



# THE LEGACY

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Winter 2019, Volume 56, Number 1*

## THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOWARD COUNTY

(EXCERPTS REPRINTED FROM *PROFILES IN FAITH: HISTORIES OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES OF HOWARD COUNTY* AND *GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS: A HISTORY OF THE 1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOWARD COUNTY*)

BY SHAWN GLADDEN

This year marks the 125th Anniversary of our Museum building, the 1st Presbyterian Church of Howard County, listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places as HO-50. We plan on celebrating our wonderful building, which we at the Historical Society refer to as “the best kept secret in Ellicott City”, all year long. Here is a summary of the history of the building, originally published by James Holway.

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County started as a mission in 1837 at Thistle Mills, 2 miles down the Patapsco River from Ellicott Mills on the Baltimore County side. This small church was chartered by the Presbytery of Baltimore in 1839 with a charter membership of 23. In 1844, the congregation moved to Ellicott Mills into a brand new stone church building on the hilltop overlooking Frederick Road. On April 24, 1894, AT 8:00 AM, the front wall of the church collapsed while excavating to build new church school rooms, causing the remainder of the old building to be razed and a new structure planned to be built later that year. George Archer was the architect and suggested rebuilding using the same material from the razed structure. His plan called for a Gothic style design using gray granite blocks. A steep roof, and a 100 foot high bell tower with a spire, which would be the tallest structure in Howard County at the time. Miraculously, the church was built in eight months for approximately \$10,000.

The man responsible for overseeing the building of the



REVEREND BRANCH AT 1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CIRCA 1900

new church in 1894 and the steady growth during his 27 years as minister (1882-1909), was Reverend Henry Branch. During construction in 1894, Reverend Branch would continue to hold services at the adjacent Howard County Courthouse. During this time, money was raised from a variety of sources ranging from individual contributions and other ecumenical congregations, a donation from the Presbytery of Baltimore, and a mortgage for \$2,000 (which was paid off by 1900). A memorial plaque

*Continued on Page 4*

### 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](http://www.hchsmmd.org)

### HCHS ARCHIVE AND HISTORICAL CENTER

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

TOM BOWER



My name is Tom Bower and I have been elected president I want to thank Stephen Castro for his leadership and guidance as president of HCHS for the last two years. Besides supporting the HCHS in various capacities, I volunteer at our church, support Assist Our Kids organization as a mentor and math tutor at Stevens Forest Elementary School, and help out as much as I can at Northfield Elementary.

Thanks to Shawn Gladden, who has obtained enough grant funding to start the renovation of the Weir Building. Phase 1 started on January 16, 2019 and will be completed this spring. Once completed, the Quaker Schoolhouse will be available for all to participate in the educational sessions in 2020.

On May 3, 2019 the HCHS will be having its 4th annual spring soiree fundraiser at the Elkridge Furnace Inn, Elkridge, MD. This year's theme is Classic Hollywood. Tickets are now on sale at hchsm.org.

Paulette Lutz is heading up a new initiative to generate addition HCHS operating funds. During the 1st quarter 2019, we plan on holding wedding and special events in the Museum of Howard County History. The fee structure will be available on the HCHS website.

At the Museum there will be new exhibits, gift shop updates, interior painting, concerts, historical guest speakers, weddings, special events, and movie festivals to name just a few activities. Check out our Upcoming Events listing and details at our website at hchsm.org.

Your suggestions and comments to make the HCHS even better are always welcome. You can provide your feedback and comments by emailing us at info@hchs.org. ☞

## EDITOR'S NOTE

JANET KUSTERER

Our community lost a loyal volunteer and good friend with the death of George Arthur on December 8. After retirement George volunteered for many years with the Historical Society, Historic Ellicott City, Inc. and the Ellicott City Senior Center. I lived next door to George for over 30 years and will always remember him exuberantly singing Irish ballads, enthusiastically heading off on world-wide adventures with his wife Toni, and generously giving back to the Ellicott City town he loved. He will be missed. ☞



GEORGE ARTHUR 1930-2018

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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



**H**appy New Year to our members, sponsors and board! This year marks two milestones at the Howard County Historical Society. 2019 is the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Historical Society and it is the 125th Anniversary of the 1st Presbyterian Church building which serves as the Museum of Howard County History. These are two big achievements that we plan on celebrating all year long. As a part of the celebration of the building, we thought that we would introduce our staff and volunteers at the museum as well as provide a history of the 1st Presbyterian Church, originally built in 1894. These two articles are the features in this issue of *The Legacy*.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce new Members elected to the Historical Society Board, Bob Glascock, Rita Hamlet, George Tolen, Tom Goss, Ken Wireman, and Edward Glawe. Each of these new board members brings specific areas of expertise, community involvement, and, of course, a love of history. We are thrilled to have these new voices on the board and look forward to their contributions in 2019 and beyond.

We look forward to formally introducing our new board members and our new Board President Tom Bower at the Annual Meeting on February 24th. We have booked Massachusetts Representative and Historian Josh Cutler as the keynote speaker for our Annual Meeting. Mr. Cutler will lecture on his book, "The Mobtown Massacre: Alexander Henson and the Newspaper

War of 1812." The key figure in the lecture, Mr. Hanson, was editor of a controversial Federalist newspaper during the War and a Howard County resident, residing at Belmont during the incident. It promises to be a wonderful lecture with contemporary comparisons to calls of "fake news" and partisan media conflict. Please make sure to register for the meeting and the talk as space will be limited and we anticipate a packed house at the Miller Library.

We are hard at work upgrading the museum for 2019. We are having the gift shop walls repainted and the gift shop remerchandised, we are updating our permanent exhibits and will start marketing small weddings at the museum this year. It will be an exciting step forward as we continue to grow in membership, visitor-ship, and our very popular public programs. ♣

## Annual Membership Meeting Eat, Think and Engage

**Sunday, February 24th, 2019 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

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

**Come mix, mingle  
and meet your fellow  
members at this fun  
and informative event!**

### GUEST LECTURER:

#### Massachusetts State Representative Joshua Cutler

Author of *Mobtown Massacre: Alexander Hanson and the Baltimore Newspaper War of 1812*

#### • About the Author

Josh S. Cutler is an attorney and state legislator, representing the Sixth Plymouth District of Massachusetts, which includes the town of Hanson. Cutler is a graduate of Skidmore College (B.A.), Suffolk Law (J.D.) and the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth (M.P.P. in Environmental Policy.) He is also the author of "When the Press Really Was Under Attack: Alexander Hanson and the 1812 'Mobtown Massacre'" published by the New England Journal of History, Spring 2018.

#### • Book Summary

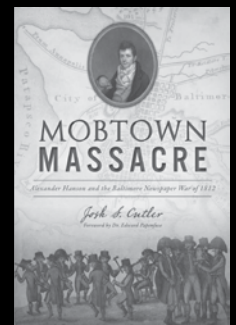
In 1812, with the nation bitterly divided and plunged into war, a fiery young Federalist editor named Alexander Hanson risked his life to defend a newspaper that dared express unpopular views. His words provoked a violent stand-off that crippled the city of Baltimore and left Hanson beaten within an inch of his life. This little known episode in American history — complete with a midnight jailbreak, bloodthirsty mobs and unspeakable acts of torture — helped shape the course of war, the Federalist Party and the nation's very notion of the freedom of the press. Josh Cutler's history of the Mobtown Massacre offers a lesson in liberty that reverberates today.

*"A timely and scholarly examination of one man's struggle for freedom of the press. Denied by word and brutal mob attacks leaving deaths and injuries that defined a city and shaped a nation's very notion of freedom of the press."*

— Fred Dorsey

*"A remarkable story that's as timely today as it was two centuries ago."*

— Congressman William R. Keating



**Potluck Lunch last names beginning with A to M bring appetizer, side or main dish.**

**Last names beginning with N to Z bring a dessert.**

**Drinks will be provided.**

**Annual Membership Meeting, State of the Society report and election of new board members and officers.**

**RSVP to [info@hchsmd.org](mailto:info@hchsmd.org)  
or call 410-480-3250.  
Space is limited.**





ORIGINAL 1ST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH CIRCA  
1880s

to Reverend Branch is located in the auditorium space of the museum today, next to the pipe organ and his portrait. It was dedicated in 1948 by his grandchildren, more specifically Charles B. Clark. Reverend Branch was described in his obituary in the Baltimore Sun as "...a strong picturesque personality, commanding in appearance, quite but forceful in speech, a man one did not forget easily."

Groundbreaking for the new church would be on July 25th, 1894 (according to Reverend Branch's diary) and the bid for the work went to Mr. Frederick Wayland. The cornerstone for the church was laid on September 4th and placed inside the cornerstone was a copper box containing coins from the original building's cornerstone, coins from 1894, a Bible, architectural drawings, and a list of baptized members of the church and the men who worked on the construction of the building.

This new structure would serve as the 1st Presbyterian Church until 1959, when it was sold to Alda Hopkins Clark who, in turn, started the Howard County Historical Society Museum and Library in memory of her late husband, the Honorable Judge James Clark. Sr. There are a few features of the original church that museum visitors can still see today.

- **The A.B. Felgemacher pipe organ** in the auditorium space was originally installed in 1915 thanks to money left by former church member Mr. William Walker and a donation from Andrew Carnegie's foundation. The Felgemacher Organ Company produced organs in Erie, PA until 1918 when they went out of business. This pipe organ was purchased from a church in Ohio and installed in 1915 after a significant redesign of the minister's platform. The Organ consists of over 700 individual pipes. The organ does still work (although it does require some restoration) and we try to host an organ concert once a year.
- **The original door to the church** was in the back corner of the sanctuary, through the base of the bell tower. The second door, which serves as the main entrance to the museum today was added in 1980.
- **The Granite** used to build the church was donated by Church member Christian Rappanier, who was a stone mason from his Ellicott City quarry. The stone was hauled up "Mt. Misery" to the church site by Mr. Jim Gaither who rented horses and carriages for the job.

- The church was divided into two sections, **the Sanctuary and the Sunday school room**. The sanctuary is the room with the high ceilings that is currently used as the auditorium and gift shop space. The Sunday school room is the gallery where the permanent museum exhibits are currently located. The rooms are separated by glass panels that would roll up for church service overflow.
- **The lighting fixture** that hangs from the ceiling in the auditorium was originally a gas lit lamp that was in the original church building and was moved into the new building and electrified in 1894. The lamp was first lit on December 12th, 1894 with electricity possibly provided by the Herman Shriver Electric Company on Main Street founded in 1891.
- **The Regulator clock** on the divider wall between the two rooms was purchased by local watchmaker Mr. Jenneret and given to the church, placed in view of the Minister's platform so the minister's sermons wouldn't run too long.
- **The Bell tower and bell**: The bell tower was dedicated to Mrs. Jane Piper, wife of Robert Piper, who had died a year before the church was built in 1893. On Nov. 24, 1894 the bell was installed in the tower as a gift from church member Rebecca Talbott in honor of her father Edward Talbott, Senator James Clark said that the nickname for the bell was "Big Beck" named after Mrs. Talbott.
- **Stained Glass Windows**: The Gothic stained glass windows in the church were procured by the Atlanta Art Glass Company. There are two large arch shaped windows and four smaller windows flanking the pulpit area. In the Sunday school room there are seven windows. Each window is adorned with "geometric and foliate designs" instead of the Biblical scenes customary to Catholic churches. There are three hidden windows behind the piper organ with one special custom window that can be seen from the outside of the building in between the museum and the Quaker schoolhouse. This hidden circular window is known as the "Rose Window" and depicts two winged cherubs, one holding cymbals while the other is blowing on a horn. This window was donated by Reverend Branch's wife Melissa who wanted to memorialize two of their children who died as infants. In order to raise the money for the "Rose Window", Mrs. Branch baked and sold over 1,000 biscuits, fried potato chips, and fudge.

The Museum of Howard County History maintains as much of the original church as possible. We will be celebrating the building all year long and will open a new permanent exhibit in the auditorium space on the history of the 1st Presbyterian Church. Come visit the museum to see all these wonderful historic features. ✝





## MEET THE STAFF AT THE MUSEUM OF HOWARD COUNTY HISTORY



Mary Sanphilipo started with us in 2012 as a volunteer and now acts as our Museum and Collections Manager. She has her B.A. in Archaeology with a minor in History from U.M.B.C. and her Masters in Library Sciences from U.M.C.P. After college, she began her career at the Baltimore City Life Museums where she stayed for 10 years. She then took

a 15 year hiatus from work to homeschool her two children, Shannon and Aiden. She also oversees our Museum rentals such as our ongoing yoga and ballroom dance classes.



Kaitlyn McKay has been a volunteer at the Howard County Historical Society since 2015. In addition to working at the Museum of Howard County History, Kaitlyn is also the Historical Society's social media coordinator. She received her AA degree at Howard Community College & her Bachelor's degree in English at Towson

University. Kaitlyn currently works in the administration offices at the Baltimore County Public Library.



Henry "Hank" Fitzner has undergraduate degrees in Spanish and Accounting with minors in German and History. Hank's careers include Maritime Commerce at the Port of Baltimore (14 years) and with the Maryland State Government (30 years). He has recently retired and now volunteers at both the Archives and the Museum. His interests

include Languages, History and Archaeology. His historical areas of greatest interest are Ancient, Native American, U.S. Colonial through Civil War, and Latin American.



Charlie Jennings was born in the Boston area. He earned his B.A. & M.B.A. degrees at Dartmouth College. After working at a national public-accounting firm and earning his CPA accreditation in Massachusetts, he moved on to accountancy in the corporate sector. In the mid-70s he moved to Howard

County with his wife, Tina, and two boys, to work as VP-Finance at Choice Hotels. Charlie now volunteers as our Retail Manager at both the Archives and Museum. Historical interests include America's wars (Rev, Civil, and WWII) and European accounts including the Age of Sail and the controversies of the Empire.



Becca Dobbs recently graduated from Towson University with her B.A. in Anthropology and a minor in Museum Studies. She came to the Historical Society in the summer of 2016 as a volunteer immediately following a Walking Tour. She also works as a historical sites' docent with Howard County Rec & Parks. Becca was hired as one of the Museum's assistants in

2017. Her duties include assisting with special events, educational outreach programs and of course working at the museum on weekends. Becca enjoys doing genealogy and drinking lots of coffee. If you see her around, please send her a friendly hello!



Mike Radinsky has been curator at the Museum of Howard County History since 2016. His interests lie in local history, especially Howard County's involvement in the Civil War. He participates in living history programs in the area and for the museum. Mike also leads historic walking tours and ghost tours in the historic district. He lives in

Ellicott City with his family. ♣



## Upcoming Events



### A CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY

**Saturday, February 23rd**  
**Harriet Tubman High School**  
**10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - EAT, THINK, AND ENGAGE

**Sunday, February 24th**  
**Miller Library**  
**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

### LUNCH DATES WITH HISTORY 2018 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 2018. 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@hchsm.org](mailto:info@hchsm.org).

- **March 1st - Babe Ruth - The Babe You Didn't Know - Shawn Herne, Executive Director Babe Ruth Birthplace**
- **April 5th - Antebellum Maryland through Reconstruction: What Made the Free State So Critical - Ed Gantt**
- **May 3rd - Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools - Mattie Hays**

### HISTORICALLY INAPPROPRIATE COMEDY

**Saturday March 30th**  
**Museum of Howard County History**  
**8:00 – 10:00**



### LEE DOLL PRESENTS MOVIES AT THE MUSEUM

#### Every Second Saturday

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).

Note: the museum was not affected by the flooding and is accessible from courthouse drive. There is ample parking available at the court house which is a short walk to the museum.

- **March 9th: "Wally and the Weirdos"**
- **April 13: "Rise and Fall in LOVE"**
- **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.

### SPRING FUNDRAISER: CLASSIC HOLLYWOOD AT ELKRIDGE FURNACE INN

#### Friday, May 3rd

**7:00 pm – 11:00 pm**

Tickets available at [www.hchsm.org/fundraisers/](http://www.hchsm.org/fundraisers/)



## MUSEUM ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

BY MARY SANPHILIPPO

January sees the return of a treasured piece to the Museum of Howard County History. The oak glass-fronted gothic bookcase (M1979.6.1) has been on loan at Mt. Ida for many years. We have had returned several other large pieces as well, prompting a rearrangement of our main exhibit space. This change has also afforded us a chance to have some fun, but first a little history.

This magical piece of furniture was originally built for "El Monte" aka "Twiford" (HO-96) a Dorsey family home. It was later moved to "Landfair" and "Temora" (HO-47). It was graciously donated in 1979 by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brownley.

The reintroduction of this gothic bookcase allows us to do some fun rotating mini exhibits. Our museum team will be designing small 18-piece exhibits to correspond with a monthly theme, utilizing this otherwise empty piece. They have several ideas in the works so stop by each month to see what is on display.

A black and white poster for the "Classic Hollywood" event. On the left, there are silhouettes of four people in formal attire standing on a red carpet. The text "Classic" is in a cursive font, followed by "HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS" in a small, sans-serif font, and "HOLLYWOOD" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, it says "AT THE ELKRIDGE FURNACE INN". In the bottom right corner, there is a "SAVE THE DATE" ticket for "MAY 3 2019" with the number "05032019" on the sides. The background is dark with a subtle gradient.

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

SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 3  
2019  
05032019

Tickets available at  
[www.hchsmd.org/fundraisers/](http://www.hchsmd.org/fundraisers/)





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