



The Slate

Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.,
 Post Office Box 431, Port Republic, MD 20676-0431 • August 2008

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon Held May 28



Pennies for the Schoolhouse

Calvert County Public Schools representatives Robin Levy and Laveeta Hutchins, Service Learning Coordinator, along with Beach Elementary School teacher Peggy Edgington and Wanda Riffe, Secretary and Service Learning Coordinator, present the check for proceeds from this year's 4th grade penny drive to One-Room Schoolhouse Committee chairperson, Carol Khalili (center). Beach Elementary School raised more than \$500 in pennies—largest amount among the schools. The importance of protecting and maintaining significant historical sites is stressed in the Community Service Project.



Amanda and Lauren Bourne presented both instrumental and vocal selections for the enjoyment of attendees.



One-Room Schoolhouse Committee

Another successful year of hosting Calvert County Public School 4th grade students on their field trip to the school! Left to right: Margaret Saville, Barbara Fringer, Carol Khalili, Sandy Roberts, Russell Costley, Nancy Thompson, Dotty Greene, Ellen Duehrsen, Fran Armstrong. Missing from photo: Oreal Morsell, Elaine Dunkle.

**Save
 the
 Date &
 Bring a Friend**



**Thursday, Aug. 21, 6 P.M.
 Port Republic Schoolhouse #7**

- Annual Meeting of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse
- Ice Cream Social
- Music by the Calvert Community Band

New Light on an Old School

Richard Dodds, Board Member, Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.



Port Republic's School #7's teacher and students, circa 1915.

The following article was submitted by the newest member of the Board, Richard Dodds, who is also the Curator of Maritime History at the Calvert Marine Museum. We certainly appreciate the fresh set of eyes and the research savvy that Richard brings to the organization.

On recently reading about the history of the Port Republic One-Room Schoolhouse, I was struck by the uncertainty as to the date of the school building. Currently, the Volunteer Handbook states that the school "was probably built about 1866 circa 1860-1870."

Taking up the challenge, I visited the Maryland State Law Library in Annapolis to review the annual reports of the State Board of

Education. The Law Library has a fairly complete set, starting in 1865, and I thought this reference may not have been examined before in relation to the school. In the early years of these reports, the county school superintendents submitted quite detailed statistical information on the status of the schools in their respective jurisdictions. However, the nature of the statistics varied somewhat from year to year and is not consistent.

Amongst other information copied for the school's archives was a lengthy summary from the 1866 report of the development of the school system in Calvert County. Part of the 1869 report was copied because it included approved plans for one-room schoolhouses of the period, showing exterior views and floor plans. However, the 1871

report was of particular interest, as it listed all the schools by number, with information as to size, furnishings, and teachers' salaries. School #7 in District 1 was noted as an 18 x 16 log-built structure with an 8' ceiling. Six years later, the 1877 report carried the section: "School Houses Built or Enlarged During the Year." Of the three schools listed, School #7 in District 1 is noted as a frame building, 22 x 22

feet, costing \$450.

It does appear from these records that the first School #7 was of log construction. When it was built is unknown and it may not have been on the same site as the later school. The land records which may have clarified this were lost in the 1882 fire that destroyed the Calvert County Courthouse. It also would appear that the current building probably dates from 1876 (the 1877 report was up to September 30, 1876). There may be a possibility that this building may have been superseded by a third school as school buildings generally had a fairly short life span, and this can be pursued further.

I hope that this research helps to clarify some of the early history of the Port Republic One-Room Schoolhouse.

Saving Port Republic's One-Room School

From the brochure "Port Republic School #7" published in 2005 by the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc., with a grant from Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium



Port Republic School #7 as it appeared in 1976, before its restoration.

As their bicentennial project in 1976, the Calvert Retired Teachers Association took the lead and worked with other local groups to make the memory of this one-room school come to life. The teachers selected Port Republic School #7 because it was already situated on an accessible site and was judged suitable for restoration.

It took teachers' vision to see the potential hidden in the remaining shell. After the school closed in 1932, it stood without doors or windows, smothered in vines and undergrowth, prey to termites, damaged by moisture, inhabited by honeybees, and nearly invisible in the woods owned by Christ Episcopal Church.

Organizations, individuals, and fundraising activities by the retired teachers generated the monies to begin the pay-as-you-go restoration process. No money was sought or received from any government agency. Volunteers cleared the woods, removed insect infestations, painted, and re-roofed the building. Windows and a door were installed.

The empty building truly came alive after it was furnished. Donations included old school desks, textbooks, slates, pictures, water bucket and dipper, school bells, wall maps, pot bellied stove, lunch pails, and other memorabilia.



Painting the school during the 1976 restoration project.



Arnie Petty and Ken Romney approached the fallen tree from the west side of the roof. Once the branches were sawed off, a temporary patch was placed over the hole in the east side roof to prevent further interior water damage. (See top two photos at far right.)



Inside, volunteers covered book cases with protective plastic sheeting to prevent water damage.

The Storm of '08...3 Miracles

Photos and Story by Carol Khalili

On May 12, 2008 an overnight storm felled a huge red oak tree, obliterating the school's shed and coming to rest on the roof of the school. Water leaked into the schoolroom, creating many puddles that saturated parts of the wood flooring.

Volunteers Ken Romney, Arnie Petty, and Mike Khalili worked in wind and rain to cut and remove a branch that had punctured the roof and to install a protective tarp. Inside the school-room, Mary Ellen Romney, Debra Hildebrand and Carol Khalili moved desks, draped book cases with protective plastic sheeting, and positioned buckets and towels.

Outside work was completed when suddenly Ken lost his footing and fell to the ground. Anxious minutes passed: St. Leonard Rescue Squad made a rapid response; Ken was transported to Calvert Memorial Hospital; and CMH Emergency Department gave immediate attention to potential injuries.

Ken was released the same evening, diagnosed with a broken rib, bruised hip, and the need to monitor the concussion he sustained. The very next morning Ken was spotted, riding in his truck with Mary Ellen at the wheel, out checking the storm damage done in Scientists' Cliffs.

Our Three Miracles

The life, limb, and health of Ken Romney, our stellar volunteer, were spared, our artifacts are safe and dry, and our One-Room Schoolhouse stands proudly intact, still teaching. We are very grateful!



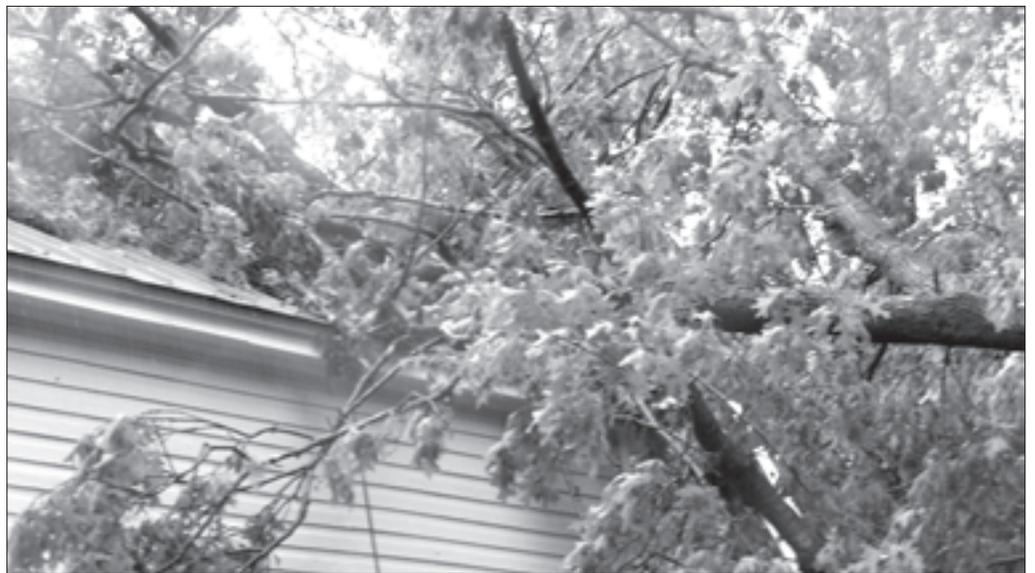
Ken Romney and Mike Khalili worked to secure the schoolhouse and its furnishings.



Volunteers moved desks, draped book with protective plastic sheeting, and positioned buckets and towels.



Worked in the rain to clear debris and to position things to prevent further damage.



Branches from a huge red oak tree fell onto the east side of the school.



When the branches were removed, the damage to the roof's east side became visible.



The school's storage shed was completely destroyed, though the contents were saved.

Proposed Bylaws for the Friends

The following are the proposed By-Laws for the Friends as adopted by the Board of Directors and forwarded to the membership for approval. By reading to the end you will see a brief explanation of the “whys” for the proposed changes. We will make available the original governance documents at the Annual Meeting for those who have specific questions, but that document pre-dates the use of the computer.

Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse Proposed Bylaws

Mission Statement: The Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse is dedicated to the preservation of Port Republic Schoolhouse No. 7 and the promotion of greater public awareness of the history of the school and early public education in Calvert County.

Article I – Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this organization is the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, hereinafter referred to as the Friends. The objectives of this organization are:

1. To preserve and protect Port Republic Schoolhouse No. 7 while making the building accessible to the public.
2. To raise funds for the ongoing preservation of the building and its contents.
3. To publicize and promote events for the benefit of the School.
4. To enhance community pride by interpreting the history and traditions of the School and community.
5. To maintain and promote contact among its membership through newsletters, meetings, and other activities.

Section 2. The Friends will be guided in carrying out their objectives by the Memorandum of Agreement, dated February 29, 1976, between the Calvert Retired Teachers Association (CRTA) and the Vestry of Christ Church Parish, owner of the property.

Article II – Governance

Section 1. The Friends is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and community-interest purposes as a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the

Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Section 2. The officers shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 3. The officers shall be members in good standing.

Section 4. The officers shall be elected for a term of four years by a majority of those present at the Friends annual meeting.

Article III – Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board is chaired by the President and is not to exceed nine members; to wit, the elected officers, two by appointment from the partner groups: the One-

Room Schoolhouse committee of the Calvert Retired School Personnel Association (formerly the Calvert Retired Teachers Association), and the Vestry of Christ Church, and any balance from the membership at large.

Section 2. Members of the Board shall be elected for a term of four years.

Section 3. The duties of the Board shall be determined by the Board, itself, in order to carry out the programs of the Friends at any given time.



Port Republic Schoolhouse #7

Article IV – Fiduciary Responsibility

Section 1. All members of the Board shall have equal voting rights.

Section 2. The Board shall have the authority to establish annual membership dues.

Section 3. The Board shall have authority to solicit and receive donations in support of programs and activities of the Friends.

Section 4. The Board shall have the authority (a) to submit proposals for financial assistance in furtherance of the Friends’ programs and (b) to receive and disburse funds received from such proposals. In addition, the Board shall have the authority to receive and disburse funds received from unsolicited grants or similar allotments.

Section 5. When deemed necessary and in the best interests of the One-Room Schoolhouse, the Board shall

(See By Laws, cont. on page 7)

Bylaws, cont. from page 6

have the authority to negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding with other organizations.

Section 6. The Board shall have the authority to invest funds in interest-bearing accounts.

Article V – Distribution of Funds on Dissolution

In the event of liquidation, dissolution, termination, or winding up of the Friends (whether voluntary, involuntary or by operation of the law), the assets of the Friends shall be distributed by the Board of Directors to one or more organizations which have supported the purpose and objectives of the Friends in the past.

Article VI – Committees

Section 1. Committees, as needed, may be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The duties of each committee, either standing or ad hoc, shall be specified by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Committee chairs shall be appointed by the President.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 1. The President shall schedule periodic meetings of the Board of Directors to discuss and carry out the programs of the Friends. All meetings are open to the membership and will be scheduled at a minimum of one week in advance.

Section 2. The time for an annual meeting of the Friends shall be determined by the Board of Directors and a 30 day notice shall be provided to the membership. At the discretion of the Board, the annual meeting may be held in conjunction with another activity relevant to the One-Room Schoolhouse. The purpose of the annual meeting

is to elect the Board of Directors, provide a summary of the year’s activities, and transact any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

Article VIII – Membership

Section 1. Membership in the Friends is open to all persons concerned with the preservation and interpretation of the School.

Section 2. Members are in good standing provided they are up-to-date in payment of annual dues, which are established by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. All members in good standing are entitled to vote at the annual meeting and to hold office in the Friends.

Article IX – Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. A majority of the current Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 2. The latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary guide for this organization.

Article X – History and Provisions for Change

These Bylaws are based on the original “Constitution and Bylaws” as adopted by the Friends’ Board of Directors at a meeting on January 25, 1999. Changes from the original Bylaws are based on subsequent experiences in managing the affairs of the Friends. These Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting of the organization by a majority of those present, provided that the amendment(s) has been submitted in writing at a previous meeting or by a mailed notice (by either regular or electronic mail or both) at least 30 days before the vote is to be taken.



We Always Encourage and Welcome New Members as Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.

The Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization formed to establish a partnership between the Calvert Retired School Personnel Association and others who are interested in preserving Port Republic School #7.

Membership includes a newsletter plus information on activities with updates on coming events.

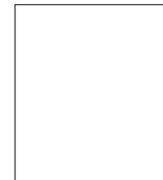
Make your *tax-deductible* check payable to “Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.” and mail to Post Office Box 431, Port Republic, MD 20676-0431.

- Individual or Family \$20.00
- Benefactor \$50.00
- Sustaining \$100.00
- Additional Contribution \$ _____

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone # _____
 E-Mail _____

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Schoolhouse, Inc.**

Post Office Box 431
Port Republic, MD 20676-0431



**Mark Your
Calendars!**

Thursday, Aug. 21, 6 P.M.
Port Republic Schoolhouse #7

- Annual Meeting of the Friends
To Approve New Bylaws •
- Ice Cream Social •
- Music by Calvert Community Band •

**Friends of the
One-Room
Schoolhouse, Inc.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President ... Robert Pfeiffer

Vice Pres Chloe Ewalt
Secretary ... Fran Armstrong

Treasurer ... Alexander Graham

Board of Directors

Richard Dodds
Phillip Fleming
Jack Fringer
Carol Khalili
Mary Ellen Romney
Joseph Showalter

*(Newsletter layout and design
by Frances Dunkle Poling)*

From the Podium

Robert Pfeiffer, President

Welcome to the summer edition of *The Slate*. While the events of the past six months have impacted the schoolhouse in a variety of ways, we continue to move forward with the strong and continued support of our volunteers, both on the Board as well as those who support our variety of programs. In this edition, you will learn about the impacts of spring weather on the building as well as one of our volunteers, but you'll also share in the wonderful celebration of recognition when we toast our volunteers at our May Volunteer Luncheon. You will also have an opportunity to review the work of a small committee of the Board, as we work to make our governance documents reflect the ever evolving program.

Keeping to a theme of friendship and fun, we're set to host our annual *Ice Cream Social on August 21* but this year, we're going to start the evening with a brief *Annual Meeting* when will be seeking your input on some revisions to our Bylaws. The organization has evolved since the adoption of the first set of bylaws and it is now time to revise this document to guarantee that the Friends continues as a group that efficiently supports our mission.

And, finally, in these tough economic times, every not-for-profit in the region is struggling to meet payroll and overhead costs. As a totally volunteer organization which uses the church facilities when meetings are required, we remain solvent in spite of the recent set-back with the damage to the building. We have not, nor will we, conduct an Annual Campaign this year but, instead, want to thank you for your continued support and ask that you not forget the Friends if your finances allow. Enjoy the rest of the summer, and we hope to see you at the Ice Cream Social on August 21.

I want to offer special thanks to Carol and Mike Khalili, Mary Ellen and Ken Romney, Jack Fringer, Richard Dodds, Keith Graham, Arnie Petty, and Debra Hildebrand – without whose help we wouldn't have gotten the building back in shape or this newsletter in your hands. Thanks to everyone for their continued help!