HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY

The Inkwell

SPRING 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Renew your membership today!

CECIL'S GOT HISTORY

By Paula Newton

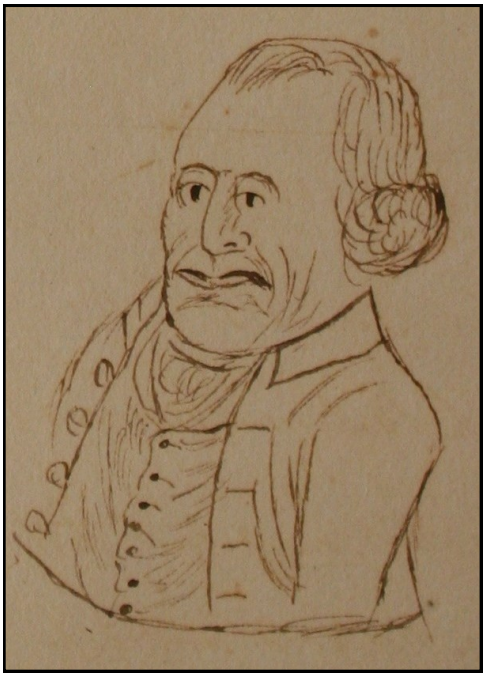
While perusing the Cecil County Assessments book for 1786-94, our volunteers were surprised to find a whimsical drawing of a colonial gentlemen on a page entitled "Collector's Bond for the Foregoing Tax of 1789".

The document authorized Archibald Williams, Charles Williams and William Hamilton to be tax collectors for Cecil County and it was witnessed by Stephen Hyland, Richard Savin and Adam Wallace.

The volunteers referred to him as The Doodler and began to use his image on correspondence. We soon realized that we had the perfect image to use as a brand for the Historical Society!

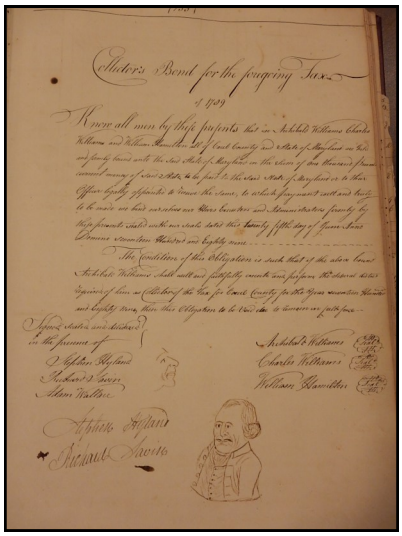
Ideas for promotional possibilities flourished, but he needed a name. After much consideration, it seemed the obvious name for our colonial gentleman was Cecil.

You are invited to take Cecil on a tour of his old stomping grounds and farther afield and send us a selfie of you holding this page. We imagine that Cecil was a well-traveled fellow but he's been closed up in that dusty old tax assessment book for 222 years.



Let's show Cecil the world.

Send your picture via e-mail to www.cchistory.org or a printed copy to the Historical Society at 135 E. Main St., Elkton, MD 21921 or post it to our Facebook page.



President's Corner

Hi Members,

It was difficult getting back into the swing of things after the holidays, but we are hitting our stride with all our volunteers back to working on their projects.

Our digitization efforts have moved ahead by leaps and bounds and you will be hearing more about that later.

The curators have the outline for the new exhibit in the Maryland Room that will feature prominent citizens of Cecil County.

The library staff is busy cataloging the new accessions and helping patrons. The program committee has tons of ideas for future events including a bigger and better than ever annual member recognition dinner.

There are also several volunteers taking care of administrative matters like bookkeeping and membership.

Your president is just trying to keep all these groups rolling along in harmony to bring you a user friendly and informative one stop shop for all your history needs!

How do you like Cecil? Show us by taking that selfie and sending it in.

Also, come join us on First Fridays for light refreshments and lively history chats. You never know who you might run into.

I'm looking forward to seeing or hearing from all of our members in the coming year.

Help keep history alive,

Paula Newton
President

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Do you want to get involved? Contact us! remembrance@hscc.org

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INKWELL DESIGN BY FRAZIER WALKER

HSCC wants to email the Inkwell to as many members as possible!

Please submit to @ kloft@udel.edu

2016 Schedule of Events

Our programing series continues to educate and entertain all those who attend!

Our November program was held in conjunction with the society's Annual Meeting. Award-winning actress Mary Ann Jung portrayed "Rosie the Riveter". "Rosie" used volunteers from the audience to recreate the fascinating WW II story of Rose Leigh Monroe, who worked at the largest factory in the world — Willow Run in Michigan.

Joining the show were Walter Pidgeon (AKA board member Dave Holsten), President and Mrs. Roosevelt (AKA board member Travis Humiston and society president Paula Newton), and Charles Lindbergh (AKA Judge Kenneth Wilcox).

Our second annual Bootleggers' Ball was held in December. The authors of **"**Forgotten Maryland Cocktails: A History of Drinking in the Free State," Gregory and Nicole Priebe, were our special guests. After a very entertaining talk, the Priebes signed copies of their book. The crowd then went to North Street Hotel, to celebrate the repeal of prohibition with host, Jimmy Nicholson.

February's program was genealogy related. Jo Ann Gardner's talk, "The Lost 90s", helped attendees tackle the problem of the 1890 U.S. Census. Jo Ann gave us a history of the 1890 census and how it was destroyed by fire and neglect. After her presentation, the audience was welcome to do research in the society's library.

Mark these dates on your calendar:

April 2: Mike Dixon will present. To coincide with the Maryland Primary Election on April 26, his topic is Women's Suffrage.

May 7: Erika Quesenbery Sturgill will join us.

June 4: Happy Birthday, Cecil County! Join us in celebrating Cecil County's 342nd birthday.

All events held at the Historical Society of Cecil County.

All Programs Held at
Historical Society of
Cecil County
135 E. Main Street,
Elkton
410-398-1790

$5 for non-members

MEMBERS ARE FREE!

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What If...The Pine Barrens Had Not Been Mined?

By Travis Humiston

Recently, as I was helping to sort through photos for the Cheeseman Collection at the Cecil County Historical Society, I came across a series of pictures with the title 'Nature is A Mutable Cloud'. Attached to the photographs was an article from an issue of the Cecil Whig dated August 8, 1979.

Eshelman looks across Octoraro Creek near the Nottingham Barrens, August 1979. Photo courtesy Cheeseman Collection, CCHS

The article went on to describe how a woman named Rose Eshelman was fighting to keep the Frezzo Brothers of Avondale, Pennsylvania from selling 230 acres of land in the Goat Hill area to the Corrado Brothers excavating contractors of Wilmington, Delaware for the purpose of operating a quarry.

At the time of the article the Corrado Brothers were seeking a zoning variance because the land was zoned for agricultural use rather than industrial and Rose was mounting a case against the variance citing environmental, safety, and health reasons.

As I read the article, I realized that the issue I was reading about had been decided over 35 years ago and I was suddenly very curious to know what happened. I figured given the size of the land that if a quarry had recently been operating in the area it would most likely show up on a map. Not being near a computer I quickly pulled out my phone, pulled up a satellite image and zoomed in on the Conowingo area to reveal that there indeed was a quarry in the Pine Barrens.

I wondered "what if?" for a brief second before filing the photos away. In the Whig article Eshelman cites environmental concern as her number one issue with the zoning variance. The article then goes on to describe several species of flora and fauna that can only survive in a barren such as the Aleutian maiden hair fern, the Fimbristylis darlingtonian and the rare Buck moth (Hemileuca maia),as well as some that can only survive in the Goat Hill area such as the Hairy legged chickweed. It was sad to think that some of those plants and animals may be extinct.

A barren is given its name for its inability to sustain heavy growth or support plant cultivation; something the early settlers found very unpleasant. Underneath the Goat Hill Barrens sits serpentine rock which has a dark greenish color and looks something like a snake skin. In the most characteristic form the top soil is so thin the serpentine rock shows through in many places. Also called the State-Line Barrens the Goat Hill Barrens represent a very rare type of ecosystem. The topsoil is typically very shallow as the rock does not drain well and prevents very much accumulation. Over time as the rock erodes it leaches minerals such as nickel, cobalt, chromium and magnesium into the soil which have a toxic effect on plants. The soil also typically lacks adequate calcium and other nutrients due to the lack of soil.

Interestingly, prior to human settlement the Pine Barrens typically consisted of other types of trees. It is said that barrens are fire dependent and without periodic burning, species such as Virginia pine will push their way in and disrupt the delicate ecosystem. Fire also hardens the characteristic oak trees in the area and provides nutrients to support the other native species. However in the early 1900's fire suppression practices were put in place to prevent wildfires from spreading over the land. Subsequently the small area of serpentine barrens along the US east coast has shrank as these external

forces have exerted their will and changed the dynamics of the environment.
I also learned that the Goat Hill has had other uses over the years. From 1827-1881 the area hosted several chromium ore mines and circa 1850 the area was the world's leading source for chromium. Previously and subsequently the title went to the country of Turkey. Other types of mines operating in the State-Line Barrens were sodium feldspar and building stone. The mines were small in size and luckily did not disrupt much of the area. The chromium mines were all owned or controlled by a man named Isaac Tyson, Jr. of Baltimore. The ore was first mined and then shipped via the Rising Sun station of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore railroad to Baltimore, where it was finally distributed around the world.

The Maryland Geological Survey of Cecil County from 1902 describes the timber of the barrens and its use by charcoal burners to make charcoal. The barrens could yield as much as 30 cords per acre or as little as 10 cords per acre in the areas that were thinned out by fire. When properly burned a cord of wood could yield 25 bushels of charcoal.

So "what if" the Corrado brothers had not established their serpentine quarry? After all it was in response to their development endeavor that parts of the area had first become saved from development. Yes, in the early 1980's much of the Goat Hill Area became protected by the Bureau of Forestry and the Nature Conservancy. Roses group of Concerned Citizens of West Nottingham Township were successful in preserving the individuality of the barrens. Since then the State of Pennsylvania, the University of Maryland and the Federal Government have gone on to protect even more of the State Line Barrens. Of course the Corrado Brothers were successful too. A quarry did go up on the edge of the barrens in non-critical areas and still operates to this day.

If Ralph Waldo Emerson's quote from the title of the 1979 Whig Article arguably means that nature is both changing all the time and always staying the same then it appears that our relationship with the barrens is the same. While not used for farming, Native Americans were said to have burned it and utilized the open space. Settlers mined its rock and sent it all over the world. In the industrial age we transformed its timber into charcoal for heat and steam and today we keep the area alive by preserving it.

A small section of the barrens was transformed into a recreational trail, the main branch of which is called, you guessed it, the Rose trail. The area and the trails are used for education and research as well as hiking, biking and other outdoor activities. As the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation continues to care for the area we can look forward to preserving the buck moth and the Alution maiden hair fern for a long time to come.

For information on visiting the Goat Hill Barrens and the Rose Trail visit the following website:
http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/pennsylvania/placesweprotect/goat-hill-serpentine-barrens.xml

Cub Scout Pack 13

L to R: Travis Castaneda, Ryan Mayes, Pierce Wyman, Ben Adams, Brayden Muller

Have you found answers to your Cecil County family history mysteries?

Share your Stories!

remembrance@hscc.org

Welcome HSCC Members!

Valerie Abrams — North East, MD

Robert Barwick — Wallkill, NY

Bonita Cherry— Elkton, MD

Michael Churchman — Bryn Mawr, PA

David Craig — Havre de Grace, MD

Ken Creeden — Rising Sun, MD

Connie Olah Miller — Elkton, MD

Lillian Rippa — Smyrna, DE

Marie Roberts — North East, MD

Bob & Gail Russell — Hockessin, DE

Alexis Sherman — Scarsdale, NY

Christopher Stumpf — North East, MD

Ellen Edmanson Young — La Cañada, CA

Introducing: New Board Members

L to R: Trustee Dave Holsten, Nominating Chair Karen Peterson, Vice-President Beth Boulden Moore, President Paula Newton, and Trustee Travis Humiston

David Holsten — resident of Cecil County for 25 years, many of those years living in an early home on Nottingham Lot 35. For more than 10 years I've been involved with local historic architecture through participation as a board member with the Cecil Historical Trust. In addition to my interest in local history, I enjoy photography of all types.

Travis Humiston — raised in Waterbury, Connecticut. He graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in May of 2007 with a Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering Technology. Travis then moved to Maryland to work at Aberdeen Proving Ground as a Test Director and purchased a house in Cecil County in 2010. Travis lives in the small village of Zion and found the Historical Society of Cecil County while doing research on his 1860's farm house. He began volunteering with the society in 2014. Travis enjoys working on and preserving his home, gardening, and cycling on the weekends with his wife Shannon.

Accession Report *By Carol Donache*

- Melinda Watson—Scans of three photographs of Robert Kennedy's funeral train passing through Elkton
- Cecil Whig—Sixteen 35mm slides used in promotion of the Cecil Whig
- Michael Dixon—booklet from 51st Freedom Fund Banquet of the Cecil County branch of the NAACP
- Darlene McCall—Sepia toned photograph of Gilpin Manor pastureland
- Michael Dixon—Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Management Plan, May 2000
- Elkton High School—Football Committee minutes, correspondence, and financial reports from Elkton High School
- William Hollifield—Nine postcards and eighteen letters from George Steele to E.J.W. Revell
- Maggie Creshkoff—Watercolor of small cabin painted by the late Edith Kilby
- Amazon.com—two softbound books: "Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland" and "John Smith's Chesapeake Voyages"
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission softbound book: "Susquehanna's Indians"
- Tom Simpson—Softbound book: "A Guide to Civil War Sites in Maryland"
- Joseph Lee Boyle—Softbound book with blue cover: "Very Impudent When Drunk or Sober: Delaware Runaways"
- Anthony T. Quinn—Hardcover book with green cover and a painting titled "Robert Somers Brookings: Businessman, Philanthropist, Visionary"
- Historical Society of Harford County — Soil Survey of Cecil County, Maryland December 1973; RiverTalk MD Spring/Summer 2003 Premier Issue; Cecil County Public Schools Annual Report 1993-1994; Report of Cecil 2000 Community Forum, May 14, 1994
- Cecil County Historic Tour Guide
- Clara Mearns Wyatt—Eight documents regarding the property entitled "Simper's Meadows" including grants, surveys, and deeds, dating from the late 1700s to the 1840s
- Patricia Merk—Hardbound book: "The Dunlanys of Maryland, c1955"
- Gail Jackson Strobeck—Deeds (Perryville); description and history of Perry Point; history of Rodgers' Tavern
- Suzanne K. Rhoades—3-ring binder of obituaries for burials in Bethel Cemetery
- Poster-sized color photos of 2nd, 3rd, and 7th Annual Mid-Atlantic Car Show & Nostalgia Drags drivers. Two color posters advertising the 3rd and 5th Annual Mid-Atlantic Car Show & Nostalgia Drags.
- Melinda Watson—Eight digital scans of original photos of Main Street in Elkton, and on digital scan of the photographer, Annie Ingram
- Dot Clark—Nine color photographs of Sterrett family cemetery One sheet listing graves found in Sterrett family cemetery
- Amazon.com—Softbound tow volume set: "A Methodist Trail" by William C. Jason, Jr.
- Henry Peden—Softbound book: "Cecil County, Maryland Marriage References and Family relationships" copy
- Francis W. Strahorn—Two softbound copies of "The Account of F. W. Strahorn in WWII: B-29 Pilot from Elkton, MD"
- Darlene McCall—"index to the 300th anniversary commemorative book Historical Sketches and pictures of Cecil County, MD"
- Joe Jackson—Three funeral invitations, ca. 1890s
- Can of original photograph of race car belonging to Steve Ash; scan of original documents: certificate from American Hot Rod Association, April 19, 1970 and advertising the Cecil County Dragway opening March 1963
- Cecil County Department of Emergency Services—black 3-ring notebook of clippings and photographs pertaining to CCES
- Louiseann Klerk—three unused black and white photo postcards of Elk River Indian Village
- Rebecca A. Smith—two sepia toned photographs of classes at George Biddle School in Cecilton, 1920s
- Roger Kirkey—CD of b&w photographs of the Chrysler Tank Plant and program from tank demonstration. Blue notebook containing copies of some of the photos and the program from the CD (filed in vertical files)
- Joh Abrahams—Three CDs of photographs taken by the donor interspersed with commentary.

Colonial Era Cecil County-Made Clock Completes 250 Year Swing—Part II

by Brian McCandless, Co-Curator

In this follow-up installment on the Benjamin Chandlee, Jr. tall case clock, I describe its conservation and provide a brief historical snapshot of the Chandlee clockmakers and their world in the Colonial-era in the mid-Atlantic region. The clock was made in the Nottingham Lots, now part of Cecil County, around 1765 and was donated to the Historical Society of Cecil County in 2014 by Mrs. Anne Krestensen.

When I arrived at Bozman, Maryland to pick up the clock, it was partially assembled in a room of the second floor of the nearly empty home of Mr. Denton Miller, father of Anne Krestensen. The metal parts such as weights, bells, winding key, etc., were wrapped in plastic and were placed in a box along with some loose pieces of wood whose purpose was not evident initially. The clock face was marred by concentric black stains and most of the black numerals were missing from their engraved recesses on the face (Figure 1). The engraved boss was likewise marred but the cabinet was in remarkably good shape. In the following year I visited two museums where Chandlee tall case clocks have been restored and are on display: Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, Delaware and at the Museum of the Shenandoah, in Winchester Virginia. After seeing those clocks and talking to the curators, I realized that the Historical Society of Cecil County was not in a position to *restore* the clock, but we could certainly *conserve* the clock to minimize deterioration; therefore we decided to stabilize the clock rather than try to make it “as-new”.

Before I undertook the conservation process, and while things were in a state of disassembly, I photographed the parts and made measurements of selected components of the clock. I was especially interested in the metal alloy compositions of the clock’s bells, weights, pulley, since

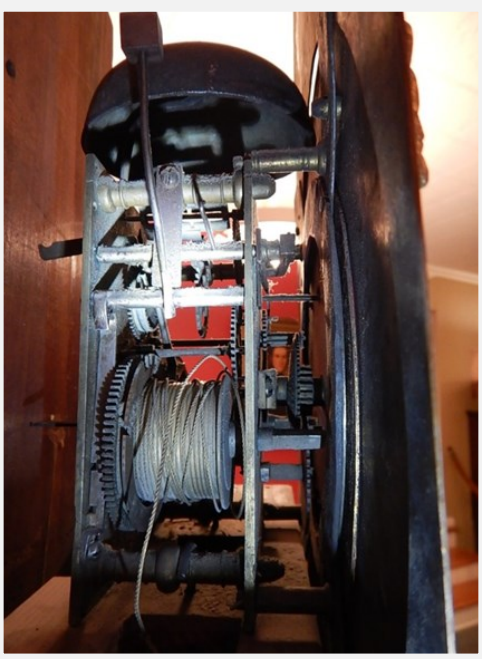

Figure 1. The face and clockwork mechanism of the Benjamin Chandlee Jr clock.

some of those might have been cast and forged right there in the Nottingham Lots. This exercise could reveal which parts, if any, were related, and therefore may have been made at the same time using the same stock materials. For this I employed a non-destructive x-ray analysis called fluorescence. The measurement simply involved placing

the parts in an x-ray machine that analyzes a spectrum of low energy x-rays produced by fluorescence. I examined the pendulum, the one weight pulley, the weight cases, and the two bells.

The pendulum weight face (Figure 2) is polished and has a uniform composition consistent with what is known as "yellow brass", the American term for brass with 33% zinc. Such brasses were developed in England In 1723 by the Bristol brass maker Nehemiah Champion, who patented the use of granulated copper, produced by pouring molten metal into cold water, to increase the copper surface area, helping it react with zinc and allowing zinc content up to 33% by weight to be obtained.

Figure 2. The face of the brass pendulum weight – the stripe is residue from tape which had been used many years ago for storing the weight.

The pendulum weight backside is rough and contains mostly tin, with small amounts of copper, zinc, and selenium. There are inch-sized black regions which are richer in selenium and copper, with chemical formula of approximately $CuSe_2$, which is the mineral Krutaite. The contrast between the front and back of the pendulum, both visually and compositionally, suggest that it was open-cast and that the exposed side was finished and polished, while the cast-side was left rough, with the impurities it absorbed from the substrate on which it was cast, namely a tin-rich medium contaminated with come copper selenide.

Two brass weights (Figure 3), having very different appearance, accompanied the clock. The case of one, somewhat crude, and dented, has the composition of "cartridge brass", containing 70% copper and 30% zinc. It is open at the top and has been filled with lead. The other, more refined and brighter in appearance, has finely knurled rims, a screw-on lid, and a more modern composition, similar to "yellow brass" used in the mid-to-late 1800's, containing small amounts of tin and lead. I would venture to guess that the former is original and has become damaged over the years, while the latter is a 19th century replacement.

Figure 3. The weights for driving the clockwork and bell mechanisms.

The bronze bells (Figure 4), of different size and sound frequency, have similar alloy composition, with 85% copper and 15% tin and have similar appearance and mold patterns – they were likely fabricated at the same time.

Figure 4. The bronze bells, only one of which can be used at a time. The left, smaller bell is pitched a fourth higher than the larger bell.

With only one pulley provided, the surviving pulley was used as a model to fabricate a new one (Figure 5).

The original has a wheel-and-shackle made of copper-rich, soft brass known as "low brass", held together with a rivet containing some tin, which hardens it – this way, the wear is all transferred to the pulley wheel and is not taken up by the rivet. The new one I fabricated uses modern yellow brass pulley-and-shackle and bronze rivet. To make the new

pulley, the wheel was turned on a lathe and grooved along its perimeter using hand-held steel tools ground to shape.

Figure 5. The original pulley (left) and parts used to fabricate a new pulley (center).

The shackle was made by transferring a pattern to sheet brass, cutting it out by hand with a saw, grinding it to final shape, drilling the rivet holes, then annealing the brass to soften it slightly to bend it around a tight-radius steel rod. The rivet was cut slightly long, annealed, and hand forged in-place to anchor the shackle to the wheel. Making the new pulley took over 8 hours, including the 1 hour needed to make the lathe tools.

The clockwork was very dusty, so to clean it I modified a light-duty vacuum-cleaner with a "soda straw" tip to reach inside the mechanism without damaging any of the delicate parts contained within the brass movement. The winding key, bearing the stamped number "13" (Figure 6) is made of a turned walnut knob mounted on a hand-forged iron shaft and key.

In re-assembling the clock in its case, several problems were immediately obvious. First, and most importantly, Mrs. Krestensen had related that one of the weight cables had broken during the clock's extended stay at the Baltimore Museum of Art. This had the unfortunate consequence of the released weight smashing through the base plate of the clock with the ultimate loss of that pulley. This answered the question about those loose pieces of wood, and with a little perseverance, I found that three of them properly oriented formed a single piece.

From the dent made in the top of the base plate, as well as the broken cable, it was obvious that the right-side weight cable, controlling the bell striker, broke, releasing the weight to smash into the base plate, shattering it into three large pieces and numerous now-lost shards. To reassemble the plate without those missing shards I opted for a technique used in wooden boat conservation, in which the missing voids are "filleted" with an epoxy resin containing a filler material. This involved clamping the fragments to a wax paper substrate and building up the missing cavities with the viscous resin – these areas of repair allowed me to confidently re-install the original board into the clock.

Second, a nearly foot-long section of molded walnut base-board was missing, from the right side of the clock. I sought help in fabricating a new matching part from Robert McKeown Jr., cabinet maker and descendant of the Chandlee family. He took rubbings

Figure 6. The original hand-forge winding key with the number "13" stamped on the key shaft end.

from the end of the existing molding from which he created a profile to make a scraping plane blade (Figure 7). On the evening of September 2, 2015 we met in his shop to cut and shape a new piece of dried walnut heartwood – we spent about 2 hours planning the edge to match that of the clock molding. To finish, I rubbed it with several coats of walnut oil followed by several rubbings of 'French polish', consisting of a mixture of shellac and alcohol applied with a pad dipped in boiled linseed oil.

Third, a means of leveling the clockwork mechanism and face atop the cabinet was missing. Without it, the clock face sits low on the left side by about a half inch. I made a wedge from a left-over walnut piece and tapered it to allow its position to be varied, to level the clock face and anchor it to the cabinet with a screw on each side. Original mounting holes are located on either side of the wooden clock mechanism plate which will allow the clockwork to be firmly attached to the case.

Now that the clock is stabilized, it will soon to be part of the HSCC permanent exhibit, which will detail the story of the Chandlee family of artisans and their contributions to surveying and time-keeping in colonial America. The second half of this article reviews the early period of clock making and the beginning of clock-making in mid-Atlantic America, before the Maryland-Pennsylvania line had been surveyed by Mason and Dixon.

Clock making, as we know it, began in 1602 when the Italian scientist Galileo Galilei (1564-1623) investigated the relationship between a pendulum's length and its period of swing – the longer it is, the more time it takes to complete one swing. By adjusting the pendulum length, any weight could be made to mark out a unit of time. The pendulum was soon adopted as the most common way of moving the gears and wheels contained within clocks and by 1670, the English clockmaker William Clement, in Norfolkshire, had determined that creating pendulums of roughly a yard in length would generate a constant movement of roughly one second for every full swing. In 1671 he added the escapement known as the "recoil" which minimally interfered with the pendulum movement. Clement's designs were so accurate that his clocks were among the first to feature "second" hands because they were capable of marking off the time to the nearest second. He went on to further enclose the entire mechanism and pendulum inside of a wooden box, creating what we now know as the "long case" clock. This development of accurate clocks, and later, watches and chronometers, was a key aspect of the expansion of the British Empire, through their contribution to surveying and to maritime navigation, in both maritime and commercial arenas.

In 1655 Abel Cottey was born in Devon, England to a Quaker family. Little is known of his life until he emigrated to America in 1682, on-

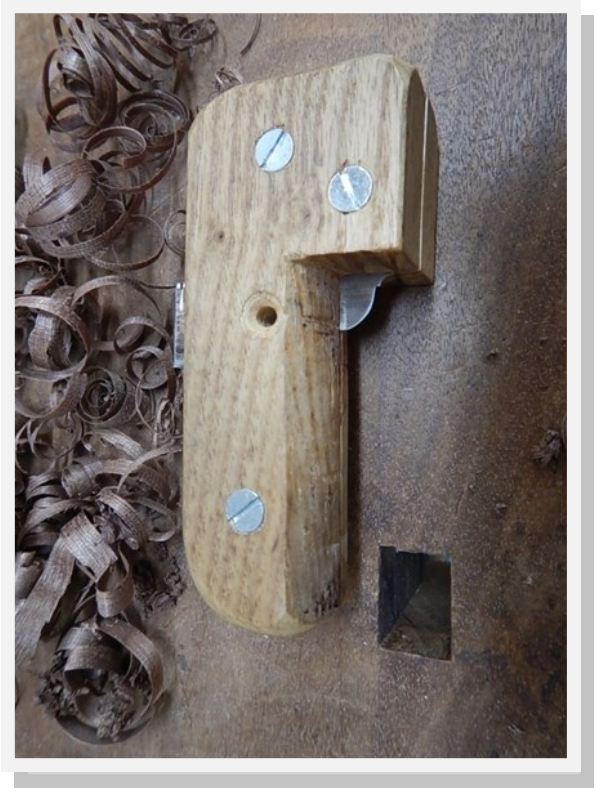

Figure 7. The profiling plane (top) made by Robert McKeown Jr. for finishing the base molding replacement piece (bottom).

Historical Society of Cecil County
135 E. Main Street
Elkton, MD. 21921
Cecil's Heritage Keepers

board the same ship as William Penn, the Welcome, which sailed from Deal, England on 31 August 1682 and arrived in the Delaware River at New Castle on 27 October 1682. In the same year, Mr. Cottey settled in Philadelphia, eventually opening a workshop where in 1709 he became the first documented clockmaker in America. He apprenticed many other clockmakers, including Benjamin Chandlee, Sr. who is identified as the father of Benjamin Chandlee, Jr., the maker of our donated clock. All-together, there were six famous clockmakers, known today as the "Six Quaker Clockmakers" as told in the 1943 book of the same name by Edward E. Chandlee. Benjamin Chandlee, Sr. was married to Abel Cottey's daughter Sarah, thereby linking the two names Cottey and Chandlee ever since. The Chandlee family moved to the Nottingham area of Chester County in Pennsylvania, putting the Chester County clockmakers on the map as America's first and foremost.

In 1701 William Penn and a Quaker contingent met to identify and dedicate 40 acres in Nottingham for Quaker worship, leading to the construction of the first Meeting House and later, the Brick Meeting House. In 1702 William Penn seized "buffer principality" below the 40th parallel which became the Nottingham Lots, consisting of 37 lots of 500 acres each. In 1710, one year after Abel Cottey built the first known clock in America, Benjamin Chandlee and Sarah Cottey married, Benjamin having started his apprenticeship. In 1711 Abel Cottey died. In
1712 Benjamin and Sarah moved to "Randalls Prospect", Nottingham Lot 15, on which property the original house still stands. Our clockmaker, Benjamin Chandlee, Jr. was born on January 22, 1723. In 1741 Benjamin and Sarah sold Lot 15 to James Trimble, and they moved to Delaware. In the same year Benjamin Jr. and Cottey and brother William moved to the 59 acre farm bought in 1703, including the common.

By the 1760's issues of time and place were reaching a head on land and at sea. In 1761 John Harrison's famous (1693-1776) longitude time keeper the "H4" watch sea trials were undertaken. In 1763 William Penn arranged meetings between Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon through John Bird, with letters from Penn and Calvert to Governor Sharp of Maryland announcing "geometrical surveyors" were to be employed. On September 3, 1763, Mason and Dixon departed London for the New World. In 1764 they began surveying from "post mark'd west" now on the Pennsylvania-Maryland line. In 1765 the Society's Benjamin Chandlee tall clock was fabricated. Benjamin Chandlee Jr. died on September 18, 1791.