



# Fall 2019

## NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 102  
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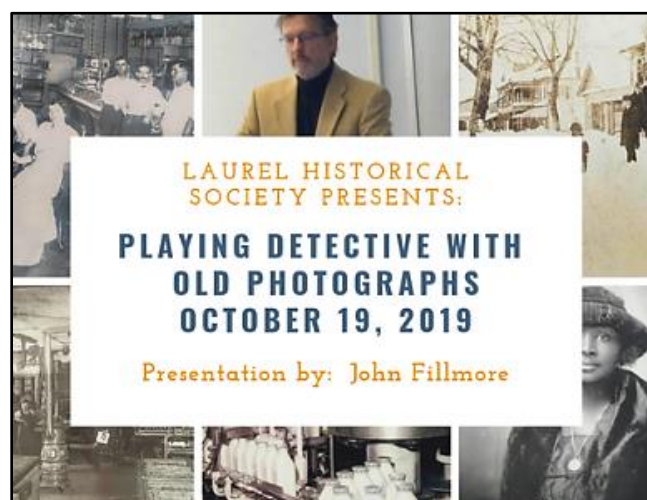
[laureldehistoricalsociety.org](http://laureldehistoricalsociety.org)



### Fall Fundraising Dinner to Feature Historic Photo Sleuth

The Laurel Historical Society is pleased to welcome historic photograph expert John Fillmore—as well as all of our members, and the general public—to a dinner and presentation on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at St. Philip's Episcopal Church. Arrive at 5:30 pm for a reception with beer and wine available for purchase, to be followed by a buffet-style dinner provided by Southern Grill at 6:00. A fascinating presentation about photograph restoration and forensic photography, featuring examples from Laurel's own Waller collection, will follow. The cost is \$40 per person. **See page 11 for more details and a mail-in registration form.**

John Fillmore has always been fascinated with old photographs. As a retired history teacher with a master's degree in applied technology, he has taken his interest in historic images and developed it into a service in which he digitizes and restores old photos. Fillmore is a native Delawarean who has made multiple contributions to the image collection of the Delaware State Archives and provided digitizing services for several local historical societies.



Millions of photographs have been produced in the U.S. since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Unfortunately, many of these images—including those of possible historical significance—remain unidentified. If we take the time to re-examine some of these images using the technologies of today, we are often able to identify the subject, time, and place. Fillmore's presentation is about using a variety of resources to accomplish this task. ■

**IN THIS ISSUE:** The Big Reveal, Trap Pond Archaeology, Historic Children's Artwork, Broad Creek Bridge, Recent Donations, "Old News," Upcoming Events, & more!

## A Note from the President

by George Denney

In less than a year, with your help, we were able to repurpose the Hitchens Homestead into a viable venue, and held our first annual Hoedown there! It was no small task, but thanks to many individuals who gave freely of their time and money, we accomplished our goal. The Hoedown was great fun, and it was a pleasure to see so many of our members and guests in attendance.

You will not want to miss our upcoming events: The Hitchens Homestead “paint reveal” on September 29<sup>th</sup> (see pages 2-3), a fundraising dinner and program featuring old Waller photographs on October 19<sup>th</sup> (see pages 1 and 11), and our Grand Illumination ceremony at the Hitchens Homestead on December 6<sup>th</sup>, after the Christmas Parade.

In each newsletter I’m pleased to announce how generous our members and friends have been—with both money and material objects—and this one is no exception. However, please remember how much money it takes to maintain two properties: utility bills, Town of Laurel, security,

mowing lawns, etc. The Laurel Historical Society has a genuine opportunity to fulfill our mission, but it is a tremendous challenge to raise enough funds throughout the year. With your generous support we can continue to fund events, projects, and services, and increase our level of commitment to our local community, and beyond. ■



*George Denney at the Hoedown at Hitchens Homestead.  
Courtesy of Paula M. Shannon.*

## The Big Reveal

by Ned Fowler

Ever go to your high school class reunion and have someone say that you haven't changed a bit? Maybe, but we all know better. Change is inevitable. It's what happens with the passage of time and changes in perspectives. The same can be said of Laurel. Streetscapes have been transformed as structures and other landmarks have come and gone. What we knew back then may look totally different today, and those of us who live in and around it all of the time so quickly forget.

Buildings, for the most part, must undergo change in order to survive. They must adapt to current trends and demands in order to remain relevant and useful. Close your eyes and try to imagine a Laurel without paved streets and sidewalks, without block after block of white houses with green or black shutters, without overhead power lines, and with an industrial waterfront instead of a pristine park. That's really more like it. Fast forward to the Hitchens Homestead. Although pretty true to its beginnings, it's changed, too, as might be expected. Roofs have come and gone, windows have been replaced, and doors have been

changed as life has gone on. Outbuildings around the property are different, as well. In order for us to present the place as it once was, we need to take into consideration a number of factors: present memory and recollections, old photographs or drawings, written documentation (either personal records or documents in the public domain), and custom and tradition at the time. Sometimes, though, this isn't enough. Striking out on most of the above, we decided to put our faith in the hands of a historic paints analyst, Catherine Adams Masek.

Cathy comes to us with a very respectable list of credentials throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Locally, her work can be seen at the Indian River Lifesaving Station north of the Indian River inlet, Rose Cottage in Dover, and the Parson Thorne Mansion in Milford. What she does is called chromochronology: a timeline of historic paint surfaces. By taking (with the very able assistance of Woody Disharoon up high on his extension ladder) some 44 samples at the Hitchens Homestead and then submitting them to microscopic and chemical



analysis, she has been successful in determining what colors the house was painted over the years. These samples varied in quality and had to be tested and re-tested in order to be absolutely sure of their findings. What was found on one window, for example, had to be verified on other windows in order to ensure consistency. Some samples were great, having come from relatively untouched places or areas sheltered from either usage or the elements. Other samples yielded nothing, perhaps due to such extreme wear or weather that nothing survived from the original.



*The Rose Cottage in Dover; one of Masek's previous projects.*

There also were some external areas around the house where we weren't exactly certain of what was and what wasn't first period. In this regard, paint finishes can help in determining original integrity. If a building element lacks the original color configuration, this then tells us that something has been changed and, from that, we can possibly determine when that change occurred. Our front porch is a perfect case. We figured that things had been changed around a bit due to exposure to the elements, but historic paint analysis gave us the answers to many of these questions. Another area in which this all comes in handy is seeing where things have suffered. Why was there a thick layer of dirt buildup at a certain point? Why did the house not get painted over this time? Why was there neglect? These questions, and many more, can be answered when you look at the whole picture. We now know most of the story, but we're not telling anybody. It's going to be a surprise!

**With your lawn chairs or blankets, come join us on the lawn at the Hitchens Homestead on Sunday, September 29, at 4 p.m. for the big reveal,** including a presentation by Cathy Masek about historic paint colors and building trends of the period. ■

## “Time Travelers” Dig at Trap Pond

A group of Time Travelers discovered evidence of the early history of the Laurel area—or, technically, its *prehistory*—during two events held at Trap Pond State Park in May. Instead of a time machine, the volunteers used shovels, trowels, and sifting screens to travel through layers of soil and uncover artifacts untouched by human hands for roughly one thousand years.

On Saturday, May 11th, a group of about a dozen volunteers met at Cypress Point, on the northeast side of the pond, at the site of a proposed bathroom septic field. Under the guidance of archaeologist John McCarthy, they divided into two teams, each of which dug a series of shovel test pits, carefully sifting the excavated soil for artifacts before refilling the pits. In addition to shards of glass and scattered pieces of charcoal—remnants of picnics and campouts going back nearly a century—several fragments of prehistoric pottery were discovered. The people who left them behind long ago may have been the ancestors of the Nanticokes. In their day, Trap Pond was simply a creek surrounded by wetlands, an excellent source of food resources.



Archaeologist John McCarthy reviews the day's finds on May 11th.

The group returned on Saturday, May 25th, and dug another test pit before excavating a one-meter square. The soil from this larger hole was meticulously scraped away with trowels prior to sifting. They found more pieces of pottery, as well as evidence of ancient toolmaking in the form of flakes of stone. ■

*Time Travelers are volunteers who give their time to assist the archaeologists and historians working in state parks. For more information visit [destateparks.com/programs/timetravelers](http://destateparks.com/programs/timetravelers) or contact John McCarthy at [John.McCarthy@delaware.gov](mailto:John.McCarthy@delaware.gov) or (302) 739-9188.*

## Another Successful Summer

by Emily Whaley

After spending four summers with the Laurel Historical Society, I'm happy to say that I've been involved in a wide variety of projects. Every summer Norma Jean Fowler and I undertake a project with the goal of making information more available and accessible to the public. In the past we've worked on scanning photographic collections, ranging from late nineteenth century pieces to mid-twentieth century snapshots. However, this summer has been our biggest undertaking yet!

We have worked to rehouse the archival and object collections with preservation and accessibility in mind. This meant putting documents in archival grade folders and sleeves, and wrapping delicate objects in tissue when appropriate. The process worked similar to an inventory. We opened each of the 80 storage containers, where documents and objects were previously held, and took everything out. From there we were able to reassess each object's condition and group like things together. We were able to refresh and remind ourselves of all of the awesome objects and documents pertaining to Laurel, like the annual Laurel-Seaford Thanksgiving Day football programs and items from the Sesquicentennial. By working in the archive and object collections we have improved the organization of storage and retrieval, all the while creating more space for new objects in the future! ■

## Old News

From *Every Evening*, November 5, 1917:

### GHOSTS, DEVILS, ETC.

Special Correspondence of Every Evening

Laurel, Nov. 5. Friday evening the senior class of Laurel High School entertained the faculty and the junior class at a masquerade party at the home of Miss Mary Adelaide Bacon on West street. The home was lighted with Jack o'lanterns made of pumpkins, and the floors were carpeted with autumn leaves. The guests entered a darkened hall and were met by a "ghost," which held out a cold clammy hand and motioned them upstairs. Arriving at the head of the stairs, the sometimes half frightened victim, was directed to the living room by another "ghost." The evening was pleasantly passed playing various Halloween games.

When the moon came up a "witch" arrived on a broomstick and coming in at the back door, told the fortunes of those brave enough to look into the future. The "Devil" was to arrive later in the evening to take care of the "ghosts," but some good "angel" detained him.

The party, which was unique and pleasing closed with a fine collation.

*Retrieved from Newspapers.com.*

## A TERRIFYING PRESENCE IN THE MIDNIGHT THICKET

Back in the 1920s and 1930s, some of the old folks around Laurel used to tell youngsters a spine-tingling tale about the Midnight Thicket, a dense forest surrounding today's Fire Tower Road, leading north from Chipman's Pond towards Concord. While driving a horse-drawn wagon on the old dirt lane at night, flickering lantern in hand, a traveler would be startled by the sudden addition of a great weight on the back of the wagon, as though someone—or something—had climbed onto it. A backwards glance revealed nothing save for the enshrouding darkness, but the horses lunged and strained to pull their load, struggling forward one step at a time. The traveler was, of course, terrified. This continued for a short distance. Then, as suddenly as it had manifested, the mysterious weight was gone, as though the phantom presence had relinquished the wagon. The horses surged forward, carrying their frightened driver away from the nameless menace, out of the forest.

One wonders what might have happened if the horses had stopped. ■

*Source: Elmer Hearn, age 95, interviewed by Chris Slavens.*



Last month, we received a website inquiry about the Community House and Sara Fooks Tutherly. After a few back and forth emails, we were told by a Las Vegas resident that she had a period photograph of Mrs. Tutherly as a young lady. Having only one known photo of her as a matronly woman, we were delighted to receive this as a donation. We get lots of photos donated in this manner, except for one distinguishing factor. Generally, donations come from family members or local folks cleaning out estates. This donor, Caryl Osborn, to our knowledge, has no connection to Mrs. Tutherly or to Laurel. She stated that she found the picture in either Montana or Utah and simply wanted to find out who this woman was and return it to her or her hometown!

We knew there were wonderful folks out there who like to do this sort of thing, but it's the first time we have been the beneficiary of such largess. How in the world did a c. 1900 photograph of Sarah Fooks Tutherly find its way out west! I guess we will never know. For those who don't know her story, Sarah Tutherly was a Laurel heiress who lived in the house on Market Street with the picket fence, where it intersects with Fourth St. She built the



large white building currently across from the Library and donated it to the Town of Laurel. For many years it was the location for the Town Council, library, and the meeting location for most of the local civic clubs. The photograph is currently on display at the Cook House, which is open by appointment (302-875-2820) or on the first Sunday of each month from 1-4 pm. ■

## Library Liaison Starts a New Chapter



On July 8<sup>th</sup>, a group of society members gathered at Abbott's on Broad Creek to express their gratitude and wish a fond farewell to board member and library liaison Gregg McCullough (front and center), who took a position in Ohio.

Gregg will be greatly missed. ■

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

### "WORK WEDNESDAY" RESUMES SEPT. 4<sup>TH</sup>

For the past two years, volunteers have met at the Cook House on the first and third Wednesdays of each month to help with collections management. Most tasks are very simple. Norma Jean says if you can use scissors and know your alphabet, then there are jobs for you.

There is always work to be done around the Hitchens Homestead, including yard and building maintenance. That schedule is more flexible, so if you are available, contact project chair Ned Fowler.

**Work Wednesday will resume at the Cook House on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, and continue on the first and third Wednesday of each month, 9 am – 1 pm.**

**Work Wednesday will be held at the Hitchens Homestead on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – noon. Stop in any time and join the fun!**

Ned and Norma Jean can be reached at 875-2820.

# So Many “Firsts” at the Hitchens Homestead

by Dee Cross



On June 8<sup>th</sup>, from 4 – 7 pm, with nearly picture-perfect weather, the Laurel Historical Society hosted its “first” on-site gala, the Hoedown at Hitchens Homestead. Steering Committee Brad Spicer, Don Phillips, Debbie Mitchell, Dawn Collins, and chairman Ned Fowler spent months planning and engineering the event. So many members and volunteers prepped the property for countless hours before that. What a perfect time for the “first” public look inside the “little house on the hill” and the millhand house!

The “first” intriguing surprise to most attendees, including me as a docent, was not the fitting staging of the donated period furniture and farm utensils, but the copies of the Waller prints scattered throughout depicting agricultural life and life in Laurel during that time. What stories they told! Many pieces of the furniture came out of storage were displayed for the “first” time too.

While on duty, I got to meet Dan Twilley for the “first” time. As the only living descendant of E. W. Twilley, for whom the house was built, he, too, observed and photographed every detail. Many cousins of the next occupants, the Hitchens family,

toured the house for the first time. Most of them had a story or memory to share.

Outside, down the hill towards the millhand house, visitors could get a more agricultural feel with a row of artisans and vendors and ag utensils. Imagine a working farm on this site! Of course, most of us got to stop for water, soda, wine or beer, plus a varied and delicious hoedown menu from Abbott’s on Broad Creek. Plus, who could resist homemade ice cream from Vanderwende’s food truck. While you casually strolled from spot to spot, you could enjoy the familiar tunes of the popular cover band Charlie and the Cool Tones. So many people mentioned how much they appreciated the tables and chairs throughout the different areas for eating, listening to the music, or resting a bit.

Most importantly, you could already feel the evolving role of this future destination link for the LHS and the LRC. With the continued vision and guidance of the Steering Committee, the LHS Board, LHS members, family and friends, we can all be partners in the restoring, preserving, utilizing and enjoying Hitchens Homestead. This day was only the “first” of many more to come. ■



*All photos courtesy of Paula M. Shannon.*



This summer, our society has had the good fortune to have not one, not two, but three summer interns here for about a ten-week period. Returning for a fourth summer is our own member, Emily Whaley, who continues to organize and refine the storage handling of our archives, photographs, and objects. She amazes me with her skill and knowledge in the preservation field as well as her enthusiasm and energy. It will take another long article to review what she has accomplished for me and for the society. See Emily's article, "Another Successful Summer," on page 4.

New interns this year are University of Delaware history majors Kat Humphrey and Kathleen Stamos, each minoring in museum studies. Being selected as an intern site by the University is a big deal, and to be offered two interns must mean we are doing something right.

The girls have been busily working on processing the huge collection of children's artwork that was donated by Madeline E. Dunn a while back. Named the Children's Art Work Project, this collection contains over 400 fragile crayon drawings created by Laurel School children during the 1935-1946 periods of the Great Depression and World War II. The art teacher at that time, Miss Madeline Arnold (later Mrs. Meril Dunn) encouraged her students to draw what they knew, what they saw, and what was important to them. Consequently, the images found in this collection, drawn by innocent children during a challenging time, reflect their worlds as they saw them: home, church, school, downtown, and WAR.

Not only can we see primary images of holiday traditions, work on the farm and shopping 1940s Laurel, but most blatantly we can see how life on the home front of WWII affected these children. Fighter bombers, Nazi insignia, Japanese flags, and victory gardens along with war bond rallies permeate the pages. Hog killing on the farm gives an historic look to a relatively lost skill. We even have some drawings that would initiate conversations on racial issues of the day. Church and religion are also reflected. Viewing these, one can almost travel to another time in history. With the size of this collection and the breadth of subjects, humanities discussions on so many

levels are possible. In addition to the obvious firsthand look at life in rural Delaware in 1935-46, the drawings show that children's hand-eye coordination remains the same, as the figures drawn 80 years ago are shaped just as they would be by today's children. A child psychologist would have a field day interpreting the WWII images. Agricultural products and techniques from yesterday can be compared to today. A very clear image of child life then can be compared and contrasted to the activities and thoughts of young people in 2019.

The drawings distantly reveal a child's home front perspective during this time of economic deprivation and global conflict and are rich for discussion. So rich that the Delaware Humanities Forum has granted our society \$2550 for the supplies needed to re-house the artwork in appropriate archival storage sleeves and boxes. The most important step in preserving these delicate sheets of 80+ years old paper is scanning them into a digital file so that they can be viewed electronically, thus reducing physical handling.

Most of the drawings were too large for our desktop scanners, so a search for oversize scanners brought us to the Edward H. Nabb Center for Delmarva History and Culture, located at Salisbury University. They graciously allowed us to use their oversized scanners, and are as excited about the project as we are. Scanning is the key to this project so it is safe to say that without this cooperative relationship with the University, the project could not have moved forward. Our interns have created protective sleeves for each drawing and then scanned all 440 images this summer. Without this intern grant, the project would have been stymied.

All this being said, we hope to bring these images to life in a public program sometime in the future. With everything else going on, it most likely will be in 2020. The implications for investigating the human mind in another time period are extensive in this collection, and through the combined efforts of the University of Delaware, Salisbury University, the Delaware Humanities Forum, and the Laurel Historical Society, they have been preserved for years to come. ■

One of the lesser-known chapters in the history of the Laurel area concerns a vanished community which was located in the wooded area south of Sandy Fork and the American Legion home, commonly called Old Forge. The mysterious site was an important one in the 18th and 19th centuries, featuring a bridge over Broad Creek for travelers using the original stage road. The Pomeroy & Beers Atlas of 1868 depicts a sawmill, gristmill, store, and several houses clustered around the bridge. There was also an A.M.E. church on the south side of the creek at that time, but it does not appear on the map. In the early years of the 20th century, "Old Forge Camp" was described as the largest "colored" campmeeting in Sussex County. Today, the forge, mills, houses, church, campground, bridge, and even the road are long gone.

Old Forge has received little attention from historians, probably because the name doesn't appear in early records. Local journalist Orlando V. Wootten wrote two fascinating articles about Old Forge for the *Daily Times* and *The Archeologist* in 1968 and 1975, respectively, based on his own visits to the site as well as information from Carmel Moore. Both were accompanied by striking photos of abandoned millstones and other features. The second article was reprinted in *The History of Nineteenth Century Laurel* in 1983. Wootten lamented the absence of "documentary evidence or primary sources of historical information on Old Forge," despite the fact that Scharf's *History of Delaware* mentioned that the forge and mills had been built "many years before" 1807, when they were owned by Josiah Polk.

But the reason for Old Forge's apparent absence from early records is simple: The community wasn't called Old Forge back then. It was called Broad Creek Bridge.

Possibly the earliest references to Broad Creek Bridge were made in 1723, when the area was part of Nanticoke Hundred in Somerset County, Maryland:

*"Thomas Gordan appointed Overseer of the roads in Nanticoak hundred from Broad Creek bridge to the Cows bridge at the head of the Indian river..."*

*"Henry Friggs appointed Overseer of the roads in the afsd hundred from Broad Creek to Gravelly Branch..."*

A similar reference appears the following year:

*"Ordered that James Bowcher be overseer of the road from Broad Creek bridge halfe way to the Cow bridge it being the halfe of Wm. Burtons Limmitts from the Cow Bridge..."*

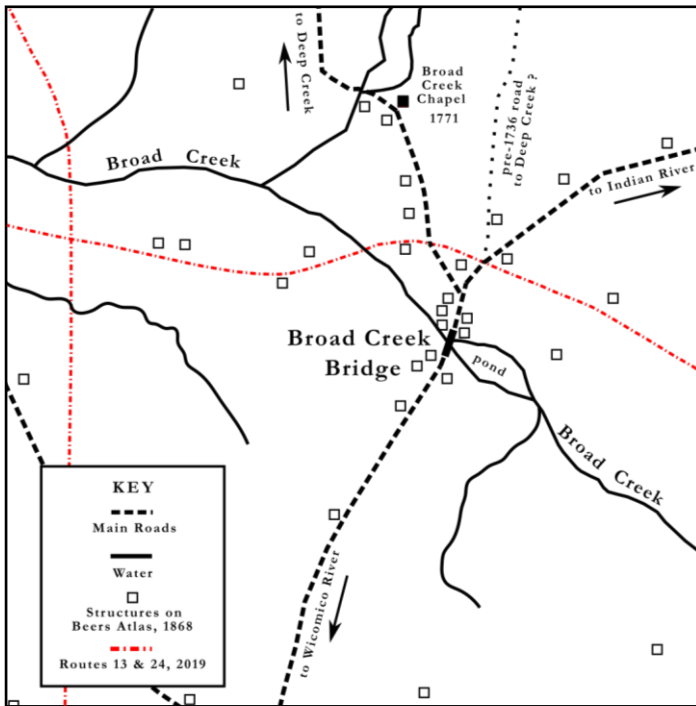
Friggs is probably the same man called Henry Freaks in 1711, who was awarded 3,000 pounds of tobacco in damages due to the creation of the Nanticoke reservation known as Broad Creek Town. James Bouger was another early landowner.

The bridge was also used as a landmark in surveys of nearby tracts of land. In 1726, "Cypress Swamp" was surveyed for Robert Givans, and described as beginning at a red oak on the northeast side of the creek, "about a mile & halfe above ye Bridge..." Three years later, the first boulder of "Givans Lot" was a cypress tree a mere two poles (approximately 33 feet) below the bridge. Another survey for Givans mentions a cart road leading eastward from the bridge to a swamp; this road might have been the basis of part of today's Route 24. Givans owned several hundred acres of land around Broad Creek Bridge, as well as lands along Deep Creek to the north.

A noteworthy reference appears in 1736, when Paris Chipman petitioned for permission to clear a new road, at his own expense, between Broad Creek Bridge and Chipman's mill dam. Evidently Chipman had built a sawmill downstream of a wading place where the old road crossed a branch, causing the wading place to become impassable. It is likely that this record describes the creation of Chipman's Pond, and that the new pond flooded the old road and wading place.

Another interesting reference appears in 1747, when Presbyterian minister Rev. Charles Tenant mentioned Broad Creek Bridge in a list of places for "public service and preaching..." This is significant, because the early religious history of Broad Creek is a bit mysterious. In the 1880s, Scharf's contributor Rev. Benjamin Douglass suggested that Christ Church, built in 1771, replaced an earlier structure, vaguely citing local tradition.





*Sandy Fork and vicinity, c. 1723 – 1868. Composite map of early roads, plus structures known to have existed in 1868, hint at what the Broad Creek Bridge community may have looked like during its early years. Today's Routes 13 and 24 included for context.*

Additionally, it is known that a Presbyterian church was built along the same branch sometime prior to the Revolution, during which it was burned. Tenant's mention of Broad Creek Bridge is also significant because he seems to be using the name to refer to the *community* located around the bridge, as opposed to earlier records which seem to use the name to refer to the literal bridge. However, although his list specifically mentions meeting houses at other locations, it does not actually say that there was one at Broad Creek Bridge. The history of the Broad Creek Presbyterians between the 1740s and 1780s deserves further research.

The 1750s saw several surveys for Joseph Marshall which mention Broad Creek Bridge, roads, and other features. Perhaps the most important is a 1755 resurvey of a tract including land formerly owned by Robert Givans, and excluding land which had been "taken away by water." The new 114-acre tract was called Saw Mill Lot. Although the document does not say whether there was already a sawmill there, the reference to encroaching water suggests that the creek had already been dammed to create a mill pond. This could have occurred as early as the late 1720s or early 1730s, under Robert Givans. In any case, it is clear that Saw Mill Lot surrounded the section of Broad Creek which would later be known as Old Forge Pond.

In 1770, the Maryland legislature authorized the purchase of "a Lott of Ground at or near Broad Creek Bridge in [Stepney] Parish and Erecting and Building thereon a Chapel of Ease to the said Parish," resulting in the construction of Broad Creek Chapel between 1771 and 1772. Tradition holds that the iron nails, hinges, etc., used in the structure were produced at the nearby forge. It's not clear why the site at Chipman's Pond, about a mile north of Broad Creek Bridge, was chosen, but the decision seems to support the theory that the name Broad Creek Bridge was used to refer to the entire community at that time.

By 1807, as mentioned previously, Josiah Polk owned the forge, gristmill, and sawmill at the site. When he died—probably in the late 1830s—ownership passed to his brother, John, although the old forge was abandoned. The mills were called the Polk Mills during this period, even after they were sold to the Chipman family. They were operated during most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, changing hands several times.

Both the mills and the bridge were mentioned in 1848, when James Horsey donated a half-acre parcel on the south side of the creek to a group of free blacks led by Samson Matthews. The church they founded would be known as Old Forge A.M.E., though the name does not appear in the deed. The congregation hosted an annual campmeeting beginning in 1855. The church was closed in 1909, but sister church Mt. Pisgah continued to hold campmeetings for several years. In *The Churches of Delaware*, published in 1947, Zebley stated that nothing survived to mark the site. The history of this church and campmeeting will be explored in greater detail in a future article.

The community at Broad Creek Bridge can be considered a direct ancestor of the town of Laurel, and it is to be hoped that we will be able to learn more about its story, from its mysterious beginnings in the colonial era until its seemingly rapid abandonment in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Specifics about the Old Forge, in particular, are elusive. The search continues. ■

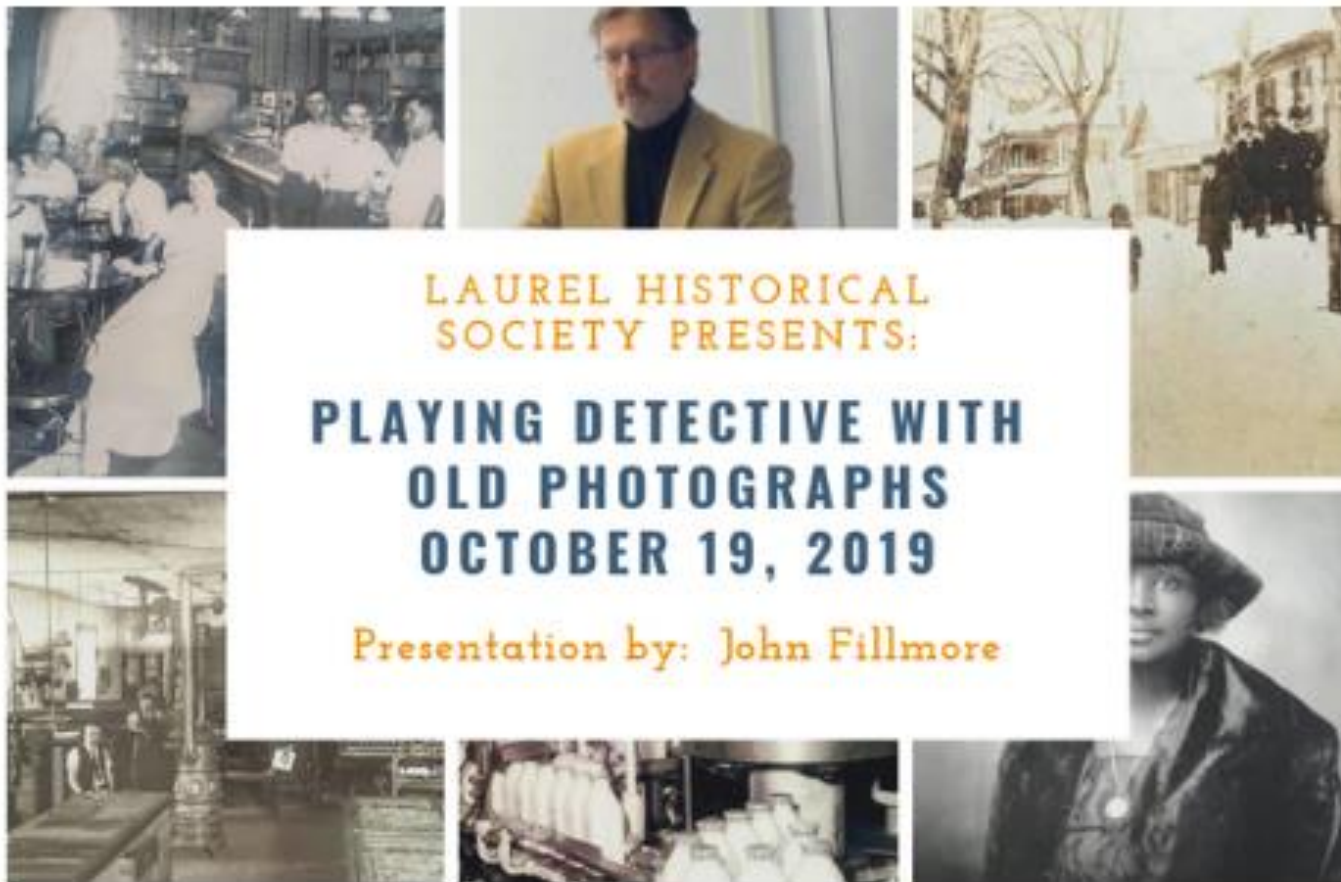
#### Notes:

1. The Archaeological Society of Delaware provides PDF copies of *The Archeologist* at [delawarearchaeology.org](http://delawarearchaeology.org).
2. Colonial court and land records are held by the Maryland State Archives; searchable at [msa.maryland.gov](http://msa.maryland.gov) and [plats.net](http://plats.net), respectively.
3. Tract maps created by John Lyon and Mike Hitch identified original landowners around Broad Creek Bridge.

It's nearly the end of August, and we're more than halfway through the 2019 year. A look back at the generous donations we have received since January will give you an idea of what we get excited about. During the first eight months of the year, about 35 wonderful folks have thought of the society and donated historic items to our collections. The donations are wide and varied; so, before you trash something related to Laurel or something you might think we could use, give us a call.

**Steven Dye:** Ron Waller football trophies and photos, team-signed 1950 LHS football, 1915 Peoples National Bank calendar used in Waller's Men's Store; **Ned & Norma Jean Fowler:** Laurel-made secretary desk, corner cupboard, marble top dresser, walnut dining table, oak table & 6 chairs, drop leaf table, 5 volume DE Military Archives, Laurel Flour & Feed Mill paper bag, Valliant Fertilizer burlap bag, archives; **Bruce Smith:** Waller Theater newsletter, c. 1940; **Louis & Shirley O'Neal:** Hog killing tripod, pots, wagon wheels, misc. farm tools and equipment from Manning O'Neal farm; mason's pick and wood stove from Laurel Flour & Feed Mill; 15 Edmund Hitchens apple-picking tickets, Gray's Branch; **Doug Marvil:** Nanticoke Byway papers; **Morris Harris:** 14 scrapbooks on LHS sports, Ron Waller, Marvil Package Co., Bill Gordy, Laurel Sesqui-Centennial, Flood of 1933, etc.; **Sue Hart estate:** Folk art painting by Sue Adkins Hart, LHS Class of 1964; **Elwood Baker:** Large collection of State Register clippings; **Linda King:** Laurel Fire Department ladies night photo, Laurel River postcard; **Mona Wright:** Antique children's wooden alphabet blocks; **Bobby Carey:** Baker's Seed Store & Carey's yardsticks, ashtrays from James Market & Collins Motors, old tools; **Odd Fellows Lodge:** Card table advertising Laurel businesses, post WWII; **Arnold Hearne:** Small basket, Marvil Package Company; **Woody Disharoon:** Dutch Shoppe matchbook, 1934 LHS baccalaureate program, J. O. Baker invoice, 1934 LHS musical program (with George Schollenberger in charge of dances and drills); **Kendal Jones:** Strawberry tickets from W. Clarence Truitt at Lowe's Cross Roads, Bethel ram documents; **Earl Little:** Laurel Youth Canteen poster, c. 1950s; **Chris Slavens:** Journal of Rev. John Milton Purner, Laurel circuit rider; **Robert Riggins:** Kiwanis wall banner; **Linda Justice:** framed photo of intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> and Market; **Jan James:** antique whirligig, Candy Kitchen chairs and photos; **Ben Sirman:** Bruce Moore football

cleats, Roy Jones Recorder of Deeds poster, hog-killing equipment, stumps for chicken-killing, May Day crown and photo, Dr. L. R. Outten dentist sign and ledger, football items, photos; **Marlene Hamilton:** Bethesda Church painting, hymnal, church & school prints; marble top table; Victorian side chairs; satin glass; schoolmaster's-type desk; brass candlesticks; 1953 Laurel Mirror; whiskey jug; Warrington family farm items from Pepperbox; **Ann Lee:** LHS Bulldog newsletters, 1970s; C. N. Landon penknife; Long & Short interior photo; miscellaneous photos; Laurel advertising items; **Wendy Dolby:** 3 early local split oak baskets, Laurel school books, enamel dipper; **Beverly Smith:** Cordrey Dairy milk bottle, Victorian sidechairs, Warrington family farm documents and ox yoke from Pepperbox, rose medallion, bohemian glass, satin and cut glass, wooden store shipping crate, etc.; **Ruth O'Neal:** 1947 Historic Laurel brochure, Laurel nail keg; **Nancy Lowe:** Marble top table; **Doris Boyce estate:** Laurel nail keg, strawberry carrier, Boyce Homestead painting by Kendal Jones, Eastlake stand, pine wash stand, auction poster, Senior Center cookbook, photos, newspaper clippings, documents; **Brad Spicer:** *Colonial Anglican Churches of America* book; **Jane Ellen Hiller:** 1960 Laurel Jaycees program, LHS basketball alumni vs. the Baltimore Colts; miscellaneous football memorabilia; **Caryl Osborn:** Early Waller photo of one of Laurel's richest heiresses, Sara Fooks Tutherly (found in either Montana or Utah and sent to us by a total stranger from Nevada); **Michael Nazarewycz:** *Historic Movie Theaters of Delaware* book; **Jack & Lois Cordrey estate:** Ice cream parlor chairs from the Candy Kitchen with photo of chairs in the store on Market Street, 1914; misc. modern household and yard tools; **Don Long:** metal shelving, World War I first aid, Dr. Wilker memorabilia, log roller, scythe, miscellaneous tools; **Fred Fuller:** Laurel High School teachers' handbook, 1953, student handbook, 1953. ■



John Fillmore has always been fascinated with old photographs. As a retired history teacher with a master's degree in applied technology, he has taken his interest in historic images and developed it into a service in which he digitizes and restores old photos. Fillmore is a native Delawarean who has made multiple contributions to the image collection of the Delaware State Archives and provided digitizing services for several local historical societies.

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church**  
**600 S Central Ave, Laurel**

- 5:30 pm - Reception  
(beer and wine for purchase)
- 6:00 pm - Buffet Dinner  
(Southern Grill)
- 7:00 pm - Forensic Photography: Playing Detective With Old Photographs

## SPACE IS LIMITED!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NO. OF GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL \$40.00 PER PERSON BY OCTOBER 11, 2019**  
**PAYABLE TO LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**P O BOX 102, LAUREL, DE 19956**  
**OR ONLINE @ WWW.LAURELDEHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Save the date!*

**Marker Dedication** · September 6, 2019 · 11:00 am · Dunbar School

**The Big Reveal** · September 29, 2019 · 4:00 pm · Hitchens Homestead

**Fall Dinner & Program** · October 19, 2019 · 5:30 pm · St. Philip's

**Christmas Party** · December 1, 2019 · 1:30 pm · Laurel Heritage Museum

**The Grand Illumination** · December 6, 2019 · pm · Hitchens Homestead

*After the Christmas parade, usher in the season with hot chocolate by the bonfire, a community carol sing, and the soon-to-be traditional lighting of the Hitchens Homestead for the holidays.*

The **Laurel Heritage Museum** (215 Mechanic St.) and the **Cook House** (502 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St.) are open on the first Sunday of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. We love visitors!

### *You're Invited*

to celebrate the dedication of the historical marker honoring

**Paul Laurence Dunbar School**



Friday  
September 6, 2019  
11 am - 1 pm

Paul Laurence Dunbar School  
499 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Laurel, DE 19956

Organized by the West Laurel Community

### CONNECT WITH US ONLINE



If you have provided us with your email address, keep an eye out for occasional updates from the Laurel Historical Society!

[laureldehistoricalsociety.org](http://laureldehistoricalsociety.org)

*You can also find us on:*

**FACEBOOK**

[facebook.com/LaurelDEHistoricalSociety](https://facebook.com/LaurelDEHistoricalSociety)

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