gable roof was also replaced by a gable roof structure at some point during the house's history. The second floor, however, preserves its original five-room plan with original doors, hardware, and surrounds.

Sketch drawing of Rich Hill showing sample locations on the second floor.





Friends of Rich Hill Memberships

Memberships as of July 1, 2024



Philanthropist (\$20,000+)

Frank R. Brown, IV, in honor of his father, Dr. Frank R. Brown, III

Benefactor (\$10,000+)

Distinguished (\$5,000+)

Carol & Dan Donohue
James G. Gibb,
Gibb Archaeological Consulting

Legacy (\$2,500+)

General Society of Colonial Wars
Lucy Beall Cox Neale Memorial
Edward B. Edelen, Jr.
Society of Colonial Wars
in the State of Maryland
Surratt Society

Visionary (\$1,000+)

Charles County
Antique Arts Association
Charles County Genealogical Society
Nelse L. Greenway
Joseph H. Neale
& Marcy J. Oppenheimer

Ambassador (\$500+)

John & Joyce Candland
Kate Neale & Matt Cooper
Tim Hutchins
Thomas M. Neale
Ann Neale
Ann Mudd Wills,
in memory of
Thomas Albert and Mary Ida
(Boarman) Simpson

Steward (\$250+)

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Garth & Debra Bowling
Denise Cheseldine
Susan Wegner Gilman
Dr. & Mrs. Blaine Houmes
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Colonial Dames of the XVII Century
Jane K. Linton
James Neale
Port Tobacco Chapter,
Daughters of the American Revolution
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Reich

Innovator (\$100+)

Warren & Jeanne Bowie
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Dr. & Mrs. Frank R. Brown III
Ronald G. Brown
Nancy Burch

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Sue Hodes
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Elizabeth A. Moreland
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richhillfriends.org

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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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News from the St. Mary's County Historical Society

For those of you who have an interest in using the outstanding research center of the St. Mary's County Historical Society, the Research Library Catalog is now digitized.

The card catalog lists over 2,500 books that grace the shelves at Tudor Hall in Leonardtown.

Here is the link:

<https://kohaopac.stmaryshistory.org/>



SAVE THE DATE!

- **September 21, 2024** – 250th Program honoring the Charles County Resolves: Port Tobacco Courthouse, from 12 noon until 2:00 p.m.
- **September 28-29, 2024** – Soldiering Through the Ages (A Military Timeline Event), Maryland Veterans Museum.
- **October 19, 2024** – Fall Meeting of the Historical Society: The 1st Regiment of Dragoons will present 18th century Cavalry Skills at Arms & Tactical Demonstration, Maryland Veterans Museum, 12:30 p.m.
- **October 19-20, 2024** – Colonial Faire at Historic Maxwell Hall; 10am to 3pm.
- **December 7-8, 2024** – Charles County Holiday Tour

Programs sponsored by the Maryland Veterans Museum:

- **January 8, 2025** – Garth Bowling will present SHADOWS OF WAR, Civil War Comes to Charles County.
- **February 12, 2025** – Susan Fritz, USN(ret) will present Warfighter Advance.
- **March 12, 2025** – Donna Peterson will present Women in WWII, part 1.
- **April 9, 2025** – Michael Kent, Author of “Mulatto.”
- **May 14, 2025** – Steuart Bowling will present Children of the La Plata Tornado.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY, INC.

P.O. Box 2806 • La Plata, Maryland 20646

www.charlescountyhistorical.org