

2008 ANNUAL REPORT
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, INC.



Preserving Our Past for Your Future

2008 FINANCIAL REPORT



The following is a summary of the December 31, 2008 year-end operating income and expense report of the Treasurer of The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. Additional financial details are available upon request.

INCOME

CONTRIBUTIONS		\$24,313
Annual Giving	\$20,275	
Donations	\$2,778	
Other	\$1,260	
GRANTS		\$36,766
Harford County	\$23,000	
Bel Air	\$4,000	
Other	\$9,766	
PROGRAMS		\$9,546
Bulletins/Books	\$8,270	
Other	\$1,276	
FUND RAISING		\$40,751
Membership	\$17,545	
Other	\$23,206	
OTHER		\$30,302
Marriage Certificates	\$6,583	
Dividends & Interest	\$21,500	
Other	\$2,219	
FUND TRANSFERS		\$28,100
Designated Funds	\$20,000	
Stock Dividends	\$8,100	
		\$169,778

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS		\$14,142
Bulletins	\$6,841	
Newsletters	\$1,866	
Other	\$5,435	
FUND RAISING		\$11,047
Bus Tours	\$2,364	
Concert	\$1,213	
Other	\$7,470	
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE		\$152,018
Salary	\$25,850	
Insurance	\$4,124	
Loan Interest	\$15,960	
Repairs	\$69,458	
Utilities /Phone	\$22,790	
Other	\$13,836	
		\$177,207

In addition, at year end our Designated Fund checking account had \$13,744, of which most was reserved for payment of the new furnace and air conditioning unit and final repairs to the roof. The Hays House parking lot checking account had \$12,470, of which a portion will be used as a year-end lump sum payment on the lot loan principal.

PAYROLL SERVICES ARE GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY BALSAMO, STEWART, LUTTERS & RUTH, PA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What an interesting year. With my focus on promoting the Society, repair and maintenance of the headquarters building and our finances, I believe we have made great strides this year.

In the repair category the flat roof was replaced in December of 2007 thanks to the assistance of a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust. Part II of the project was the repair and refurbishment of the peaked tin roof that supports the cupola. The cupola itself is scheduled to be restored in the spring of 2009.

In 2008 our antiquated heating and air conditioning system continued to fail. After much discussion and financial analysis the Board of Directors voted to replace the tired and expensive to maintain system with a new rooftop mounted natural gas unit at a cost of approximately \$50,000. Upon the approval of the Maryland Historical Trust, which holds an historic easement on our building, work began in the fall and was completed in mid-February of 2009.

Our future efforts will be to update our four restrooms, to purchase more computers for public use, renovate our wood and metal windows, remove the old heating and cooling system, renovate additional basement rooms, install a projector and screen and to look into the feasibility of installing a drop ceiling to conserve energy costs. These items will not be done immediately, but can serve as goals for modernizing our facility.

In the area of finance, we are actively pursuing events, services and membership participation to make belonging worth while and supportive of our mission. Our activities and accomplishments are highlighted throughout this Annual Report. As noted in our financial report, we are actively managing our finances which are composed of the following: Operating, Hays House Parking Lot and Designated funds checking accounts, three investment accounts (Operating, Scriven and Endowment), Certificates of Deposit and an Emergency Funds savings account. Finally, in the event we tackled a job and came up with un-anticipated additional expenses, we have applied for and have received a line of credit through the Bel Air branch of BB&T. We are very pleased to have received this vote of confidence from the bank.

In the promotion effort, we try to let the county residents know we are preserving approximately a quarter million archival items and some 500 plus artifacts related to "The Beautiful History of Harford County". In the artifact category we own all of the items in the Hays House, as well as antique textiles (quilts, clothing) and other items stored at the Headquarters. We also remind the citizens that in a ten year period we were given approximately 25,000 new items to catalog and preserve. Our Hays House Museum docents have an active program to acquaint our residents (including youth) in the activity of early county and town residents. Another major effort to promote our

On the cover: When the public thinks of The Historical Society of Harford County, no doubt the first thought is of the Archives, Library or Court Records. Seldom remembered, the Historical Society also owns an extensive collection of artifacts that includes portraits, clothing, jewelry, pottery and musical instruments.

Society's holding is the effort to make our data accessible via the computer. My hat is off to the volunteers that are working hard to make this capability available.

A unique promotional concept which we want to expand, is our partnership with local institutions. For example, we partnered with Harford Community College on the March 2008 Celtic Concert and will do so again in 2009. We have had favorably received events at the Bel Air Presbyterian Church as well as at Atlanta Hall Farm, the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club in the My Lady's Manor area of Harford County, and the Maryland Golf and Country Club. In 2009 there is the potential for a promotion of the Society at the Bel Air Barnes & Noble bookstore. In addition two organizations, the Harford County Genealogical Society and the Archeological Society of the Northern Chesapeake, meet in our building. Also through the efforts of our Director, Maryanna Skowronski, we have a cooperative effort with Liriodendron, Tudor Hall and the Hays-Heighe House.

Finally, I am delighted to be associated with our volunteers, who devote their time to promoting and preserving our history for future generations.

Joe Swisher, President



Cupola and recently restored tin roof

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The year 2008 was a bonanza year at the Historical Society of Harford County. Thanks to our involvement with Harford County Government through the Volunteer Connection program we were blessed with a surge of potential volunteers thanks to the placement of a "help wanted" ad citing our need for help. Of the many who inquired the majority signed on and our volunteer rolls have increased greatly. However, there are still many tasks and projects waiting in the wings for others to take on.

When a potential volunteer expresses interest in the Society we give the "grand tour" and make every effort to match him or her to an area of need that most closely matches one of his or her own personal areas of interest. This was the case with new volunteer Phil Brundrett. Phil has an affinity for antiques - particularly military memorabilia. At the time he contacted us we had been without an Artifacts Chairman for several years. It was a perfect fit and Phil took on the chairmanship in 2008.

This is not to say that every volunteer must take on such responsibility. We also have open and closed ended projects for those who may not want to commit for an extended period of time. There are many collections of papers that have been donated which need to be read and organized. We have an extensive collection of textiles and a core group of volunteers who work on it. They are always in need of assistance. All we ask is that anyone who thinks he or she might

be interested in the Society call us. We appreciate any time that might be given to us.

2008 saw the third annual Celtic Concert take place. This year the Society partnered with Harford Community College and the event was held at the Amoss Center. We were fortunate to be able to book the internationally acclaimed group Cherish the Ladies. Governor Martin O'Malley sent greetings and congratulations to the Historical Society acknowledging its work and welcoming the performers to Maryland.



Cherish the Ladies in concert at the Amoss Center

2008 also saw the beginning of the Society's partnership with the Smithsonian Questers. This local chapter of the international ladies organization devoted to the study and preservation of antiques and history took on the task of analyzing, cataloging and providing archival storage of our collection of antique quilts. As a result that information is now available in electronic format to researchers through *PastPerfect*. A generous donation by one of the members allowed us to have the collection professionally appraised.

The Society was also the recipient of donations of antique furnishings and fittings by Harford County residents. Some of the items went to the Hays House and some also are on long term loan to Tudor Hall.

The Historical Society of Harford County appreciates the support shown to it and looks forward to a successful 2009.

Maryanna Skowronski, Director

ARCHER FELLOWS

The George Archer Fellow award program was introduced by the Historical Society in 2006. George Archer was an early president of the Society and his extensive collection of papers and notes are available to researchers.

This program honors volunteers at the Society and/or others who have done an outstanding job of preserving or promoting some facet of our county's rich history.

This year's Fellows are Lena Caron, Ellsworth B. Shank, and Susan K. Wooden.



LENA CARON was selected for her leadership in the Society's fund raising events. Also for her stewardship of the "Little Stone House" (now Wockenfuss Candy) in Bel Air and for chairing the society's social events where her cooking and decorating talents are very evident. Mrs. Caron is editing a cook book for the Society which contains many of her popular recipes. The book will be available soon at our Gift Shop.

ELLSWORTH B. SHANK was selected for his many historical efforts in Havre de Grace, among which are serving as an early president of the Susquehanna Museum, cosponsoring the Havre de Grace Ellsworth B. Shank Historic Lecture Series, and restoration of the historic Rogers House in downtown Havre de Grace.



SUSAN K. WOODEN was selected for organizing and participating in Living History programs and reenactments, as a docent at the Hays House and Jerusalem Mills, and publicizing and promoting Harford County.

These names will be added to the commemorative book of Archer Fellows on display in the lobby at the Society headquarters.



Pictured are President Joe Swisher, Lena Caron, Susan Wooden and Director Maryanna Skowronski

ARCHIVES

The year 2008 brought continued progress in the numerous projects the archives volunteers have undertaken. With the addition of several new volunteers we were able to expand our efforts in completing the conversion to a computer based catalog. Phil Carletti, a new volunteer, began to work his way through the fifty-eight boxes of photographs taking a digital image of each item to add to catalog information. Erin Petersen and Bill McIntyre, also new volunteers, are entering catalog data for each of these images into *PastPerfect*. A similar activity is being carried out by Jane Sudbrink, a third new volunteer. She is photographing and recording the images of the nearly 2000 postal cards for inclusion into our digital catalog. These time-consuming efforts will save researchers time in selecting materials and will eliminate unnecessary handling of the photographs and postcards in our care, as well as the volunteer time required to pull and replace those items.

A number of patrons have recently purchased prints of our historic images for decorative purposes in their homes and businesses. Scanned images of post cards and photos have been enlarged and printed by Doug Washburn. The most visible and largest reproduction of one of our photographs is in the office of the new *TD Bank*. This 14'x7' colorized image of the long-gone Coale Meat Market on North Main Street, can be

seen by passers-by as they drive along U.S. Route 1. The profits from these reproductions add to the revenue of the society.

Other ongoing projects are noteworthy. Pete Riecks is expanding on and verifying the catalog notations associated with our sizable collection of

Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad photos. Bob Cassilly is working on a similar project involving our APG materials. Alan and Judy Neutzel, using his computer skills and her filing skills, organized the 1898 and 1902 Personal Property Inventories. Alan has also set up a computer-based



Ken Travers auction team

system that keeps track of volunteer hours.

The time-consuming but important project of reviewing our files is continuing. Annetta Bloxham, Anne Baranowski, Dorothy Meyer, Mary Cardwell, and new volunteers Fred Krug, Sherry Carroll and Denise Dempsher continue to reevaluate the contents of the file folders. Published materials, newspaper articles, pamphlets, and books from the archives will be transferred to the library's files, although fragile material will remain in the archives. The accession number for each of the items reassigned is recorded for inventory purposes. After the review is completed, the archival catalog data will be entered into our *PastPerfect* catalog system. Those archival materials that have been included in the files and card catalog since 1985

but were never accessioned will be added to the Accession Book.

Some of the reviewed items were found to be in need of repair or encapsulation. Pat Hathaway and her two new volunteers, Laura Ashley Cooper and Patti Francone, are involved in preserving these items as well as some of the new donations.

Many new donations came in this year. They include scrapbooks highlighting the activities and accomplishments of the Wilna Homemakers, a series of blueprints that were the plans for several buildings constructed on properties associated with Oakington (property purchased by Senator Millard Tydings), and a collection of papers belonging to Richard E. Dallam and David E. Dallam. The most significant donation was made by Annette Blum. It came from the estate of Judge Brodnax Cameron. It contains a significant number of papers of the Hays family, including a map illustrating the layout of the town of Bel Air.

Jane Turner accessioned nearly 900 new donations, and Midge Kalb recorded over 200 photographs. Dotty Corbin and Jeannie Kidd continue to card the accessions for both the current card system and the new computerized system. Among her other society duties, Dorothy Stambaugh continues to enter the existing data in the card catalog into the computerized system. David Hodge finished his work on the history of

our society and will be setting out on a new project. Liz Hicks is continuing to work on her parents' collection of materials related to covered bridges which is now being stored in a new metal cabinet.

The Archives Division still has a sizable workload and until the changeover to a data based catalog is completed, the bulk of the time

of our capable volunteers will be taken up by this effort and the processing of many of our new donations. They and the society will benefit from additional help from new volunteers. There is a rising need for additional computer stations on our network as only three people

can enter data at one time. When researchers need to use one or both of the computers available to them, only one station is open to volunteers for the completion of the database. Our situation is good but we could do better. Researchers deserve our very best.

Based on the data provided by Alan Neutzel, the Archives Division currently has 24 dedicated volunteers who spent more than 801 full or partial days in 2008 working to process materials and/or helping researchers. They donated a total of more than 4,000 hours. They have my thanks, and they and all of the other volunteers deserve the thanks of the membership for their time and efforts.

Richard Sherrill, Chair



Seth Barchowsky demonstrates blacksmithing techniques

HAYS HOUSE MUSEUM



Hays House Volunteers

For 2008, Hays House volunteers created some new activities and exhibits as well as reprised events proven popular in past years. For the March opening, they mounted an exhibit of clothing recently donated to the Historical Society. One excellent acquisition for the display was a pristine lady's cotton dress from the Civil War era. Many of the clothing items donated were babies' and children's garments so the exhibit's major focus was on these pieces along with vintage children's toys and books, some from the Society's collection and some on loan.

In the spring, Hays House hosted a Children's Fun Day to introduce area children to games and activities enjoyed by youngsters in Colonial times. Amidst this season's display of vintage children's clothing and toys, children learned to make corn husk dolls and enjoy hand-crafted games of yesteryear, such as spinning tops, dominos and checkers. The early training of children for adult household chores was not overlooked! Learning the proper running of the household included important tasks for youngsters. Several young ladies took their turn at churning butter and practicing the manners and deportment

required for serving a proper cup of tea.

Hays House repeated several of its traditional events - Grandma's Apron, a display of vintage aprons and housekeeping tools; the Ice Cream Social with period craftsmen and re-enactors; and the Fourth of July and Christmas open houses with the Catherine Street Consort playing period instruments. The Christmas Open house featured decorations of fresh greens created by the Country Garden Club of Harford County. The Native American exhibit with its 18-foot Cheyenne teepee, and this year featuring an authentic feathered headdress, is ever popular with Scout troops. The annual Candlelight Christmas Concert and Tea with Musica Antiqua has become an area tradition. Many of the Hays House programs, Colonial craftsmen and performers were sponsored by a grant from the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.

Also new this year, Hays House piloted a junior docent program. One Sunday each month our half dozen or so young volunteers, who range in age from nine to thirteen, gathered to learn and demonstrate an activity suitable to the time period - proper making and serving tea, a stitchery or



Catherine Street Consort

spinning project, or herb gardening and gathering.

For the first time, Hays House partnered with Harford Day School during their “smARTS Week” where sixth, seventh and eighth graders participate in creative arts and perform community service projects. Ten students spent the day at Hays House learning Colonial crafts – needlework, food preparation and hearth cooking; the importance of gardening for food and household herbs; and the proper care of historic artifacts. The students planted tulip bulbs and raked leaves as well.

Our diverse group of docents continues to grow, especially with several young docents who are

particularly helpful interpreters of our Children’s Hands-on Room where young visitors can try on period costumes, have pretend tea parties and play Colonial games. Children can take home handouts to color, illustrations of Colonial clothing and artifacts.

Hays House continues in its ongoing mission to be a living history museum, demonstrating the life of Harford County’s rural gentry in the early years of our country.

Ceíl Fox & Betsy Lehmann, Co-chairs



Herb garden at the Hays House



Demonstration for area youth at Hays House

LIBRARY AND FAMILY HISTORY

2008 has been both a busy and rewarding year for the Library. Since I have served as chair of the Library for only eight months, I still have a great deal to learn about the workings of our section. The combining of the Library and Family History sections last year seems to have worked out well for all concerned.

Our *PastPerfect* Team headed by Judy Rogers continues to work on creating data bases in a number of areas. The team has made a considerable amount of progress with the 12 data base areas related to the work of the Library. It should be noted that 8 of those were added in 2008. For now we continue to operate with both the card file index system and the 12 computerized data base areas.

The Library continues to receive requests for research information by mail. Income realized from that activity in 2008 was approximately \$700.⁰⁰. Some of the projects in which we were involved this year included the following:

- having recent editions of the *Harford Historical Bulletin* and *Maryland Historical Magazine* bound
- consolidation of a number of the cabinets containing our vertical files
- updating our map collection cataloging system by volunteer John Hartman and the Library chairman
- receipt of numerous donations - books and manuscripts for the Library
- accessioning 301 books & pamphlets in addition

to 51 audio-visual items and 8 data base indexes

- Mentoring 3 new Library volunteers (These individuals include a mentally challenged young woman whose filing work is overseen by a counselor from Abilities Network, an Aberdeen agency. The list also includes a retired Harford County secondary school vice-principal and a high school age summer intern who handled assigned tasks in our family history area.)

The names of our volunteers and the approximate number of hours worked in 2008 are listed below:

Doris Barben	336
Karen Costanzi	23
Mary Hanlon	220
Mary Henderson	52
Jack Jones	180
Dot Kraft	18
Henry Peden	179
Jeanne Poole	207
Jean Sherman	270
Page Smart	128
Joan Wiggins	7
John Hartman	10

Altogether, our volunteers worked a total of 1630 hours in 2008. We greatly appreciate the hard work and dedication of each one of them.

Jack Jones, Chair

NEWSLETTER

Six issues of the Newsletter were sent to the membership in 2008. Each issue contained news of meetings and reports from the chairs of the committees. In addition, pictures from our files were used to give our readers a glimpse of the treasures we have in our collections.

Thank you to Maryanna Skowronski, the assistant editors Judy Plitt and Claire Blackmer for their help with proofreading, and Fred and Gloria Liedlich for doing the labeling and mailing.

Patricia J. Hathaway, Editor

COURT RECORDS

The year, 2008, has come to an end. Each Tuesday through-out the year our volunteers arrive and work diligently abstracting the old court records, carefully handling crumbling bits of paper and mending tears, holes, and the places pierced by the acidity of the home-made inks used at the time. Our records begin in 1774 when legislation was passed to create Harford County. We are now working on records dated 1857.

Early in the year the division of Court Records was moved to a new location sharing space with Archives and the Library. Files, reference books and some boxes were moved to the new space leaving the remainder in the vault and in the basement storage.

Some of our volunteers have given more than 30 years to the job at hand. A heart-felt thank you to all our volunteers, both past and present. Currently, we number eight: Peggy Bishop, Lydia DiStefano, Elsie Kaste, Kathryn Keen, Betty Kruger, Marijane Weeks, Alice Williams and myself, Claire Blackmer. A special thank-you to Roberta Kimball, retired, and a remembrance to Vivian Burns, who passed away in 1994, and who were vital contributors to our work.

We are looking forward to new discoveries and challenges of the coming year.

Claire Blackmer, Chair



*Annual Christmas dinner for the volunteers
The Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club was the location for 2008*

EVENTS

The members of the events committee continue in their efforts to raise funds for the renovation and restoration and maintenance of the society's headquarters. Hosting lectures, teas and special events at headquarters has continued to be successful and has brought many visitors to the Society. The committee strives to make the surroundings attractive by using beautiful flowers, linens, china and delicious food attractively served.

Under the direction of co-chair Glenda Unzelmann, a bus trip to Washington provided a fun day for our fifty six guests. A light breakfast en route, a visit to historic Dumbarton House, lunch at Clyde's in Georgetown and an afternoon at the Lincoln Cottage (Soldier's Home) made an interesting and educational day. Everyone

seemed to enjoy the bus trip home as they relaxed with a glass of wine and snacks.

An auction of furniture, rugs, paintings and assorted accessories was held at the Society Headquarters in October. The items auctioned were donated by friends and businesses. The auction was planned and chaired by our Director, Maryanna Skowronski. Auctioneer Ken Travers and his staff generously donated their time and talents.

In early December, the committee held the annual Open House and Greens Sale. Working hard prior to the sale, the members and friends created arrangements, wreathes and swags of fresh greens and baked delicious desserts. Business was brisk on opening day and the year closed with another successful event.

Lena Caron, Chair



Guests visit the Lincoln Cottage (Soldier's Home) during the annual bus trip

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Historical Society and Hays House Museum

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
24 February	Quarterly Desert Meeting
2 March	Special Exhibit
6 March	Celtic Concert
13 April	Children's Fund Day
4 May	Quarterly Spring Lecture
17 May	Antiques & Collectibles
5 June	Bus Trip to Washington, D.C.
4 July	Independence Day at the Hays House
3 August	Ice Cream Social
18 September	Annual Dinner
5 October	Grandma's Apron
23 November	Archer Lecture
9 November	Native American Exhibit
13 December	Green Sale
7 December	Holiday Open House
14 December	Christmas Concert and Tea at Emanuel Church
18 December	Volunteer Christmas Party



Travelers stop to enjoy lunch on the bus trip to Washington, D.C.

HISTORIC ABERDEEN B & O STATION

In 1960, Bel Air's oldest residence, the 1788 Hays House, was scheduled for demolition. The Historical Society of Harford County rallied to rescue it raising funds and relocating it to its present site. This was the Society's first effort to protect and preserve what would become a variety of important historic buildings throughout Harford County and its municipalities. Over the years the Historical Society of Harford County has been approached by the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission, Harford County Government, the Town of Bel Air, Harford Community College, Preservation Maryland and many members of the

development of the City of Aberdeen. The success of Harford County's canning industry was in large part due to access to the rail line. The station also played a key role in the transportation of military troops to and from APG and to basic training camps during World Wars I and II. The Station is eligible for inclusion in the United States Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places in the categories of Architecture and Transportation. Cara Manley, a Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute graduate student and former Historical Society intern has written the nomination and completed the registration form.



B&O Station, Aberdeen, MD

community with requests for assistance in their preservation efforts. The Historical Society has spoken about or served in an advisory capacity on behalf of the preservation and restoration of the Bel Air Academy and Graded School (the former Board of Education building), Paca's Meadow, Tudor Hall, the Hays-Heighe House and the historic 1885 Aberdeen B&O Station.

Designed by the noted American architect, Frank Furness, the historic Aberdeen B & O station is the last existing one of its design. The building and the B & O railroad which it serviced through the late 1950s played a vital role in the

2008 has seen significant progress made in the effort to preserve the station. \$100,000 in matching grants have been awarded by the Maryland Historical Trust and a \$2,500 contribution from the Emmert Hobbs Foundation was made to perform an environmental assessment of the proposed relocation site upon the acceptance of the land (offered in late 2007) as a donation by CSX. Len Parrish, Historical Society member and retired engineer has agreed to serve as the project manager.

Members of Baltimore's B & O Railway Historical Society continue to discover papers among their collection which give new insight and information about Aberdeen Station. Railway architecture author James Dilts has been researching the station and its connection to Frank Furness. Mr. Dilts now includes the Aberdeen Station in his lectures on Furness' designs and we anticipate the inclusion of the station in his next book.

Maryanna Skowronski

SUPPORTERS

The following people, businesses, foundations and other organizations have supported the work of The HISTORICAL SOCIETY of HARFORD COUNTY, INC. through monetary and in-kind donations.

A Digital Memory	Harford County Executive David Craig
Aberdeen Room and Museum	Harford County Public Library
Archaeological Society of the Northern Chesapeake	<i>Harford Sun</i>
B & O Railway Historical Society	Harford Day School Students
Balsamo, Stewart, Lutters and Ruth, P. A.	HarfordNeighbors.Net/ Tim Wilson
Connie Beims	<i>Harford's Heart Magazine</i>
<i>The Bel Air Bond</i>	Hallie Austen Iglehart
Bel Air Lions Club	Harriet Stokes Iglehart
Roger Bennett and Redbird Flutes	Mary Ann Lisanti
Annette Blum	"Capt." Jim McMahan
Catherine Street Consort	Jerusalem Mill
City of Havre de Grace	The Kinsley Foundation
Country Garden Club of Harford County	Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Kinsley
Charlotte and William Cronin	Liriodendron
Patti Dallam	Henry Lord
Ruth Elliott	Sarah Fenno Lord
Dresher Foundation	<i>Mason-Dixon Arrive Magazine</i>
Josh Dresher	Maryland Historical Trust
Eleanor Hicks Edwards	Dawn Miller Massarelli
Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club	Ed McBride
Emmanuel Episcopal Church / Rev. Paul Moser	Office of Governor Martin O'Malley
Emmert Hobbs Foundation	Preservation Maryland
Cassandra Fortin	Preston's Stationary
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Friedman	Suzanne Skowronski
Richard Gallipi / Harford County Circuit Court	Richard Slutzky
Betty Grimm	Smithson Questers
Harford Cable Network/ <i>Kaleidoscope</i>	Mr. and Mrs. John Stokes
Harford Community College/Susan Nicolaides	<i>The Aegis</i>
Harford County Cultural Arts Board/Natalie Weeks and Martha Valentine	Town of Bel Air
Harford County Department of Facilities and Maintenance	Ken Travers Auctioneer
Harford County Government	Wegmans
	WHFC's <i>The Pub</i> and Tim O'Neill
	Z-Squared Strategies, LLC

ANNUAL GIVING 2008

Elizabeth Claire Albert	George Deibel
Dr. & Mrs. W. Don Allison	Bill & Connie Beim
Liz & Guy Almond	Del Haven Service Center
Deborah Amedoro	Mildred Dennis
Emily Andrews	C. Harry & Carole DeRan
Richard A. Appel	Charles & Anita Diem
John P. Archer, Jr.	Esther Dombrowski
Mary Lyman Archer	Dresher Foundation
Elmer L. Arrington	Virginia M. Dresher
Joe & Kathy Baranoski	Carolyn Drummey
Anne Baranowski	Judith G. Eagle
David J. Baur	Barbara Ehlers
Lorraine Bem	H. Stephen Fender
W. Claire Blackmer	Wendell Fritz
Jo & Bernie Bodt	Mary Alice Furman
Thirza M. Brandt	Joan J. Garrett
William Brieger	Joseph Gutierrez
Edith A. Brown	Mr. & Mrs. Blaine Hans
Dr. John E. Brown	Harford Mutual Ins. Co.
Joann Brucksch	Patricia Hathaway
Barbara Burke	David Heckman
Ruth S. Burns	Arthur & Ann Helton
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Dr. Alvin B. Cole	Blanche S. Jourdan
Phil & Kay Coop	Rose Marie Kalb
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Peggy O'Neill Creel	Ann Middleton Kelly
Mary E. Crisco	William B. Kelly
Elaine W. Crowe	Jeanne H. Kidd
Jackie L. Davis	Mrs. Josephine Kilbourn
Mr. & Mrs. George S. Davis	Catherine M. Kilminster
Janet M. Dawson	Klein's Family Markets
Dean Insurance Agency, Inc.	Hannah Koziski
Carol Deibel	Len & Judy Laylon

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 Mary Scott Mares
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Benjamin Silver
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 H. Jane Turner
 Glenda Unzelmann
 Ruth S. Walker
 Viola Washburn
 Doug Washburn
 Bonnie Watts-Cook
 Edwin & Ann Weaver
 Mari Jane Weeks
 Virginia F. Wetter
 Jo Anne Whale
 Caroline C. Wilcox
 Alice G. Williams
 Edward & Elizabeth Wilsey
 Nancy Wirtanen



Once again the staff of Dean and Brown provided an elegant meal and excellent service at the volunteer dinner

PastPerfect

Plans for creating electronic catalogs in *PastPerfect* for all departments have been implemented. Information has been entered from Archives, Artifacts, Court Records, Family History, and Library.

The index of over 6,000 files housed in Archives is now available to the public on computer thanks to volunteer Jeanne Kidd. Over 1500 pictures have been photographed for later import into *PastPerfect* records by volunteer Phil Carletti and Andrea Plumer. Volunteers, Bill McIntire, Jeanne Kidd, Erin Petersen and Melissa Claybrook have begun to enter the descriptive information for these pictures into the database.

Alan Neutzel and his wife Judy have organized and indexed by owner the personal property tax records for 1896 and 1902 which are now searchable on *PastPerfect*. The entering of information on the post cards available at the Historical Society is in progress with the help of Jane Sudbrink.



PastPerfect team leader Judy Rogers and Dorothy Meyer

Our new chairman of Artifacts, Phil Brundrett, has begun cataloging the objects owned by the society into *PastPerfect*. Volunteer Janet Ruckle and the Questers have already evaluated and entered the quilts and are presently working on the collection of 27 fans.

For over 30 years the volunteers in Court Records have been analyzing and abstracting information from Harford County historical case records going back as far as 1774. Kathryn Keen, for a number of years, has been creating indexed databases on the information the volunteers have found. These computer records have now been transferred to *PastPerfect*. Kathryn is now being

helped by Alan Nuetzel and Erin Petersen in the task of transferring the rest of the court records to *PastPerfect* ready databases.

Genealogy is of great interest to the patrons of the Historical Society. We now have a number of databases to help these patrons. Len Laylon and George Harkins are continually working on and editing the cemetery information. This *PastPerfect* database will be updated regularly. Jeanne Poole's database on the family surnames files is almost ready for entry into *PastPerfect*. Current obituary information gleaned from the Aegis is updated regularly by Doris Barben. Karen Costanzi's listings of the marriage records from 1900 – 1929 can also be searched on *PastPerfect*.

Books, books, and more books can be found in the library records. Over 4,000 items including books, CD-ROMs and tapes have been entered into *PastPerfect* by Carole Kovacs, Janet Ruckle, Judi Short, Emily Andrews and Page Smart. These records are continually being

updated by this volunteer team. Many library databases are also available in *PastPerfect*. Jeanne Poole has indexed and entered over 3,000 library vertical file headings. John Hartman has contributed an index for maps owned by the Society and an index of the Harford County Historical Sites inventory.

Thanks to the persistence of our many dedicated *PastPerfect* volunteers the *PastPerfect* searchable database is growing. Come in and search!

Judy Rogers, Chair

TECH CORNER

Significant, although not always visible, changes have taken place with the computers at Headquarters, both as expansion to the original *PastPerfect* system, as well as preparation for 2009.

You may recall that two new computers were added for *PastPerfect* in 2007 thanks to a generous donation. Another, bringing the total to four, will be added in 2009. Tech support is also provided for the Director's computer. But as the *PastPerfect* project has grown, administration of the individual computers has become very time consuming. 1st Vice-President Millicent Jordan and her husband, Kent, graciously donated a server (a computer), software and, *most importantly*, the knowledge to do the setup.

The new client-server network should be functional in early 2009. With this architecture, changes can be implemented once via the server rather having to make multiple changes at each individual client (the four *PastPerfect* computers). Additionally, this architecture allows remote access for administrative personal, which should mean timelier responses to service requests.

Donations of other network equipment (switches and hubs) has simplified our wiring

needs, and yet we managed to string nearly 500 feet of Ethernet cable throughout the building. The Harford County Genealogical Society donated an external hard-drive for system backups, a fire box to provide a safe-haven for the drive, and a Windows XP Professional operating system for the original *PastPerfect* computer donated by El Penski.

The work-horse laser printer now connects via the network and is accessible by all computers. A new color printer was added in the Archives area, mainly to provide color labels with images for the Artifacts collection. The new heating system will also be accessible over this network, allowing for more control, and therefore financial savings. To support this functionality, the internet service was upgraded for both speed and internet address.

In 2008, approximately 100 hours of time was spent maintaining the computers at headquarters. Who would have thought that the donation of a single computer and software (by El Penski in 2006) would have lead to a full fledge client-server arrangement such in a relative brief period of time?

Doug Washburn & Rich Appel

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2008 Annual Report layout compliments of

A DIGITAL MEMORY

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2008 VOLUNTEERS

Emily Andrews	Mary Hanlon
Rich Appel	George Harkins
Anne Baranowski	Vern Hart
Doris Barben	Betty Hartman
Jeanne Bayer	John Hartman
Margaret Bishop	Barbara Hastings
Claire Blackmer	Pat Hathaway
Annetta Bloxham	Mary Henderson
Bernie Bodt	Richard Herbig
George Borneman	Liz Hicks
Stephanie Borneman	Dave Hodge
Jean Boyer	Linda Holly
Phil Brundrett	Denise Hutchinson
Phil Carletti	Hannah Hutchinson
Mary Cardwell	Holly Hutchinson
Robert Cardwell	Jack Jones
Beth Caron	Kent Jordan
Lena Caron	Millicent Jordan
Roger Caron	Midge Kalb
Sherry Carroll	Kathryn Keen
Bob Cassilly	Jeannie Kidd
James Chrismer	Roberta Kimball
Jane Christie	Dale Knapp
Melissa Claybrook	Carole Kovacs
Dan Coates	Fred Krug
Laura Ashley Cooper	Elizabeth Kruger
Dottie Corbin	Len Laylon
Mary Corddry	Heather Lee
Denise Demsher	Betsy Lehmann
Adrienne DeRan	Fred Liedlich
Lydia DiStefano	Gloria Liedlich
Dinah Faber	Karly Lindloff
Stephen Fender	Mary Mares
Rebekah Floyd	Robert Marks
Ceil Fox	William McIntyre
Richard Fox	Kay Menchey
Patti Francone	Robert Mercado
MaryAlice Furlow	Dorothy Meyer
Melissa Grafe	Madison Meyer

Mary Lynn Meyer
 Shirley Miller
 Cay Moore
 Jessica Moore
 Alan Neutzel
 Judy Neutzel
 Henry Peden
 Elwin Penski
 Erin Petersen
 Jeanne Poole
 Rob Preston
 Phil Raub
 Pete Riecks
 Judy Rogers
 Janet Ruckle
 Donna Sanborn
 John Sauers
 Jeffrey Sawyer
 Anna Scholl
 Emma Scholl
 Gary Scholl
 Kathy Scholl
 Sarah Scholl
 Jean Sherman
 Richard Sherrill
 Judy Short
 Page Smart
 Susan Smith
 Chris Smithson
 John Sobus
 Patrick Spicer
 Dorothy Stambaugh
 Jane Sudbrink
 Joe Swisher
 Sue Swisher
 Jane Turner

Glenda Unzelmann
 Werner Unzelmann
 Doug Washburn
 Marijane Weeks
 Joan Wiggins
 Alice Williams
 Edward Wilsey
 James Wollon
 Susan Wooden



Governor's certificate for Cherish the Ladies

WEB SITE

WWW.HARFORDHISTORY.ORG

▪ Status of the Website

In March 2008, our hosting service, IX Web Hosting of Hopkinsville, Kentucky moved to its new Ecommerce Inc., Data Center in Columbus, Ohio with optical fiber lines and more speed for loading. We can now use up to 400 gigabytes of online storage space. Currently our website only uses less than 90 million bytes, but it is growing. Some of the information added in 2008 includes the 2007 Annual Report and the Online War Memorial. Also, Susan Wooden did an excellent job of updating the Hays House Website and rewrote the History of the Hay House.



One hundred and sixty three postings of our website have been archived since 2000 at the Internet Archive Wayback Machine, collaborating with many institutions including the Library of Congress, the California Digital Library, U.S. Government Printing Office, and the Smithsonian.

▪ Website activity -- Hits

Between 2002 and 2008 the Society's web site has seen more than 2.5 millions total hits, and activity has increased nearly five-fold during the same time period.

▪ Growing Advantages of Online Publication

The Tribune Company, the parent of many local newspapers including *The Aegis* and *Baltimore Sun*,

filed for bankruptcy on Dec. 8, 2008. The *Christian Science Monitor* and *U.S. News & World Report* have decided to abandon "print on paper" publications and move online. There are millions of books online. People are becoming more comfortable reading a small laptop than a book or newspaper. Online publications are greener, better at targeting the needs of customers and superior at interacting with customers. Online publications can easily reach a larger audience than print publications. Large color photographs, maps, posters, or family trees can be posted online and displayed on large screens or by scrolling around small screen green LED displays. Distributing color paper copies of such large items is very expensive.

▪ The Revolution in Genealogy

According to some sources, the spending of weeks in dusty old archives is just a memory for genealogists. Genealogical research has become one of the most popular activities on the internet. This change has been fueled by an explosion of the number of digitized date bases that are available. Among volunteer and commercial organizations, revolutionary advances are coming very quickly.

▪ Thinking About the Coming Changes

Those of us who are interested in preserving the history of our families, county, and country have some challenging things to ponder. Consider for example, if all the documents and books in Headquarters were properly scanned, all the information could fit in a fist full of flash drives and queried in seconds. This is both frightening and exciting. How should we plan for the future? What will happen to the files of The Aegis if they close? Will there be a need for printing or storing paper maps? Will museums of the future contain only wall size LED interactive displays?

El Penski. Webmaster

Harford Historical Bulletin

Current and back issues

- #94 One & Two Room Schoolhouses of Northern Harford County, Part 1: District 5 Dublin
- #95 History of the Susquehanna Baseball League 1946-1953 - Part II
- #96 One & Two Room Schoolhouses of Northern Harford County, Part 2: District 4 Marshall
- #97 Recollections of Early Havre de Grace: Excerpts by E.N. Woodhouse
- #98 Edwin Booth: Harford County's Prince of Players, Parts 1
- #99 Edwin Booth: Harford County's Prince of Players, Parts 2
- #100 Mary Eliza Watters Risteau: First Woman To The State Capitol
- #101 The Colored Schools of Harford County: Separate and Equal? Part 1
- #102 The Colored Schools of Harford County: Separate and Equal? Part 2
- #103 Tinsmithing in 19th Century Harford County
- #104 Joseph and Ann Hall: Behind the Scenes at Tudor Hall
- #105 Decade of Delay: The Desegregation of Harford County Public Schools - Part 1
- #106 Russell and Kate Lord - Harford's Artists of The Land
- #107 Decade of Delay: The Desegregation of Harford County Public Schools - Part 2

Topics of future publications

The Hollingworths of Wilna

Harford's Soldiers in WWI

George L. Van Bibber's History of Bel Air

The History of The HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY

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*Programs made possible in part by a grant from Harford County Government and
the Maryland State Arts Council through the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.*

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MISSION STATEMENT

The HISTORICAL SOCIETY of HARFORD COUNTY, Inc. is a not for profit membership organization whose mission is to collect, preserve, promote, and interpret the rich and diverse history of the County area in its regional context from its prehistoric origins to the present.

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The HISTORICAL SOCIETY of HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.

Headquarters

143 North Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014-0366
(410) 838-7691

Hays House Museum

324 South Kenmore Avenue
Bel Air, MD 21014
(410) 838-1213 [Sundays only]

Hours of Operation

Tuesday

Court Records

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Wednesday

Archives

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Thursday

Resource Library

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Fourth Saturday

Archives / Resource Library

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sunday

Hays House Museum

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
March to mid-December
and by appointment

Anytime

On the Web

www.harfordhistory.org
HARCHIS@MSN.com

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of this report are available upon request at the Historical Society and on the web at www.harfordhistory.org

The HISTORICAL SOCIETY of HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.

143 North Main Street

Bel Air, MD 21014

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED