

BULLETIN

OF

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY

No. 4

Lower Ferry, Maryland

October 15, 1956

MAY 1956 MEETING

Expansion in membership, attendance, and interest was manifested at the Society's spring meeting held in the auditorium of Calvert High School on the evening of Monday, May 21, 1956. In addition to receiving 31 new members, a record number, the attendance was the largest of any meeting since the Society was organized.

The historic background, the verdant landscape, and pleasant weather collaborated in making the event a successful one. After visitors had been afforded an opportunity to inspect the interior of Brick Meeting House, the oldest house of religious worship still standing within the borders of Cecil County, the PTA of Calvert served a turkey dinner, in the course of which John Marshall Butler, senior U.S. Senator from Maryland, was introduced as a distinguished guest.

Following the dinner, the President conducted a brief business session, and then presented as the speaker Dr. George E. Gifford, Jr., who gave a scholarly and informative address on "The Friends of the Nottingham Lotts". His talk was illustrated with views in color of many of the early homes of Nottingham. Dr. Gifford gave interesting accounts of a number of the first families who settled on the 37 lots granted by William Penn in 1701 and paid tribute to those hardy pioneers who made a wilderness bloom with civilization.

THE NEW MEMBERS

It is gratifying to report that the projected goal of 100 new members within a year has been exceeded. During the past twelve months 129 applications for membership have been processed; this total includes the following 22 applicants who have been inducted since the meeting of May 21st:

Miss Sarah E. Cavanaugh
 Miss Lillian deVine
 Mrs. Mary deVine Dunn
 Mr. & Mrs. I. Clyde England
 Mr. & Mrs. F. Rodney Frazer
 Mr. & Mrs. James Garey
 Bertrand Calvert Greer
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph T. Grier

Miss Gertrude Hasson
 Miss Elizabeth Maloney
 Robert Rasmussen
 Reginald B. Rockwell
 Mr. & Mrs. Guy S. Rogers
 Mrs. Mildred Sowers
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Lee Wherry
 Mrs. Mary Smith Witcher

IN MEMORY

Since the preceding meeting our Society has suffered a grievous loss in the deaths of Helen Wells Wright, former curator, on May 31, 1956, and of Mary Smith James on August 17, 1956. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. James had been loyal and interested members of the organization from its beginning, and their passing is recorded with deep regret.

A NEIGHBORING SOCIETY

While Carroll County was not created until January 19, 1837, and is one of the younger counties in Maryland, the Historical Society of Carroll County ranks among the most active and outstanding of the 16 county organizations in the State. At the end of 1955 the Society reported 424 annual members who pay dues of \$2 a year, and 55 life members, the cost of a life membership being \$40.

The popular recognition and support accorded the Carroll County Society is indicated by an announcement that the County Commissioners have purchased and presented to the society a valuable collection of county newspapers dating from 1833 to 1928.

The Society's home is a historic brick house at 206 East Main Street in Westminster. It was purchased in August 1939 and is now known as the Historical House. Among the activities of the Carroll group is the publication of a quarterly newsletter. As a matter of common interest it has been arranged for the Carroll and Cecil societies to exchange their respective publications.

SOME COUNTY NOMENCLATURE

Authentic information about the early history of the village of Bay View is not now obtainable. The place first bore the name of Shelemiah, which is still preserved in the name of the church established there in 1830 by the Methodist Protestant denomination. It is a Biblical word and is referred to in the Old Testament as meaning "a prince of the Lord".

Nearby is Gilpin's Rocks, which was a favorite picnic resort in former years. This scenic spot received its name from Samuel Gilpin, who located there upon his removal from Pennsylvania in 1733, and it is probable that the section around Bay View was settled soon after the arrival of the Gilpins.

Later generations were not entirely satisfied with the ancient name of Shelemiah and sought a new one. They finally agreed upon the very appropriate and euphonious name of Bay View, deriving from the fact that elevated points in the village afford a fine view of the head of Chesapeake Bay.

A church usually takes its name from the town in which it is situated. An exception to this general rule occurred when the village of Zion adopted the name of a meeting house established there by the Methodists about 1849, while the locality was still a forest. Like many of the early churches in Cecil County, it was built of logs. The worshippers in this old log meeting house called it Zion Church, from which later came the name of the village itself.

CECIL COUNTY ALMANAC

The initial installment of a register of significant events in the history of Cecil County was commenced in the previous number of the BULLETIN by publication of a calendar for the month of May. A similar chronicle of happenings in the month of June is presented below.

JUNE6TH MONTH

1. New Shelemiah M. P. Church at Bay View dedicated, 1879.
2. County Almshouse opened for accommodation of guests, 1789.
3. Dr. Charles M. Ellis, Civil War surgeon, died in Elkton, 1911.
4. Jacob Tome Institute at Port Deposit incorporated, 1889.
5. Worsell Manor patented to Peter Sayer by King Charles II, 1685.
6. Cecil County erected by Governor's proclamation, 1674.
7. Bishop Francis Asbury preached at North East, 1795.
8. Incorporators of Elkton & Middletown R. R. organized, 1871.
9. Church of England established as State church in county, 1692.
10. George Talbot presided over Cecil County Court, 1684.
11. Circuit Court met for first time in Elkton, 1787.
12. First RFD route in county (Elkton-Elk Neck) surveyed, 1906.
13. Rising Sun Methodist Church destroyed by fire, 1921.
14. The National Bank of Perryville commenced business, 1918.
15. Chaplain Joseph T. Brown captured at Winchester, Va., 1863.
16. First Sunday School in county organized at New Leeds, 1816.
17. James L. Carhart appointed postmaster at Zion, 1861.
18. Mason and Dixon set up the Tangent Stone at Iron Hill, 1765.
19. War declared against Great Britain, 1812.
20. Nathaniel Stiles appointed first High-Sheriff, 1674.
21. First steamboat (CHESAPEAKE) Baltimore to Frenchtown, 1813.
22. Rev. John Ewing, mathematician, born at Porter's Bridge, 1732.
23. Population of 23,862 reported in county, 1860.
24. Rev. Richard Sewell appointed rector North Sassafras, 1697.
25. The Peoples Bank of Elkton incorporated, 1923.
26. First telephone exchange in Mitchell's drug-store, Elkton, 1884.
27. Sir Lionel Copley made first Royal Governor of Maryland, 1691.
28. Perryville Methodist Episcopal Church dedicated, 1896.
29. Wheat quoted at \$3.20, corn \$1.10 a bushel, 1866.
30. Company E, M.N.G. entrained for Mexican border, 1916.

AN INQUIRY

A Baltimore correspondent would like to know where the "Old Shuffle House" was located in Cecil County. The owner during the Civil War era is said to have been Francis King, who had two sons, Francis Asbury and Thomas Alabone. Can anyone supply the answer to this query?

CECIL COUNTY'S FIRST CENSUS

The first census by the Federal Government was taken in Cecil County in 1790. The inhabitants were enumerated in their respective hundreds, fifteen in number. Baltimore was the only other Maryland county where the enrollment was made according to hundreds. The original returns for this first census are carefully preserved in Washington, D. C., Maryland being one of the six states whose records were not destroyed when the British burned the Capitol on August 24, 1814.

The most populous hundred in Cecil was North Milford, which included the county seat of Elkton. It reported 302 families. The smallest in population was Middle Neck Hundred with only 30 families. Total number of families in the county was 1,899.

The schedules which the census officials prepared consist of alphabetical lists of names of heads of families only, and consequently the names of very few women are shown in the lists. Each name appearing in the first column is followed by five columns giving details of the family. These five columns are headed as follows and the figures give the totals for the county:

Free white males of 16 years and upward, including heads of families	2,847
Free white males under 16 years	2,377
Free white females, including heads of families	4,831
All other free persons	163
Slaves	3,407
Total population	13,625

George Ford, planter, and Sidney George, lawyer, both residing in Bohemia Hundred, reported 67 slaves each, making them the largest slave-owners in the county. The Rev. Joseph Coudon, rector of St. Mary Anne's Parish, owned eleven slaves. The census shows ten physicians living in the county.

Many of the family names listed in 1790 are familiar and well known in Cecil County today, although the surnames of other early settlers, such as the following, have not survived:

Moses Crabstone
Abraham Trump
Isaac Hugabaugh
Jacob Ashbough
Gideon Longfellow

Sampson Pennywill
Archibald Belony
Peregrine Chick
Humphry Riddle
George Sourbright

In North Milford Hundred lived Francis Partridge, Robert Quail, Rebecca Crow, and Thomas Bird, while James Hunter resided in North Susquehanna.