

THE BULLETIN OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY

No. 61

135 East Main Street, Elkton, Maryland

April, 1992

Annual Fair of the Cecil County Agricultural Society

By Jerre Garrett
Special to the Bulletin

In the fall of 1880 all roads led to Elkton for everyone who could walk or ride headed for the new fairgrounds. Plans drawn up over the summer had come to fruition. On June 14, the *Cecil County Agricultural Society* had been incorporated by W. J. Jones, Charles M. Ellis, Arthur W. Mitchell, William Falls, William Mc Creary, and Thomas Drennen. In addition to the aforementioned, other directors included O. P. Clemson, George Ricketts, Townsend Pool, A. R. Magraw, Henry D. Miller, Thomas Drennen, and H. H. Brady.

The capital stock was \$10,000, divided into 100 shares with a par value of \$10. Dr. Ellis reported in July that he had obtained subscriptions in the amount of \$2,000, with more expected.

By the end of July, the Committee had sold an additional \$1,000, and had settled on a site—a parcel of land owned by A. G. Tuite next to the railroad depot.

Committees handled the building of stables, fencing, grandstand, ticket office, judges' stands, and the digging of two wells. That first year, exhibits would be housed in tents.

Then, despite the heat of August, the Agricultural Society kicked into overdrive. They appointed a Committee to procure fence posts for enclosing the grounds, and they mandated that a director purchase 40,000 feet of barn boards for fencing and other uses.

The secretary was to have a seal made for the company's use, and both he and the treasurer were to procure books of certificates of stock and collect the subscriptions.

Other members visited the fairgrounds at Dover to get ideas about the buildings and the layout of the track. The president was assigned to prepare a catalogue and compile a premium list. He was urged to report at the next meeting because the catalogue had to be printed and distributed as soon as possible.

On August 21, 1880, the *Whig* reported that the fairgrounds would include 28 acres and that the fair would be held on October 13, 14, and 15. The secretary and the treasurer had completed their assignments. The Dover Committee had already drawn up diagrams based on their research; those responsible for buying lumber had visited a Port Deposit Company, but had not yet finalized the purchase. They were instructed to do so.

After a lively discussion, the Society determined that the

fence should "be made of white oak or chestnut posts, nine feet in length, set two and a half feet in the ground and seven foot boards nailed to substantial rails."

That session concluded with the decision to fix the amount of premiums offered for races at \$1,675. The meeting reconvened at 8:00 pm to discuss the premium list. Members decided to offer prizes for "blooded and graded stock, fat cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, articles of domestic manufacture, horticultural and floricultural productions." There would also be exhibits of farm machinery, husking and plowing matches, and nine trials of speed.



The committee acquired 28 acres from A. G. Tuite for the fair grounds. Maps show the grounds were on the north side of Railroad Ave., between Bridge St., and North St.

By the end of August, the *Whig* ran the following:

...The grandstand to be erected will be similar to that at Pimlico, and one hundred and fifty by forty feet in size. The basement floor, with an elevation of nine to eighteen feet, will be used as a hall for general exhibits of household products, etc. The track for trials of speed, which is to be seventy feet wide, has already been laid out by E. Larkins, Esq., Engineer of the P.W. & B. Railroad Company, and graded to stakes, the completion of which now awaits favorable weather. The necessary posts, with the lumber required for the enclosure of the grounds, are being hauled upon the ground, and active work will begin, it is expected, on Monday next. The location of the grounds being so favorable, the work, when begun, can be rapidly completed.

See Agricultural Society - Page 3

**BULLETIN
OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY**

135 East Main Street
Elkton, Maryland

Incorporated -- May, 1931

**OPEN: Monday 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fourth Saturday of Each Month
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**



**Memberships: Single \$8.00 per year
Couples \$10.00 per year
Life Membership \$100.00**

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Society should apply for membership by sending a check for the first year's dues to Mrs. Eva J. Addis, corresponding secretary. Send your application to the Society's headquarters listed above.

MEETINGS: Dinner — 6:00 p.m. third Mondays of May and October
Luncheon — 12:00 p.m. third Saturday of January.

OFFICERS

President	Michael L. Dixon
1st Vice President	the Hon. Kenneth Wilcox
2nd Vice President	Eva M. Muse
Treasurer	Benjamin Harrington
Recording Secretary	Virginia Craven
Corresponding Secretary	Eva J. Addis
Historian	Sally A. McKee
Librarian	Phyllis J. Hurd
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Gertrude Hasson	Donald C. Herring
Kennard Merrey	Arlene K. Miller
Rebecca Phillips	Dorothy Robinson
Mary Schmidt	Walter Scott
Rebecca Smith	Anne Wilcox

The Bulletin is published three times a year—April, September and December—by *The Historical Society of Cecil County* as a benefit of membership. It serves as a medium for spreading historical information regarding persons, places and events in Cecil County history and for informing members of The Society's activities. The material published in the Bulletin is not copyrighted, and The Society does not object to its reproduction in other publications, provided credit is given.

**Historical Society Brings History
to the Classroom**

By Eva M. Muse

On February 7, volunteers from *The Historical Society of Cecil County* were invited to the Charlestown Elementary School by Mrs. Sheri Brooks and her fourth grade class to present a mini-historical program about Charlestown, Cecil County, and Maryland.

A team of research volunteers was not only able to present the requested program, but gave in addition, a Black History discussion, as well as a presentation about Rev. William Duke's Log House by a former occupant of the house.

Following the program, a packet of reading materials and the Society's souvenir pencils were given to the teacher and to the students respectively.

Candy from the Country Store Exhibit was a welcomed treat for the children.

One of the responsibilities of *The Society* to the community is to make its resources as accessible as possible.

The team of Hilda L. Frantsi, Phyllis J. Hurd, Eva M. Muse and Morton F. Taylor made this presentation.

Two Historic Markers Erected

By Morton Taylor

In 1931, the *George Washington Bicentennial Commission* was created by the State of Maryland, with Alexis Shriver as its Chairman, to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the birth of our first president. In 1932, the Commission placed George Washington Commemorative Markers upon highways and roads identifying routes that George Washington traveled. One of these routes was the Old Post Road, which passes directly in front of Rodgers Tavern in Perryville and the headquarters of *The Historical Society of Cecil County* of Elkton.

Over the years, some of these markers disappeared and the *Cecil County Roundtable* (the successor of the Cecil County Bicentennial Committee) adopted a project to replace them with exact replicas. The markers contain the following inscription: "G. Washington (a replication of his signature) traveled this road."

Two of these markers were recently installed at the Tavern and the headquarters of the Historical Society. Friends of Rodgers Tavern and *The Historical Society of Cecil County* join in thanking the Roundtable.

CORRECTION & AMPLIFICATION - In the December 1991 Bulletin (No. 60) it was incorrectly stated that the County Commissioners allotted \$50,000 for the Gilpin Falls Cyley Bridge's restoration. The grant was from the State of Maryland, not the County Commissioners.

Agricultural Society (continued from page 1). . .

By the end of September, George King was appointed Chief of Police at the fair. He chose Amos Pierson, William A. Wright, John Gallagher, William J. Smith, J. W. Freeman, Levi Durham, and William Durham as assistants.

Terra cotta pipe was in place to assure dry footing in all kinds of weather, and a crossing from the depot to the gate was under construction.

H. Disston, "a great saw manufacturer of Philadelphia", entered an unknown horse that threatened to "take the trot out of some of our nags". Upon hearing of the fair, bicycle clubs in Philadelphia and Washington proposed a race and their bid was accepted.

"The tracks looks splendid", stated the Whig, "and reflects credit upon its builder, Mr. Keaveny."

In the final issue before the fair, the same paper noted that the Elkton, Oxford, and Newark bands would be on hand. There would be a dog show, a carriage exhibit under the grandstand, and six or eight steam engines. The Railroad Company reduced rates about one-half for visitors and exhibits.



Mitchell Hall, the building on the left, was built by Levi O. Cameron in 1894. It was the site of the farmers' sociable.

The catalogues, available at *The Historical Society*, contain many more advertisements for out-of-town businesses than for local establishments. Most came from Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore. They cover items from Leef's Horse and Cattle Powders to windmills, headstones, and Seeley's hard rubber trusses.

The *Whig* gave extensive coverage to prize winners and to the results of trotting races. Local participants vied against entries from Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia. The attendance on the last day exceeded everyone's dreams, reaching an estimated 7,000 people.

Fifth Anniversary

The fair celebrated its fifth anniversary in 1884, a year that saw several changes. Telephone connection was made with the fairgrounds in the farm produce exhibition building. The *Whig* noted: "The telephone office during the fair will probably be in charge of Mr. Richard Maxwell, a young gentleman thoroughly posted in telephony and telegraphy. The object of the company is to familiarize the public with its operations, and to this end every facility will be afforded visitors to examine the instruments and test their operations."

The Society enlarged the grounds, whitewashed the buildings, and contracted Levi O. Cameron, architect and builder,

to add a new exhibition hall. The latter, Mitchell Memorial Hall, was the site of the Farmers' Sociable, the "grandest affair either before, during, or after the fair. Cecil, and adjoining counties can turn out some of the handsomest ladies in creation, and they will all be there." Tickets were available at Mitchell's and Frazer's Drug Stores, from John Partridge, Treasurer, and at the gate.

The Farmers' Sociable

Lights on loan from the PW&B Railroad provided the illumination as couples danced to Professor John B. Ritchie's Orchestra from Wilmington. The *Whig* noted:

It was a very pretty sight indeed to look down the long, brightly-polished floors, where hundreds or more couples were whirling around and around the waltz. The handsomely dressed ladies and the gay chevaliers in the regulation suits of close fitting black, making many of them look for all the world like sticks of black sealing wax, (only sealing wax can't dance), the gaily-painted and decorated building, the sweet strains of music, and all just illuminated sufficiently to render it pleasant to the eye, made up a scene well worth the price of a ticket to look upon.

This was the year that "gambling devices and humbug sideshows" would be outlawed on the fairgrounds. The Rising Sun Band played the first two days and the Elkton Cornet Band entertained on the last two.

Two new features in 1884 were the chariot race and the lecture by Mr. Lake, the famous bee culturist, who exhibited his apiary in two tents.

Admission was 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children under 12. Season tickets for adults were \$1.25 and 50 cents for children. Admission to the grandstand was 25 cents extra. A 25-cent "parking" fee was charged for a saddle horse, a one-horse carriage, or a two-horse carriage.

There were prizes for horse, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, pigeons, pets, caged birds, and sundries. The latter included incubators, models of hen houses, and water fountains.

Trials of speed on the first day, October 7, 1884, comprised a wagon race (\$40 first prize), colts foaled in 1882 (\$25 first prize); two and three, half-mile heats, and horses with no better record than 2:45 (\$125 first prize).

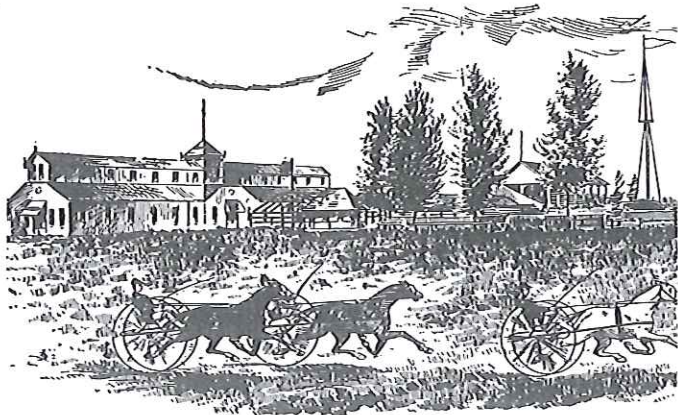
Diploma premiums were awarded for displays of such varied items as farm machinery, tinware, building stone, carriages, dentistry work, tailor work, saddles, bridles, iron fencing, school furniture, and preserved Cecil County fish. Dairy fixtures included refrigerator, ice cream freezer, and system of cheese-making in operation.

To engage the interest of school children and teachers, the Society offered prizes for the best map of the Delmarva Peninsula, the best collection of Cecil County Plants correctly labeled (not less than 200), the best freehand drawing by a pupil, and the best specimen of a pupil's penmanship.

The Household Department offered prizes for butter, cheese, bread, cakes, pies, and various preserves. Premiums were offered in needlework categories: zephyr work, silk and cotton embroidery, crochet, crewel, lace and such miscellaneous categories as painting on china, tile painting, and ready-made clothing.

In 1885 the *Whig* credited the fair with inspiring farmers to fertilize the soil, thus revitalizing the ground that up-to-that-point had been slowly losing its former richness from years of tillage.

By 1886, the County Ball was catered by a Wilmington company and a train from that city brought revelers in the evening and another left Elkton at 2:00 a.m. to take them home.



This artist's sketch appeared in the *Cecil Whig* of September 3, 1892. Mitchell Hall is to the left. The covered grandstand measured 200' X 50' (capacity 2000). Other improvements included two open grandstands (capacity 1000 each), stables, other exhibition buildings and a half miletrack.

Merchants recognized a good thing when they saw it: they offered their wares as premiums and got some free advertising for their trouble. Wannamaker & Brown, Philadelphia Clothiers, offered a \$20 suit of clothes for the best oats; John T. Bennett & Co., Elkton, provided a hanging lamp for the best pumpkin custard pie.

Elkton caterer Giles served breakfast or supper for 30 cents and dinner for 40 cents. He hoped when people wanted oysters or fish they would visit his shop on North Street next to the Post Office.

By 1894 the fair featured balloon ascensions and parachute drops, brass and string bands, trotting dogs, and running and trotting horses; 16,000 attended, with 2,500 arriving by rail. Governor Frank Brown arrived in the company of other dignitaries.

But by the turn of the century, the heyday of the Agricultural Fair faded into twilight. The papers do not indicate the reason, but the *Cecil County News* ran the following announcement that is significant for what it does not say.

The Executive Committee of the Cecil County Agricultural Society met on Wednesday last for the purpose of closing-up the affairs of the Society. A notice had been published directing all persons having claims against the Society to file them by October 30th, and the Stockholders to present their certificates for participation in the distribution.

After paying all claims and discharging all obligations, there remained in the hands of the treasurer the sum of \$929.39, which the Committee ordered to be distributed among the 602 shares of stock shown by the books of the Society to be extant, making a dividend of \$1.45 per share. ■

Rare Books Donated to the Society

By Morton F. Taylor

On January 27, the Society became the recipient of twelve volumes of the "Life and Writings of Washington" by Jared Sparks, an eminent American Historian and author. Published in 1855 and leatherbound, the rare books are from the estate of the late Emily Price Kennedy of Birmingham, Michigan. These books were presented to *The Historical Society* in memory of Mrs. Kennedy and her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Cosden Price, Jr., all natives of the Earleville/St. Stephen's area of Cecil County. The donors were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Daniels and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest K. Taylor, descendants of the Price Family and members of the Historical Society.

An interesting footnote is the fact that page 374 of Volume XI contains a copy of a letter written by Washington on 16 December 1798, while he was an overnight guest of Rodgers Tavern in Perryville. This fact was used as authentication of data used in placing the Tavern on the National Register of Historic Places.

What is my History?

By Sally A. Mc Kee

What is the history of the property located at 135 East Main Street, Elkton, Maryland? This is one of the most frequently asked questions at *The Historical Society*. A search of old deeds and other sources tells us many interesting things.

By an indenture dated September 28, 1769, Robert Alexander leased to Abraham Mitchell for a period of 99 years, a lot at or near Glover's Hill at the Head of Elk next to the corner of Tobias Rudolph's lot. Each year on March 1, payment of 3 pounds was due Robert Alexander and his heirs.

In 1790, Abraham Mitchell sold his lease to James Partridge, a merchant in Baltimore, and his heirs. According to the land records, this was a message piece or parcel of land. In deeds, the word "message" means a dwelling house and adjoining land, including the adjacent buildings.

Daniel Richardson was to have bought the lease from James Partridge, but died before taking possession. James Sewell was the highest bidder for the property, and James Partridge granted the lot of ground with message and tenements erected thereon to James Sewell. Here the word tenement means anything that may be held provided it be of a permanent nature and is applicable not only to lands and solid objects, but also to offices, rents, commons, etc.

In 1810, the Elkton Bank was chartered and was the first in the County. In 1816, James Sewell granted the land to the President and Directors of the Elkton Bank of Maryland, who then paid the rent according to the original lease.

A deed of mortgage was made in 1819, between the President and Directors of the Elkton Bank of Maryland and the President, Directors and Company of the Bank of Pennsylvania. The Elkton Bank of Maryland owed the Bank of Pennsylvania \$16,300.94, so they mortgaged the property to the Bank of

Pennsylvania. The Elkton Bank of Maryland failed in 1822. The Bank of Pennsylvania assigned the mortgage to John Glenn of Baltimore in 1832.

During the 1830's, John Groome had a law office on the property.

John Glenn, James Sewell, and Evan Poultney formed a co-partnership for banking. Evan Poultney later sold his interest to James Sewell, and Reverdy Johnson became a partner. When James Sewell died, he had a large balance due his partners, and the banking house and ground were willed to his daughter, Caroline Sewell Oliver.



This is 135 E. Main St., as seen in a postcard (circa 1906).

Anna M. Sewell, Executrix of James Sewell's will, Thomas V. Oliver and Caroline Sewell Oliver, his wife, were required to account for the balance due John Glenn and Reverdy Johnson. The Court of Chancery in Baltimore required Anna M. Sewell to pay John Glenn and Reverdy Johnson \$6,000.00 plus interest. When this payment was received, John Glenn and Henrietta Glenn, his wife, and Reverdy Johnson conveyed the Banking House and other buildings and improvements erected to the lot to Caroline Oliver. This was in 1851.

The lot contained not only 135 East Main Street, but also 137 East Main Street.

During the 1850's, Dr. Joseph Wallace tenanted part of the property and operated a drug store.

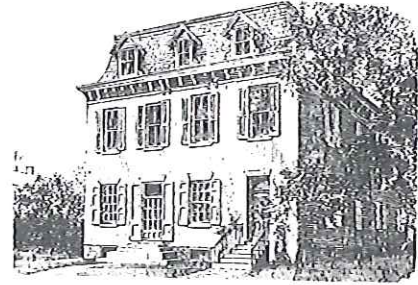
In 1865, the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Elkton became the National Bank of Elkton. Jacob Tome purchased control of the bank in 1868. The National Bank of Elkton purchased the property from Thomas V. Oliver and Caroline Oliver, his wife, in 1873, and moved its operations to this location. It is stated that the building had a strong fireproof safe.

The National Bank of Elkton stayed at this location until 1922 when Annie Wells bought the property. By this time, the Bank's land was enclosed by a fence. Annie Wells was also granted a Right-of-Way 10 feet wide along the east side of the property down to the brick and frame stable belonging to John Gonce. At the same time, the National Bank of Elkton deeded the lot on the east side of the lane to John Gonce.

Annie Wells and Ira Wells, her husband, sold the property along with the Right-of-Way to Henry H. Mitchell in 1925. While owning the property, Henry Mitchell enclosed the porch and built the stone wall in front. Mr. Mitchell was at one time a Mayor of Elkton.

In 1955, Otho P. Cummings, Executor of the Henry H.

Mitchell Estate, sold the property to the Friends of the Library of Cecil County, Maryland, Inc.



This sketch from the Cecil Whig of September 3, 1892, show the building as it appeared in that year.

On October 25, 1955, the Historical Society took official possession of the Ernest A. Howard Room on the second floor of the Library Building. The Historical Society had been incorporated in 1931, and this was its first permanent home. When the original kitchen in the basement was restored, possession of this room was also given to the Historical Society.

Both the Library and Historical Society made several additions to the building.

After the new Cecil County Library was built, the Historical Society was granted additional space on the first floor of the building. Its rooms were completely refurbished and the research library was moved to the first floor where it is more accessible to visitors. The Society retains its rooms and gallery on the second floor and in the basement.

With the moving of the Library to its new building, 135 East Main Street was deeded to Cecil County, and the Historical Society is only one of its tenants.

If these walls could talk, I am sure they would be able to tell us many interesting things about this building and property.

UPPER BAY MUSEUM

By John Manning & Stanley White

The Upper Bay Museum, located at the foot of Walnut Street in North East, Maryland, houses a large collection of water-related articles portraying the history and heritage of the Upper Bay area. A dedicated group of the Cecil-Harford Hunters Association Members envisioned establishing a museum in the early 1970's. Prior to this, the Hunters Association, founded in 1950, was dedicated to the propagation and conservation of marine life, waterfowl, and upland game. In the 1960's, it embarked on such projects as wild turkey restocking and the replanting of wild celery and other grasses on the Susquehanna Flats. About 1975, the Association turned its main focus on establishing a museum by purchasing a warehouse and one acre of ground on Cecil Avenue, near the Town Hall. A small, second building was added the next year and items were accumulated by donations and loans. The museum was opened twice a year; in the summer during the Water Festival and in October for the Upper Shore Decoy Show (one of the oldest shows in the country).

In 1976, the town of North East created the North East Park and made the historic Harvey's Fish House available to the Association for a museum building. The location was ideal with a spectacular view of the Northeast River and the Susquehanna

Flats. Members of the Association refurbished the Fish House, replacing the roof, pouring a new floor, and paneling the main hall. A lighting and a burglar alarm system were installed and displays were set up. In 1982, the town made a second building available and this building houses a large boat and marine engine collection. Up to this point, all funds to rebuild, operate, and improve the museum were raised by the members through donations, decoy shows, and auctions at their Annual Banquet.

In 1991, with the help of a State grant, the main museum building was given a total exterior renovation and a sprinkler system was added. The continuing changes to the interior display areas are an on-going project. A gift shop was recently added to enable local carvers and craft's people to sell items associated with the Chesapeake Bay theme.

Also in 1991, members restored a Sink Box and established a traveling exhibit which can promote the museum at various festivals and activities in the area. Our Annual Upper Shore Decoy Show, held on the third weekend in October, was moved to the North East Middle School and continues to grow each year.

The Upper Bay Museum houses displays of hunting, boating, and fishing artifacts native to the Upper Chesapeake. Visitors can trace the history of the waterfowl hunter through exhibits of outlawed gunning rigs and skillfully carved decoys. They can follow the progress of Bay boating and fishing too. The Museum's collection of antique marine engines is among the best in the country and a fine exhibit of miniature boats may be enjoyed by all. From the serious market gunner to the hardy ice fisherman, watermen of every description have shaped the culture and traditions of this region.

The officers and members invite you to join us at the Upper Bay Museum where the heritage and history of the Northern Chesapeake Bay have been carefully preserved.

Upper Bay Museum Officers

President - C. Gary Storke Vice President - Joseph Jacobi
 Senior Vice President - Eugene Howell; Treasurer - Richard Smith
 Recording Secretary - Janice Sprout Curator - Carol Gonce
 Corresponding Secretary - William Streaker

Directors

Stanley White U. G. Demond, III
 Vernon Bryant George Lynch

Museum Hours

Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 From Memorial Day through Labor Day
 Open all holidays from 10 am to 4 pm
 Other hours by appointment

Editor's Note: Application for membership should be made to William Streaker. Annual dues are \$10 and life-membership are \$100.

Cecil County Fair

By Arlene K. Miller

The Cecil County Fair was started in 1954 by members of the Calvert, Cecilton, and Colora Granges, along with University of Maryland Cecil County Extension Agent, Raymond Mueller and other interested citizens. It was and still is a non-profit organization run by volunteer officers and directors; the first Board elected were:

President - William Groff - Colora
 Vice President - Robert Carrion - Earleville
 Secretary/Treasurer - Frank D. Brown, Jr., Port Deposit
 Directors District 1 - Albert Bryant, Middletown
 2 - Mrs. Horace Rothwell, Jr., Chesapeake City
 3 - Mrs. Lewis Heath, Elkton
 4 - Robert Mason, Elkton
 5 - Russell Depew, Rising Sun
 6 - Mrs. Walter King, Colora
 7 - Mrs. John Freund, Perryville
 8 - John Bruce, Conowingo
 9 - Grove Miller, North East

Minutes of the meeting held on February 10, 1954, at the home of Mrs. Lewis Heath show a Committee consisting of Bert Cochran, Walton Mason, and Grove Miller were appointed to ask Mr. William Shelton, Manager of the Fair Hill Grounds, for William du Pont (DE), if we could have permission to use the grounds for the purpose of holding a county fair for Cecil County residents. Mr. Du Pont granted permission to use the grounds and facilities at no charge and even paid for the electricity for the first ten years

Other Committees appointed the first year included:

Premium Lists Mrs. Lewis Heath; Mr. Ray Mueller; Glenn Mc Grady, Jr.; Lloyd Balderston
 Entry Blanks Jim Prigel; Betty Lippincott; Mrs. Alton Vickery
 Grounds Grove Miller; Bert Cochran; Walton Mason
 Finance Mrs. John Freund; Augustine Ponda; John Bruce
 Publicity Walter King; Bob Schoenhoff - Cecil Democrat; Clarence Pulagi - Cecil Whig
 Judges Russell Depew; Allen Bryant; Mrs. Raymond Mueller; Mrs. Wholey Brown

The date for the first *Cecil County Fair* was set for July 31, 1954, from 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., with no admission charge. Funds to help support this Fair were requested and received from the County Commissioners, local organizations, businesses (ads), and interested citizens. Support also was received from the Maryland State Fair Board. The premium book was printed by the Cecil Whig at a cost of \$280 for 2,000. Approximately 752 exhibits were entered by 204 exhibitors covering home arts, food, flowers, garden, livestock-dairy, beef, and horses. Classes included 4-H and adult. The 4-H members also entered their project record books for judging. Ribbons were given for the winners of each class; the Farm Bureau and Grange awarded trophies and prizes given to the top 4-H boy and girl scoring the highest number of points.

Exhibit booths included Grange, Homemakers, Cecil Co. PTA, and commercial. The first midway consisted of two booths - one a dart/balloon game, the other a baseball/bottle game. Entertainment was the North East High School Band and a calf scramble sponsored by the Grange where the winner

coffee" had a reputation. She was a devout Romanist, and faithful in much, so I know that long ere this she has entered into the joy of her Lord.

There was an old flower garden at "Rose Hill" which you reached by going down a flight of steps. The beds were laid off in the most precise order, the whole being surrounded by a high hedge. Some of this box was cut into fantastic shapes and hollows, the latter containing benches, generally, so that the wanderers in this old garden might rest themselves if they so chose. No place could have afforded more delightful nooks for children to play hide-and-peek in, for there we could really lose ourselves. Here we first met the Wards and the Knights, playing with them on the rare occasions when we visited each other.

I think we must have been about a year at "Rose Hill", for when we left there it was again winter, and the carriage in which we drove twenty miles to reach the station was lined inside with blankets. The cold was so intense that a Negro boy, who was sitting outside with the driver, had to be brought inside with us to keep him warm.

From Maryland, we went to my stepmother's old home at St. Julien, near Fredericksburg.

Grange Organizations in Cecil County

By Arlene K. Miller

The Grange is a national fraternal organization conceived in 1867 as one for agricultural people. Today it has grown to encompass all people rural and suburban. It is family-oriented, active in education, recreation, and legislation, thus benefitting the family and community. Early minutes show the Grange was used as a means to secure better prices for feed, building supplies, etc., and was the forerunner of the cooperatives we know today.

The early 19th century shows Cecil County had sixteen Granges with the first Grange in the State of Maryland being organized within our county. It was Advance Grange #1 Colora with Ambrose Ewing, Master; George Balderston, Secretary; formed September 24, 1873.

The third Grange in the State was also organized in Cecil County by the name of Cecil Grange #3 with A. H. Briscoe, Master formed October 3, 1873; they met in Rosebank Hall at Calvert. Rolls from 1890 show the following members: William Mc Dowell, Master; Grant Brown; S. James Brown; William L. Brown; E. C. Ewing; Hanna M. Gifford; William Gifford; Alfred Kirk; Lizzie Lincoln; Mercie Mc Dowell; D. W. Mc Vey; G. Birdell Passmore; Jonathan Pickering; Lizzie Reynolds; Dr. E. H. Roberson; Arthur M. Tosh to mention a few. 1908 lists Harriet Brown as Secretary, and among those on the roll, were William R. Little and Leora E. Little. During World War I years (1917-18-19), several other members were Claretta England; Eugene England; Florence M. Grove; W. Lawrence Grove; Louise Mc Dowell; Alfred B. Mc Vey; Avery Owens; Charles Owens; Clinton Yerkes. The years of 1921-22 show Charles England; Thomas Reynolds; Edith Reynolds and rolls start to list the occupation. Among those noted were Joseph Worrilow, J. E. Crothers,

Ellis Barber - farmers; Rev. Arthur O. Stockbridge, minister; Miss Hodson, Home Demonstrator. No minutes were found after 1925, according to Walton and Mildred Mason, who furnished this information from the original minute books.

Other Granges in Cecil County were: Good Intent #88, 1874-81; Bohemia #126, 1874-75; Sassafras #138, 1875-77; Elkton #145, 1875-99; Progress #148, 1875-81; Sharmen #151, 1875-77; Valley #288, 1910-19; Elkton #289, 1910-1917; State Line #290, 1910-11; Chesapeake City #291, 1910-13; Appleton #357, 1919-47; West Nottingham #359, 1919-21; Colora #423, 1953-65; Cecilton, 1953-63; Calvert #424, 1953-still active.

Calvert Grange #424 was organized through the efforts of Grange Deputy Lawrence Chrickenberger, Cecil County Extension Agent Raymond Mueller. February 7, 1954, the Cecil County Pomona Grange was formed (Grove Miller, Master), consisting of Calvert Grange (Walton Mason, Master); Colora Grange (William Groff, Master and Cecilton Grange (Robert Carrion, Master).

The first meeting place of Calvert Grange was Rosebank Hall, a wooden structure and heated by an old wood stove. Calvert Manor Nursing Home on Route #273 at the Calvert intersection now stands on the original location. In 1959, the Calvert Grange met at Calvert School; finally in 1961, Dr. and Mrs. Francis Miller donated land on Route #273 (Telegraph Road) for the purpose of building a Grange Hall for community service. By February 10, 1964, the 40'x60' building was completed and Calvert Grange held their first meeting in the new facility.

A few of the many community activities of the Granges have been:

- Organizing and participating in the Cecil County Fair with the cooperation of Cecil County Extension Agent Raymond Mueller (7/31/54).
- Holding community meetings with County Commissioners and State Roads representatives to place a traffic light at the Calvert intersection of Routes # 273 and # 272 (1959).
- recruiting of veterinarian Dr. Leroy Manlove (1954).
- sponsoring rural-urban banquets to create better understanding.
- winning \$5,000 for second place in National Grange Community Service Contest (1965).
- sponsoring Dairy Night by inviting agricultural students/teachers.
- participating in zoning problem preventing liquor establishment to open in 9th District (1982).
- honoring local businessmen/teachers for serving community (1982).
- sponsoring Boy Scout Troop (1955).
- Participating in Cecil County Tri-Centennial Celebration with Grange Float (1974).
- participating in bus trip to New York World's Fair (1965).
- continuing to hold luncheons for Farmers Educational Winter Meeting, sponsored by the University of Maryland Extension Service.

Since the Grange is based on the Masonic type of order, Calvert Grange held the 6th Degree in its Hall (1979) and sponsored a bus trip to Atlantic City for 32 of its members to receive the 7th Degree. Note: the First through Fourth

Degrees are Subordinate Grange (local) level; Fifth Degree is Pomona (county) level; Sixth Degree is State Level; Seventh Degree is National Level.

Calvert Grange has had several members go on to hold state and national positions:

Walton Mason	State Steward	1954-58
Grove Miller	State Steward	1958-62
Grove Miller	State Master	1966-69
Arlene Miller	State Flora	1966-67
Arlene Miller	National Pomona	1967-69
Edith Kilby	State Ceres	1976-77

Among the 32 charter members, seven are still members: Mr. & Mrs. Walton Mason; Mr. & Mrs. Grove Miller; Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hilaman; and Mrs. Lorraine Price. Calvert Grange is still active and sponsors many educational and community activities.

Past President Honored

By Morton F. Taylor

At the regular monthly meeting of the *Cecil County Historical Trust, Inc.* held in the *Cecil County Library* on Monday, March 23, Mrs. Dorothy D. Robinson was honored with a standing ovation by the 16 members and guests present. Mrs. Robinson, a past President of this Society, was a charter member of the *Cecil Trust* when it was organized in 1968. After her many years of active service in that organization, she is now retiring.

Mrs. Ronald Edwards, Chairman of the Trust, brought both verbal and written greetings and, on behalf of the group presented the honoree with a framed pen and ink sketch of old Center School, the ruins of which still stand on State property at Fair Hill. The work of art was done by the well-known Cecil County artist, Geraldine L. McKeown, a member of the Trust.

Coincidentally with the recognition given Mrs. Robinson for her many years of interest in preservation in Cecil County, Mrs. Edwards announced a grant had been received to restore Center School, a project the trust has long been promoting.

NEWS & NOTES . . .

• **Port Deposit Heritage Corporation** held its annual, general meeting on Thursday, April 2, in the Port Deposit Presbyterian Church.

After a short business meeting, at which the President, Glen Longacre, announced that the Paw Paw Museum would be open the 2nd and 4th Sundays, May through October, and that Heritage Day would be August 29, he introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Davey McCall, Professor of Economics at Washington College. Dr. McCall gave an interesting talk to the large audience on some of the early prominent citizens of Port Deposit and illustrated with old documents he had collected. A social hour and refreshments followed.

• **New Publication** - The first issue of *Collecting Delaware Books*, a bimonthly newsletter, has been received by the Society.

Six times a year this publication brings readers eight or more pages of information on Delaware books, authors, collections, collectors and auctions. To subscribe for one year, send an check \$18 to John P. Reid, Collecting Delaware Books, PO Box 114, Bear, DE 19701-0114.

• **Roundtable Reprints Another Newspaper** - The 1902 Holiday Number of the *Elkton Appeal* has been reprinted by the Cecil County Roundtable. The *Appeal* published in Elkton from 1884 until 1907 when it was absorbed by the *Cecil Democrat*. The 38 pages of this Christmas Edition contain "reading matter and advertisements, suggestive of the (Cecil's) industries and daily business life." The issue abounds with photographs from the era. Retailing at \$6.00, the newspaper is available at many area outlets including Booksellers Antiques, Stanley's Newsstand, North East Newsstand, The Historical Society of Cecil County, and the Cecil County Public Library.

• **Charlestown Celebrates 250th Anniversary** — Charlestown, the first town to be incorporated in Cecil County, will celebrate 250 years of existence with festivities along the town's waterfront and throughout the town itself. A special committee, headed by Michael Miklas, Jr. has been formed to plan the event scheduled for Saturday, September 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, September 13 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. In case of rain, the celebration featuring craft exhibits and demonstrations, Bar-b-que chicken dinners and a decoy raffle will be held on September 19 and 20.

The Society Welcome 31 New Members

Since December, 31 new members have joined The Society. The Society welcomes them.

Wayne & Billye Sue Aro	Nancy Ash
William & Jerilyn Ayers	Ruby Cottle
Carolyn Cummins	John & Anne Marie Denver
Jane Dixon	Pamela Eaton
Mr. & Mrs. James J. Eder	Lydia Heinzman
Herbert & Dorothy Hoover	Gary C. Jones
Fred & Becky Kelso	David Lutton
Brian & Michelle McCandless	Suzanne McGilorary
Elizabeth Mars	Bert Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. James Mitchell, III	Sarah Bromfield Polk
John & Jane Reid	
Town of Elkton	

Books & Other Items for Sale

The Society offers for sale a number of books on Maryland and Cecil County History. Titles include a reprint of *Johnston's History of Cecil County* (\$20.00), *The Adams Floating Theatre* (\$28.95), *Elkton as I Remember It* (\$9.00), a reprint of the 1919 Historical & Industrial Edition of the *Cecil Whig* (\$6.00), and the 1902 Holiday No. of the *Elkton Appeal* (\$6.00). Members receive a ten percent discount on most books.

The Maryland Directory: A Look at Cecil's Communities in 1882

Third in a series

This is the third in a series of articles to be copied from the Maryland Directory of 1882. The Directory provides concise sketches of towns throughout Cecil County and the State. Of particular interest are the lists of business people, government officials, religious leaders and farmers in each community. To provide a glimpse of Cecil's Communities in 1882, future issues of the Bulletin will feature towns and villages including Mechanics Valley, Elkton, Rock Springs, North East, Rowlandsville, Perryville, Farmington, Fair Hill, Chesapeake City, Cherry Hill, Cecilton, Calvert, Port Deposit, Bay View, Rising Sun, Elk Neck, and Principlo Furnace.

CHARLESTOWN—Is on P. W. & B. R. R. 43 miles from Baltimore and beautifully located on west bank of Northeast River; is regularly laid out and is one of the most pleasant locations in the State. You can in almost any part take in at a glance the Northeast, Elk, Sassafras and Susquehanna Rivers, with their hundreds of sails. The farms are highly productive and worked by intelligent and enterprising men. Land clay and sandy loam; can be bought from \$25 to \$40 per acre; yields 20 bus. wheat, 50 oats, 100 potatoes, 50 corn and 2 tons hay. M. E Church J. W. Hammersley. Public School. P. of H.—Principio 152, H. S. Coudon, Perryville, Master; John N. Black, Sec'y. Population 250. Wm. T. Richardson P. M.



A postcard of the Charlestown train station. The card carries a 1916 postmark.

ST. AUGUSTINE—Is near the Delaware line 3 miles from Chesapeake City. Land sells from \$30 to \$70 per acre; yields 16 bushels wheat, 40 oats, 100 potatoes and 45 corn. Plenty of peaches raised, and some small fruits. Churches—M. E and Episcopal. Public Schools. Population 50. J. J. Williams P.M.

Beaston, J L	Wheelwright
Coursey, A J	Gen'l Mdse
Warner, Jas R	Blacksmith
Warner, Jas R Jr	Wheelwright
Warner, John A	Blacksmith
Williams, J J	Gen'l Mdse

Farmers

Baker, Robert	Bouchelle, J W	Conor, Christopher
Ellison, Clayton	Foard, Susan	Griffith, I G
Kibler, Geo W	McCoy, Nathan	Pierce, Frank
Rhoades, Chas	Rhoades, W H	Spear, Edward
Williams, J J	Wilson, John P	

WOODLAWN—Is 3 miles from Port Deposit. Land gray stone formation; can be bought from \$40 to \$100 per acre; produces 20 bus. wheat, 50 oats, 100 potatoes, 50 to 75 corn and 2 to 3 tons hay. M. E Church T. B. Killiam. Public School Belle Jackson. Population 200. C. S. Abrahams P. M.

Abrahams, C S	Gen'l Mdse
Barnes, Jas	Butcher
Barnes, Jos	Carpenter
Dougherty, James	Blacksmith
Foster, Jno	Produce
Jackson, Wesley	Painter
Jenness, S J	Miller

Alexander, Nathan	Carpenter
Cooling, B	Gen'l Mdse
Frederick, Henry	Shoemaker
Gibson, R B	Blacksmith
Graham, F D L	Carpenter
Graham, Jno B	Undertaker
Graham, Jno C	Carpenter
Holland, Jno H	Wheelwright
Logan, Jno W	Shoemaker
Richardson, Wm T	Gen'l Mdse

Farmers

Barnes, Perry K	Black, John N	Cooling, Benoni
Cooper, John T	Cooper, Wm Chas	Frederick, Henry
Graham, Chas C	Heisler, Joseph	Heverai, Wm H
Hughes, John	Jackson, John	Lewis, Geo T
Logan, Samuel	Owens, Wm F	Tucker, David
Watson, Jeremiah		

Farmers

Bowman, David	Brown, Edmund T	Burlin, David W
Clendenin, James T	Hasson, Samuel	Marshall, Theodo.
McCullough, Nathan	McMullin, Wm	Rawlings, R K
Rea, David	Thompson, M	Toulson, James
Warner, J C		