

Heritage News



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Autumn & A Busy Time for Westside Historical !

While autumn is nature's way of slowing things down a bit from the busy days of summer, the folks at Westside have continued to celebrate the rich historical past of Delmarva!

On September 9, as part of our Delmarva History Lecture Series, we were honored by an engaging and fascinating talk by Kellee Blake, retired director of the mid-Atlantic National Archives division at Philadelphia. Her compelling story of the important roles played by early women of the Delmarva peninsula in the 1700s and 1800s in not only local, but national events. The audience in the Bradford Room of the MAC center was spellbound, and we hope to see more of Ms. Blake in the future!

Then on Oct. 9, in the MAC Center, a rapt and enthusiastic audience heard Newell Quinton and



Eugene Stanley give an equally fascinating talk about the history of San Domingo, the community of free blacks in Wicomico County. Dating from the very early 1800s, possibly late 1700s, this is a very special place and plays a crucial role in the story of African-Americans on DelMarva from the 18th through the 20th centuries.
[above]

These were the final lectures in the 2019 schedule, but WHS folks are already busy lining up a new series of talks for 2020! Anyone who has any suggestions for a speaker or topic for this is encouraged to contact us! A special thank-you also goes out here to the MAC Center for hosting this series!

Also in the fall, we held in the MAC center the fourth annual Antiques and Collectibles Fair. Once again, Ms. Charlene Upham and Mr. Steve Blumenauer, who are nationally and internationally known appraisers – and have their home base in Mardela Springs! –

donated their expertise and time to this popular event! [see below] Some beautiful and very interesting items were brought in for information as well as a financial appraisal! Again, we were reminded how much of our history can be told in the objects we use and treasure!



Also, a special treat this fall was a visit to Barren Springs Church by the mid-Atlantic region **Horseless Carriage Club** members. Fifteen of these vintage autos, dating from the very late 1800s & including a Stanley Steamer and an REO! Donna Adler, our "organist in residence!" treated them to a mini-concert [right] from our ca.1880 pump organ. Everyone had a great time, including those of us from WHS who delighted in up-close views of the cars!! Special thanks to our own Board member Charles Emery, who set up the visit!!



And one more event in the historic Church proved it to be a great setting for many kinds of events! Past

Board member Tami Brown arranged for a fun event – a **Meet the Author Afternoon** with three ladies, writers of mysteries in settings ranging from Scotland to Atlantic beaches to the 18th century! The audience got a short introduction to the Church, many bought books, and the talks by each of the authors were really great!!



well! Westside Hist. even purchased a few for the Gift Shop! They make super Christmas gifts! Come see us!

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**And .. more to come in December!**

**...join WHS for Natural Greenery Workshop on Dec. 7 and Annual Jingle Bell 5K Run on Dec. 8 !!**

Learn to make your own beautiful natural greens wreath or other decoration at Pemberton Historical Park (Education Barn Building) 10 to 2:30 -- \$15 each item you make! We supply all the greens and supplies, you supply the imagination!

Come to Mardela, 413 Main St., to Run or Walk through historic streets of Mardela Springs! Trophies for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2 categories (under 12 and 12 up), and Prize for best Christmas Costume ! See info on facing page in this newsletter for details and costs on both of these events !!!

# Delmarva Genealogical Conference A Great Success

On October 19 -20 the Wicomico County Tourism Department sponsored the area's first major genealogical conference! And it proved to be a great success, with plans already underway to repeat it next year.

The conference was held in Wicomico County Civic Center, with dozens of vendors and heritage organizations set up in the DaNang room, and three classrooms used by speakers presenting a wide range of information about genealogy methods and aids, the history of the Delmarva region, and sharing of questions and ideas. In all, 18 talks/speeches were delivered to very interested and involved audiences. More than 200 persons came to learn and share – the farthest from Colorado and several from the Mid-West! A very good showing for this first conference.

Westside Historical Society had a table in the DaNang Room, where we met many great folks that share our interest in family history and genealogy, passed out brochures and information, and answered questions about what we do. **Many, many thanks to the volunteers** who helped man the table from 9 to 5 for both days !!! – Bonnie Murray, Patti Hotton, Bob West, Clara Small, Nanci Robertson, Eldred Robbins, Ray Thompson, and Sylvia Bradley. Also thanks to Mike Hitch and Terry Phillips who gave talks (so popular that more chairs had to be brought into the large classrooms to accommodate their audiences!!!) on behalf of Westside Historical Society. Both Dr. Thompson and Mrs. Bradley also delivered two talks each about Delmarva history and the rich number of sources available here. We made many new friends and learned about some very useful contacts! And, a very special thanks to Stephanie Mervine of the Tourism Dept., who was the person who inspired and carried through the production of this Conference!

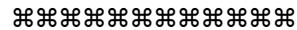
## News from WHS Family History Program &

Interest in learning more about our ancestors – who they were, what they did for a living, where they came from – has been growing. And we here at WHS have been enthusiastically building a small but very useful research collection of records about the families who lived and worked on the lower Delmarva peninsula from the 1600s to the early 1900s. This collection ranges from copies of (and some original) primary sources, photos and other media, and publications.

***This collection will be open to anyone interested in using it for personal research beginning in early spring 2020.***

Presently, the Library, on the second floor at 413 Main Street, is being physically enhanced to better serve users, as well as the annual Family History

Workshop which will begin in March. Materials in the Library do not circulate, but copies may be made, and plans are being developed to digitize some large collections. When the Library opens, volunteer staff will be available to assist users. ***Stay tuned (as they used to say on the radio!) for more information .***



## Genealogy Tip Line ...

If you think your ancestor was in Pearl Harbor when it was attacked by the Japanese and you are looking for his military records, you probably were disappointed to learn those records were among the many that were burned in the NRPC fire in St. Louis. But, don't despair! Hundreds of auxiliary files that might fill in some blanks for you do exist. Go online to get details from <archives.gov/personnel-records-center> for details !



## Coming soon – Holiday Fun!

***It's Coming Back! And Soon!!!***

## ***The Jingle Bell 5K Run – Dec. 8***

Kids, Parents, Grandparents, Brothers & Sisters .... Everyone --- is invited to this annual "kick-off" event in Mardela Springs.

Participants can Run or Walk the 5K course through historic Mardela Springs. On-site registration begins at 1:00 for those 12 and under – their starting time set at 2:00, and for those over 12 registration starts at 1:30 and start time at 2:15. The "under 12" category for young runners is new this year, and we hope will appeal to the members of the Northwestern Elementary and Mardela Middle School teams – as well as all youngsters in the area!!

There will be trophies for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each category, AND – ***new this year – a medal for the runner in the best holiday costume!!***

Due to some problems scheduling the presence of the Mardela High School Marching Band and with other issues, the annual Heritage Town Christmas Tour and Celebration was cancelled this year, but we

## ***Christmas is Coming & the Goose is Getting Fat....***

### ***Early Registration before Nov. 25 –***

- \$15 including FREE T-SHIRT
- \$25 family of 4

### ***On Site Registration***

- \$20 individual
- \$30 for family of 4

To pre-register, email us at [westsidehistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westsidehistorical@gmail.com) or mail at P.O. Box 194, Mardela Spgs., MD 21837 and we will send you a form.



## **Greener Making Workshop Time!**

**December 7, Saturday**

**Mark Your Calendar**

One of the events we sponsor every year about this time is the **Greener Workshop** !! For many, this is the event that makes everyone realize that **Christmas is Coming!!!** For us at Westside, it's a chance to say thanks to all those folks who have supported us all year, including our co-sponsoring Heritage partner, the Pemberton Hall Foundation and Pemberton Historical Park! It also is part of our *Saving Our Traditions Programs*, reminding us of those 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century times when cutting natural greens from the woods, packing and shipping them via train to buyers in Baltimore and other cities in the Chesapeake area, meant more to local families than just celebrating the holiday. For many it was last chance in the year to make some more money to take the family through the winter!

Volunteers from WHS and Pemberton Hall will be going out on Thursday to cut several pickup truck loads of holly, pine, cedar, magnolia, and more, including wisteria and other woody vines. These will become the materials for making wreaths, swags, and other decorations from all natural materials. We supply the wire and other items needed, as well as instruction and help! We do not supply ribbon or containers.

The Workshop will begin in the Education at Pemberton Historical Park between 9:30 and 10 on Saturday morning, Dec. 7, and will go until approximately 2:30. The cost is \$15 per item made. All the fun, laughter, hot cider and cookies are free!!



## **Barren Creek Heritage Museum & Gift Shop To Be Open For Christmas Shopping**

If you are looking for some special gifts for giving this year, we may have just the special thing you are looking for! And great sales!

Here are just a few suggestions ! **All Sale-Priced !!**

- \* Note cards with pictures of 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in and around Barren Creek Springs , blank inside, with envelopes – set of 10 ... \$8.00
- \* Hand Made Quilted Hot Dish Mats , "Granny's Kitchen" design \$18.00
- \* At the Crossroads: Wicomico County \$5.00
- \* CD of Peg Rider's Benefit Vintage Show, 12 \$17
- \* We Live Among Heroes, Commemorative of WWII Veterans \$4.00
- \* Replica of Barren Creek Spring Water Bottle \$8.00
- \* Granny's Cures – Folk Life and Medicine

## **Our Condolences Go Out to those we have lost but remember still ....**

Shirley Bennett Wheatley, a Mardela Springs native with dozens of cousins and other Bennett relatives , passed away in July of this year. She moved to Dorchester County when she married Marion Wheatley where she continued to be a friend to all who knew her. Here she is seen with her daughter Laura Beth, right, and below, we believe this was her high school senior picture. Shirley was always caring and helping others. She will be missed by so many.



**Gail Yerges, ( - )** was the driving force for many years in the restoration of Teackle Mansion and the Somerset County Historical Trust. Although not a native Delmarvan, she had become one of the strongest advocates for the preservation of our heritage and promoting it near and far, and all with grace and a warmth that endeared her to all who knew her. Her last effort was the transcription and publication of the letters of Elizabeth Upshur Teackle from the early 1800s. (see article below in this newsletter) She was a model for us all, and will be deeply missed.



## **Bits & Pieces of Local History . . . & more.....**

### **Valuing Education on Delmarva**

Public education has become so "taken-for-granted" in American life that it may come as a surprise that here on the Eastern Shore free public education has been a legal reality only for 150 years. For the first 250 years it certainly was not the case. In fact, the first official mention of *education* here in what became Wicomico County came in 1663 when the **Colonial** government passed a law protecting orphans to whom parents had left estates providing for their physical and *education* needs. Thirty years later another act was passed for the "encouragement of learning" and advancement of the **Natives**. At that time the colony taxed the exportation of furs and skins to provide funds

for maintenance of schools, but this did not actually have the stated effect all over the colony, and certainly they were not “free” to students.

In 1723 a law was passed by the Provincial government to establish a school in each of the [then] 10 counties; one was built in Somerset that year and in one in Worcester in 1742. These two were united about 1770 and were known as the **Eden School** in honor of Gov. Robert Eden. It was located where Eden now exists, but it burned about 1798-99 and the Assembly ordered that its property be divided between two schools that had been established in Princess Anne and Snow Hill. These were known as **Washington Academy** in Princess Anne and **Worcester Academy** in Snow Hill. Both charged tuition and so mainly wealthier families and a few moderate-income families could afford them. The period from 1775 to 1825 often is referred to as The Academy Period in schooling. Often schools were affiliated with churches, and often were created to keep children from leaving Maryland for other states, and especially to avoid patronizing foreign schools.

The **Salisbury Academy** was established in 1796, and admitted only boys. It merged almost a century later, in 1872, with Salisbury High School, and this formed the *first truly free public secondary school in the County!* This was brought about by the creation of a new state Constitution after the Civil War, which not only created Wicomico as a separate County but also led to passage of a bill for free public education. .

Its first “principal” was Headmaster Thomas Williams and was a two story building, 20'x30', and served students until it burned in the 1886 Great Fire in Salisbury. The “free public” description applied, however, only to white students.

Schools for black students were created in the County after 1867, but they were never supported with the same expenditures as white schools. It would be almost another century before the integration of all schools in the state.

### ⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘ Remember Civics Class?

“Back in the day” as my grandchildren often say, everyone in school had to take a class called “Civics”. Some kids liked it – others not so much. But to get through school, you had to at least sit through it and learn enough to pass the class. Today, if what one sees on the news is true, many of the American people don’t remember/know/understand much about civics. The current topic filling the news is about “impeachment”, one of the things we learned about in Civics class. So maybe the TV can fill the gap a bit.

Meanwhile, it seemed that a short article about an earlier impeachment in this nation might be of some interest. This would be the impeachment of Pres. Andrew Johnson, who had been elected as Vice-President with Pres. Abraham Lincoln at the very ending of the Civil War. Lincoln’s murder in April, 1865, just weeks after his taking office in his second

term, left Johnson, the brand-new Vice-President, as the new President.

Johnson had been Governor of Tennessee from 1853 to ’57; at the beginning of the War in 1860 he was in his third year as U.S. Senator from Tenn., and was the only Southern Senator to support the Union during the War. With Tennessee’s secession from the U. S., he accepted Lincoln’s offer to be Military Gov. of Tenn., despite that he was still a Democrat. These two men had much in common.

By the end of the war, he stood with Lincoln in his view of Reconstruction. That is, he agreed with the President that the Southern states had never really been out of the United States, and the quickest and simplest way to get them back in the Capitol and making the nation work was the goal. Lincoln’s plan (mostly agreeable also to Johnson), called for black emancipation and citizenship, amnesty to most white Southerners (requiring oaths from the wealthiest ones) and an easy path back to Southern states joining the U.S. government. This was not the plan Radical Republicans envisioned. Ultimately, the question was whether the Congress or the Executive branch would guide reconstructing the nation.

For almost three years after Johnson’s taking the office of President, the Congress challenged Johnson on every issue. “States’ rights” was a central question for Pres. Johnson; Congressional power the question for his opponents. When the mid-term Congressional election was held in 1866, “Radical Reconstructionists” swept to power in Congress. The final test between the Johnson (Lincoln) reconstruction plan and that of the Radical Republican Congressmen came when they passed the Command of the Army Act in March 1867. This act took away from the President (head of the Executive branch of U.S. government) the power to fire any military officers. It required the President to issue all military orders through the General of the Army, U. S. Grant (who agreed with the view of Congress). A second act prohibited him from firing any official appointed by and with the advice of the Senate without Senatorial approval.

Johnson, protesting this was unconstitutional, in February tested the law by firing Sect. of War Stanton. Then in August he appointed Gen. U. S. Grant as *ad interim*, and then in Jan. 1868 reinstated Stanton! This was the “double dare” to Congress, and they took it.

On Feb. 24, the House of Representatives passed the Covode Resolution impeaching Pres. Johnson. It almost brought a semi-victory for the Radical Republicans who had created the entire issue. In the Senate which tried Pres. Johnson, the vote for impeachment was 35 for conviction, 19 (including 7 Republicans and 12 Democrats) for acquittal. But this came one vote short of the 2/3 vote necessary. Andrew Johnson finished his term as President. In November of that year the election for President brought the ‘hero’ of the War, Ulysses S. Grant, to the White House.

Ironically, the vote still echoed the struggles of Reconstruction. Grant carried 26 out of 34 states (an electoral vote of 214 to 80), but a popular majority of only 306,000 out of 5,715,000 votes cast. The negro vote exceeding 500,000

decided the election, in which 3 Southern states did not participate and 6 others were still under Radical domination!

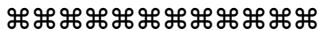


## A Hard to Believe Halloween'ish Story

Yes, we know Halloween has passed, but this little story seems too good to pass by.

In 1835 a New York City newspaper called *The Sun* published a 6-part story about life on the moon. It claimed a group called *lunarians* had built a sophisticated civilization on the moon which consisted of a population of unicorns, two-legged beavers, and bat-like humanoids. Readers were thrilled and circulation soared! They really believed the stories. When it was revealed as a hoax after the 6<sup>th</sup> installment, the readers said they loved it anyway!! & over for one more "you-can't-make-this-stuff-up" category:

In England in 1842 the Parliament passed a piece of legislation called the Lunacy Act. This act enshrined in law the myth that the full moon and insanity were linked. The act distinguished "normal" behavior from that occurring in the period following a full moon! (Fake news???)



## Do any of our readers know anything about this old newspaper clipping?

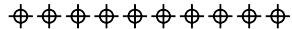
This was found in a piece of newspaper that had been left behind in a book, so we wondered if anyone had any information to add to it. The title read, "Indian Burying Ground Found in Worcester County," and the date is November 22,

\*1930. The article reads: Pocomoke City, MD – What is believed to be an ancient burying ground of the great tribe of Pocomoke Indians, that roamed the Eastern Shore 300 years ago, has been unearthed at St. Martin's by employees of the Worcester County roads engineer's office who are constructing an improved road in that vicinity. The relics disclosed have been found on the Noah Adkins farm and the excavation of several loads of sand form a nearby hill, for use on the road, unearthed arrow heads, tomahawk stones, pewter bowls and parts of skeletons. Anyone who has any familiarity with this? We would love to hear from you!



**First Hand Memories of life in western Wicomico around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> centuries....** Often, browsing through old newspapers yields some real nuggets of history. In the Salisbury Times for many years a popular column was of thoughts submitted by the readers, which Editors could choose to print or not to print. I ran across this one from July 27, 1962, and it is a treasure trove of genealogy hints, economic and social history in western Wicomico County, and even a bit of gossip!

The map at right is from the 1877 atlas showing local homes, stores, churches, schools, roads, mills and more. Some of the people mentioned in the article are listed here.



### Letter to the Editor,

In Mr. Truitt's "History of Salisbury," he mentions the land grant of J. P. Wright and had he gone further he would have found a few more of the old settlers were ones that had land grants. My grandfather, Peter Graham, had a land grant. There were a lot of the old timers that could have told a lot of the local history of that vicinity. Here is some that was not put in the book.

Around us were Johnie Wilson. He left the place and the house stood idle until it fell apart. Then there was the Brown house that also fell apart and Jannie Brown was my great-grandmother. Reginald Mills lives where the place originally set. There was the Calloways, Austins, Majors, Greens, Baileys and Athol Wharf, which was called at one time, Wymoth's Wharf. The night boat used to run up the river ever so many times a month and at every landing and wharf there was a cargo or a passenger to pick up. This boat I remember coming to Baltimore on.

There were the Sewells, Hattons, Venables, Tulls, Alexanders, Coxes, Donuhues, Lloyds, and Gosleys. A history of the Hattons is one which could be written into a book. The Phillips, Elliotts, Ellers, Redishes, Bennetts, Dashields, McAllisters, Howards, Brittinghams, Cordreys and quite a lot I probably have forgotten.

There were a number of the Majors. One of them was my great-grandfather. Also Spencer McAllister. The offspring of these people are scattered all over the United States.

I remember where Perry had a cave back in our woods when the Civil War was fought and they hunted him as a fugitive. My grandmother said they used to see that he and his men got food.

My grandmother used the herbs and roots for medicine and a lot of these are old remedies. There was a place where



the old mill blew up, and a couple of people were killed, on the one creek where we were told was an Indian burying ground. We found the bones and things that were there. Also the Cranberry bogs by the stream.

There were the family burying lots for each family had one in the place. There were the marshes where we got the marshrat, which was a delicacy and the hides were profitable. Old Solomon used to come around and buy them. There was the old church which was only used for family meetings once a year for homecoming, between Hungry Neck and Quantico. There was the Athol Baptist Church, the Methodist Church which we walked to each Sunday. There was the ice cream socials to make a little money for the church, but I really believe it was to see and revive old friendships and see neighbors that weren't seen too often, for a farm was a full occupation. There were the camp meetings of Hebron and

Quantico. The one between Bivalve and Nanticoke, I remember hearing Billy Sunday preach at Hebron, I was a small child and he put me on the pulpit while he preached his sermon.

There was Athol Grammar School where Mrs. Lula Wright Adkins taught 23 years. She taught the first to the fourth grade and there was Cousin Mollie Venables where we used to get a penny's worth of whole all spices and that was more than now is in a tin. We would sit in school and eat them. I remember the celebration we used to have at Mardela each Fourth of July at the hotel and springhouse. There were fireworks and ice cream and etc. The fourth was a big time. There was Sewell's store. There were the Seabreases, Bennetts, Churches, and more names than I could begin to add to the list that lived in Mardela. There was the Reverend Parker who married my father Roland Cordrey to Ella Chriatia Graham. And I guess he married a lot more people for he was around a long time.

There was the shirt factory in Hebron and Sharptown. There were the rich farms and the poor farms, also the Alms house down between Hungry Neck and Quantico.

The ferry you had to go on between there now is a bridge. I remember the fishing in the rivers which are still one of my many recollections. There were Negro baptisms in the river on the Wicomico side which my dad took me to and they chanted, "we dip them all in the water." There was the Old Paddle Wheel boat which recall seeing up near Cambridge when I was little.

There was the Salisbury Fair which was one of the big occasions each year where we got off at Walston Switch and walked there. There was the flour mill that burned down at Hebron and continued to smolder for several weeks. There were the mills where we got our corn ground for our cornbread. There was Townsends Canning house. There was also the stave mill where they made baskets of all sizes. Oh yes, there is a lot of Wicomico County that could have been better covered in the book. There is Sandy Hill, all of the small churches that are there, and still not covered, White Hall, and etc.

Then there is now only one that I could say could still tell you some of the history. Probably two. My great uncle, Mr. Mister Majors, or Aunt (great) Hettie Bradley who still live there with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Anderson

I read this book quite a long time ago. But after reading the History of Queen Anne's County, I decided that our's needed to have more of the historical fact in it. Let the people of Wicomico read some of the real facts as well as people, who lived there. Some of them have long gone and have no descendants. Let history be real. Our county is one of the old culture. Let facts speak for themselves. A beautiful county, full of some long needle pines, which aren't seen here in Anne Arundel County. Those pines stand tall and stately yet contain one thing that sting and bite with a sharp pain. The old May fly,. They get in your eyes and nose as well as all over you in swarms. My grandmother showed us how to set up an Indian teepee out of the needles of the pines. The white gum tree with the sweet rosin. May the year add dignity, to you, Wicomico County. As well as give us a rich heritage.

[from] Irene Cordrey Tomasik, Severn, MD



## The Season for Overeating Is Approaching !



Thanksgiving followed quickly by Christmas – it's time to overeat!!! So, why fight it – here are two very tasty, "*old fashioned*" recipes you might want to try.

### Old Fashioned Sweet Potato Pie oven 375°

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 large boiled sweet potatoes | 2 TBs. Spiced rum    |
| 3-4 eggs                      | 1 c. molasses        |
| ½ c. freshly churned butter   | Pinch or 2 of nutmeg |
| Dash salt                     | (optional)           |
| One 9" pie shell              |                      |

Mix all and pour into crust. Bake 45-50 min. or until knife comes out clean.

### Figgy Pudding!

Bet you thought that was not a real thing!

You probably have heard – maybe even sung – the old Christmas song about Figgy Pudding. Well there is such a thing – and it is GREAT! Here's the easy recipe:

Mix all the following ingredients together:

|                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1 pound figs, cut into very small pieces        |
| 1 ½ lbs. bread crumbs                           |
| ½ lb. chopped suet (or if you wish, shortening) |
| 12 oz. moist sugar – brown sugar is good        |
| 1 tsp nutmeg                                    |
| 2 eggs                                          |
| 1 teacup milk.                                  |

Steam for four hours. Enjoy!!!



## News from our Delmarva Heritage Partners. . . .

### Wheatley's Church

– You may remember we featured the efforts to save and restore this special old Methodist Church near Galestown MD in the last newsletter. Records show the church was originally Wheatley Methodist Episcopal Church (1784) and became Wheatley Methodist Protestant Church in 1887.

In recent months, members, who also are the owners, have been working hard to winterize the building, and are stepping up their efforts to raise funds and spread the word about this very important symbol of the religious history of the Shore. Also, they held an Art Show fundraiser in August and in September held "Hog Yard Days", a celebration of the Church's 235<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This last event was attended by Md. Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford. Anyone wishing more information and/or willing to contribute in some way to their efforts can contact Suellen Wilkins, 5802 Wheatley Church Road, Rhodesdale MD., 21659.

**Delmar Historical Society** – in “the town too big for one state”, has begun a serious fundraising effort to raise funds to help repair and restore the old Caboose sitting beside the tracks in town. Their problem is a bit different from some local, small, historical organizations. This Caboose sits on the Delaware side of the line splitting the town. But the history of the whole town – and any aspects of the railroad which helped create it -- is a story which interprets all the town. Any efforts to appeal for grants from organizations such as the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council Area are outside of the legal granting area. And there are other similar obstacles. This Caboose, restored, could be an important attraction to school groups and heritage tourists from both – even more! – states. This Christmas season, why not stop by in Delmar and take a look at the at-least-75-year-old caboose! It’s open at posted hours, and worth a visit; the folks who operate it as a museum could give you a great tour, and tell you how you might – should you wish -- help out! [delmarhas@yahoo.com](mailto:delmarhas@yahoo.com)



## Double Mills Inc.



The restoration of Double Mills has completed another phase of the project. The completely new foundation and stabilizing piers under what used to be the mill race, and a new metal roof that copies the old metal roof, and new “old” windows – all are in place! When the new Double Mills Inc. non-profit organized about 10 years ago, they hoped that by now the project would be completed and visitors would be able to appreciate the important role this mill had played in the area for 200+ years. But, like many historic restoration plans, it has not been quite that easy.

Kevin Coleman, President of the organization and grandson of the last miller Sherman Cooper, plus his family – all descendants of Mr. Sherman, along with a few other dedicated fans of this old grist mill -- have raised and spent more than \$60,000 so far in this project. And now it is time – after a brief recess – to begin planning for Phase Three!

The Board is anxious to welcome new members and volunteers. Anyone who is interested in joining in the effort should contact Kevin Coleman at 443-235-6113 or let us know at email [westsidehistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westsidehistorical@gmail.com) and we will be happy to pass along the word.



## 2020 Family History Workshop To be Begin Sessions in March *Registration will open the first week in January for the Annual Family History Workshop.*

The 2020 Family History Workshop will begin holding classes in March [exact date to be announced in December]. The workshop, led by Dr. Ray Thompson and Prof. Sylvia Bradley, will be open to beginning researchers and to those experienced in searching for their ancestors. Topics range from explaining how to best use archival records, to using other kinds of records, artifacts, interviews, and secondary records.

A Work Book will be given to each enrollee. The class will begin with four in-class lectures in the Westside Research Library at 413 Main St., in Mardela Springs ; these will be held at two-week intervals. Following will be three visits to area genealogical/family history libraries. The cost of the Workshop will be \$75 per person, which includes free use of the Westside Library holdings after the Workshop ends.

For more information, or to reserve a spot in the Workshop, email ([westsidehistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westsidehistorical@gmail.com)), or write to Westside Historical Society at P.O. Box 194, Mardela Springs MD 21837.

*Did your ancestors came to America from Europe? If they did, and it was after 1892, it is likely they entered through Ellis Island, but actually there were 300 ports they might have entered through. But 70% came in via Ellis Island. The very first person to come in through Ellis Island was 17 year old Annie Moore, from County Cork, Ireland .*

## Are We Forgetting World War Two?

This article comes from our friend Rob Withey. It seems most worthy of repeating, especially this close to Veterans Day. This is something that younger generations today should know about. It was not "just another old war...." (as I recently heard it referred to by a young person) but a war that changed – and still is changing – everything around the globe. And those changes can be understood best by looking at the changes it brought to every family on a personal level. This article focuses on the ending of the War, and the enormous task of "getting home." We would love to hear from our readers about any memories or stories they have.

We now have 2 generations who never entered the military, who have no idea how fortunate they are to live in a free country because of the sacrifices these young men & women made so we are a free country. I say this to my own children and grandchildren who have no idea how patriotic us old timers feel and will never forget. Re member what Eisenhower said at the end of the war, "Take pictures of the dead Holocaust Jewish people, a generation or two will never believe it happened"!!! It's now 2019 and history has proven Eisenhower correct, we have now, around the globe at least a generation who are ignorant and unaware of the fact.

Returning the troops home after WWII was a daunting task.... The *Magic Carpet* that flew everyone home. In 1939, there were 334,000 servicemen, not counting the Coast Guard. In 1945, there were over 12 million, including the Coast Guard. At the end of the war, over 8 million of these men and women were scattered overseas in Europe, the Pacific and Asia. Shipping them out wasn't a particular problem but getting them home was a massive logistical headache. Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall had already established committees to address the issue in 1943.

When Germany fell in May 1945, the US. Navy was still busy fighting in the Pacific and couldn't assist. The job of transporting 3 million men home fell to the Army and the Merchant Marine. 300 Victory and Liberty cargo ships were converted to troop transports for the task. During the war, 148,000 troops crossed the Atlantic west to east each month; the rush home ramped this up to 435,000 a month over 14 months.

In October 1945, with the war in Asia also over, the Navy started chipping in, converting all available vessels to transport duty. On smaller ships like destroyers, capable of carrying perhaps 300 men, soldiers were told to hang their hammocks in whatever nook and cranny they could find. Carriers were particularly useful, as their large open hangar decks could house 3,000 or more troops in relative comfort, with bunks, sometimes in stacks of five welded or bolted in place.

The Navy wasn't picky, though: cruisers, battleships, hospital ships, even LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) were packed full of men yearning for home. Two British ocean liners under American control, the *RMS Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*, had already

served as troop transports before and continued to do so during the operation, each capable of carrying up to 15,000 people at a time, though their normal, peacetime capacity was less than 2,200. Twenty-nine ships were dedicated to transporting war brides: women married to American soldiers during the war.

The Japanese surrender in August 1945 came none too soon, but it put an extra burden on *Operation Magic Carpet*. The war in Asia had been expected to go well into 1946 and the Navy and the War Shipping Administration were hard-pressed to bring home all the soldiers who now had to get home earlier than anticipated. The transports carrying them also had to collect numerous POWs from recently liberated Japanese camps, many of whom suffered from malnutrition and illness.

The time to get home depended a lot on the circumstances. *USS Lake Champlain*, a brand new Essex-class carrier that arrived too late for the war, could cross the Atlantic and take 3,300 troops home in a little under 4 days and 8 hours. Meanwhile, troops going home from Australia or India would sometimes spend months on slower vessels.

There was enormous pressure on the operation to bring home as many men as possible by Christmas 1945. Therefore sub-operation, *Operation Santa Claus*, was dedicated to the purpose. Due to storms at sea and an overabundance of soldiers eligible for return home, however, Santa Claus could only return a fraction in time and still not quite home but at least to American soil. The nation's transportation network was overloaded, trains heading west from the East Coast were on average 6 hours behind schedule and trains heading east from the West Coast were twice that late.

The *USS Saratoga* transported home a total of 29,204 servicemen during *Operation Magic Carpet*, more than any other ship. Many freshly discharged men found themselves stuck in separation centers but faced an outpouring of love and friendliness from the locals. Many townsfolk took in freshly arrived troops and invited them to Christmas dinner in their homes. Still others gave their train tickets to soldiers and still others organized quick parties at local train stations for men on layover. A Los Angeles taxi driver took six soldiers all the way to Chicago; another took another carload of men to Manhattan, the Bronx, Pittsburgh,

Long Island, Buffalo and New Hampshire. Neither of the drivers accepted a fare beyond the cost of gas.

All in all, though, the Christmas deadline proved untenable. The last 29 troop transports, carrying some 200,000 men from the China-India-Burma theater, arrived to America in April 1946, bringing *Operation*



### **Teackle Mansion and Somerset County Historical Trust To Publish Teackle Letters From the 1800s**

The 165 letters written between 1800 and 1836 by Elizabeth Upshur Teackle , held by the University of Virginia, have been transcribed and will soon be available for sale to the public. Included in the letters were Ms. Teackle's stories about her travels, her life in Somerset County and elsewhere, and many more aspects of her fascinating life.

Littleton Dennis Teackle had a special connection with the Barren Creek Springs town. As a business man who was constantly looking for another opportunity, at one point in the early 1800s he bought the Barren Creek Springs Inn and Hotel. He later sold the business, but one of Elizabeth's letters makes reference to the village.

200,000 men from the China-India-Burma theater, arrived to America in April 1946, bringing *Operation Magic Carpet* to an end, though an additional 127,000 soldiers still took until September to return home and finally lay down the burden of war.



In a letter from June, 1817 to Ann Eyre, she wrote of her aunt and uncle's visit to Princess Anne, and added, "Tomorrow morning, we all set out for Barren Creek where I hope to have my health benefited by the



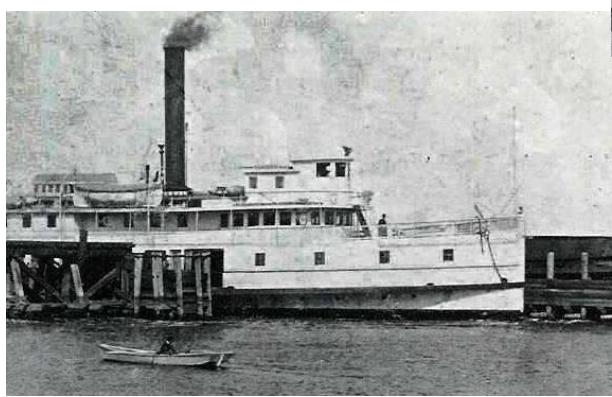
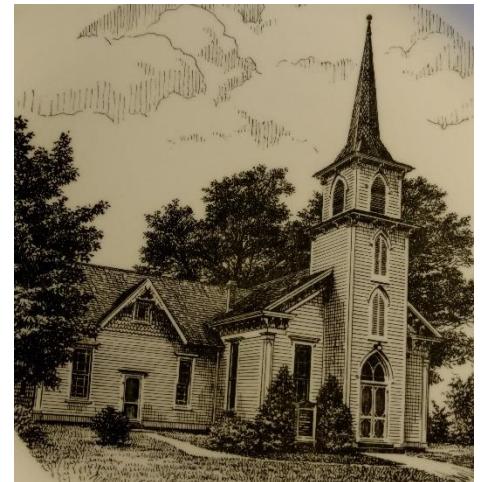
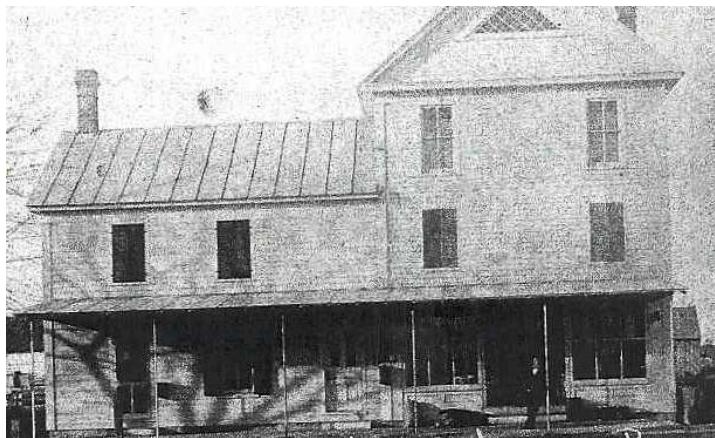
waters."

This bank note promised the Princess Anne Steamboat Company would pay to the Bank of Princess Anne \$3; both the steamboat company and the Bank were owned by Littleton Dennis Teackle.

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*How well do you know the towns of the West Side? Below are some pictures of places in Mardela Springs, Hebron, Sharptown, Riverton and other towns along this side of Wicomico County. Some are old view, some are present day. How many can you identify?*



**Send us your guesses! We'll publish winners in the next issue of Heritage News!**



Can you identify this area port picture? A hint, it dates from about 1890-1900, And though the port facility is still there, it doesn't look anything like This view today. Let us know if you think you know where it was taken.

One of the *lessons of history* is that nothing is often a good thing to do and always a never thing to say.

*Will Durant*

Would you be interested in becoming a volunteer with Westside Historical Society?

We are looking for folks to join us in a variety of tasks and posts. Whatever your talents and interests, we probably have a place for you! We will be happy to help train you for the area you would like to work in. Hours and days are very flexible.

Call Sylvia Bradley at 410-726-8047,  
or email us at  
[westsideheritage@gmail.com](mailto:westsideheritage@gmail.com)

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*Over the river and through the woods, to grandmother's house we go.....  
Happy Thanksgiving!!*

