



# THE LEGACY

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2015, Volume 52, Number 4

## HISTORICAL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR 2015 HIGHLIGHTS WESTERN HOWARD COUNTY

PAULETTE LUTZ

This year's Historic Holiday House Tour will be held on Sunday, December 13, leaving Bushy Park Elementary School at 1 p.m. and concentrating on the western part of Howard County around the Glenwood, Woodbine and Cooksville areas. Tickets are \$45 for members, \$55 for guests of members and \$65 for general admission (includes a one-year membership in the Historical Society.) The ticket price also includes a sandwich and beverage. Visit our website at [www.hchsm.org](http://www.hchsm.org) to buy tickets, or call 410-480-3250.

It's been many years since the western part of Howard County has been included on the Historic Holiday House tour. This year with the help of the Bob Lucido Team of Keller Williams we have a spectacular selection of homes to visit. All of these beautiful and noted homes are on the Maryland Historic Trust.

Glenwood, Woodbine and Cooksville have always been some of the most attractive settlements in Howard County. In its early years, Glenwood consisted of a store and post office, Union Chapel church, an 1829 one-room district school house, a club house, the Glenwood Institute and the Oak Grove Cemetery where most of the early settlers are buried. However, most of the town was preceded by several fine historic homes still present and just as beautiful in this lovely location. The 1878 Maryland Directory placed the population of Glenwood at 40 with the town and surrounding area being the garden spot of Howard County.



### Bloomsburg ca. 1830

James Burroughs Mathews, born November 2, 1791, founded the community of Glenwood. As a young man, he was quite the adventurer and was one of the first to ride on Robert Fulton's steamboat in 1807! Upon his marriage to Kitty Griffith, he opened a general store and post office in Roxbury. Kitty and James had 14 children (two died in infancy) and all of the Mathews children lived exemplary lives.

By 1822, he had outgrown Roxbury and moved to Glenwood and immediately began to build Bloomsburg. This beautiful home features a circular copper plate between the two south chimneys inscribed "1830." This estate is a historic foundation in the development of western Howard County. Mathews built a general store to conduct his business and added a post office in 1841 and the small village was originally known as "Mathews Store, Anne Arundel County." On January 13, 1874, the name was changed to "Glenwood" by Professor Lycurgus

Griffith Mathews, son of James Mathews and headmaster of the Glenwood Institute.

James was the first postmaster and weathered the Civil War with Union and Confederate troops marching on Roxbury Mills Road (Route 97) towards Antietam, Sharpsburg and Gettysburg. Both Union and Confederate troops stopped at many of the local homes demanding food, horses and shelter. A document from the Post Office Department dated August 17, 1864, provided him with \$27.00 "an act of relief of postmasters who have been robbed by Confederate forces or rebel guerillas." This was a sizable loss as his annual salary was \$116.28.



### Oakdale ca. 1838

Albert Gallatin Warfield was the son of Captain Benjamin Warfield who owned Cherry Grove nearby on Jennings Chapel Road. Albert built Oakdale to please his bride, Margaret Gassaway Watkins, the daughter of Colonel Gassaway Watkins.

### HCHS MUSEUM

8328 Court Ave., Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
(Formerly First Presbyterian Church)

(410) 480-3250

Hours: Friday, Saturday and Sunday:  
1:00 – 5:00 P.M.

[www.hchsm.org](http://www.hchsm.org)

### HCHS LIBRARY

New Location: the Charles Mill Branch Library and Historical Center  
9421 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

(410) 480-3250 (Voice)

Hours: Monday and Tuesday: 1:00 – 8:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday: 1:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Oakdale was planned as a home for a large family as Albert and Margaret were destined to become the parents of 10 children.

In 1898, it became the home of Albert's son, **Governor Edwin Warfield**, its most noted resident. Governor Warfield enlarged the home to its current size, building the large porticos on the front and the side porches. Edwin, like his father, being a man of exceptional taste made many restorations to the interior of the house.

Warfield secured the 1903 Democratic gubernatorial nomination, and then went on to win election to the Maryland governorship. He was sworn into office on January 13, 1904. Edwin Warfield, known as the "Preservationist Governor," convinced the legislature to legally adopt the Maryland state flag as the official flag for Maryland. From the colonial days, the flag had been flown as the state flag by common consent only. Edwin was also instrumental in restoring the Old Senate Chamber where George Washington resigned his commission as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. During his tenure, the state flag was adopted; the Poe Amendment was rejected; the Public Records Commission was instituted; and the State House's historic senate chamber was restored. After completing his term on January 8, 1908, Warfield retired from political life to Oakdale. Oakdale remained in the Warfield family until 1973.



**Hobson's Choice ca. 1828**

Hobson's Choice is the architectural gem of Howard County, being the finest example of early 19<sup>th</sup> century brick architecture. The name Hobson's Choice is from the story that a 16<sup>th</sup> century stable owner in England named Thomas Hobson rented horses to travelers giving them the horse nearest the stable door – that is, no choice at all. Deriving its name from the English land grant ceded in the 1700s to the Welch family, Thomas Meredith purchased the land in 1808.

James Meredith acquired the land in 1828

after the death of his father, Thomas. The current house was built about 1828 by James A. Meredith. The Meredith family retained ownership of the 260 acres until 1892 when it was purchased by George Hardy for \$3,197.77.

Once in near ruins, Hobson's Choice was brought back to its original splendor in the 1970s by Edwin Warfield Gramko, a descendant of one of the early owners.



**Rose Hill Farm ca. 1920**

Rose Hill Farm is an example of Neo-Colonial style, constructed in stone by James and Mary Forsyth – a prominent Howard County family who settled Sykesville and Hoods Mill. This beautiful stone home was a working farm for over a century and meticulously maintained by James Forsyth. The farm sits on several land grant properties – Shipley's Discovery, Robert's Advantage, Hobson's Choice and Mercer's Rambles which comprises 208 acres.

East of the house is a large garage that was moved to this location and at one time was a Methodist Chapel.



**Mount Gregory United Methodist Church ca. 1898**

Mount Gregory was built as a source and inspiration for unifying the budding African American Community in 1898 in the Glenwood area. In the early 1800s enslaved

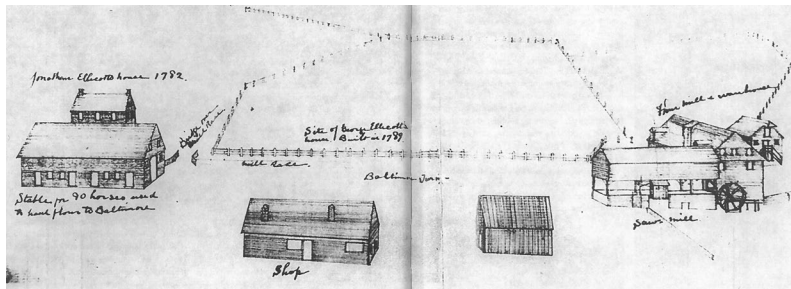
and free African Americans worshipped in the white churches, but were confined to the balconies away from the white population. Ultimately, the African American community sought to create a unifying community of strength by building their own churches.

The lot on which Mount Gregory stands was original the location of the Warfield Academy. The old stone building was deeded for the sole purpose of educating black children in nearby Cooksville and on the National Road and grew out of a movement to educate African American children after the Civil War.

Mount Gregory Church began its services in 1898 in the lower level of the Warfield Academy. The congregation stayed in this location until the new church was built. The current structure was built in 1927 after the original church and school burned in 1922. The School Board rebuilt the school in 1922 naming it the Cooksville Colored School. It opened with grades 1 through 7 in 1927 and in 1935 it was expanded to 11 grades making it the first African American High School in Howard County. It was used as an elementary school until 1964 until integration of the school systems began in the county.

The United Methodist Women once called the Ladies Aid Society and the United Methodist Men (who provided funds for the labor and upkeep of the church) filled a critical void in post-Civil War black society by providing reading programs, aid to the disabled and meals to those in need. With outreach and leadership efforts Mt. Gregory continues to grow as a mainstay in the community. Many of the congregation families go back six generations in Howard County history.

# ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT: ELLICOTT MILLS SAWMILL REPLICA



New to our museum collection is a replica of Lower Ellicott's Mills first structure, the Ellicott sawmill located just east of present day Ellicott City. This replica was built by Robert Kirchman Studios of Staunton, Virginia, the same model maker who fabricated the Bicentennial model of Ellicott Mills that has been exhibited at the B&O Railroad Museum and Catonsville's Rails to Trails. This model is scale (1"=20') of the sawmill, large enough to place standard cast human and draught animal figures, hand painted upon the grounds to show the process of producing lumber as it might have been done in the late Eighteenth Century. The model was built based on a sketch that George Ellicott made of the first mill structures in the 1780's. Funding for this model was made possible through the special projects grant of the Colonel Thomas Dorsey Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, located in Ellicott City, MD.



## HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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### Send Us your Articles

Anyone interested in contributing articles or photographs or anything of interest to the Society, please call the Library at 410-480-3250 or email Janet Kusterer at [janetkusterer@verizon.net](mailto:janetkusterer@verizon.net)



# MUSEUM HOLIDAY CONCERT WITH THE COLUMBIA JAZZ BAND

**\$10 tickets, \$5 for members, free for children under 14.**

**Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00**

**Howard County Historical Society Museum  
8328 Court Avenue Ellicott City, MD 21042**

Join us at the museum for our final event of the year as we celebrate the holiday season with the Columbia Jazz band. Directed by Peter BerenBregge, The Columbia Jazz Band (CJB) is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year as a community jazz ensemble based in Columbia, Maryland. The CJB performs concerts, dances, dedications, and receptions throughout the greater Baltimore – Washington area including the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, Maryland Music Educators Conference, Carlyle Club in Alexandria, VA and multiple performances at The Blues Alley Jazz Club in Washington, D. C. Their four international tours over the last decade have included standing room only performances across Austria, Croatia, England, France, Italy, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey. Highlights include the prestigious Montreux International Jazz Festival

(Switzerland), Bulls Head Jazz Club (London), Wigan Jazz Festival (Manchester), Istanbul Jazz Festival (Turkey), Umbria Jazz Festival (Italy), Jazz à Juan (France) and Jazzaldia Festival (Spain).

Refreshments will be provided. Seats are limited for this special holiday concert. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hchsm.org/events](http://www.hchsm.org/events) or by phone 410-480-3250.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Janet Kusterer

I know that holiday greeting cards and wrapping paper have been in the stores since Labor Day but I think the holidays really start with our House Tour. As you can see on these pages, the houses on this year's tour are amazing. It is so nice that the western part of the county is featured this time. Don't miss it. And speaking of houses, our friends at Historic Ellicott City, Inc. are looking for Show House 2016. They were unable to find a suitable venue this year, so if you can help them with a house for next year, let me know and I will pass the word along.

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**BECOME A FAN TODAY!**

For up-to-the-minute news on happenings at the Society, become a fan on Facebook. In addition to finding out what we are up to, you can also post comments, questions and photos of Society events and Howard county history. If you aren't on Facebook yet, sign up today at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

# HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE PRESERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Paulette Lutz

Cathy Eshmont, a Society member and tireless volunteer, and Paulette Lutz, our President, were the proud recipients of the *Preservationist of the Year Award*, from Preservation Howard County, on Sunday, September 20, 2015 at the Waverly Mansion.

They were recognized for placing three buildings on the National Park Service (NPS), Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The Original Court House on Main Street which now houses the Heritage Orientation Center, the 1845 Court House on Court Avenue and the Emory Street Jail located behind the 1845 Court House. Although not historic, The Howard County Historical Society (HCHS) Archives and Library at the Miller Branch Library was also placed on the NPS site as well.

Documentation in the HCHS Library and Archives contained the evidence to prove that a movement to free the enslaved existed in Howard County. These buildings were recognized as places that processed accounts of people that fought the oppression of slavery and provided the critical help to gain their freedom.



*Pictured left to right: Cathy Eshmont, Paulette Lutz and Fred Dorsey, President of Preservation Howard County.*

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Paulette Lutz

This is my last message as President because my term is over as of December 2015. I have truly enjoyed being President of the Howard County Historical Society (HCHS) and I am so proud of the accomplishments we have made as an organization. It goes without saying that these accomplishments could never have been completed without the help of many people in our organization.

I would like to thank Anne Clark Schoenhut and Pat Greenwald and their committee for leading the Education Program presenting programs that are interesting and educational components of Howard County history. The Passport Program, Box Lunch Talks and Déjà vu and Nearly New Sale were and will continue to be outstanding successes.

I have received wonderful feedback from the public and members about the Holiday House Tour, Howard County Fair, Museum concerts, the Reading Room and Archives and the varied programs we have coordinated with other organizations.

Janet Thomson and Diane Pajak have excelled in our advertising/communications program ensuring that the HCHS web site, Twitter feed, Facebook, email blasts and press releases were a huge boost to our varied programs by advertising our many events with timely and accurate information.

And most of all I have to thank (with all my heart) Shawn Gladden for his outstanding performance as Executive Director. Shawn has been the guiding force in this organization with his creative ideas, knowledge of museum and archival operations and his ability to promote the Society in a positive and entertaining manner. I have always prided myself in that I managed to stay out of his way while he created these outstanding programs!

Shawn, along with the assistance of James Robey, directed a capital campaign replacing the roof of the Museum that was in desperate need of repair. Shawn implemented the construction and installation of an ADA compliant bathroom in the Museum to better serve our community. A Museum Assessment Plan and a Design and Development Plan effected by Shawn has totally restructured our Museum into one of the finest Museum exhibits in Maryland.

We have been able to raise our visibility to a national level by incorporating the Smithsonian's Home Town Teams exhibit with our own history of sports in Howard County. We also achieved national recognition with the acceptance of the Howard County Historical Society in the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program. We also included three sites in Ellicott City in this campaign which will draw visitors from all over the United States.

I can go on forever with our accomplishments – doubling our membership totals, increasing our budget, tripling our gift shop sales, digitized collections, intern programs, oral histories and increasing accessions to our archive and museum; however, I must acknowledge the volunteer staff in the Historical Society that make all of this possible. Our volunteer staff is the finest staff for research, genealogy, customer service and sheer determination. Their professional manner, pleasant personalities and expert research skills have helped hundreds of happy visitors in the last three years and have significantly added to the growth of our organization.

I am blessed to have had such wonderful people to work with during the three years of my term. I will still be on the Board of Directors and you will find me working in the Archives and Museum, so stop in and say hello.











# 2015 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

## December

- 4 **Midnight Madness w/ Howard County Tourism, 6:00-Midnight:**  
We will have a table set up at this year's shopping event at the Visitor Center in Historic Ellicott City. Author Dan Toomey will be selling autographed copies of his Local Civil War History books. Author Anne Clark Schoenhut will also be signing copies of her children's book, *Downtown Brown Visits Ellicott City*. Items from the HCHS Museum gift shop will be on sale as well.
- 13 **Holiday House Tour: 1:00-6:00.**  
Buses will leave promptly from Bushy Park Elementary School (14601 Carrs Mill Road Glenwood) at 1:00 p.m. Properties on the Tour: Bloomsburg, Oakdale, Rose Hill Farm, Hobson's Choice, and Mt. Gregory Church.
- 19 **Museum Holiday Concert with the Columbia Jazz Band**  
6:00-8:00 p.m. \$10 tickets, \$5 for members, free for children under 14. Howard County Historical Society Museum, 8328 Court Avenue Ellicott City, MD 21042.
- 19 **Howard County Genealogical Society Help Desk:** Miller Branch Library, Historical center. 1:00-5:00 p.m. The help desk is open to genealogical research in all areas of the United States, Europe and other countries. Anyone interested in genealogical research is invited to stop by and have experienced genealogists help you to "break down the brick wall" or get started on your family history. For more information call 410-480-3250.



# THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

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Preservation Howard County and board member Paul Miller, we were able make much needed repairs to the roof at the museum.

- 3) We became partners with Howard County Public Schools Partnerships.
- 4) We had the most visited booth at the Howard County Fair with our exhibit on the History of the Enchanted Forest.
- 5) We forged significant partnerships with fellow non-profit organizations like Preservation Howard County, the Howard County African American Heritage Project, Historic Ellicott City, Inc. and the **Ellicott City** Historic District Partnership.
- 6) We developed and implemented a variety of educational programming that allowed us to serve many different demographics; including our Walking Tours, Lunch Date with History Lecture Series, our Education Trunk Programs, our Passport to the Past program and our Brew Collar History lectures.
- 7) Our visitorship and membership numbers doubled this year as we provided popular public programming like the Appraisal Roadshows and Museum Concert Series.
- 8) We opened a highly publicized and very popular Hometown Teams Smithsonian traveling exhibit.

These are just a few of our accomplishments this year as we worked towards becoming more active in the community as well as continue our mission to collect and preserve objects, photos, and documents from the county's past. By the time you are reading this, we are hard at work getting ready for our most celebrated event of the year, the Holiday House Tour. This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that the tour will be sponsored by the Bob Lucido Team of Keller Williams Integrity, and the Lucido team has some very special treats in store for this year's tour groups.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Shawn Gladden

As 2015 comes to a close, I look back at what we as an organization have accomplished and couldn't be prouder. Under the leadership of the President of the Board, Paulette Lutz, along with our excellent volunteers and museum staff we have made some major strides at the Howard County Historical Society. With my final message to our members for 2015, I'd like to recap on what we have accomplished:

- 1) Integrated our computer network with Howard County's Government network to provide vital data backup and technical support
- 2) With money raised through the Maryland State Bond Bill, sponsored by Jim Robey and Guy Guzzone and matched by

As we look forward to 2016, we will continue to make improvement to the museum in Historic Ellicott City. With the new staircase completed and more emphasis and signage devoted to the historic attractions like our museum, Historic Mt. Ida, the Patapsco Female Institute "at the top of the hill", we are looking forward to new exhibits, continued programming and a new mobile museum application. We can only accomplish these goals with your support. We have over 500 members to date and would like to continue growing, if you know of someone who would enjoy the services that we offer or the events that we put on, suggest that they join the Howard County Historical Society. String membership is the backbone for any non-profit organization, the more we grow, the more we can offer to the public. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you in 2016!