

BULLETIN

OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY

No. 9

Aikin, Maryland

June 2, 1958

JANUARY 1958 MEETING

The Society's 1958 winter meeting was held in Elkton High School on Monday evening, January 27. The meeting was preceded by an "open house" at the County Library from 5 to 7 o'clock to permit visitors to inspect the restored basement kitchen. Many took advantage of this opportunity and, in the words of one visitor, were "utterly delighted" with the restoration and its antique accessories. This attraction and propitious weather conditions were factors contributing to a record-breaking attendance of 192 members and guests who later assembled in the High School cafeteria for a turkey dinner served by the School's corps of culinary artists.

In a brief business session which followed, the Treasurer submitted his report for 1957, showing that a balanced budget had been achieved in the Society's regular operations and that a total of \$1255 had been contributed to the kitchen project, leaving only \$800 needed to complete payment for this work.

The President then called upon Morton F. Taylor, who introduced the evening's speaker, Col. George B. Jarrett, curator of the Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Col. Jarrett showed moving pictures of the colorful pageant at Jamestown in 1957, of colonial Williamsburg, and of the re-enactment of military maneuvers which occurred at Yorktown in October 1781, all of which he described in an interesting narration.

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OLD HUNDREDS STUDIED

The fifth in the series of round table discussions of various facets of county history was held in the Assembly Room of the County Library on Monday evening, April 14, when W. T. Mahoney, President, presented the results of a study of the hundreds which were established in Maryland by the early settlers. By means of a large map he defined the bounds of the 15 hundreds existing in Cecil County when the first Federal census was taken in 1790 and according to which the inhabitants were enumerated.

Figures from the first census were cited to show the ratio of slaves to the white population in each hundred, and it was explained that family names listed in 1790 were an infallible guide in determining the bounds of the hundreds, since these names are associated to a remarkable degree with the same localities at the present time. Cecil was the only county in Maryland in which the complete census was taken by hundreds. A decrease in population from 13,625 reported in 1790 to 9,108 in 1800 was ascribed to a migration to the westward of the Allegheny Mountains.

MORE NEW MEMBERS

Since the first of 1958 membership in the Society has been conferred on the following nominees, to whom a cordial welcome is extended:

Miss Rachel Boyd	Rev. & Mrs. Walden Pell, II
Winter D. Brown	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony E. Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. C. Ellis Deibert	Henry R. Shank
Mrs. Carmen F. DeMar	Mrs. G. H. Sinclair
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Ernest	R. Jenks Smith
Miss Lily O. Ferguson	Mrs. Victor S. Taylor
Miss Mary Alverda Ferguson	Miss Sara B. Wells
Mrs. Mildred Fleming	Mr. & Mrs. Willard G. Wilson, Jr.
Newton Heston Mahoney	Miss Justine Woodall

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GIFT OF POTTERY

The Society is indebted to Mr. J. Leslie Brown, of Quarryville, Pa., for his generous donation of a collection of bisque ware made by the little known Schofield Pottery Company of Cecil County. This industry was operated for many years by the late Henry Schofield, whose father established the enterprise on a farm one-half mile west of Rock Springs in the Eighth District. The Schofield Company produced a variety of articles such as plates, pitchers, bowls, jugs, vases, chimney crocks, bird houses, etc.

The Company disposed of its wares in local stores in Cecil County and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and made no effort to extend its trade by advertising. The collection may be seen in the Early American kitchen in the County Library.

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THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

Any member of this Society who is interested will find in the Maryland Historical Magazine many fascinating articles about State history which may be read with pleasure and profit. A large file of back issues is gathering dust on the shelves of the County Library.

The magazine is a quarterly publication devoted entirely to original articles dealing with persons, places, and events in Maryland history. A subscription is included in the fee of \$8 per annum for membership in the Maryland Historical Society.

We congratulate our fellow member, Dr. George E. Gifford, Jr., upon the acceptance of his article "Daniel Defoe and Maryland", which was published in the December 1957 issue of the magazine.

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THE BULLETIN

is published periodically for the Historical Society of Cecil County, Incorporated, 135 E. Main St., Elkton, Md. Ernest A. Howard, Editor

ANOTHER SPUTNIK

There was a young chap from Cecil,
Who sat one day on a thistle,
With fright on his face,
He sprang into space,
Just like a rocket type missile.

PROFILE OF INDUSTRY

A visitor to the second floor of the Clayton Building in Elkton will find in an office there a brisk, quick-spoken little man who will be busily engaged with a check-book or perhaps interviewing a business client. Wearing lightly his four score and eight years, Robert J. McCauley is the dean of the town's business men and at the same time the oldest member of the Historical Society of Cecil County.

He was born at Leeds on September 20, 1870, second son of John McCauley, a lieutenant in the Purnell Legion during the Civil War, and his wife, Mary Louisa Campbell. His earliest progenitor in America was Barney McCauley, who emigrated from the North of Ireland about 1750 and married Ann Miller, a Swiss girl, after a romance which is said to have blossomed while they were crossing the Atlantic on the same vessel. He is also a great-great grandson of Dr. John Beard, a pastor of West Nottingham Presbyterian Church from 1762 to 1771.

Mr. McCauley received his early education at the stone schoolhouse which stood in a corner of the cemetery at New Leeds, and then went to Baltimore with the intention of learning milling. Upon the death of his father in April 1891 he returned to Leeds and for many years successfully operated a large butchering business in association with his two brothers.

In politics he has always been a conservative Democrat and is one of two men now living in Cecil County who voted for Grover Cleveland for President. In 1926 he entered the political arena and won his party's nomination for the office of Register of Wills, to which he was elected by a substantial majority. Four years later he was reelected for a second term.

Since relinquishing public office in 1934, Mr. McCauley has conducted an insurance agency and realty business in the Clayton Building. Work being his main hobby, he is at his desk promptly at 8:30 in the morning, six days a week, except for the month of March which he spends basking in Florida sunshine.

He is a Vice-President of the Elkton Banking and Trust Company, of which he has been a Director since its incorporation in 1913, and he has served as Treasurer of more organizations than can be here recounted. In fraternal circles he has been a member of Union Lodge No. 48, A. F. & A. M. since 1906 and was its Treasurer for 35 years. He is a 32° Mason. He has been a member of National Lodge No. 37, I. O. O. F for 60 years, and for the same length of time a member of Childs Council Junior Mechanics, of which he is still the Treasurer.

Although an active man in secular affairs, Mr. McCauley has always been closely identified with the Methodist Church at Leeds, his membership dating from April 1900. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Treasurer, and general factotum in the church's management.

Mr. McCauley and his wife, the former Miss Jane Davis, live at 522 North Street in Elkton, where he finds diversion and relaxation in cultivating his rose garden.

We salute this tireless human dynamo, in whose bright lexicon there is no such word as "retirement", and wish for him many more years of useful activity.

OLD NAMES IN THE AIKIN AREA

The Society meets this evening in a locality once part of George Talbot's "Susquehanna Manor" of 32,000 acres patented to him on June 11, 1680 by Lord Baltimore. Later changed to "New Connaught", this manor and the country east of it was called "New Ireland", no doubt because other large grants of land within the area were made to Irishmen.

According to Maryland Rent Rolls, the land where we are picnicking was part of a large tract known as "Heart's Delight", once owned by Edward Jackson. This delightful name has been perpetuated by one of his descendants, Peyton B. Patterson, whose nearby home is part of the original tract and bears the same name. "Stump's Fancy" is another name shown by the Rent Rolls for this property. According to old deeds in possession of E. Wilmer Jackson, it has also been known as "Contention" and "Gotham Bush". The latter has been adopted as the name of the residential development in which is located the new home of our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher P. Williams.

A few years ago "Gotham Bush" was developed from fields that were part of the adjoining farm owned by the E. Wilmer Jackson family. Across this farm once ran a mill race dug by slave labor, the remains of which may still be seen. "Ingleside" is still another name identified with the property. Fortunately this early place name has not vanished into oblivion either. The nearby farmhouse, built about 1735 still bears this quaint designation, which means "a fireside". It has also been bestowed on one of the new avenues in "Gotham Bush".

When the first B&O passenger train came through this vicinity on May 25, 1836, the station was called "Frenchtown". Later it was called "Coudon" for Henry F. Coudon, who lived at "Ellerslie", an estate lying south of the B&O tracks. During this period and before Aikin Avenue leading out of Perryville had been cut through, "Ellerslie" was noted for its fine white oyster shell road which extended nearly a mile from the town to the Coudon residence.

"The Locusts" is another historic home in the area. Built prior to 1855, it was the tenant house of "Ellerslie". Now owned by Miss Carolyn Coudon, the property includes a rustic garden and a mill dam also built by slaves. The race at "Ingleside" carried water to this dam and on to Gurley's Mill, a flour and feed mill at Gurleytown, the former name for the present village of Frenchtown along the Susquehanna River.

The B&O later changed the name of its station to AIKIN, in honor of Henry Clay Aikin, the oldest resident, and it has been applied ever since to the village and surrounding area, including "Gotham Bush". Close by is St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the cornerstone of which was laid on April 3, 1844. Originally built as a chapel-of-ease to St. Mary Anne's in North East, it was separated in 1913 and became Susquehanna Parish. The graveyard antedates the church and was the private burying ground of the Gale and Whittingham families who lived in the community at "Richmond Hill" and "Brookland". These ancient manor houses and the church command superb views of the Susquehanna River, while St. Mark's can claim the largest dogwood tree in Maryland. (M.F.T.)