

The Inkwell

FALL 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's 2
Corner

New 5
Garden

Outdoor 11
Dining

Volunteer 13
Spotlight

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Spanish Influenza and Cecil County

By Mike Dixon

One-hundred-two years ago, a mysterious killer, the so-called Spanish Influenza, came calling in Cecil County. Reports of the outbreak in northeastern Maryland first trickled in from Aberdeen Proving Ground in early September 1918 as the virus took a deadly toll.

Within weeks, the flu exploded locally, as the sickness got a firm grip on Cecil County, expanding at an alarming rate. Ripping across the area, many residents became gravely ill, and an appalling number of deaths occurred. Nonetheless, this wasn't an occasion for panic, public health officials stated, although the spreading disease called for drastic steps.

Local physicians on the home front for this fight braced for the battle with the deadly bug. Throughout October, they kept on the move, rushing from home to home day and night while snatching brief rest periods. They found it necessary to give daily attention to only the most critically ill as the medical men received more calls than they could handle, their ranks already thinned by World War I military duty. Also, many of the remaining doctors were incapacitated for periods as they

too fell victim to the malady.

Doctors warned that "precaution" was the best way to avoid the Spanish Influenza. They advised not to congregate in crowded places, nor use common towels or drinking cups. Also, people should wear clothing appropriate for the temperature, sleep with windows open as fresh air was a good germicide, and not allow oneself to become fatigued. Regular habits, good food, and exercise were excellent preventatives, they concluded.

Hoping to stamp out the spreading germs, the Dr. H. Arthur Cantwell of the Cecil County Board of Health acted promptly, ordering all public places

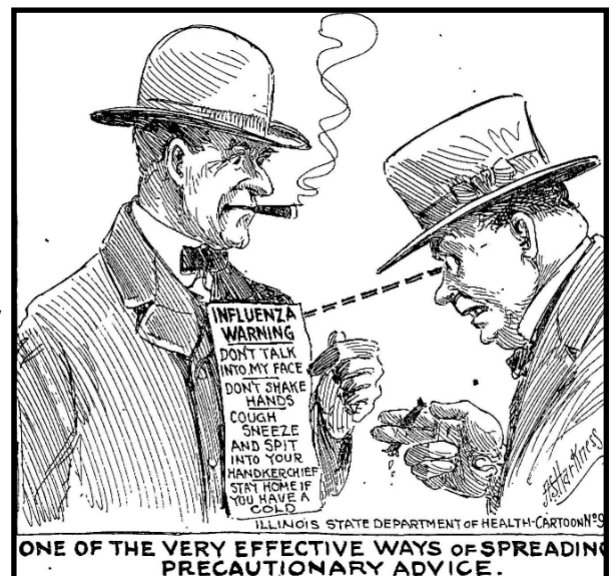


Illustration from Illinois Health News, October 1918

President's Corner

Looking toward the future I believe many things will be different and this year, 2020, will become a part of our history that we will gladly put behind us. The Historical Society will have a lot of catching up to do with our fundraising efforts, membership drive and programming. We are all hoping for a time when we can be fully open without masks and be able to share our library and museum with the public. Many of you have been keeping in touch with us by sending us research queries and we are especially grateful for those

of you who have sent us donations just because you thought we might need a little financial help. We have not been accepting donations during the pandemic so I'm sure there will be new accessions coming in the door when we reopen. Because our volunteer staff are either in a high-risk category or are caregivers for someone who is, we have been exceptionally cautious with our plans for reopening. We hope everyone will

understand. On the positive side, we have made great progress with our reorganization efforts and we hope this will make us a more organized and efficient organization. Everyone please stay healthy and safe and we hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,
Paula Newton,
President



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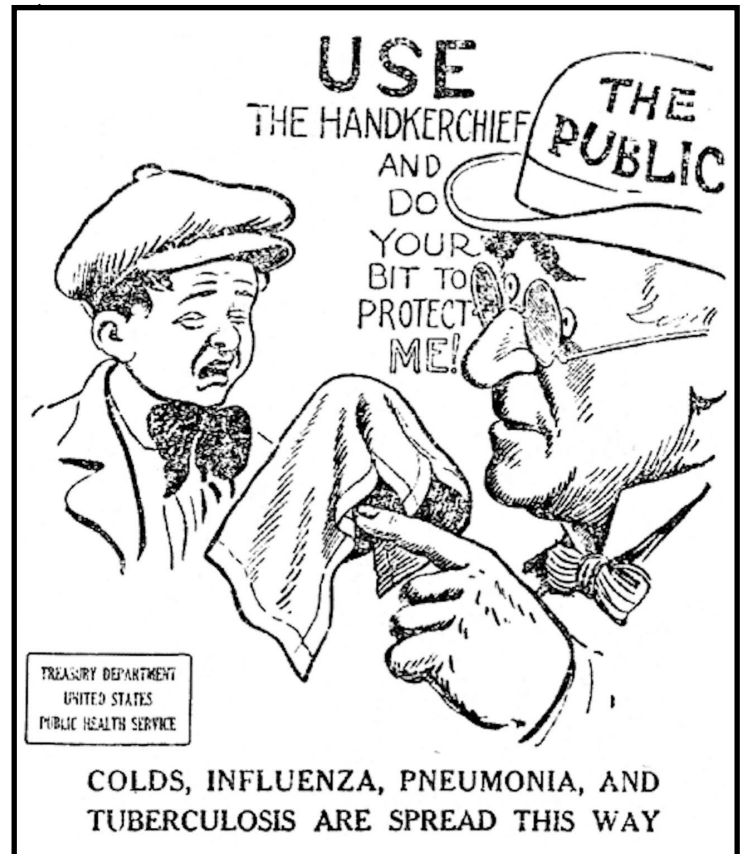
Do you want to get involved? Contact us! cecilhistory@gmail.com

Dixon—From page 1...

where people assembled to shutter their doors for an indefinite period beginning Wednesday, October 2, 1918. Such a quarantine, the shutting down of schools, houses of worship, theaters, public funerals and all public gatherings, was new, but people cooperated, newspapers reported. Emphasizing the importance of this move, Hugh W. Caldwell, Superintendent of Schools, added that this action would check the spread of the germs.

That first Sunday, a striking, unrivaled silence fell on Cecil County, not a church bell ringing while on the streets few people, automobiles, or other vehicles were around. Six days later, the Maryland Board of Health issued a statewide order, noting that public gathering places where large numbers were likely to congregate played an essential part in the dissemination of the disease. The health official added that as the virus showed alarming signs of assuming severe proportions, the situation called for serious measures.

As this unprecedented epidemic swept across Maryland, the *Midland Journal* in Rising Sun asked, "Is this new disease which has already killed hundreds and stricken thousands of our soldiers and civilians a new German war offensive? If not, how did it happen that this epidemic appeared so suddenly and extensively in such widely scattered cities and army camps throughout the country? Smitten as from a bolt from a clear sky, thousands of Americans have been suddenly prostrated in many widely separated parts of the country, during the past ten days, by a disease which is called, apparently for want of a better name, 'Spanish Influenza.'" "Naturally, under all the circumstances, there is much speculation regarding the matters," the paper continued. "Perhaps because there seems to be a rather natural disposition to ascribe about everything that is perfidious in the world today to Germany, some have ventured the guess that the disease may have been introduced and spread by German agents. This theory is considered groundless and absurd, it seeming hardly conceivable that if Germany undertook an offensive of this kind, she would choose such a mild and humane sort of disease. Much more plausible explanation seems to be the fact that the recent cold snap caught the country entirely unprepared for such severe weather, and as a result of our unheated dwellings and the



inadequate clothing, large numbers of people contracted cold. Regardless, there seems to be no occasion for special alarm or panic about the matter for the disease is evidently one which the American medical profession is perfectly able to handle and effective measures are being taken."

The pandemic also hit the patriotic campaign to sell liberty bonds to finance the war. The drive was underway when the Board of Health shut things down, including several fairs, which involved having a squadron of airplanes fly over Cecil County gatherings.

With shortages of nurses already existing across the nation because of the war, the burden on Union Hospital was particularly hard. A month before the outbreak, the institution's superintendent, Miss Campbell, and three of the nurses, Miss McGready, Miss Alderson, and Miss Storey, enlisted in the overseas service of the Red Cross. In October, it was reported that the hospital was full of patients while the virus incapacitated many staff members, reducing the institution's ability to admit and care for the gravely ill.

Others contributing to the brave, untiring fight needed to handle the crisis were overstretched. Druggists compounding medicines

Dixon—Continued Page 4...

Dixon—From page 3...

for the afflicted labored long hours, but supplies of quinine, aspirin, and other essential drugs and patent medicines held out.

The undertakers of Cecil County were on the go day and night, too. But the funeral directors reported shortages of caskets, the manufacturers being unable to keep up with the enormous demand across the nation. And the pandemic filled cemeteries in its wake, the gravediggers digging so many graves that they were worn out.

Many businesses shut down on account of illness. The Jewelry store of J. J. Minster closed for several days while in North East, editor Geo. O. Garey, up against the flu, shut the publication down for eight days. This was the first time in its 36-year history that it had missed an edition.

On the Octoraro Branch Railroad, some freight trains failed to run because crews were ill. Also, trains operated without mail clerks or express messengers in some cases, and section crews maintaining the rails operated with reduced numbers.

In Elkton, all the operators at the telephone exchange were seriously ill, so the phone company brought in operators from Salisbury. A similar situation existed in North East, the virus sweeping the office there, causing the exchange to shut down.

As October faded into November, those in touch most closely with the epidemic – the doctors, nurses, undertakers, and druggists noted that the emergency showed a marked improvement. These brave Cecil County caregivers had put up a heroic, untiring fight, and they reported that “victory was now theirs,” few new cases being recorded.

Among those who toiled day and night, Rose Cecilia Suter, a member of the first graduating class of Union Hospital Nurses, lost her life. The 29-year-old class of 1917 graduate died at the Kelly Institute in Baltimore while caring for influenza patients. Another member of the class, Stella A. Grave, also became a victim of that era's infectious diseases. These often-forgotten, overextended nurses

Dixon—Continued Page 7...

ELKTON'S DEAD WITHOUT COFFINS

Special to The Evening Journal.

ELKTON, Md., Oct. 16.—Elkton is like many other localities, as it is unable to secure coffins promptly, to bury the dead. While influenza conditions are rapidly improving here, the local undertakers are not able to get caskets at short notice.

Elkton friends have been notified of the death of Sergeant Frank G. Groetzinger, at Camp Greenleaf, Chicamagua Park, Ga., on October 10, of pneumonia.

Welcome to the Garden @ 135

The face of Elkton has changed quite a lot in the past 10 years. If you haven't been down town in a while, and are walking down the street, something might catch your eye as you come upon the building at 135 East Main Street. A new and inviting garden space has been added. Let's look a little closer.

Stepping through the entryway on the West side of the building, there is a dedication plaque on your right that reads:

Welcome to the Gardens at 135

A space to Reflect, Create and Be Inspired.

Our deepest gratitude to the dedicated volunteers and sponsors who labored tirelessly to transform this space.

*This project made possible by a generous grant from
The Maryland State Arts Council*

The plaque marks the culmination of a project that began in June of last year to transform what had been a nondescript space overgrown with weeds, vines and broken branches into a welcoming area for people to gather, reflect, relax, and be inspired.

Above the plaque, on the wall of the building, you will find a 4x8' piece of community art that was designed by CCAC Member artist Colleen Tiefenthal. Community members took part in painting a panel as part of the overall artwork making this collage truly a piece of community art. A great deal of thanks goes to John Dixon who fashioned the framed grid to support the art piece and managed its installation.

If you look to your left and down, you may see some cornerstones which were brought to the space years ago, but were moved into their current positions during the transformation. Beyond the cornerstones you'll find the ancient petroglyphs created by indigenous people thousands of years ago and on loan to the Historical Society by the State of Maryland.

Paving stones invite you further into the space, where you can enjoy flowers in planters, that are lovingly tended by the wonderful people who work and volunteer their time and energy to the organizations housed on this property.

The deck on your right is the center-piece of the transformation. Designed and built by Joe Tribble, it welcomes you to stop and stay for a while - pull up a chair, sit, talk, create, draw, read, paint or just enjoy some quiet time. The colorful posts designed by CCAC member artists Liz & Iris, display whimsical designs for visitors to enjoy. The lighting both on and above the deck make this a space that can be enjoyed in the evening as well as during the day.



As you continue through the garden, you come upon a lovely brick walkway which was made possible by repurposing bricks acquired from the front walk of Elkton's Presbyterian Church and installed by the amazing Joe Tribble. The path features lighting to lead you safely out of the garden space to the parking lot located in the back of the building.

You've completed your 'virtual' tour of the garden at 135 main. This was a labor of collaborative love, with many heads, hearts, and hands contributing to make it a reality. Here are just some of the people without whose help this would not have been possible:

- ◆ Joe Tribble
- ◆ Annmarie Hamilton
- ◆ Paula Newton
- ◆ Colleen Tiefenthal
- ◆ John Dixon
- ◆ Liz & Iris
- ◆ The Blystone Family
- ◆ Danielle Dunn-Tribble
- ◆ Russ Hamilton
- ◆ Dave Massimiano
- ◆ Rob Massimiano
- ◆ Cecil County Maintenance
- ◆ Elkton Mayor Rob Alt
- ◆ Maryland State Arts Council

The garden is just another example of what we've seen in Elkton recently, that transformation is possible. If you haven't visited the garden yet, please drop by and spend some time there. It was made for you.





Dixon—From page 3...

Advertisement from Rensselaer County Tuberculosis Association Troy, NY

were the heroes of the time as frontline clinicians, just as our overworked healthcare workers are today as they fight the coronavirus.

And on October 27, the Cecil County Board of Health lifted the ban on public gatherings, announcing that church services could resume for the first time in several weeks. Early in 1919, when Dr. Cantwell tallied up morbidity and mortality in 1918 for the State Health Department's annual report, he noted that 516 deaths had occurred here. Over the previous four years, the county had averaged 358 deaths, an increase of 41 percent in 1918.

The Cecil County Schools Superintendent Caldwell added that with things returning to normal schools would reopen on Monday, October. 28. He ordered the principals to secure formaldehyde for the schools, or if they couldn't do that, they should completely air out the buildings. Cecil County activity stopped or slowed for 25 days to a significant degree, but the people adjusted.

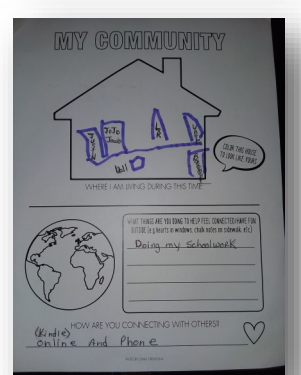
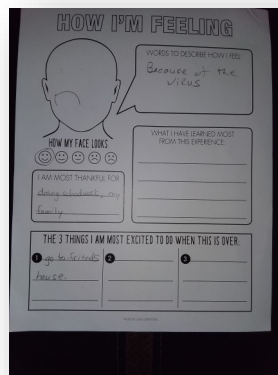
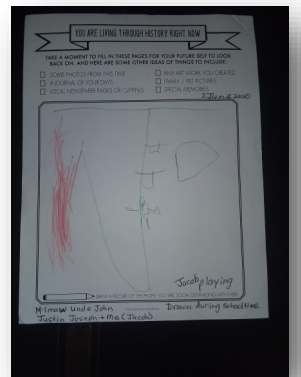
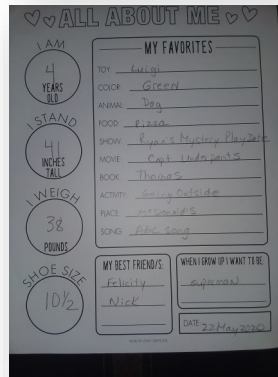
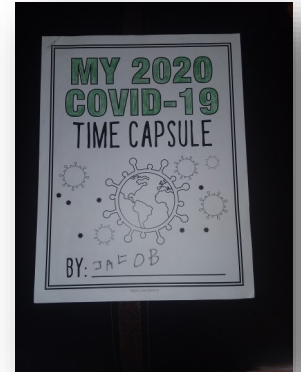
In some ways, the events we are living through during the pandemic of 2020 mirror the public interventions instituted here in the autumn of 1918 when the Spanish flu struck hard. Today, as our nation's public health officials try to slow the coronavirus spread, we hear about quarantines, social distancing, sheltering-in-place, warnings not to gather in groups, and the shuttering of non-essential activities. While we may use different terms, these public health concepts were familiar to Dr. Cantwell and the other physicians here in 1918 as these practitioners' words and actions from different ages had the same goals.



My Covid Story

By Denise Teague

My grandson enjoyed being a part of the time capsule project which was given to students by Thomson Estates Elementary School in Elkton. Great idea! Thanks!



My Covid-19 Story

My Name is Leanore Groeber and my husband is Robert Groeber we are retired. I have several underlying health issues and my husband and I are in our 70s so of course our children are concerned for our safety as we are of theirs. We have 5 Grandchildren and 2 daughters and 2 son in laws. We live next door to our daughter and son in law and 2 grandchildren going on 12 years. This has been a big help during this pandemic for many reasons. We have been home for months together abiding by all the CDC recommendations. In the beginning they did all our grocery shopping. We see each other daily in between them working and doing online schooling. As a multi generational family we are Blessed as to not be going thru this alone. It helps us both mentally and physically as we do many things to survive this difficult time.

The key to our making the best of this pandemic has been many things. Everyday I start with a to do list to accomplish. Here is a list of what our family has been doing:

Cook lots of meals and Bake

Eat dinner together

Play WWII games and we have tournaments

We play board games

I play POGO games online

Pickleball for some

Swim in our pool

Lots of yard work and gardening(best it has ever looked)

Take walks while I listen to calming music

Happy Hour and sometimes with appetizers

Bird watch we have hummingbirds, blue birds also several hawks and they had babies. Interesting to watch them eating and learning to fly.

Notice the flowers more

Notice the beautiful skies more

Boating and crabbing and fishing

We have 2 Golden Retriever dogs they have been spoiled more with everyone home lots.

We are Catholic and watch Mass online weekly together. Can't wait to be able to go in Church.

Have Alexa so everyday have her scheduled to remind me to drink water and call a friend. So cool

Been on zoom with friends also WhatsApp

Phoned lots of family and friends to check on them

Social media has helped all of us to stay connected.

Our other daughter and family who live an hour from us have stayed quarantined away from us for the first few months but then since we were missing each other they came and joined us for a few days. We were sad to have to give up a week vacation together in Ocean City Md. so they organized a fun time by doing an Olympics Theme with lots of outdoor activities and also some of the family camped outside and learned how to put their tents up and build a campfire and we sang songs and of course made s'mores. It was amazing.

Another thing that happened was in June I turned 70 so my family and friends were upset not to celebrate with me so my husband and daughters and son in laws organized a surprise for me which I have attached the link to explain it all. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084baaad22a3ff2-70days> WELL let me say this it has been AMAZING. I am so Blessed as many have gifted me with a Wonderful way to Celebrate my Life. I wish everyone could experience this!

I am very wordy as you can see and tried my best to explain all this. If you have any questions about what I have shared please don't hesitate to contact me. I pray daily that everyone will stay safe and well and that this pandemic will be behind us!

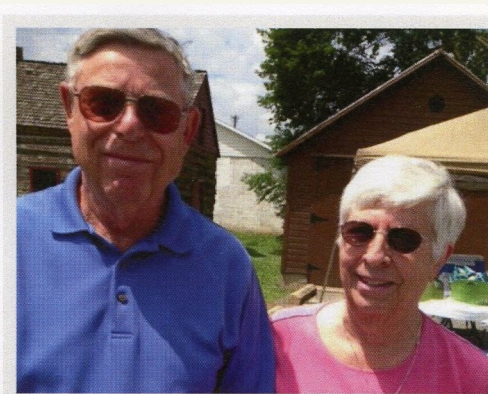
Best regards,

Leanore Groeber

In Memory

The Historical Society sadly notes the passing of former volunteer Margaret "Margie" Glover. She and her husband Dick were volunteers for about eight years before they moved from the area. Margie

was a dedicated volunteer and a hard worker. But she was also fun to be around, and always had interesting and entertaining stories about the many places she'd lived and experiences she'd had. She and Dick were the kind of volunteers all organizations love to have. Our sincere sympathies go out to Dick, to her family and to her many friends. We will all miss her.



Dick & Margie Glover

**Have you found
answers to your
Cecil County family
history mysteries?
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cecilhistory@gmail.com

My Covid-19 Story

Beth Boulden Moore

Before I tell you about the COVID pandemic, I have to tell you about the Flu Epidemic of 1918. My maternal grandfather, Phineas Corbit VanSant, was married to Jennie Florence Montgomery. They had a son, Emerson Montgomery VanSant in 1918. After giving birth, she contracted the flu, then pneumonia, and then passed away in 1919. He remarried a couple of years later, to my maternal grandmother, Mabelle J. Short. Without Jennie's death, I would not exist now.

My full-time job with the Department of Social Services involves working directly with customers, so when a state of emergency was declared in Maryland my hours in the office were reduced. The office began with staggered work hours, where some employees worked in the morning and some in the afternoon. Eventually the state switched to teleworking. As of September 1, I am working in the office two days a week and teleworking three days a week. My husband, a painting contractor, was fortunate enough to be able to paint unoccupied offices, classrooms, and houses. He was still required to use a mask though.

My two adult daughters were not as fortunate. Both of them were laid off from their full-time jobs. My oldest daughter was laid off for about two months from her dental office job and the younger daughter still has not returned to work in her travel industry job. When the younger daughter was laid off, she at first thought she could add hours to her part-time bartending job. That ended when restaurants and bars were shut down. Fortunately, both daughters were able to collect unemployment. The younger daughter's money was delayed for some reason, but she did receive a lump sum for the weeks she missed.

My oldest daughter, Megan, was engaged to be married in the summer of 2018. A June 13, 2020 date was set. The ceremony location, reception location, caterer, photographer, dj, hair stylist, makeup artist, etc were all scheduled. The invitations were ordered and ready to send out in the spring. Then the reception venue postponed the date. Then they cancelled until 2021, which meant the caterer cancelled. The couple was not interested in delaying for a year, so the hunt was on for a new reception venue. In the end it was decided to have the reception in the groom's parents' backyard under a tent. A new caterer was found and everything was rescheduled for August 28. On that day, an unpredicted rainstorm hit, but they went on with the ceremony, in the rain. About five minutes after the rain-soaked ceremony, the sun came out and a huge rainbow popped out. ✨

My Covid-19 Story

By Nancy Rothwell Simperts

I think for a lot of people who had loved ones in a Nursing Facility it was very difficult to communicate as you were not able to visit as you had done every day. About 45 days after the outbreak the activities department would set up a facetime for you and your loved ones HOWEVER, a lot of older Cecil Countians did not have the equipment to be able to do this. There were many people who have not been able to speak to their loved ones in several months. This was very hard for the patients who were visited every day by their friends and loved ones and a lot of them did not understand that it was not the choice of friends and loved one but the pandemic. Some patients could not understand what was happening.



Central Tavern, Elkton

Outdoor Dining in Downtown Elkton

How does a service industry business survive during a time of Covid?

After weeks of trying to manage running a restaurant, cafe or brewery solely on take-out alone, in late May of 2020 Governor Larry Hogan said he would allow restaurants to reopen for outdoor dining. That is as long as patrons are seated at least six feet away from each other (excluding family members) and establishments maintain additional sanitation practices. Hogan said restaurants must screen their staff for fevers and require the use of masks and gloves. The governor also encouraged local jurisdictions to close streets to allow restaurants to use the space for tables.

Parking on Main Street in Elkton has often been a contentious subject but the greater question in the Spring of 2020 was 'What can we do to help keep our businesses alive despite all of the safety restrictions?' Fortunately, the Mayor and Commissioners of Elkton were eager to do what they could to assist with the needs of the local businesses. While closing down Main Street was never really an option, repurposing parking spaces on Main Street was a manageable alternative.

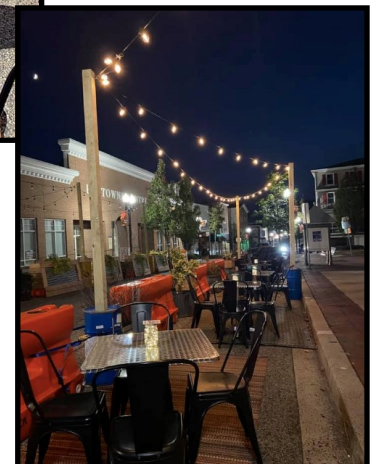
It wasn't long before traffic barriers lined the street in front of Elk River Brewing Company, C3ntral Tavern and East Main Cafe. Each merchant creating their own method for cleverly disguising

the garish orange barriers with attractive wood and floral constructs. The owner of Spork Cafe was given permission to expand seating to the brick sidewalk in front of her establishment. The result was an outdoor dining experience many said had been missing in Downtown Elkton. Could this possibly be one of the few positive manifestations of Covid?

As we head into autumn the sun is setting earlier and the evenings are getting cooler. Attractive patio lighting and portable heaters have been added to extend the outdoor dining experience. Fortunately, the governor recently relaxed the restrictions on bars and restaurants allowing up to 70% capacity. Before long the barriers will be removed and the parking spaces will be filled with cars once again but one has to wonder if next spring, hopefully under better conditions, the outdoor dining experience will once again grace Main Street Elkton.



Central Tavern, Elkton



My Covid-19 Story

By Paula Newton

We are experiencing an historic time in the world and as a preserver of history the Historical Society is collecting first hand stories about the COVID-19 pandemic. We have looked back at the influenza pandemic of 1918 to compare and that's why it is so important to document our experiences. Hopefully there will not be another pandemic for another 100 years, if ever. The Historical Society closed along with the public schools and county government in March. At that time we predicted that the shutdown would continue until the end of the school year, but it didn't take long to come to the realization that this pandemic was going to last a lot longer and have a greater impact than originally anticipated. This did not mean that the Society ceased to function. We continued to monitor emails and the few volunteers that were willing to come to the Society tried to accommodate our patrons by answering research questions via email or phone. The requests that required more extensive research were put into the queue to answer when we returned. Our librarian and I decided that we were going to continue to work on Thursdays to try and catch up. On our last open day we had received a large donation that covered several tables. On the next work day I walked in to find a frantic Carol practically throwing boxes from the research library because we had a radiator spewing water all over our archives. I quickly joined the bucket brigade and we were able to save anything from having permanent damage. The AC unit upstairs decided to join in the fun and it dumped a bunch of water on our new carpeting.

The volunteer staff was given the option of returning to work in July, but the Society remained closed to the public. We decided to take advantage of being closed to do some long overdue reorganization. This entails a major shift in archiving documents that involves all three floors. We initially advertised that we would re-open by appointment only in September, but as that time got closer the Board of Trustees was not comfortable with that plan and our closure was extended to the end of the year.

On the positive side we have hauled away a truckload of trash from the basement; cleaned out multiple filing cabinets; held board meetings via Zoom or in person (your choice); and continued to supply the Cecil Whig with stories for the Friday edition. ✨

My Covid-19 Story

By Margie Blystone

I'm a planner both personally and professionally. Personally, I like to know what I'm doing from day to day, week to week. I like to look at my calendar and know what I need to prepare for or look forward to. Professionally, I serve as the Arts & Entertainment Chairman for the town of Elkton. I assist in planning and implementing events with the Elkton Chamber & Alliance. The calendar is always filled with First Friday's Art Loop, Music on Main, Car Shows and annual celebrations too. There was the Citizen of the Year Banquet of which I was slated as the guest of honor. There was the Decades Dance Fundraiser for the Historical Society we were working hard to plan for in April and then in Mid-March of 2020 all of that changed. In Mid-March 2020 everything shut down due to the fear of a pandemic that had the world shuttering themselves behind their doors, feverishly washing their hands and sanitizing every item that came into their homes. All events were cancelled and the term 'Social Distancing' was added to our vernacular.

Normally, when the work I do slows down I find it's a good time to take a trip, plan a getaway.

But this time there wasn't anywhere safe to go, nor a safe way of getting there. The only trips to be taken were to the grocery store but only once a week, always with a mask and make sure you have hand sanitizer... If you can find it. Because that and toilet paper became a scarce commodity. In fact for the first month or so the shelves at grocery stores everywhere were pretty bare. The bread, milk and meat

aisles looked a lot like they do before a forecast snowstorm but instead of a day or two, this went on for weeks. When I did manage to grocery shop the first stop made would be to the dairy aisle to grab whatever milk was available and then I'd jet over to the paper goods aisle with the hope there would be at least one package of toilet paper left, even if it was the cheap brand that feels like sandpaper. Oh, and if there was no bread to be had you went home and made it from scratch! One thing we learned, people in a pandemic - if they didn't already know how, they learned to make bread. So much so, there was also a yeast shortage.

For me, the first few weeks of the pandemic are difficult to remember in much detail. All I can recall is sitting a lot. Sitting on the sofa, loosing myself in news stories about death rates and statistics. Watching TV and counting the number of advertisers who altered their regular spots to Covid related ads accompanied by heartbreaking images and equally heartbreaking music. That's it, I just sat and I slept and I sat some more and I thoroughly let myself go. Put on make-up? Why? For what purpose? I wasn't going anywhere. I'm typically someone who at least takes some pride in my appearance but at some point I just kinda gave up.

It's a good thing the days got warmer and we have a dog that needs walking because eventually I stopped sitting and got off the couch. My daughter and I started taking the dog over to the Elkton Dog Park/Fish Hatchery trail. We'd drive our dog Haley over to the 'park' twice a day and fill our tired souls with mother nature and she sure didn't disappoint. We were gifted each visit with a dazzling array of flora and fauna. There were new specimens of wildflowers sprouting up with each visit, along with berries and mushrooms. We saw dozens of species of songbirds along with Osprey, Blue Heron, Bald Eagles and Hawks. There were so many Turtles and Frogs along with random sightings of Foxes, Snakes, Beavers & Ground Hogs. Our visits didn't erase the fear and despair of Covid completely but it was definitely a balm to help get me through each day.

I can't begin to guess when life will feel normal again. I always thought of myself as an optimist but this pandemic may have just sapped the optimism right out

of me because I'm inclined to believe there won't be a 'normal' again or at least not for a long time.

I can't imagine when or if I'll ever feel comfortable walking into a store without a mask or even flying in an airplane without any measure of concern other than basic air travel safety. I hope we'll be able to hold events again soon and gather with friends. But most of all, I hope there's a cure so no more beautiful people perish due to this pandemic. ✨



Volunteer Spotlight:

Carol Donache

A native from Rising Sun, Carol lends her professional librarian chops to the Historical Society on a regular basis. She had a career at the Cecil College but retired to embark on a second career in volunteerism. Because of her lifelong interest in history and genealogy, the HSCC was a natural fit. When not cataloguing books, organizing files, materials, or other resources, Carol enjoys reading, going to wineries and is a soccer fan.

My Covid-19 Story by Rusty Eder

I'm in my twenty-second year of teaching at West Nottingham Academy and even with the rich variety of experiences these years have provided, nothing can compare to the last 7 months or so. When COVID 19 hit hard last March, we were on spring break. Our first reaction, like so many other schools in the U.S. was to extend the break by two weeks while we waited for more information. When it became obvious that the pandemic was getting worse, we successfully switched to virtual classrooms, using both Zoom and Microsoft Teams. The big challenge there was scheduling. In one U.S. History class, I had students from China, various states in the U.S., Nigeria, and Serbia. Can you say, "Time Zones?" But we worked it out.

Over the summer our administration and several work groups within the community got busy trying to figure out how to handle the new school year. Early on it became clear that even with our best precautions, we were facing a blended teaching challenge. Some students simply could not return to campus for the 2020-21 school year. But we decided that we could safely bring back those who could. To do this, we created strong protocols to keep everyone as safe as possible. Everyone on campus was COVID tested on arrival and students and faculty who travelled significant distances after initial testing went into self-quarantines as needed. Strict rules were set up for class sizes and social distancing in areas like our dining hall and dorms and everyone's temperature is taken every morning. A month or so later, here we are. A large portion of our community is here on campus, but many, either because of distance or family needs, are at home and check into their classes via Zoom. On the weekend, our borders engage in socially-distanced activities like hiking, scavenger hunts, crafting, etc. (The students' favorite – Mall trips – are out of the question right now.)

At the same time, COVID-19 has presented some opportunities, especially for history teachers. For many years, the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 was an important part of my U.S. History classes and all kinds of plagues come up in any good World History course. Now we're living through similar history and creating links with those times is, while challenging, also creatively rewarding. It has made some of my lessons more personal and real for the kids than ever before.



So far, it's all working well. Everyone passed their COVID tests and we all follow blue arrows and dots through the buildings to minimize contact wherever we can. It's a challenge, but we teach every day and focus on our long-standing mission to prepare our students for college and life in a world that is rapidly changing before their eyes. It's not easy, but it's also not impossible.



Donate Today! **Above-the-line deduction for charitable contributions**

The CARES Act allows for a \$300 above-the-line deduction for cash charitable contributions made to 501(c)(3) organizations for taxpayers who take the standard deduction.

The act also relaxes the limit on charitable contributions for itemizers—increasing the amount that can be deducted from 60% of adjusted gross income to 100% of gross income.

These changes go into effect beginning in the 2020 tax year.

Both of these provisions explicitly exclude enhanced deductions for contributions to 509(a)(3) charitable organizations (commonly known as sponsoring organizations) or donor advised funds.

1918 Advertisements


**Hands catch
GERMS**
as they seep through
handkerchiefs!




KLEENEX
catches and holds germs
they can't escape to
contaminate and infect.

WHY KLEENEX IS SAFE

GERMS slip through the finest
screen of gauze or paper handkerchiefs.



When In Quarantine
PEOPLE who are in quarantine are not
isolated if they have a Bell Telephone.
The Bell Service brings cheer and encouragement to
the sick, and is of value in countless other ways.
Friends, whether close at hand or far away, can be
easily reached, because Bell Service is universal service.



NEW YORK TELEPHONE CO.

Become a Member!

Joining the Historical Society of Cecil County is a great way to support the Society's undertakings.

All members are invited to attend meetings and functions sponsored by the HSCC, receive discounts on books and items, use the HSCC library for free and get a subscription to *The Inkwell*, our newsletter.

For over 75 years, we have connected people with Cecil's past by collecting and preserving the county's history and we count on membership dues to help fund this endeavor.

Through your membership you help connect people to the county's past through our library and its significant collection of rare books, manuscripts and photographs; our outreach services, helping others understand county history; a website that attracts hundreds of visitors monthly; our museum, which contains fascinating displays; and our widely distributed print newsletter.

Ways to Join

Become a member online or send your payment by mail (the old-fashioned way!). Membership renewal is on an annual, calendar year basis.

Members joining on or after August 1st will receive credit for the remaining months of the year of receipt as well as a full 12 months in the following period.

By Mail

Membership
Historical Society of Cecil County
135 E Main St.
Elkton, MD 21921

Online Payment with Paypal

Select the appropriate category and click on the "buy now" button. It will take you to a secure PayPal page for payment.

You will receive your membership package within about two weeks.



This year we have chosen a **Spartina Chesapeake Bay Tote Bag** (valued At \$199) as our fundraiser. It is filled with the best our area has to offer.

Last Chance to Enter!

- Maryland Dish Towel
- Vera Bradley Beach Towel W/Beach Design
- Cutting Board W/Crab And Md (Laser Cut)
- 2 Books By Leigh Fleming: *"Whatever You Say"* and *"Whatever You Call Me"*
- 1 Bottle Of Old Bay Hot Sauce
- Rose Scent Body Wash
- Svedka Blue Raspberry Vodka
- Svedka Cucumber Lime Vodka
- Reusable Bag from Maryland Recycled Creations containing the following Maryland items: Travel Mug, Party Bag (6 Plates/Napkins & Tablecloth), Garden Flag, Women's' Slippers, Magnetic Bottle Opener, Old Bay Sticker & 2 Oz. Old Bay Seasoned Virginia Peanuts
- \$50.00 in WaWa gift cards Gifts and gift cards have been donated by local businesses and individuals.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Here is a link to purchase tickets online from our website: <http://cecilhistory.org/news-events/annual-fundraising-raffle-2018/>

The winner of our Raffle will be selected in December. As you can imagine, this emergency seems to have derailed the return of raffle tickets. The loss of these funds is critical in our fight to save the Duke log house. While staying safe is our foremost wish for our members, we ask that those who are in a position to purchase the tickets they were sent, to please do so with our grateful thanks. **Stay well, and thank you for your support.**

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY

135 East Main Street Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 398-1790

The Historical Society will remain closed through December 31, 2020.

We encourage patrons to send in research queries in the meantime!

Since 1932, the Historical Society of Cecil County Maryland has been the go-to resource for researchers, students and history buffs looking for answers about the culture and materials that defined (and continue to define) our county. We are a 100% volunteer-based organization.