

THE ALLEN HISTORIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 31, Allen, MD 21810

Web Address: allenhistoricalsociety.org

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George Shivers, Editor

Community Calendar

Saturday, September 17, Somerset County 350th Anniversary celebration, 2:00 P.M. Somerset County Recreation and Parks Facility, Westover. The Allen Historical Society will be a participant.

Sunday, September 18, 11:00 A.M. - Asbury U.M. Church Homecoming Service, followed by lunch at the Community Hall.

Saturday, October 8, Allen Historical Society Cemetery Walk, Dinner at 5:00 at the Allen Community Hall, followed by the Cemetery Walk at the Church.

Saturday, October 15, Asbury U.M. Church Fall Bazaar, 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. at the Allen Community Hall.

The Cemetery Walk Returns this Fall

The Allen Historical Society is presenting another of its Cemetery Walks on Saturday, October 8. As usual the event will begin at 5:00 PM in the Community Hall with a supper of various kinds of chili, assorted breads, salad and assorted desserts. After dinner the guests will be divided into groups and proceed to Asbury United Methodist Church and cemetery for the main event.

Tickets are on sale at \$20 for individual adults; \$10 for children ages 6 to 12, free for children under 6, and \$50 for a family of two adults and two children. For more information or to reserve tickets, call 410-749-0426 or email George Shivers at jes-grs@verizon.net or phone 410-778-3696.

You may also contact Sharon Walsh at sharon.walsh68@gmail.com. We advise attendees to wear comfortable shoes and suggest bringing a flashlight, although our guides will have lights and the grave sites will be lighted as well.

We are expecting a number of visiting spirits, none of whom have joined us at earlier Walks. The following list of expected visitors is tentative at this time. This year we expect most of our visiting spirits to be couples. Those expected are as follows:

William Winder Disharoon (1826-1888) and Cindarella Elizabeth Wailes Bounds (1828-1895)

Jay H. Shivers (1865-1944) and Lula Payne Shivers (1872-1944)

William Clifford Huffington (1891- 1966) and Dorothy Harcum Huffington (1891-1985)

Herbert Elzey (1896-1960) and Louise Whayland Elzey (1896-1966)

Luther Payne (1905-1973) and Mary Griffith Payne (1902-2005)

We are expecting an additional visitor (or visitors) from our African American community, but they have not yet confirmed their presence.

In Memoriam

Jayne Shivers Walters



Jayne Shivers Walters was born in Allen on May 25, 1937, the younger of two daughters of Jay H. and Rose L. Shivers. She grew up on the family farm on Cottman Rd (where the Widdowsons live now). She was a member of the 4-H Club with Murrell Simms as leader. Growing up she especially enjoyed horseback riding with her cousin Jack Shivers and her friend Joie Bounds. She graduated from Wicomico High School in 1955. While in high school she was chosen as Farm Queen in a competition held at that time.

She attended Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, from which she graduated in 1959. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society. After graduation, she married Louis D. Walters (D) of Norco, Louisiana, who had graduated from Georgia Tech. Jayne accompanied him while he served in the military in Germany. Jayne had a lifetime teaching certification and after returning from Germany, taught in Louisiana and Missouri for a number of years. She later left teaching and became a paralegal in a St. Louis law firm. She had served as city treasurer of Pasadena Hills, MO.

Jayne was a member of the Allen Historical Society for many years and D continues to be. They returned to Allen on several occasions and Jayne always enjoyed reconnecting with friends and family. The last time that she attended Homecoming Services at Asbury UM Church, she was especially gratified to

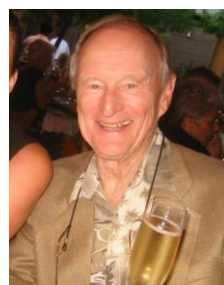
note that the late Mary Lee Kolb was at that time still organist as she had been when Jayne was growing up.

They later moved to Huntsville, AL, and while there Jayne became a master gardener and served in several capacities as a volunteer at the Huntsville Botanical Garden.

After the onset of her illness, they moved back to St. Louis to be near family. She died on April 5, 2016. She was a member of the Allen Historical Society for many years

She is survived by her husband her Louis "D" Walters and her children, Hans and wife Martha (New York City), Fritz and wife Pat (St. Louis, MO), Chris and wife Suzee (Nashville, TN), Eric and wife Connie (Charlotte, NC), Gretchen and husband Niall Gannon (St. Louis, MO) and Gerry and wife Brandi (Palo Alto, California). She is also survived by thirteen grandchildren: Chrysty, Eleni and Isaak Walters; Zachary, M. Camille and Maddy Walters; Rachel and Nathan Walters; Riley and Fiona Gannon; and Reid, Weston and C. Camille Walters. Additionally she is survived by a sister, Elizabeth (Betty) Hitchcock and a niece, Mary Reinhart.

Robert Francis "Bob" Jones



A member of our Society for many years, Bob Jones always kept in touch and supported our activities from afar in his California home. He died on March 10, 2016. He is survived by Sylvia, his wife of 59 years; daughter Laura, Brooklyn, NY; son Wes and daughter-in-law Emma Swain, Napa; brother Herb and sister-in-law Peggy of Silver

Spring, MD; nieces, nephew and their families, and his EasternShore Maryland cousins. Born in Washington, DC, on July 14, 1928, Bob graduated from the University of Maryland. His love of politics began around his family dining table where he learned the arts of discussion, civility, and compromise all with great humor. He spent two years in the US Air Force in Montgomery, AL, where he participated in civil rights activities with the local Unitarian fellowship. For Bob, the highlights of his professional career included working at the National Association of Counties where he met elected officials from all over the United States, joining the staff of Sen. Joe Tydings, working on the Edmund Muskie and Robert Kennedy campaigns, and consulting with Democratic senators and congressmen on the emerging applications of computer technology and data management for election campaigns. He consulted on campaigns around the country and abroad. In their homes in Maryland, he and Sylvia were very active in their community, politics, and religion for over 47 years.



Although his death occurred late last year, his obituary was not published until Feb. of this year. He died on Dec. 20, 2015 at the age of 84. Although toward the end of his life he and his wife Mary Esther were living near their daughter Robin Froelich in Thurmont, MD, his heart was always in Allen, where he and his wife had lived for many years. He devoted his career to sales, especially real estate. He and his wife were devoted members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary Esther Krum, and his daughter Robin, as well as two grandchildren, Rose and Caleb, and by a brother Ronald and many nieces and nephews.

Moving to Napa in 2004, Bob immediately began volunteer work. He was proudest of his role in Napa Valley Unitarian Universalists' searching for their own home, their successful capital campaign to purchase it, participating in the early years of CanDo, and introducing Napa public schools to ST Math and Gigi. He also enjoyed volunteering with the Land Trust, Napa Humane, Auction Napa Valley, Planned Parenthood, and the Napa Library Literacy Program.

Elsie G. Smith



Elsie Smith died on April 7, 2016 at the age of 81. She was born in Salisbury, the daughter of the late Dorsey John Gravenor and Zillah Evelyn Goode Gravenor. She owned and operated "Elsie's Country Beauty Salon on Allen Rd. just north of the village for many years. She belonged to Faith Wesleyan Church for 15 years and then was an active member of Cross Pointe Church of the Nazarene for 42 years. She was predeceased by her husband Robert "Bob" Fulton Smith, Sr., who died in 2010, and by three sisters, Alice Louise Gravenor, Gladys Layton Tilghman, and Lillian Smullen, and by three brothers, Carroll, Homer and Dallas Gravenor. She is survived by two children,

Note from the Editor: *Our community has lost other members since the publication of the last Allen Historian in March. Although they were not members of our Society, I feel that it is important to note their passing and to remember their lives.*

Ralph N. Krum

Carolyn Mae Dennis and Robert Fulton Smith, Jr. and his wife Tiny, and by three grandchildren, Robert Fulton Smith III and wife Michelle, Jennifer Marie Dennis and Kenny "Rick" Dennis II and his wife Debbie; and finally by four great-grandchildren; Taylor, Megan and Sarah Dennis, and Benjamin N. Smith. She is also survived by a sister Mae Hastings Robertson and by many nieces and nephews.

Hazel Northan



Hazel Bounds Northan was the daughter of the late Levin Bounds and Nettie Gertrude Tull Bounds. She was born on March 14, 1925 in Allen and died on July 1, 2016. She was educated in the public schools of Wicomico County. On April 17, 1944 she married William Cecil Northan, who preceded her in death on May 12, 1975.

Over the years she was employed by the former Dulaney Company in Fruitland and also by the Payne, Cooper and Pollitt families of Allen . In addition to their son, William E. Northan, she and her husband provided a loving and supportive home for a total of eleven foster children over the years.

Hazel was a member of Friendship United Methodist Church in Allen, of the United Methodist Women and of the church choir. She was one of the chair women of the Annual Jones and Bounds Day held the first Sunday in October.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by one brother, Homer Bounds, Sr., five sisters, Lois Bailey, Annie Jones, Pauline Beatty, Malinda Pollitt and Lillian Denton; five nephews, Oliver Bounds, William Collier, Noah Chandler

Joyce, James Joyce, Levin Bounds; and two nieces, Malinda Bounds Dickerson and Sonia Hall.

She is survived by her son, William E. Northan and wife Julene of Allen, two granddaughters, Hope (Edward) Grebos of Salisbury, and LaShone Stephens of Long Beach, California, one special great-grandson, Ni'Wyn of Salisbury, two great-grandchildren in Long Beach, and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Robert (Bobby) Fields



Robert Harold Levin Fields died on July 5 2016. He was born in Allen, the biological son of Marguerite Dennis and Oliver Stanford. He was adopted and raised by his aunt and uncle, Robert (Ben) and Amelia Fields. His grandparents were Elizabeth and William Dennis of Allen, both of whom were born as slaves.

He was a 1956 graduate of the former Salisbury High School. He received a Bachelor's degree in photography from the New York Institute of Technology and did further studies at Michigan State University and the University of Delaware.

He was employed for 44 years at the Peninsula General Hospital, now Peninsula Regional Medical Center, where he had been the General Manager of Environmental Studies personal assistant and retired as Dark Room Specialist in Radiology. He was also employed for more than 30 years with Jolley Memorial Chapel in Salisbury and with the

housekeeping dept. of Beth-Israel Synagogue.

He was a life-long member of Friendship United Methodist Church in Allen where he served as head of the Administrative Council and president of the Usher Board. He had formerly served as vice-president of the Friendship Community Choir, and in other capacities within the church. He was the founder and president of the Delmarva Ushers' Association with 400 members of all denominations across the Peninsula.

He was a member of the Salisbury High School Association, former vice-president and president of the Wicomico Health Planning Council, former member of the Shore-Up Advisory Board and served in a number of other community functions.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary Carr Fields of Allen, one daughter, Corliss Carr of Higginsville, MO, one granddaughter, Chavonda Carr of Allen, two sisters-in-law and a number of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Elizabeth Colonna Morris Smith



Elizabeth "Betty" Smith died on April 15, 2016. She was born July 30, 1925, the daughter of H. Edwin Morris and Grace Colonna Morris of Princess Anne. She grew up in Princess Anne, working at the Morris Clothing and Shoe Store. She later studied merchandising at Briar Cliff Manor in New York, graduating in 1945. She married Ted Smith of Allen on November 22, 1946. They became life-long residents of Salisbury. After the death of her husband she worked for Benjamin's Dept. Store as a model marketing

associate. Later she became the manager of Philip Bank's Bridal Store and then a salesperson for Bozman's Floor Covering, retiring from there in 2001.

She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Salisbury and of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Princess Anne.

She is survived by a son, Hunter and his wife Susan Broyhill Smith of Hudson, FL and grandchildren, Kelly Smith Friar (Heath), Brian Huntington Smith (Katy), Kevin John Smith (Lauren), all of Tampa, FL. Her great-grandchildren are Diana Elizabeth Smith and Mason Huntington Friar of Tampa, FL

Editor's Note: *Mrs. Smith's husband, Ted, was a descendant of one of Allen's oldest families, and his sister Mary Belle Smith Parsons was married to our dedicated charter member and treasurer, the late Casey Parsons.*

Allen News from 1906

The following notices come from the *Salisbury Advertiser*.

Feb. 3 - The citizens of this village and surrounding communities have been busily engaged grading the main street and building new sidewalks in consideration of the donation of shells from the county authorities with which to pave the main street. This is a much needed improvement and will add much to the pleasure and appearance of our village.

March 3 - The work of rebuilding the mill dam belonging to Mr. Beverly Hitch is being pushed with all possible diligence and everyone is delighted at the progress. Our main road to Somerset County and the depot is across said dam, which was broken by the melting snow and heavy rain several weeks ago, and seriously interferes with travel and our mail service.

March 17 - The much talked of mill dam and the missing link that caused so much anxiety and inconvenience has at last been welded and the public is again able to travel the usual road to the adjoining county.

The following article appeared in the Salisbury Advertiser on March 22, 1945.

Award to Missing Hero

Mr. and Mrs. Beverly T. Hitch, parents of Richard Beverly Hitch, electrician's mate, first class, U.S. Navy, missing in action, have received notice of the awarding of the Bronze Star Medal for his service as set forth in the following statement:

"For heroic service as a member of a United States submarine during an aggressive war patrol. Skillfull and tireless in the performance of duty, Hitch supervised the upkeep and repairs of the essential electrical equipment and was largely responsible for the consistently high state of efficiency maintained throughout a period of hazardous operations, thereby contributing materially to the success of his vessel in sinking an important amount of Japanese shipping.

"Hitch's cool courage and efficient service under extremely perilous conditions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U. S. Naval Services."

Last August his father received the Submarine Combat Patrol insignia, a gold star, which had been awarded his son as a member of a patrol during which the submarine sinks or assists in sinking at least one enemy vessel, or accomplished a combat mission of comparable importance. The award was made in absentia and after detailing the valuable services rendered by his ship, and says, "As electrician's mate, first class, of the USS Grayback, Richard Beverly Hitch's performance of duty materially contributed to the success of this vessel

against the enemy. The commander, Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, forwards this commendation in recognition of his splendid performance of duty, which was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service."

Richard B. Hitch enlisted in March 1939. He attended Service School at Norfolk, Virginia, later trained at New London Submarine Base. He was attached to the Submarine Patrol as an electrician's mate. He was a graduate of the Wicomico High School. A brother, Donald L. Hitch, is serving in the Pacific as aviation machinist; another brother, Thornton Hitch, lives at Allen.

Editor's Note: The following information on the USS. Grayback is taken from *Wikipedia*, accessed on July 26, 2016.

The USS Grayback was launched on January 31, 1941. It was commissioned on June 30, of that year with Lt. Willard A. Saunders in command. At the time she was sunk, the commander was Cmdr. Johnny Moore. He had assumed command in 1943. The submarine was first attached to the Atlantic Fleet, but on Feb. 8, 1942 arrived at Pearl Harbor. Her crew consisted 80 officers and enlisted men, at the time she was lost. The Grayback engaged in 10 patrols between 1942 and 1944. The 10th was her last. She sailed from Pearl Harbor on January 28 for the East China Sea. On February 24 Grayback radioed that she had sunk two cargo ships on February 19 and damaged two others. She transmitted her final report on February 25. After sinking a tanker and damaging another, there were only two torpedoes remaining, and she was ordered home from patrol. She was due to reach midway on March 7, but failed to arrive. She was declared missing and presumed lost with all on board on March 30. Captured Japanese records indicate that on February 27, the last two torpedoes were used to sink the freighter *Ceylon Maru*. That same day a Japanese carrier-based plane spotted a submarine in the East China Sea on the surface and

attacked. According to Japanese reports the submarine "sank and exploded immediately."

Overall, the Grayback is credited with sinking 22 enemy ships and damaging 9 others.

Message to Our Readers

Many of the back editions of the *Historian* have now been placed on our website. The collection is unfortunately not complete at this time, but we hope to fill the gaps in the future.

A Reminder

We hope that you will renew your membership for the current year, if you have not already done so. Our dues have not changed for many years.

Individual membership: \$15
Family membership: \$20
Patron membership: \$40
Sustaining membership: \$250

Come back! We need you!