



THE LEGACY

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2019, Volume 56, Number 2

STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

ELLICOTT MILLS BEFORE THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1868

BY PAULETTE LUTZ

The Historical Society often receives a real gem to add to our collections. I especially love the old photographs. Recently, we received a photo of the original Ellicott Mills that predates the Great Flood of 1868. This spectacular find was donated by David Kirkwood, the son of E. R. Kirkwood who lived at 110 Fells Avenue in Ellicott City.

The Kirkwoods were related to three great aunts in the Mayfield family. The aunts, who attended Patapsco Female Institute, were ahead of their time due to their interest in photography in the 1860s. They photographed the original Ellicott Mills before the Great Flood of 1868 washed away the original mills, buildings and houses.

In the first photo, the flour mill factory buildings flank a millrace in the center of the photo. The house to the far left with the smaller tree in front is the Jonathan Ellicott house (built in 1782) that was destroyed 190 years later in the Hurricane Agnes Flood in 1972. On the right is a horse and wagon on Baltimore



ELLICOTT MILLS, CA. 1860s

Street and to the right of the wagon would have been Leishear's Store.

The flour factories emerged from the original small grist mills built by the Ellicott brothers. This photo is a testament to the genius of the Ellicott brothers and their ability to visualize the future. According to America's

First Factory Town by Hal Sharp, "George Ellicott's perspective drawing depicts this substantial merchant mill perpendicular to the river, just below the bend in the millrace."

The second photo shows the after-effects of Hurricane Agnes Flood in

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THE MUSEUM OF HOWARD COUNTY HISTORY

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 ARCHIVE AND HISTORICAL CENTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TOM BOWER



Hello members. I have some great news. The renovation of the Weir building, which will be the future location of the Children's Historical Education Center, started on 18 March. Phase 1 of the project will include demolishing and replacement of the current heating system and installing a central air condition system. Phase 1 should be completed in about 8 weeks. We have applied for a number of county and state grants to keep this renovation project moving forward. If we receive 2019 grant funding in the summer, we will start Phase 2. We are very excited this project has started and the Children's Historical Education Center will become a reality.

On May 3 from 7-11 PM, the Society will be holding its annual spring fundraiser. The theme this year is "Classic Hollywood", and will be held at the ElkrIDGE Furnace Inn. Participants will be encouraged to dress as one of their favorite Hollywood stars. The festive evening will include fabulous food and beverages; casino; dancing; whiskey, champagne, and cigar tastings; historical tours of the ElkrIDGE Furnace Inn; costume contest; screentest contest; silent auction; and professional photo sessions to capture your costumes and special moments. We hope you can join us in the fun. You can purchase your tickets at hchsmd.org. ♣

EDITOR'S NOTE

JANET KUSTERER

With the lovely weather finally here this would be a great time to take one of the Historical Society's walking tours through the historic district of Ellicott City. Held the fourth Saturday of each month, March through November, these guided excursions will reveal the history and geography of our beautiful town as no other introduction can. Buy tickets on line at www.hchsmd.org. ♣

SPECIAL FOR MEMBERS

Buy One Get One Free Walking Tour from April to August.

Must call and reserve, mention the coupon and get two tickets for the price of one!



History Tours of Olde Ellicott City

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE COUPON

Good for Spirits Pub Tours, Historic Walking Tours, and Ye Haunted History Tours of Old Ellicott City

More information can be found here: <http://hchsmd.org/events-tours/>

Effective from April to August (Not Applicable in September and October)

Space is limited and Reservations MUST be made prior to the tour

*****Reservations required before 5:00pm the day of the tour*****

Call or e-mail for reservations mention this coupon for BOGO deal 410-480-3250 (Office) info@hchsmd.org





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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 janetkusterer21042@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

SHAWN GLADDEN



Thank you to all the members and guests who attended our Annual Meeting in February. We had a wonderful turnout for a great speaker. The strength of our public programs over the last few years has been our lectures. We plan on adding a list of speakers and topics to our website for companies, organizations, and events to meet the increased demand for these services.

As an additional benefit for "Corporate Sponsors", we will offer off site lectures from our available speakers list for events and meetings.

As we continue to celebrate the anniversaries of both the Historical Society and Museum, we look forward to the opening of a few new exhibits (and exhibit upgrades) later this year.

May - Confederate Memorial Installation / Addition to the Civil War Exhibit, Flood Exhibit Update, Weddings in Ellicott City.

August - Howard County Fair Exhibit – Firefighting in Howard County

October – Main Exhibit Updates

Make sure to stop in the museum over the next few months to see the updates, new exhibits and new artifacts. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we hope to see you at our Annual Spring Fundraiser, Classic Hollywood at the Elkridge Furnace Inn on Friday, May 3rd. ♣

Classic HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
HOLLYWOOD
 AT THE ELKRIDGE FURNACE INN

SAVE THE DATE
 MAY 3
 2019

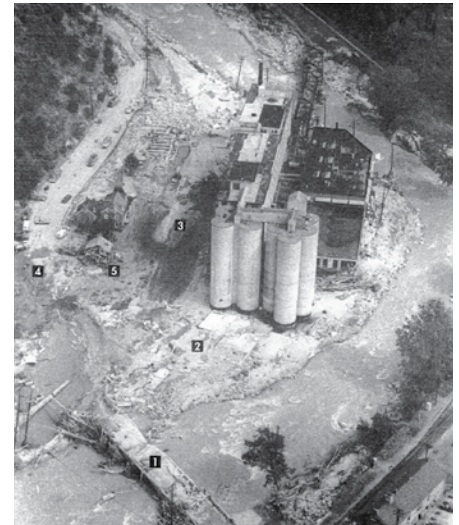
Are you red carpet ready?

Continued from Page 1

1972. The millrace (shown in the first photo) was rediscovered. Location #3 shows the original millrace that was covered over in the 1930s. Location #5 shows the physical damage to the Jonathan Ellicott house from the 1972 flood. The house behind the Jonathan Ellicott house is the George Ellicott house that was moved across Frederick Road out of the flood plain (to its current location) in 1988. Location #4 is the total washout of Frederick Road. Location #1 shows the destruction of the Ellicott City Bridge. An auto parts

store, a gasoline station and a used car dealership were washed away at location #2. The B & O Train Terminus is in the lower right corner.

Both of these photos convey the power of the storms that hit our mill town. The bold force of water from the worst flood in Howard County history that washed away the granite buildings in the first photo in 1868 is unimaginable. The second worst flood in 1972 caused devastation from the river to mid-Main Street. ♣



HURRICANE AGNES FLOOD, 1972

THE WEDDING CAPITAL OF THE EAST

BY KAITLYN MCKAY

At one point, Ellicott City & Elkton were considered the marriage capitals of the East Coast. Like Las Vegas, you could get your marriage license processed at the courthouse & get married by few hours later. One of the pastors of the First Presbyterian of Ellicott City wed couples looking for a quick marriage as a second job.

Reverend Ammishadai Moore Engle (although he more commonly went by S.M.) served the church from 1910-1918. Although he was the church's twelfth pastor, he was the second pastor of the newly built 1894 building. His predecessor, Rev. Henry Branch, was the first pastor of the 1894 building after the original 1844 building collapsed while excavating the basement.

After getting their marriage license at the courthouse, couples would walk across the street to the minister's white house on Church Road to get married. Rev. Engle married at least five couples a day and on average 1,200 couples a year. Not surprisingly, his signature is on a dozen of the marriage licenses in the Historical Society's archives!

The reverend took this job to support his large family of seven children and even built his own house for his family as The Manse provided by the church was too small. Rev. Engle's house, built from lumber taken from the Patapsco Female Institute, is still sitting on Church Road as a private residence. He was the first pastor of the church to own his own property.

While he was only there for eight years, Reverend Engle had a positive reputation & was well-liked within the congregation. By the time he left in 1918, the congregation had doubled in size, from 124 members to 228 members. He left Ellicott City to serve two churches in Cockeysville and a year later he moved to Florida to serve Presbyterian churches there. ♣



REV. AMMISHADAI MOORE ENGLE AND MARGARET MILLER MOLER

BESSIE LEE GAMBRILL

THE FIRST FEMALE PROFESSOR AT YALE UNIVERSITY

BY PAULETTE LUTZ

“She frequently descends from her heights to direct the affairs of mortals, and is never so happy as when managing her less gifted classmates.” – Aloha, so noted the 1902 Western Maryland College (WMC) Aloha year book of Bessie Lee Gambrill.

Only 15 years old when she started at WMC on a scholarship; she intended to be a doctor like her father. Daughter of well-known Dr. William B. Gambrill and Mary Elizabeth Nichols Gambrill, the Gambrill family dates to the 17th century in Howard County.

Born January 30, 1883 in Alberton (now Daniels) Howard County, she left the country life for college to pursue a medical career; however, the only careers open to women at the turn of the century were teaching and missionary work. The Aloha had many entertaining comments – *“Bess is one of our small girls, but never allows herself to be overlooked on account of her size.”* Despite her small size, she also covered the basketball court as a right guard.

Graduating Summa Cum Laude at 19 from WMC in 1902, Bessie returned home and lived on Forrest Street in Ellicott City with her parents while teaching in a one-room school house in Relay. While living in Howard County, Bessie conducted a seminar on October 18, 1906 with the Howard County Teachers’ Institute discussing many of the issues that concern the teaching community today – Interest of students, fractions, Lawlessness and Law in Pupils, Attention and Schoolroom Atmosphere and Personality of Teachers. The session was pronounced in the Ellicott City Times *“the best ever held in the county.”*

In 1911, she made her mark as the first female professor teaching Philosophy at Alfred University and Psychology at New Jersey State Teachers College in Trenton. A pioneering professor in the theories of child development, she was noted for her research on intelligence tests for children and for promoting mental hygiene programs in schools. Furthering her education, at Columbia University in 1916, she received a master of arts in education, followed by a doctorate in education and psychology in 1922. She wrote and published *“College Achievement and Vocational Efficiency”* while at Columbia.

In 1923, Dr. Gambrill was scouted by Yale University while teaching in Trenton that led to Ivy League history. She became the first female tenured professor at Yale University in Science and Mathematics. It was years before a second woman was added to the faculty at Yale. She also had the distinction of being the first woman to advise male and female doctoral candidates. Breaking the glass ceiling did not prove difficult for Dr. Gambrill as she stated, *“I didn’t think about it. I was doing a job that I was equipped for far better than anyone else.”*



Before she retired in 1952, she made another historic mark on educational history in post-war Occupied Japan in 1949. She was selected with other professors in an American government delegation to visit Japan for four months. Their mission was to help Japanese leaders understand and re-adjust the Japanese elementary schools to promote democracy. She returned to Yale after her leave of absence and continued her research in child development.

On her 100th birthday, Dr. Gambrill was honored by the American Association of University Women as a *“pioneer in the concept of child development, the philosophy that changed education in our country.”*

Before her death on March 31, 1988, she lived in Connecticut just minutes away from Yale. She was 105 years old and looking back over her century long association with education, she observed, *“The most rewarding thing to me, was my relationship with people, regardless of if I was the teacher or the student. The failure to understand the relationships between people is one of the most serious mistakes that can be made in any field of work – be it teaching or any other field.”* ♣

Upcoming Events



MARVIN PINKERT; CATCH A RISING STAR; LAST LEE DOLL MOVIE AT THE MUSEUM: NO STOPPING THE STOVER

LUNCH DATES WITH HISTORY 2019 LECTURE SERIES AT THE HCHS MUSEUM

The Museum of Howard County History (8328 Court Ave, Ellicott City) is proud to host a series of lectures for 2019. Bring your own lunch. Drinks and treats will be provided. Tickets are Free for HCHS Members and only \$5 for non-members.

Doors open at 11:30am. Each lecture runs noon-1:00pm followed by an optional tour of the museum 1:00-1:30pm. For more information, call 410-480-3250 or email info@hchsmd.org.

- May 3rd - Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools - Mattie Hays
- June 7th - Howard County Jewish History - Marvin Pinkert, Exec Director Jewish Museum of Maryland
- July 5th - Merriweather's 1st Ten Years - Kevin Leonard

SPRING FUNDRAISER: CLASSIC HOLLYWOOD AT ELKRIDGE FURNACE INN

Friday, May 3rd

7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Tickets available at www.hchsmd.org/fundraisers/

"CATCH A RISING STAR"

Saturday May 4th

Go back in time with collective memory and personal reminiscence to relate again with your favorite music from your best loved films from the 1920's to the present. Free to the public, donations to HCHS and Susan G. Komen Foundation are recommended.

Free Tickets available at:

www.eventbrite.com/e/catch-a-rising-star-tickets-60236775818

LEE DOLL PRESENTS MOVIES AT THE MUSEUM

The last show!

The producer showcases his productions filmed in the Ellicott City area. FREE showings every 2nd Saturday at the Museum of Howard County History (8328 Court Ave, Ellicott City).

- May 11th: "No Stopping The Stover"

HOWARD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HELP DESK

Third Saturday of Every Month, 1-4pm

THE GENEALOGICAL HELP DESK IS HELD AT THE MILLER BRANCH LIBRARY HISTORICAL CENTER (9421 FREDERICK ROAD ELLICOTT CITY)

The Howard County Genealogical Society hosts a free help desk on the third Saturday of every month at our Archive and Research Library located on the second floor of the Miller Branch Library. This 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.

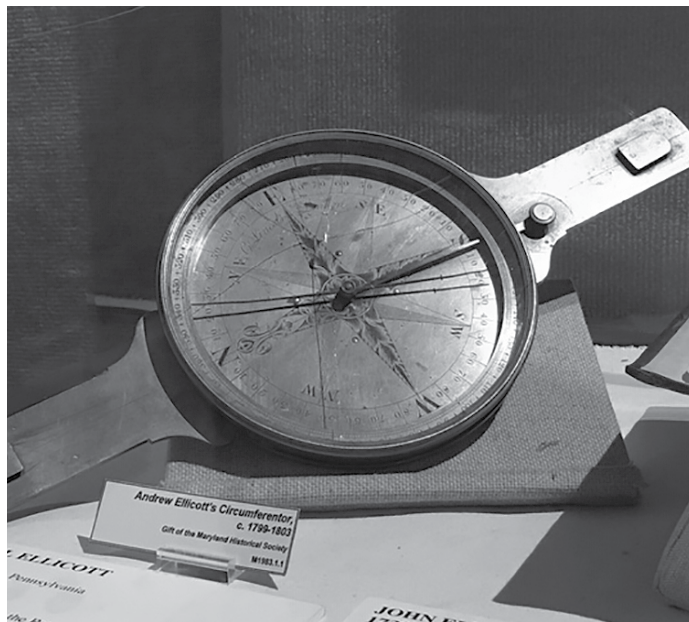
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF OUR EVENTS
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OR VISIT WWW.HCHSMD.ORG/EVENTS

MUSEUM ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT: SINGER SEWING MACHINE

BY REBECCA DOBBS, MUSEUM ASSISTANT MANAGER

Did you know the first sewing machine was invented by Isaac Merritt Singer in the 1800s? In 1851, the first Singer Sewing Machine was patented and by 1855, the company received world-wide recognition for its advanced technology for the time period. During the Civil War era until the turn of the century, Singer fabricated several machines which included the “Grasshopper,” the first lightweight machine of its kind, in addition to the “New Family,” a smaller lockstitch machine with an adjustable feed. In 1867, this model was re-released as one which had more under arm space. During the early 1890s, the zigzag stitch feature was implemented in addition to the first electric machine, moving away from the notable foot presser. As the company flourished, it has introduced a multitude of features in its products including design, gear operations, and portability.

The Singer sewing machine that is currently on display at the Museum is a “Sphinx” table top model #27, dating to 1895. This is a lockstitch machine constructed of steel with vibrating shuttle technology. This accommodates repairs as opposed to purchasing a new machine. Specific to this Singer, besides its Egyptian motif, it has a vertical, split silver plate on the bed in addition to a solid handwheel. ♣



THE COMPASS

The Howard County Historical Society logo is a representation of Andrew Ellicott's compass. Andrew Ellicott, son of one of the founders of Ellicott City, was a surveyor responsible for laying out the plan for the design of Washington, D.C., along with Charles L'Enfant and Benjamin Banneker. He surveyed the National Road (Route 144) that ran from Baltimore to Frederick. Andrew also completed the extension of the Mason Dixon Line. He surveyed territory as far south as Florida and Mississippi. In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson asked Andrew Ellicott to mentor Meriwether Lewis for the Lewis and Clarke Expedition. ♣





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