



THE LEGACY

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2017, Volume 54, Number 4

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR 2017 GIVES A NOD TO COLUMBIA

BY PAULETTE LUTZ

Columbia is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and to acknowledge the celebration the Howard County Historical Society (HCHS) has included one of the most notable historic homes in Columbia on the tour.

Oakland Manor and its surrounding properties were one of the largest tracts of land in the area, originally containing 1,697 acres of land. Formerly known as "Felicity" and owned by Mathias Hammond, the property was resurveyed and purchased by merchant John Sterrett in 1785.

John Sterrett, a privateer during the Revolution, owned a particularly active ship in the Baltimore port called "Felicity." John was married to Deborah Ridgely, the daughter of John Ridgely and niece to Captain Charles Ridgely of Hampton Mansion. John was to "inherit for life" the land of Captain Ridgely providing that he legally adopt the name Ridgely. John Sterrett died in 1787 at the age of 36 so the last name of Ridgely was passed on to his male heirs namely Charles Sterrett Ridgely, his first born son.



OAKLAND MANOR

Oliver's Carriage House is now the home of the African American Museum of History for Howard County. Robert Oliver purchased Oakland Manor for his son, Thomas Oliver (1802-1848). There is not much information about Thomas Oliver during his stay at Oakland Manor; however, he noted that "there were

numerous springs which were upon the estate that provided water for every field and irrigating a great portion of the land. There are about 165 acres of the finest meadow land of the very best soil and a great abundance of wood."

Continued on Page 4

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.hchsmmd.org

HCHS LIBRARY

New location: The Charles Miller 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STEVE CASTRO



The Howard County Historical Society is having an incredibly exciting year. We have received a tremendous amount of positive press for our Spring Fundraiser, Civil War exhibit, the handling of the Confederate Monument and the support we've given to the Ellicott City flood relief. This has translated to increased awareness and participation in our events and programs. I'm confident our positive impact on Howard County will continue to highlight the Society's importance to our community.

The holiday season is rapidly approaching and the Historical Society is preparing for its very popular annual holiday Historic House Tour (HHT) on Sunday, December 10, 2017. This is my favorite event of the year. My historic house "Hobson's Choice" was featured on the tour a few years ago. I look forward every year to touring the historic homes and seeing all the wonderful Christmas decorations. This year Columbia is celebrating its 50th Anniversary so we have included Oakland Manor, the most historic house in Columbia and several of its out buildings on the tour. We are also including the beautiful Burleigh Manor and the very interesting Porter's Tavern. The holiday Historic House Tour has become a family favorite Howard County tradition. Tickets are very limited, the tour fills up fast so go to our website today and reserve your spot for this fantastic day. I hope to see you there! 🍀

EDITOR'S NOTE

JANET KUSTERER

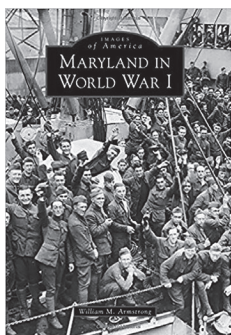
What better way to round out a year of celebrating all things Columbia than a holiday visit to beautiful Oakland Manor, a part of

the ever-popular Holiday House Tour sponsored by the Society. This lovely mansion shows that even though Columbia is only fifty years old it has places rooted in early Howard County history. Make this tour a part of your holiday tradition. Happy New Year! 🍀

Annual Membership Meeting

Eat, Think and Engage.

Saturday, February 18, 2018
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.



Charles E. Miller Branch Library
9421 Frederick Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:

William Armstrong*Author of Maryland in World War I*

Call or email to RSVP

www.hchsm.org ■ 410-480-3250 ■ info@hchsm.org

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Anyone interested in contributing articles
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to the Society, please call the Library at
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

SHAWN GLADDEN



As we head into the final quarter of 2017, I find myself reflecting on this past year with mixed emotions and an overwhelming feeling of achievement. We started 2017 with a Flood benefit concert that raised \$2,000 for EC One's Flood Recovery Fund. From there, we used the reopening of Ellicott City Main Street and the buzz from the newly opened exhibit, "A River Runs Through It: The Floods of Ellicott City" to bring visitors to the museum and educate the community of the area's flood history. The Society was quoted in many regional and national news stories on the flood recovery and assisted in the structural research necessary to save some of the affected buildings. In March we lost our good friend and museum manager Dustin Linz who was a bright light for all of us at the museum, we were able to use Dustin's research and upgrade the Civil War exhibit which has been a great success. This summer we saw a drastic increase in weekend visitation to the museum to see the new exhibit: "Fractured Howard County: The Civil War." That happened to be a time of local controversy as well, as the society was in the middle of the removal of Ellicott City Confederate memorial. For those who were following along with the news coverage, the Museum of Howard County History did indeed accession the Confederate Memorial into the collection and it will eventually be added to the Civil War exhibit. Whereas we were not involved in the decision to remove the memorial, we did inform the county that if it was removed, we would accept the artifact as a part of our mission to preserve and interpret the county's history. This year we also took over administering the Ellicott City Ghost Tours. This has been an overwhelming success



as we have served over 1,000 tour goers over the past 6 months. Thanks to Maryland History Tours and Ed Lilley for facilitating this wonderful addition to our programming.

We have now shifted our attention to the annual Holiday House Tour, as a nod to Columbia's 50th Anniversary (which we have been celebrating all year long) we are pleased to have historic homes from the original Oakland Manor property as well as Porter's Tavern and Burleigh Manor. This year's tour promises to be another great time, thanks to the continued support from the Bob Lucido Team of Keller Williams Integrity. We are continuing our commitment to public programming, historic-based fundraisers and community engagement in 2018 as we continue to grow in membership and visitation. In 2017, we were able to serve 10,000 members of the community at both the archives and the museum. Our goal is to no longer be considered "Ellicott City's best kept secret..." 🍀

NEW CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FOR 2018

Just announced for 2018, "A Year of Old Fashioned Fun: Children's Programs at the Museum of Howard County History." Sessions are offered the first Saturday of each month for children ages 5 – 12. Each session runs from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Tuition is \$5.00 per child, per session; there is no charge for children or grandchildren of Society members. Check website for details www.hchsm.org. 🍀



A YEAR OF OLD-FASHIONED FUN

<p>A Child's Life in a Mill Town <i>January 6</i></p>  <p>What were a child's chores and pastimes?</p> <p>Meet Benjamin Banneker <i>February 3</i></p>  <p>Did you know that Mr. Banneker lived in Oella and worked in Ellicott Mills?</p> <p>Who Was Andrew Ellicott <i>March 3</i></p>  <p>Mr. Ellicott built wheat mills, used compasses, and created maps. Want to try?</p> <p>Spring Planting <i>April 7</i></p>  <p>Try your own hand at some old-time farm chores. Take home a mini-garden!</p>	<p>Childhood Delights <i>May 5</i></p>  <p>Kids did get to have some fun! What toys and games did they have?</p> <p>Adventure with Downtown Brown <i>June 2</i></p>  <p>Our favorite teddy bear will take you on an actual walking tour of Ellicott City.</p> <p>Independence! <i>July 7</i></p>  <p>Charles Carroll signed the Declaration of Independence. Let's meet him!</p> <p>Teatime in the Parlor <i>August 4</i></p>  <p>Wear your best to learn old-time manners, make a fancy hat, and enjoy a cup of tea and treats.</p>	<p>School Days! School Days! <i>September 8</i></p>  <p>If you had started back to school in the 1800s, what would it have been like?</p> <p>Bringing in the Bounty <i>October 6</i></p>  <p>The crops are ripe! Can you help bring them in?</p> <p>The Original Marylanders <i>November 3</i></p>  <p>Before the arrival of Europeans, a strong culture thrived in Howard County. Who were these?</p> <p>Deck the Halls <i>December 1</i></p>  <p>Create old-fashioned holiday decorations.</p>
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HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR 2017 GIVES A NOD TO COLUMBIA

Continued from Page 1

Oakland Manor and the **Oakland Barn** was purchased by Francis Morris in 1874. Morris was the President of the Central American Transit Line and the American Telegraph Company. He was also an agricultural reformer who did pioneering work in the study, use and advocacy of ensilage. Oakland Manor and Barn were made an agricultural landmark by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers in 1976.

The Ralston Cottage was the Oakland Manor Blacksmith Shop built circa 1840. Originally the building was two stone sections forming an “L” and it is probable that by 1830 or early 1840 the building existed. This building so closely associated with the history of Oakland Manor was, at one time, the first Post Office in Columbia, Maryland.

Porter’s Tavern, also known as the Jack Gebhard House, was “Once a part of Howard’s fair and amicable settlement.” A small and quaint building, it was built circa 1797, originally comprising some 700 acres of land. Located at Manor Lane (by Doughoregan Manor) and Route 108, it was a tavern stop between Ellicott Mills and the Montgomery County Court House. It was originally composed of four separate buildings – a simple three-bay wide, one-room deep, one and a half story high stone building which today is one whole building. The former tavern and house is architecturally and historically significant due to the stonework of the 18th century. One could imagine that the “locals” – Carroll, Hammond, Ridgely, Dorsey and Clark stopped in this tavern for a pint!

Burleigh Manor is a beautiful addition to the tour this year. One of the finest examples of the Federal period (circa 1810), the Manor was built between 1745 - 1809 and has wonderfully



OLD OAKLAND MANOR/THE RALSTON HOUSE



BURLEIGH MANOR

preserved the Federal period features. Built by Colonel Rezin Hammond and his family, the Hammonds were one of the most prominent families in Maryland. Colonel Hammond was active in Revolutionary War politics and led a party in the burning of the **Peggy Stewart** in the Annapolis Harbor. After the war, he remained very active in state politics and was a member of the legislature for many years. Colonel Hammond was the younger brother of Mathias Hammond

(builder of the Hammond-Harwood House) and former owner of Oakland. Burleigh Manor stayed in the Hammond family until 1928.

Tickets for the Holiday House Tour can be purchased on our website www.hchsmd.org or you can stop in the Historical Center on the second floor of the Miller Branch Library. Our tours always sell out, so get your tickets soon. ♣

BRIDGING THE GAP: THE KOREAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

BY PATRICK Y. WHANG

The main stage at this year's Korean Festival featured a wide array of talent. From traditional Korean dance to more modern K-pop music provided those in the audience a wide taste of Korean culture. The festival, hosted by the Korean Society of Maryland, gave "all the participants a chance to learn from one another and understand the cultural differences and similarities" as it was described in the Korean Society's Facebook posting for the September 16th event held at Centennial Park in Ellicott City.

For over 45 years the Korean Society has been working to improve the lives of Korean immigrants dealing with the challenges of transitioning to life in the United States. The office of the Korean Society is in a glass building within an office complex in Columbia, MD. The current president of the Korean Society, Seong Ok Baik, is now in her second year of her two-year term, which began on January 1, 2016. I sat down with her at the Korean Society office on August 30, 2017 to talk about the organization, the Korean community of Howard County, and her experiences in Maryland.

Mrs. Baik was born in Seoul, Korea in 1947. She immigrated to the United States in 1975, first settling briefly in St. Louis before moving to Baltimore City. According to another interview written in the December 2016 issue of *Howard* magazine, she came to the U.S. with just "\$800 and a dream". In Baltimore, she and her husband, Jun Bin Baik, operated a small grocery store called "Novak's" for 22 years. In 2000, she moved to Marriottsville and has worked for Washington Newstar Realty for the past three decades.

The Korean Society was founded on April 1, 1972 by John Jong-un Chang. According to Mrs. Baik, it was created to "empower Korean-born and Korean-Americans individually by... providing programs... [that] help them [to] directly access community resources and opportunities". It was also established to help introduce new immigrant Koreans to the American way of life.

The Korean Society still continues to provide these services but, as explained by Mrs. Baik, the purpose of the society is now to promote more cultural understanding in order to "bridge the gap" between the Korean community and other communities in Maryland. One of the major ways the society has accomplished this is through the annual Korean Festival which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year.

The festival first began in 1977 and was held at the Johns Hopkins Plaza in Baltimore City. This first event was an attempt to introduce the culture and "5,000 year history" of Korea and the growing Korean community in Baltimore to the general public through traditional Korean dance, food, and Tae Kwon



PRESIDENT SEONG OK BAIK AT THE KOREAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND OFFICE

Do demonstrations. Since then, the festival has grown in size and scope with an estimated 40,000 attendees at this year's event, according to the Howard County Rec & Parks Department.

Mrs. Baik and I discussed the current legacy of the Korean community in Howard County. In general, over the past 50 years, Korean immigrants have been very successful in pursuing the American dream, migrating to Howard County to establish this dream. According to a November 12, 2015 CNN Money magazine article, "just over 7% of Ellicott City's nearly 66,000 residents are Korean, making it one of the most densely Korean populated towns in the entire state". Over the years, Howard County has been a draw for many Koreans due to the county's excellent schools for their children, and economic wealth. But what has also aided this success has been "teamwork" and "strong communication skills" between various organizations – such as Korean churches and the Korean Society – for making this positive legacy occur.

This legacy has recently been fixed through the dedication of a portion of Route 40 through Ellicott City as the "Korean Way" in recognition of the dozens of Korean businesses that populate the route. The establishment of the "Korean Way" last December was "very powerful and meaningful" for Koreans and meant that they "finally have a voice" in the community, said Mrs. Baik.

However, while the history and the legacy of the Korean community has been positive, the one major concern for Mrs. Baik is the future generations of Korean-Americans who "don't know anything" about Korea. It is her hope that events, such as the annual Korean Festival, will provide opportunities for the next generation to understand their Korean heritage. ♣

LIZ BOBO: REFLECTIONS ON COLUMBIA AT 50

BY JOAN M. KASURA

Looking back, Liz Bobo sees Columbia's Jim Rouse was a valuable mentor to her lengthy political career, particularly during her four years as the first female – and to date, only – county executive for Howard County. In both the essay she wrote for Robert Tennenbaum's *Columbia, Maryland: A Fifty-Year Retrospective of a Model City* and in recent interviews, Bobo pointed to Rouse along with Senator James Clark, Jr. as critical mentors during the initial portion of that career in the 1980s as first a member of the County Council, and then as Howard County Executive. Indeed, Bobo credits Rouse for beginning the process that resulted in some of the progressive accomplishments that Bobo is most known for during her tenure as Howard County's Executive – environmental regulation and historic preservation.

To begin with, Bobo explained that Rouse's interest in the environment went beyond the everyday concerns that manifested themselves in Columbia's original planning, such as the "miles and miles of pathways for walking and biking [and the then] somewhat unique feature ... [of] underground utility lines." According to Bobo, these features were only a very basic part of one of Rouse's four key goals for Columbia—that is to 'Respect the land.' Rouse also understood "the importance of protecting Columbia's many streams flowing to the Patuxent River and thence to the Chesapeake Bay", and his donation of "thousands of acres for the Middle Patuxent Valley within the confines of Columbia" facilitated that.

And, later, during Bobo's tenure as County Executive, Rouse supported her efforts to remedy Howard



LIZ BOBO

County's stark outlier position within the state of Maryland for its lack of environmental protections. According to Bobo, thanks again to support from both Rouse and Senator Clark, Bobo was able to overcome resistance from the development community and pass environmental protections that encompassed the whole of the county, not just Columbia. These included the above-mentioned setbacks from stream valleys that Rouse had already initiated in Columbia, restrictions against clear cutting of trees, and prohibitions against building on steep slopes.

Similarly, on the historical preservation front, Rouse's initial planning for Columbia not only included set asides for Oakland Manor but also "a hands off [attitude] towards anything of historical significance" as Columbia's development progressed through the building of its various villages. Again, both Rouse's and Clark's support figured prominently in the historical preservation efforts Bobo initiated during her tenure as County Executive. These included the stabilization of the Patapsco Female Institute, the restoration of the firehouse cupola in Ellicott City, and

the preservation of Waverly Manor.

The last, like the environmental regulations noted above, was spurred on by the development quickly springing up all around the Mansion, once home to members of the Howard family. Seeing Waverly's endangerment, Senator Clark approached Bobo, and in 1989, Howard County purchased Waverly, which, according to its website, has since become notable as "one of the most historic Maryland wedding sites."

Yet, despite Rouse's and Clark's support for her efforts, "Bobo's tenure as county was rocky, stirring intense opposition among business and development interests outside Columbia," noted Len Lazarick in his recent book, *Columbia at 50: A Memoir of a City*, "There was soon a target on her back," and she lost her 1990 re-election campaign in what she and others have described as a "squeaker of an election."

Looking back, Bobo marvels how Rouse's planning "established parameters that came to be taken for granted" in first Columbia, and later the County as a whole. And, although she worries about how the future planning of Downtown Columbia may not end up adhering to those standards, Bobo confidently believes that Rouse's vision will lead Columbia's citizens to seize "the opportunity to 'approach the world ... confidently, optimistically, with brilliant expectations.'" ♣

THE ORIGINAL COLUMBIA

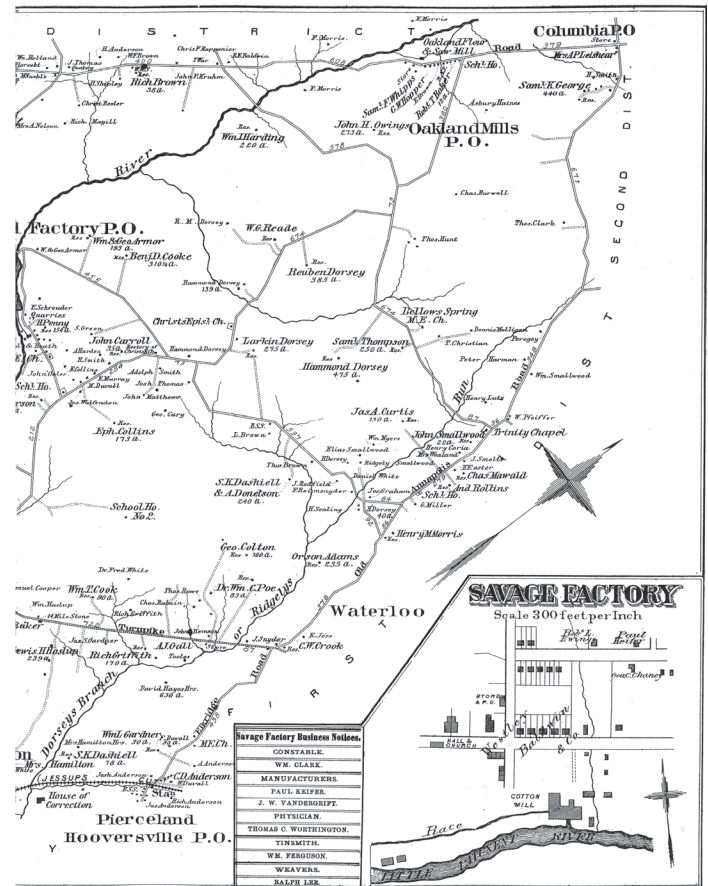
BY PAULETTE LUTZ

Most people are not aware that there was a town of Columbia before there was the new city of Columbia built by James Rouse. The old town was located at the intersection of Route 29 and Route 108 when Route 29 was a two lane road. Route 29 was also known as Columbia Pike. James Rouse named the new city for the small town and the Columbia Pike.

Columbia was the meeting point of roads leading from Annapolis, Laurel, Sandy Spring, and Silver Spring to Ellicott Mills. The dirt road eventually became a gravel road that dead-ended in Ellicott Mills at Route 144 Main Street.

The tiny town consisted of Bloom's Corner Store, a Post Office and a few homes. The most prominent home in Columbia was Dorsey Hall. According to Celia Holland, the manor house was named after the land grant, "Dorsey's Search situated 'at Columbia' a crossroad village at the intersection of Routes 29 and 108."

The estate was willed to "Patuxent John Dorsey" and his wife Elizabeth on November 26, 1714 by his grandfather the Hon. John Dorsey of Hockley-in-the-Hole. Patuxent John was so-named because his estate spanned the north branch of the Patuxent River. Over the years, Patuxent John prospered, leaving an estate of several thousand acres and other valuables. ♣



2017/18 UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

12/1

Lunch Date with History

"Rivers, Rocks and Railroads"

By Ned Tillman

12/16

Museum Concert Series

Columbia Jazz Band



COLUMBIA JAZZ BAND

JANUARY

1/5

Lunch Date with History

"Maryland Flags"

By Richard Clark

FEBRUARY

2/2

Lunch Date with History

"Daniels Mill"

By James Robey

MARCH

3/2

Lunch Date with History

"Civil War North and South"

By Eddie Roberts



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