

# THE BULLETIN OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY

No. 60

135 East Main Street, Elkton, Maryland

December, 1991

## The Elkton, Andora and Lewisville Plank Road Company By Jerre Garrett

Special to The Bulletin

In the mid-19th century, a great interest spread from New York to Alabama in the construction of plank roads. Private companies contracted to build these roads. Because they offered a smoother, less-strenuous ride to both wagons and carriages, the public eagerly awaited their completion. For their time, plank roads were the smoothest ever built until the later concrete roads. The original cost was about \$2,000 per mile, but the lifetime of a plank road was only about five years without repair. By the end of the Civil War, most plank roads had disappeared, although a few remained in use until the turn of the century.

Locally, there was lively interest in building a plank road from Elkton, MD to Lewisville, PA. A letter writer, who identifies himself only with the initials W.H.B., enumerated the advantages of plank roads in the Cecil Whig of February 12, 1852. In his view, they were the cheapest to build, and their annual capacity was about 50,000 tons.

"A good team" he continued, "may draw on a well-made macadamized road three tons, but the same team may draw over planks six tons, while the common road will often not permit the carriage of more than one and certainly not more than two tons."

While details of construction vary according to the terrain, the writer gave the general procedure in the making of a plank road. First, clear and level the roadbed. Then lay down three string pieces—six inches in width and three in thickness. Over these run a heavy roller until everything is smooth. Now put down planks of uniform size (about 8' x 3" in thickness) at right angles to the string pieces. "Build an embankment at each end and your road is done," said W.H.B.

How easy it sounded on paper! The idea gained support, however, and by February 1853, someone had taken the initiative to procure subscriptions to the stock for the amount of \$16,000. The Whig noted, "It would seem to be an important improvement, and one that would pay well. Several heavy manufacturing establishments lie along the route, and a large amount of travel daily occurs in that direction over a road celebrated for its uniform badness."

A year later the matter was still being debated. Another correspondent to the Whig declared that every person along the road was exceedingly anxious for it, and that for a seven-mile stretch of the proposed route, there would be no

grading or bridging required.

By mid-May, the Whig announced: "The managers of the plank road are pushing its affairs ahead with great spirit. On Monday last they elected James McCauley, Esq., Engineer of the road—a most excellent selection. He has already commenced operations."

The managers decided to construct the first several miles (from Elkton) themselves. They appointed Joshua L. Gatchel to supervise the work. The new superintendent employed between 20 and 30 hands in the preparatory grading.



*Martenet's Map of Cecil County (1858) shows the route of the Plank Road through Cherry Hill.*

Stockholders met in June to elect managers for the following year: George Earle, Samuel B. Foard, Joseph Miller, Francis G. Parke, William G. Carter, Nicholas Hiss, Joshua L. Gatchel, E. T. Richardson, and William Rudolph. Then the managers elected George Earle, Esq., President and F. G. Parke, Esq., Secretary.

The managers then contracted Francis Green to grade and lay the next four miles of the road (beyond the first three miles that were being done by Gatchel) at \$800 per mile. The company agreed to deliver the planks. Green would also grade the balance of the road to the Pennsylvania line for \$500. At this point, the whole road had been surveyed to Pennsylvania, a distance of just over eight miles from the railroad in Elkton to the state line.

In September 1854, the Plank Road Company bought from Col. Samuel Hollingsworth, a fourth of an acre of land near town for \$125. Here they intended to erect a toll house. (see Plank Road, 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
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Anne G. Copley	Ulysses G. Demond, III
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.

**Preparing the Old Country Store Exhibit**

by Morton F. Taylor

In preparation for the re-opening of the Society's museum on December 6, the Old Country Store exhibit was given an extensive renovation. The exhibit opened originally on January 5, 1966.

Thanks to the hard work of assistant curator, William A. Hurd, and his helpers Phyllis Hurd and Betty Giovanazi, the store has been enlarged and painted and the shelves, counters and artifacts have been rearranged.

The Exhibit items have been cleaned, and are being catalogued and listed on a computer. Thus, each item will be identified as to the kind of artifact, the donor, and the time it was accessioned. Such information will be invaluable for future reference, especially when donors visit the Society and wish to see their gifts and how they are displayed and/or utilized.



*Bud at work in the Old Country Store.*

The Society is greatly indebted to Mr. Hurd for his long hours as a volunteer and to his volunteer helpers. Such enormous cooperation is especially appreciated when the exhibit is presented for viewing.

**Books For Sale**

The Society now offers for sale a number of books on Maryland and Cecil County history. Titles are a reprint of Johnston's *History of Cecil County* (\$20.00), *The Adams Floating Theatre* (\$28.95), *Elkton as I Remember It* (\$9.00) and a reprint of the 1919 *Historical and Industrial Edition of the Cecil Whig* (\$6.00). Members receive a ten percent discount on hardback books.

**The Society Welcomes 30 New Members**

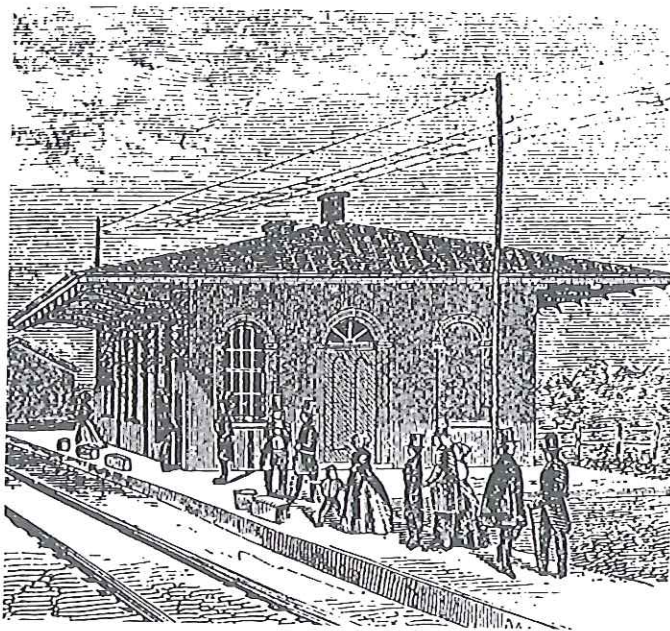
Since September, we have had 30 new members join the Society. We would like to welcome them.

Nelson Bolton	Helen Branum
Harry W. Bullen, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. William B. Evans
Wayne Fenstermacher	Charles & Tanya Harris
Gordon & Mary Henderson	Lewis & Billye Jo Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles LaGue	Joseph McCormick
Suzanne P. McGiloray	Matthew & Carol Mangano
Robert W. Marra	Margaret Myer
Catherine Norman	Mr. & Mrs. Duncan Pike
Sarah Schaeffer	Mrs. Thomas Schaffner
Elaine Van Wickle	Mr & Mrs C. Gary Storke
Shirley P. West	Dr. Joseph Zebley

### (Plank Road, from page 1)

Everybody eagerly anticipated the completion of the road. The Democrat noted on October 14, 1854, the establishment of a stage that ran from Elkton through Cherry Hill, Andora, and Fair Hill on the way to Lewisville. Passengers along the route took these stages to Elkton to meet trains for Baltimore or Philadelphia. "There is every prospect of the speedy the plank road is completed, it will greatly facilitate the transportation of the mail and passengers."

The Whig was pleased with the progress of the plank road in November: "This work is steadily progressing and will soon be completed to Cherry Hill, a distance of four miles. Tolls have been collected on two miles of the road for a few weeks, and the receipts are quite flattering and leave no doubt but the road will pay well—that it will besides paying a good interest on the money invested, furnish a fund for relaying the track by the time it is required."



*The Plank Road provided access to the Elkton Railroad Station for passengers from 4th Election District. This sketch of the Station, which was built in 1855, is taken from the Philadelphia Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Guide. Sketch provided by Kermit DeBoard.*

The company advertised that on February 20, 1855, they would be selling stock at \$25 a share in Elkton for three days. On February 23, they would do the same at Thomas P. Sutton's hotel in Fair Hill. Two dollars in cash was to be paid on each share at the time of subscribing.

The news was good the next January (1855). At a Stockholders' Meeting, the Treasurer gave a favorable report of the tolls received on the plank road. A Committee was formed to notify stockholders when and where to apply for payment.

The Whig said, "The Plank Road Company was organized on the 8th of last April, and commenced operations under disadvantageous circumstances; it has succeeded beyond the expectations of the most sanguine. The Plank Road is bound to do well."

But winter chill must have taken its toll on man and road alike. People began to go around the toll booths. They did not mind paying for the completed road. The next section, however, had been graded in the Fall and had since become a quagmire. One writer called the unfinished portion "the worst road in North America, almost impassable on horseback."

In March of '55, George Earle resigned as President and Manager of the Company, noting that he was leaving with undiminished confidence in the project, even though it was only half-finished.

Over the summer, the Whig urged public-spirited citizens to find a way to complete the road. One writer blamed the road's disintegration on careless wagoners who kept the westerly wheel on the edge or just outside the plank. A heavily-loaded team with its western wheels grinding against the ends caused the planks to slip, some nearly 18' out of place.

By 1858, the road was put up at trustee's sale and withdrawn when the highest bid was only \$5,350. The next year, it changed hands with heavy mortgages against it.

In spite of the new company's determination to enforce the provisions of the charter, Sheriff Cosgrove and his Deputy, E. W. Janney, arrested two teamsters for cutting down a toll gate. Said the Whig, "We don't think the act much of a misdemeanor in view of the condition of the road."

By 1864, the planks were torn up and piled along the road. The Whig railed, "Having long served no other purpose than to wreck vehicles, they are now placed in a position to frighten horses. This is all that remains to show that a plank road ever existed here. It is the first one ever constructed in this part of the country, and its fate will most likely be a damper on all future enterprises of the kind to put our roads in a good condition. It is believed that had this road been laid no further than Cherry Hill, it would have paid well, and the Company could have kept it up."

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## Elk Creek Holds Picnic

By Morton Taylor

On Sunday, September 15, the Elk Creek Preservation Society held its annual Covered-Dish Picnic on the lawn of Little Elk Farm, home of the Honorable Richard Mackie, near Fair Hill. The affair was preceded by an informal meeting of the officers and directors, chaired by Mr. Andrew Strahorn, newly-elected President.

Efforts to arrive at an agreement with the State on working with the Elk Creek Society to renovate the old Center School House on the Fair Hill State Property were discussed. Senator William Amoss has been working hard toward this goal.

Also plans for the Annual Apple Butter Festival to be held on October 19, at the Bee Hive near Fair Hill were discussed by Mr. Mackie, festival chairman.

A variety of delicious food and a delightful breeze on a sunny day were enjoyed by the large gathering.

## A Gala Celebration: The Museum Re-opens

It was a beautiful, mild, and starry evening on December 6, 1991, when approximately 140 members and guests gathered at 135 E. Main Street in Elkton to celebrate the re-opening of the Society's museum. As they approached the building, decorated with a multitude of tiny white lights and its doorway wearing a fan of apples and other fruits, they could not help but realize "Tis the season to be jolly!"

As they entered the lobby, a huge Christmas tree gaily decorated took the place of honor and greeted them! Next, the entrance hall was adorned with an elaborate wreath centered with a partridge, but the main attraction was a model of the James Adams Floating Theatre. Moving on to the Research Library, both long tables held beautiful Christmas centerpieces, red ribbon streamers radiating from them, and elegant silver candlesticks flanking them, while red candles added their glow to the arrangements. In the reception room, where refreshments were served, a huge silver punch bowl, presided over by Rebecca Smith, gleamed with mellow reflections of candlelight. Ken Merrey and Ben Harrington were kept busy pouring two kinds of wine and the table was laden with various cheeses, crackers, turkey, bread, and other tempting holiday goodies.



*Leigh Merrey, Glen Eckley and Phyllis Hurd discuss the re-opening of the museum.*

At the front of the attractively decorated and graceful stairway, a ribbon cutting ceremony took place with the Hon. Ron Guns, County Commissioner Grayson Abbott, and Treasurer Lew Jackson performing the honors. Our President, Mike Dixon, made appropriate remarks and introduced them. This over-all scene was highlighted by a brilliant brass chandelier designed in a French horn motif and trimmed with live greens.

On the second floor, the Maryland Room was also festively decorated. The mantle was banked with natural greens and the table was beautifully centered with an exquisite arrangement in the Christmas motif and candles. The Ernest A. Howard Room boasted a very interesting collection of

Victorian toys, while the Gallery displayed various exhibits such as vintage clothing, Victorian china and glassware, and part of the Sheriff John F. DeWitt collection of military memorabilia.

In the basement, the Early American Kitchen and the Old Country Store both were shining with newly-cleaned brightness! In the former, guests were privileged to sample bread from an old recipe and in the latter, penny candy from a by-gone era. In the log schoolhouse, brightly illuminated with flood lights, and decorated with greens, candles, and a wooden bowl full of apples, Mort Taylor and Glen Eckley in costumes, took turns portraying the Colonial schoolmaster, the Rev. William Duke.



*Eva Muse and Dr. Joseph Zebely are in the Society's reading room.*

The over-all festive mood was enhanced by the lady guides in colorful Christmasy costumes and the background music by Ken Mars on the piano.

Ann Copley and her committee are to be commended for conducting such a highly successful affair!

### OUR THANKS . . .

The Society wishes to thank the following for their generous donations to the party:

*State Line Liquors; The Officers and Trustees of the Society; Anne Stubbs; Ken Mars; Nancy Ball; Jane Gant; Eleanor Osborne; Alex & Jane Williams; Pete Williams; and Harold Copley.*

### A PREVIEW — The John F. DeWitt Military Museum

By Kenneth Wilcox

Those who attended the wine and cheese party were treated to a preview of the forth-coming Sheriff John F. DeWitt Military Museum. Under the supervision of Betty Eliason, the committee set up a small but interesting display of military headgear, weapons and other military artifacts. The room being prepared for Jack's collection is now completed and awaits the installation of showcases, displays, etc. Hopefully, the project will be ready for dedication early this coming spring.

## The Elk Neck State Park

By Lucia Demond

In the mid-1930's my father, Joseph Grant, had two great dreams; to have jobs for the many unemployed in Cecil County and a means of access to the waterfront and forest for everyone. He first thought in terms of a National Park with a drive starting on Beacon Hill (it had a beacon light at that time), and going all the way to Turkey Point. The National Park Service told him the acreage was too small for a National Park, but that the State Park Service should be contacted.

At this point Mauldin Lum, President of the County Commissioners who was also a State Forester appointed by the Governor, was brought into the picture. It was decided that the State Senator, Cecil Squire, could help with needed legislation, so subsequently he became chairman of a Citizens Committee to work for the park. Frances du Pont Thomson was Secretary and C. Albert Ringgold and Joseph Grant also served on the Committee.

Mr. Lum and Mr. Grant visited Dr. William Abbott, a wealthy naturalist, in the hope that they could get him to change his will that left his property on the Elk River to the Boy Scouts and leave it to the State for a Park. Dr. Abbott was enthusiastic about the idea, since he felt the State could better administer the property, and it would also have wider use. Mr. Besley, Head of the State Department of Forestry, visited Dr. Abbott in August of 1935, and followed with a letter September 4, 1935, explaining the possible use of the

property. Dr. Abbott changed his will to leave his Elk River property to the State. He died only six months later on April 6, 1936.

The County Commissioners (Mr. Lum, Daniel Garrett and Lawson Tosh), in the meantime started buying available land for park and forestry purposes.

A Civilian Conservation Corps group finishing the Patapsco State Park was scheduled to come work on the Elk Neck State Park. The Committee learned that it had been decided to phase-out the C.C.C. because of improved economic conditions, and they would not be coming.

At this point, fate stepped in and a friend of Mrs. Grant's, Mrs. Anne Cushman, was visiting and heard the bad news. Suddenly everything was "go" and the C.C.C. was on its way. It was later that Mrs. Grant found out her friend worked for James Farley, Postmaster General and the "Mister Democrat" of the Roosevelt Administration.

In with Mr. Grant's papers was a list of work done by the Civilian Conservation Corps from the time the camp was established on May 28, 1937, until May 12, 1941. He had the great pleasure of seeing the park develop far beyond his dreams for it.

## EARLY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

An occasional series

### Farmers and Mechanics Mutual Insurance Association of Cecil County

By Arlene K. Miller

This Association was chartered in June 1875 with Elkton lawyer, W. T. Evans drawing up the charter; Judge Frederick Stump of Annapolis approving. It had been decided by a group of gentlemen that there was a need for such an Association, "since there was only one other company in the county, and the companies in the surrounding area had high rates, heavy premium notes, declined to issue any new policies in Cecil County, and the great distance of those companies from Cecil County, and the inconvenience of attending prompt payment and settlement."

Jonathan Strahorn was named the first President of the Association with Henry H. Kimble acting as Secretary-Treasurer. Directors were Jonathan Z. Finley, Seruch T. Kimble and Thomas W. Strahorn.

Over the next several months, folks throughout the county were approached for subscription in the new company, particularly those in the 9th, 5th and 6th Districts. Over \$300,000 was subscribed by December 1, 1875.

The first meeting was to be held on December 15 in Carhart's Store in Zion, but "was found to be too small, so they met in the Hall of the Knights of Pythias. Election of surveyors resulted in the following choices--George W. Boulden; Joseph Miller; John W. Gifford; George Gillespies and John H. Bunting". These men were to check with holders of policies in other companies with the hope of soliciting subscriptions from them and from the uninsured as well.

The first Annual Meeting was held July 29, 1876 at Fox Chase (home of H. H. Kimble) located in the 4th District. Forty people attended, and it was reported policies had been

### Cecil County State Park Committee

North East, July 22, 1935


Dear Sir:

A golden opportunity has been presented to the citizens of Cecil County, whereby we can have established in our county a State Park. The Federal Government is ready to spend a quarter million dollars in developing this park.

This is an invitation to you to help make this possible by attending a meeting in the North East High School Auditorium, Thursday, July 18, 1935 at eight o'clock. It will mean the establishment of a CCG camp in our county, besides giving employment to practically all of our unemployed. All supplies will be purchased within our county. The finished park will bring thousands of visitors to our county. We have the natural undeveloped area equal to any on the eastern seaboard.

Mr. T. W. Nicolet, National Parks Supervisor, will be at this meeting. It is hoped you will feel it your civic duty to make a special effort to attend. Let's put Cecil County in the foreground as a recreational center! All that is necessary to make this an accomplished fact is the whole hearted support of our citizens.

Yours very truly,

  
Temporary Chairman,  
State Park Committee.

An invitation to attend a State Park Committee meeting, signed by Mr. Grant.

issued in the amount of \$453,804.

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## The first three claims all involved lightning damage.

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The first three claims, all involved lightning damage—to Issac Vansant's wagon house, 4th District; to John W. Gifford's barn (and one cow), 5th District; and George D. Lynch's house, 9th District. Gifford was awarded \$26; the other two, three or four dollars each, as their damage was minimal.

By July 1877, the Association had increased "nearly a half-million dollars over last year in property insured."

A fire tax of 5 cents per \$100 was levied by the Association to cover losses and the tax could be paid at pre-arranged locations.

The minutes of March 3, 1908 revealed there was a motion to "write our delegates to the Legislature and Senator to urge passage of a bill to abolish parlor matches."

In 1925, the rate of fire tax had risen to "20 cents per \$100 on the basis of 5." Now it was made more convenient for the insured. According to E. D. Carhart, Treasurer, the insured could "remit direct to me by check, P.O. order, registered letter or 2 cent stamps (if 50 cents or under) on or before above date and my signature shall be your receipt for same."

The present office building was built in 1937 by Edward Jackson, Perryville, and constructed of Port Deposit granite; a one-floor building located on Old Zion Road in Zion. In 1987, the office was renovated by Richard B. Merritt, Warwick, when a second floor was added. A firemark depicting a sturdy oak tree appears over the entry door.

### The Farmers and Mechanics Today

These are a few notes on the origin of the Association. While it had its beginnings in the 4th District, its appeal was county-wide. Today (1991), over \$3 million of standard fire insurance coverage and over \$2.6 million in Homeowner coverage is written each month on the average.

The Board of Directors of today represent every area of the county. F. Grove Miller, the President, represents the Calvert, Fair Hill and Elkton area; Roger A. Reynolds, Vice President, Northeast; Norman R. Barnes, Port Deposit; Jay C. Emrey, Jr., Conowingo; Daniel A. Hall, Rising Sun and Colora; Richard B. Merritt, Warwick, Cecilton, Hacks Point, and Chesapeake City; Ralph W. Mc Cool, Elkton and Fair Hill; E. Bennett Wilson, Jr., Rising Sun and serving as Secretary and Treasurer since 1981 is Mrs. Carol Reynolds, Wheatly Road. A staff of three assist Mrs. Reynolds.

*Note: Appreciation for assistance in securing information for this article go to Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. George Prettyman, and the President.*

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## Establishment of the Various Boundaries Between Maryland, Delaware, and Southeastern Pennsylvania

By Anne G. Copley

Any history of the boundaries of Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania and their relationship to each other must begin in 1632 when King Charles I made a large grant of land to Lord Baltimore. In this Charter, the grant extended to the 40th degree north latitude. Included in it were the words "Hactenus inculta", which simply means hitherto uncultivated. These words played an important part in Lord Baltimore's loss of land later on.

As you know, colonization began in 1634, with the arrival of the ships the "Ark" and the "Dove", carrying Maryland's first settlers. Settlement spread eastward and to the north, using the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, until it reached the head of the bay in the 1670's. Few attempts at settlement were made along the Delaware River, however.

Meanwhile on the Delaware River, the Dutch were trading with the Indians. In 1638, the ship "Kalmar Nyckle" arrived on the Delaware River, carrying a group of Swedes who established the first permanent settlement and who are considered the founders of Delaware. However, it wasn't long before trouble broke out between the Swedes and the Dutch. At this time, 1655, Peter Stuyvesant, Governor of New Amsterdam, sent a contingent of soldiers who captured Fort Casimir (Fort Christina) for the Dutch.

Because the Dutch were in control, Lord Baltimore protested and petitioned for a confirmation of his Charter, which King Charles granted in 1661. However, the Dutch paid no attention, and continued to make grants of land on the west side of the Delaware River, and so Lord Baltimore's dispute with them came to naught. The Dutch expansion in the Connecticut River Valley worried King Charles II. He solved the problem by making a grant to his brother James, Duke of York, later King James II. This grant extended from the west bank of the Connecticut River to the east bank of the Delaware River. The Dutch surrendered their claims to the English with no bloodshed in 1664.

### The Three Lower Counties—Delaware

The land which was known as the Three Lower Counties of Pennsylvania, now Delaware, went to the Duke of York. Lord Baltimore lost much land because of: first, the inactivity of the Marylanders along the Delaware River, second, the term "Hitherto Uncultivated", which excluded previous grants, and third, the fact that the Dutch surrendered to the English who took over their land grants. The Duke of York was influential in selecting the circle with a radius of 12 miles from New Castle as his northern boundary. This circular line

● The Gallery holds many exciting exhibits covering beautiful furniture and costumes of yesteryear. The showcases are filled with specialties covering the towns and special happenings. Mrs. Connellee has been directing her gallery helpers—Betty Trone, Arlene Miller, Ann Wilcox, Henry Metz and Walter Scott to prepare this area for the members.

● New procedures, forms and acknowledgments for accessions of gifts has been set up as the Society strives to computerize the inventory and new accessions. Each item is assigned an identification number along with pertinent description, donor and location.

● Work on cataloging the book collection is progressing rapidly under the direction of Mrs. Phyllis Hurd and her staff. About one-third of the collection has been entered into a computerized database and call numbers have been assigned. Two card catalogs donated by the Cecil County Library contain title, author and subject cards for the cataloged books.

● Over the summer and into the fall Mrs. Betty Giovanazi has been reorganizing the obituary file. Obituaries, which were previously placed in large files, are now placed on 3 X 5 cards and arranged in strict alphabetical order.

● It is interesting to note that on September 22, Barbara Howard of Portland, Oregon, visited the research library to trace her ancestors. Through the computerized listings, we were able to locate photographs, diplomas and other papers of Ernest Howard for her review. She was quite impressed and delighted our system works to help visitors find their past.

● We thank Nick DeMond for the excellent exhibit on the Adams "Showboat" on loan from the Chesapeake Maritime Museum, St. Michaels. He located a table of that era which is on loan from Mr. & Mrs. David Leathrum until the exhibit ends on January 3.

## **Gilpin Falls Covered Bridge**

By Earl Simmers & Morton Taylor

At noon on Saturday September 14, a group of 19 historic preservationists gathered at the Gilpin Falls Covered Bridge for a meeting to hear a report of a State study of the bridge.

Called by Mr. Earl Simmers, chairman of the Gilpin Falls Covered Bridge Committee, the meeting was attended by E. Edwin Cole, President of the Cecil County Commissioners; Commissioner A. Marie Cleek; Gene A. Price a former county commissioner; Kennard Merrey of the Historical Society and Morton F. Taylor, Trustee of the Cecil Historical Trust, as well as 15 others interested in preserving the Bridge.

Some years ago, the ~~County~~ <sup>State of Maryland</sup> Commissioners allotted \$50,000 for the Bridge's restoration, and this study was the result of a complete structural analysis made by Mr. Thomas A. Myers, a structural engineer. Mr. Myers led the group on a tour of the Bridge, pointing out where critical needs for restoration and preservation exist. During his talk, he stated

that several hundred thousand dollars had been expended for preservation of a covered bridge in Connecticut.

A target date of spring, 1992, for the start of work on the Bridge and a priority work plan for completion within a couple of years were deemed necessary.

The speaker was informed that The Historical Society has a scale model of the Bridge and a photograph of it when the roof collapsed during a four-day snowstorm in 1958. The Society unveiled and dedicated the historical roadside marker there in 1960 after restoration by the State Roads Commission accomplished through the efforts of the late Fletcher P. Williams, a former President of the Historical Society.

## **News & Notes . . .**

### **From Around the County & the State**

**SAR HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING** - The Colonel Henry Hollingsworth Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, held its annual dinner meeting at Poor Jimmie's Restaurant in North East on Friday, Nov. 1. Carlton Brown, President, presided and introduced three prospective members: Andrew Strahorn, John Meck and Wayne Halsey. Mr. Blaine Taylor, Press Aid to Congresswoman Helen Bently of the 2nd district, Maryland was the guest speaker. His slide-illustrated talk covered "Maryland in the War of 1812" and was most interesting. (MFT)

**STATE ARCHIVES TO CLOSE MONDAYS** - The public searchroom of the Maryland State Archives is closed on Mondays. The searchroom is open Tuesday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The change in opening hours is due to cutbacks in the state budget. (MSA)

### **A REGULAR SCHEDULE FOR THE BULLETIN**

With this issue the Society commences publishing The Bulletin three times a year — April, September and December. It will serve as a medium for disseminating historical information regarding persons, places and events in Cecil County history and for informing members of the Society's activities.

Future issues will contain original historical sketches, news of the Society and (as space permits) news from other historical organizations in the county.

Suggestions, ideas and contributions to the bulletin are encouraged. Submit articles, photographs or notes for review and possible publication to the Editor. All materials submitted are subject to routine editing. Also, organizations wishing to list meetings and events of interest to members of the Society may send notice, well in advance.

Ernest A. Howard edited the first bulletin, which appeared on October 25, 1955. Since that time, 60 numbers have been issued.

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

Second in a series

*This is the second in a series of articles to be copied from the Maryland Director of 1882. The Directory provided 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, Rowlandville, St. Augustine, Charlestown, Woodlawn, Perryville, Farmington, Fair Hill, Chesapeake City, Cherry Hill, Cecilton, Calvert, Port Deposit, Bay View, Rising Sun, Elk Neck, and Principo Furnance.*

**LIBERTY GROVE**--Is on P. & B. C. R. R. a few miles from Port Deposit. Land is a granite formation; can be bought from \$60 to \$75 per acre; produces 35 bus. wheat, 65 oats, 150 potatoes, 60 corn and 2 tons hay. School Annie Quinn. Population 300. R. J. Rowland P. M.

Brown, H T	R R Agt
Caldwell, Benj	Constable
Caldwell, Jno	Mason
Green, Jno S	Blacksmith
Harris, Jno	Shoemaker
Kirk, B F	Miller
Kirk, J P	Miller
Krauss, Jacob	Plaster
Mc Cardel, Geo	Carpenter
Mc Dowell, W C	Mason
Mc Vey, Andrew	Shoemaker
Peeples, Wm	Saw Mill
Rowland, R J	Gen'l Mdse
Saunders, J C	Mason
Woodrow, Robt	Mason

### Farmers

Craig, David	Graham, James	Hall, Samuel
Hendeman, J H	Hopkins, Thomas C	Jack, Wm
Kirk, J P	Mc Cullough, Enoch	Nesbitt, Moses
Peeples, Wm	Poist, Geo	Rowland, R F
Russell, E T	Saunders, M J	Tome, Peter
West, Philip	Wigton, John J	Woodrow, S F
Woodrow, W T	Wright, Hugh	

**APPLETON**--Is 4 miles from Newark and 6 from Elkton. Henry H. Kimble, Sec'y and Treasurer of The Farmers and Mechanics Mutual Ins. Ass'n resides here. The territory of the Company is limited to the County and it is in a prosperous condition. Land sandy loam; sells from \$30 to \$75 per acre; produces 10 to 30 bushels wheat, 30 to 75 corn and 2 tons hay. Churches and Schools. Population 250. Mary Kimble P. M.

Garvine, John M	Wheelwright
Kimble, Henry H	Store & Ins
Kimble, John H	Music Teacher
Kimble, S T	Music Teacher
Scott, Howard	Miller
Scott, J Madison	Carpenter
Strahorn, A R & Bro	Bending Mill
Tuft, R H	Physician
Waid, Wm	Butcher
Willis, John T	Carpenter
Yeatman, John L	Blacksmith

### Farmers

Alexander, David	Beasten, James M	Biddle, Jacob T
Brown, Joseph W	Cunningham, Thos	Finley, J Z
Henderson, Wm C	Huggins, Justus	Jamison, Alfred
Kimble, Henry H	Kimble, John H	Law, James
Mearns, Levi R	Miller, John	Moore, Barney
Sentman, John M	Sentman, Laurence	
Sentman, Michael B	Spencer, John	Steel, Robert H
Swaney, James	Waid, John	Waid, Wm
Wildman, Joseph		

**OAKWOOD**--Is 1-1/2 miles from Conowingo. Land medium; can be bought from \$25 to \$75 per acre, and produces good crops of all kinds. Population 100. V. H. Watts P. M. J. J. Bennett Asst.

Bennett, J J	Gen'l Mdse
White, John R	Blacksmith

### Farmers

Bentz, David	Boyle, Hannah	Dorsey, William
Fulton, M W	Gillespie, J E	Gillespie, M H
Gillespie, Saml	Gillespie, W R	Porter, M E
Roman, Samuel T	Smith, John	





**WARWICK**--Is 4 miles from Middletown and 1-1/2 from Bohemia River. Land is exceptionally good; can be purchased from \$50 to \$100 per acre; yields 18 bus. wheat, 40 to 50 oats, 60 to 70 potatoes, 40 to 60 corn and 2 tons hay. Crops rarely ever fail; fruit in abundance. Peaches unsurpassed in quality or quantity, some farms having on them as high as eight thousand trees. Corn, wheat and peaches are the staple products. M. E Church J. B. Jones. Public School Geo. S. Mattingly and Ella Cranor. Population 400. R. B. Merritt P. M.

Budd, Wm	Butcher
Day, John W	Blacksmith
Dickson, J E	Undertaker
Dorsey, Patrick	Blacksmith
Drake & Bro	Millers
Gillespie, Saml	Hotel
Gunkle, Israel	Gen'l Mdse
Jamison, J A	Carriagemaker
Marsh, E E	Gen'l Mdse
Merritt, R B	Gen'l Mdse
Simmons & Co	Pumpmakers
Slaughter, Cecil	Blacksmith
Stapp, Jos	Gen'l Mdse
Wilson, Amos	Carpenter
Wright, J J	Physician



A postcard of Warwick's main street, with a 1908 postal cancellation.

**Farmers**

Beeks, W T  
 Crawford, H V B  
 Dorsey, Patrick  
 Godwin, Dr Wm  
 Ginn, James  
 Hanser, Richard  
 Lockwood, Geo W  
 Lockwood, Wm K  
 Lusby, Wm  
 Merritt, J S  
 Morton, F D  
 Price, Joseph  
 Staats, Hannah

Bland, Wm  
 Dickson, Thomas P  
 Flintham, Wm  
 Gillespie, Samuel  
 Green, Benj  
 King, Lewis  
 Lockwood, J J  
 Lupton, Thomas  
 Mc Crone, M  
 Merritt, R B  
 Price, Chas  
 Price, Wm  
 Wilson, Wm



"These are some of the Warwick School Children," according to the back of this postcard (circa 1908). Numerous names on the card list students, in no particular order: Howard Bishop, Curtis Vinyard, Russel Tarbutton, Michael Carroll, Harry Smith, Morris Devine, Frank Marsh, Janice Bishop, Elizabeth Aiken, Edna Price, John Garner, Josephine Garmen, Hettie Stewart, Pearl Burris, Margaret Marsh, Marie Devine, Rebecca Thornton, Amelia Smith, Alice Marsh, Richard Aiken, Rodney Price, Lelana Price, Norman Stewart, Seston Bishop, Bennie Gonce, Amos Wilson, Josephine Aiken, Eula Vinyard, Dudley Tarbutton, Clara Price, Mary Tarbutton, Bennie Bains, Stella Bishop, Miss Stradley (Teacher), Josephine Stearns, Fannie Simmons, Bertha Lynch, Richard Tarbutton, Jessie Vinyard, Paul Marsh, Prof. Johnson. The Bulletin has not included all names on the back of the card and those that are represent our best interpretation of the writing. The card concludes with a note that not all students were present. If you can identify specific students, please contact our Librarian.