



THE LEGACY

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2020, Volume 57, Number 3

THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM THE BEGINNING OF THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN HOWARD COUNTY

BY PAULETTE LUTZ

When we started our research on the Suffrage movement in Howard County, we did not know what to expect. History books do not cover local events in detail. As we scoured the newspapers in Howard County and statewide, we discovered an amazing amount of activity in Howard County for the Suffrage movement.

The Ellicott City Times under the direction of editor Colonel W. S. Powell was the first newspaper in Maryland to support women's suffrage. The support of Colonel Powell and many other gentlemen in the county helped to promote The Just Government League (JGL).

We are familiar with the national leaders of the movements from our history classes: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Jane Addams who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life not only for women, but society as a whole. However, local women were just as determined in their dedication to improve the quality of



life for their communities.

The JGL was an organization that supported rights for all women which included the right to vote, to hold public office, equal rights in family law, to enter

WOMENS SUFFRAGE DELEGATES OF MARYLAND
AT THE ANNAPOLIS STATEHOUSE

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

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



I know these are challenging times in many ways and I hope you all are safe. I would like to recognize Preservation Maryland for the grant they provided to the Howard County Historical Society. The funds provided rehabilitated the Court Avenue porch to the Quaker School, formerly known as the Weir Building. The funding match for the grant by Historic Ellicott City, Inc. (HEC) through fundraising from their Decorator Show House event—as part of HEC's grant

partnership with Preservation Maryland.

The Quaker School was built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century with local granite stone. It is believed that the original stone building that was incorporated into the present building, existed as early as 1812 and was used at that time as a hospital in the War of 1812. The building was the second school in Ellicott Mills. In 1820, the boys from the Ellicott family's first Quaker school were moved to the building due to overcrowding. Although the building only served as a school until 1824, the name remained attached to the building in local memory and in official documents such as property deeds. From the 1820s until 1951, the building was a private residence for the Mayfield and Weir families. It gradually evolved from its original modest one story two-room footprint to a two-story building with a large attic, a frame addition on the rear, a two-story front porch with decorative ironwork on the lower level, and an enclosed sleeping porch on the upper level. The wrought iron was added by the William F. Mayfield family. Their daughter Blanche moved to New Orleans to join as a nun to the Order of the Carmelites. When they visited her in New Orleans, they were so impressed by the wrought iron designs on the buildings, they decided to use it on their home. In 1951, the building was sold to Howard County government and used as offices. They added a one-story vault on the east elevation. In the mid-1980s it was sold to the Howard County Historical Society and served as the Society's research library and archives until it moved to the Miller Branch Library.

Please check our website at <http://hchsmd.org> to see the latest news and events that are happening with the Society. Thank you for your continued support and be safe. ❖

HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND OFFICERS

Thomas E. Bower President
Ellen Flynn Giles 1st Vice President
Patricia Greenwald 2nd Vice President
Vacant Recording Secretary
Anne Schoenhut Corresponding Secretary
Steve Castro Past President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2018-2021

Richard T. Clark
Leonora Hoenes
Judith Draper
Ken Wireman
Rita Hamlet

2019-2022

Kimberly Eggborn
George Tolen
Tom Goss
Mae Beale
Martha Clark

2020-2023

Gail Bates
Fred Campbell
Roger Caplan
Tara Simpson
John Slack
Bob Glascock

STAFF

Shawn Gladden Executive Director
Paulette Lutz Deputy Director
Mary Sanphilpo-Ward Collections Manager
Charles Lewis Bookkeeper

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Betty Adams
Charles Coles
Doris Fredericks
W. Henry Griffith
Paul L. Miller
Consuelo Regan-Alexander
Phil Stackhouse
Gladys H. Wahlhapter

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

JANET KUSTERER

Fernand Tersiguel died on July 24, at the age of 78. He has been part of the fabric of Ellicott City's historic district since he opened his first restaurant, Chez Fernand, on Main Street on Bastille Day, July 14, 1975. Fernand was always committed to supporting the community—through fundraisers, French classes for young students and involvement with a variety of community organizations. He gave so many young people a start working at his restaurant. He is survived by his wife Odette, son Michel and his wife Angela, and their sons Lucas and Landon. He will be greatly missed. ❖

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

SHAWN GLADDEN



As I sit here in my office, after finally getting access after 4 months, I find myself struggling to write the words that can sum up what we have been doing during the COVID quarantine. I struggle not because I don't have anything to say, but rather I have too much to report and find it hard to fit it all in the space required.

The Howard County Historical Society has been fortunate to have received various grants, emergency funds, and PPP loans to help us get through this very trying year. These funds have kept us above water for sure as we still are supporting (and renovating) two historic buildings, paying utilities, and payroll. Despite this assistance, we still rely on memberships as a main revenue source for our operations. Due to limited access to the Miller library over the past few months, we have been unable to send out renewal letters and membership cards. We will rectify that over the next few weeks. If you renewed during the lockdown, we will be sending your membership card also within the next few weeks.

Although the museum and archives have been closed, we continued our rehabilitation work at the Quaker School Building next to the Museum of Howard County History. Thanks to a grant from our friends at Historic Ellicott City, Inc

and Preservation Maryland, we were able to use a Revitalization Grant to rehabilitate the back porch on the building. Our President of the Board, Tom Bower, talks about this in his message and pictures of the finished porch accompanies that message. We are on schedule to complete the Quaker School Children's Museum by Ellicott City's 250th Anniversary celebration in 2022, thanks to another generous grant from the Howard County Government.

In addition to museum grounds updates, we have been working on a brand new, redesigned website which will be live by the time you read this. I encourage all members to visit the site and play around with the features, including the "members access" section which will have research tools and access to the collection that the general public will not have. The new website is part of our shift into a more "virtual" presence in the new world that we are all living in. We are not quite sure when we will be able to host programs and lectures at the museum; the new website will allow us to do these programs online for the safety of our members and guests. The museum will be open to the public, but gatherings will be limited. The new website will feature an interactive "virtual exhibit", a blog, an improved events calendar and links to all of our social media pages as well as links to other institutions' resource pages like Maryland State Archives and the Maryland Historical Society. We are currently working on a "Virtual" version of our very popular Holiday House Tour for December. We should have info on that in our next issue.

****NOTE**** While I am writing this, I was made aware that the Howard County Fair will not happen in 2020, so our Suffrage Exhibit will be put on hold. Most likely we will transfer our research to a digital format on the new website**



THE NEWLY REDESIGNED WEBSITE AT WWW.HCHSMD.ORG

We have used this time to find sources of funding for our remaining capital projects and to find ways to engage with the public via new media. As an institution, we are working hard to improve what we do and reach more people with our stories, images, and resources. We continue to publish our "Year of the Howard County Woman" profiles on our Facebook page, in this issue of *The Legacy* we have a list of who we have profiled to date and our two feature articles are on Laura Byrne and Deborah Disney. The work of local historians is important, even more so as we try to reconcile present day conflicts with our difficult past. As the county's primary repository of artifacts, documents, images, maps and books from our past, we find ourselves in a unique position to help our community understand our past, study it, and learn from those who have struggled for similar goals, generations before us. With our new website, we anticipate a greater interaction with the public as a whole thereby accomplishing our mission. Thank you for your support. ✨

THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Continued from Page 1



THE JUST GOVERNMENT LEAGUE OF MARYLAND MARCHING FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 3, 1913

into legal contracts, to have reproductive rights, to have the right to bodily integrity, to be free of sexual violence, the right of fair wages and equal pay, to own property and to obtain an education and advance in society.

The first President of the JGL in Maryland was Edith Houghton Hooker. She was also the editor of the *Maryland Suffragist News*. The JGL was a national and international organization and their goals not only included the rights listed above, but some organizations went further to promote anti-lynching laws, the end of child labor, sanitation laws and the legalization of prostitution.

Mrs. Edith Hooker (usually noted as Mrs. Donald R. Hooker) worked closely with the Howard County JGL and its President, Mrs. Bernard J. Byrne also known as Laura Laureelson Byrne. Laura was born in 1855 into a family of privilege; her maternal grandparents were Charles Carroll IV and Harriet Chew Carroll of Homewood. Laura did not flaunt her life of privilege but worked diligently for the JGL. She traveled the state giving lectures,



EDITH HOUGHTON HOOKER

organizing committee meetings, providing educational material and fund raising for the cause. Most of the Women's Suffrage Movement in Howard County took place between 1910 and 1920.

In 1910, Mrs. Byrne lived on Main Street in Ellicott City (at what was the Disney Tavern) with her husband Bernard and daughter Miss Laura Byrne and Bernard's sister, Eliza. Her daughter, Miss Laura, was a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and a Suffragette. Mrs. Byrne held many meetings at her house which included speakers like Belva Lockwood, the oldest practicing attorney in the United States. She would also set up booths on the sidewalk in Ellicott City handing out buttons, pamphlets, and educational material.

Their unusual tactics for getting the Suffrage movement going did not go without some controversy. A Suffragist Party held at the Howard House garnered some notoriety in November 1910. Colonel W. S. Powell entertained some notable people in Howard County and Baltimore at the party including Former Governor Edwin Warfield;

current Governor, Austin L. Crothers; State's Attorney, Joseph L. Donovan; Superintendent of Howard County Public School Systems, William C. Philips; County Commissioner, Dr. Frank O. Miller; Mrs. Donald Hooker, Mrs. Howard Schwartz, and Mrs. B. J. Byrne of the JGL. They were served apple cider and oysters and the dinner was a great success.

Some of the anti-Suffragists, specifically Presbyterian Reverend S. M. Engle and Mrs. Robert Garrett seized an opportunity to discredit the meeting and target the leaders by publishing the comment, *"Two suffragettes – Mrs. Donald R. Hooker and Mrs. Howard T. Schwartz – served at a table some kind of liquor punch which was so strong that it made more drunken men than the citizens of the community had seen in a long time."*

Ellicott City was angry with the "Antis" and their disparaging remarks. Colonel Powell explained in an article, *"There was light punch served, two of them in fact, but neither was intoxicating. I emphatically deny that any of my guests were intoxicated at any time during the evening. It was not until the speaking began that some of the men outside learning that Governor Crothers and Governor Warfield would speak, asked to come in. Of course, they were admitted. Among them was one young man, who unfortunately is a habitual drinker. Mr. Engle's statement is a direct perversion of facts. I think it nothing more than an effort to get notoriety."*

Mrs. Schwartz was a little more pointed in her retort, "There was only one man drunk there and I was told he was always drunk!"

Please click on this link to view the Library of Congress video on Women's Suffrage <https://www.loc.gov/exhibitions/women-fight-for-the-vote/multimedia/>

Mrs. B. J. Byrne had many obstacles to overcome while enlightening the County. In the next issue of *The Legacy*, we will publish "Parades, Hikers and Auto Tours for Howard County Suffragettes." ❖



Become a member today!

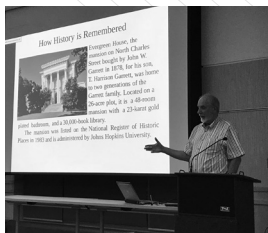
JOIN or RENEW as a member with the Howard County Historical Society.

It is an exciting time to be a member with a brand new, interactive website, new exhibits, the upcoming Quaker School Children's Museum, and of course the Ellicott City 250th Anniversary celebration in 2022. Be a part of all the exciting history we are making at HCHS!

Our 2020 membership special:

- \$65 gets a Family Membership to the Historical Society and a choice of these books (while supplies last): *Images of America, Laurel at 150, America's First Factory Town, or The Founders of Ellicott's Mills and the Mill Town's 250th Anniversary* by Jack Shagena (stock on this book is limited).

Mail in the attached form or renew online at www.hchsm.org.
Thank you for your support!



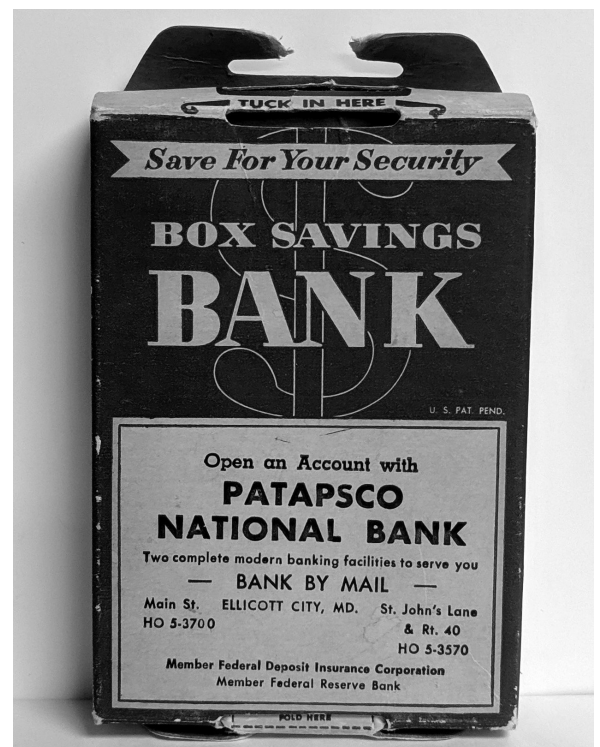
MUSEUM ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT:

BANK BY MAIL

BY MARY SANPHILIPPO

It's a simple little cardboard box that looks like it might have held a large deck of playing cards. But no, it was for a newfangled method for banking! This new addition to our collection dates from 1952 and was offered by the Patapsco National Bank in Ellicott City, MD. The original idea was introduced in 1940 and quickly became popular with soldiers stationed overseas. The side of the box contains a small hole where rolled bills were inserted. The opposite side included a place for the owner's name to identify the account at the bank.

The Patapsco National Bank advertisement on the box promoted two modern banking facilities. The locations were at Main Street in Ellicott City and St. John's Lane & Rt. 40. An unusual advertising give away to be sure. ✧



WOMEN OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

January

- 10 Alda Hopkins Clark
- 17 Martha Ellicott Tyson
- 24 Seong Ok Baik
- 31 Bessie Lee Gambrill

February (Black History Month)

- 7 Wylene Burch
- 14 Rebecca Garrett
- 21 Leola Dorsey
- 28 Naomi Mburu

March

- 6 Liz Bobo
- 13 Dorothy Kraft
- 20 Alice Kindler
- 27 Martha Elizabeth Howard Murphy

April

- 3 Emily Caton MacTavish
- 10 Jane L. Dembner
- 17 Martha Clark
- 24 Adelaide Brevoort Close Riggs

May

- 1 Celia Holland
- 8 Joetta Cramm
- 15 Alice Cornelison
- 22 Barbara Feaga
- 29 Barbara Kellner

June

- 5 Mildred Natwick
- 12 Dora Mack Carter
- 19 Colette Roberts
- 26 Mary Melvin

July

- 3 Deborah Disney
- 10 Tatyana McFadden
- 17 Laura Lippman
- 24 Brown Sisters
- 31 Maggie Janine Earle Brown

August

- 14 Laura Laurenson Byrne



ALDA HOPKINS CLARK



MARTHA ELLICOTT TYSON



SEONG OK BAIK



BESSIE LEE GAMBRILL



LEOLA DORSEY



NAOMI MBURU



LIZ BOBO

ALICE KINDLER WITH HER
CHILDRENMARTHA CLARK AND
DAUGHTER, NORA CRISTADELAIDE BREVOORT
CLOSE RIGGS

ALICE CORNELISON



TATYANA MCFADDEN



DEBORAH DISNEY'S TAVERN

THE DISNEY TAVERN

BY PAULETTE LUTZ

If you stand in front of Tersiguel's Restaurant and look north across the street at the large building that looks like a duplex, you can almost envision Deborah Disney's Tavern on Main Street in Ellicott City. Disney's Tavern is six-bay wide, two and a half story high, gabled roof building located on the north side of Main Street beside the new Phoenix Upper Main restaurant and brewery. Presently, the building is a duplex with entrances located in its two central first floor bays accommodating two different businesses.

This Ellicott City landmark was originally constructed ca. 1790 and is registered by the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties as one of the oldest remaining structures in Ellicott City. In the early Land Record book, the plat is noted as on the division of George Ellicott's land. Not much is known about the building's early years, but it is believed to have been a tavern.

The liveliest era for the building was after Deborah Disney purchased the building on June 17, 1840. She bought the building for \$6,000 from William Lorman, which included 10 acres of land. Deborah Disney generously donated the land behind the Tavern on October 6, 1840 for the Howard County Court House, completed in 1843.

It turned out to be a good decision for it was a favorite place for those who served on jury duty and a focal point for the town. Jurists could walk out the back door, up a few steps and across a bridge to the Court House. Oddly, as noted in court records, no one was ever reported as late for jury duty.

Deborah Disney operated her tavern for twenty-two years. It was known as "one of the liveliest places in town" catering to men only and businessmen. Often the venue for boisterous social activity, Miss Disney rented rooms to traveling salesmen. The customers did not complain of noise from the tavern or street due to the 18-inch walls and the strong construction of the building. In the dining room, a shaft was discovered that ran from the first floor to the attic. It is believed that this was a dumb waiter to carry the food to the upper levels. The dirt floor basement was used as a wine cellar.

Farmers from the western part of the county would stop in for refreshment and the local gossip as this was the center of activity in the town. Disney's Tavern was the heartbeat of Ellicott City.

Although Miss Disney sold the tavern on February 5, 1862 to John R. Clark for \$5,800, it has been noted that the tavern continued to operate until at least 1868. One could imagine that during the Civil War, weary soldiers in Union-occupied Ellicott City stopped by Disney's Tavern to seek relief from the tedium of war.

Over the years, the building was a residence. The noted Women's Suffrage President of the Just Government League for Howard County, Laura Laurensen Byrne lived at this building with her husband, Dr. Bernard James Byrne in 1910. The building has also housed many noted businesses in Ellicott City such as a fabric store, antique stores, and various boutiques. ❖



HOWARD COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
9421 FREDERICK ROAD
ELLICOTT CITY,
MD 21042
ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED



GOLD SPONSORS

ARCHITECTURE BY DESIGN, INC.
BOB LUCIDO TEAM OF KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
CATHY DYMEK
CHUCK LEWIS
CROSS COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB
CYNTHIA MONSHOWER
DAN STANDISH
ELLEN FLYNN GILES
EYRE BUS SERVICE (RON EYRE)
HOENES FAMILY FOUNDATION (RICHARD HOENES)
JOHN S. WILSON LUMBER
KAREN MICHAELSON
MARYLAND HISTORY TOURS
PAULETTE LUTZ
PHILLIP DENNIS
RICHARD WATSON
SLACK FUNERAL HOME
SUN NURSERIES
THOMAS & ANNE SCHOENHUT

SILVER SPONSORS

ALICE GILES
AMANDA HOF
AMY DEGROFF
CHARLES H. MILLER
CHARLES WAGANDT
CLARK'S ACE HARDWARE
DON REUWER
EDITH ALBRECHT
HARRY H. WITZKE'S
FUNERAL HOME
JAMES DITTRICH
KARL BRIERS
VICTORIA GOELLER
NEIL GORDON
RICHARD T. CLARK
RYAN SIMMONS
W. EDWARD LILLEY

BRONZE SPONSORS

ANDREW BURKOWSKIE
ANNA MAE MILLER
ANNE RIVERA
BARBARA CUSACK
BETTY COOPER
BOB AND DEBBIE McCUNE
CARL AND MELINDA UTT
DESSIE MOXLEY
DOUG ISOKAIT
DOUGLAS ROSS
ED GERMROTH
EDWARD CLARK
EILEEN RUSNOK
ENLAWYERS, JEREMY ELDRIDGE
GENERAL TRIMBLE
CAMP SCV (James Bibb)
GEORGE TOLEN
GORDON KATZ
HANK AND KAREN GRIFFITH
HAROLD L. AND
MARTHA M. CLARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
BALTIMORE COUNTY
JACQUELINE GREER
JAMES ADAIR
JANET BECK
JANET E. AND THOMAS KUSTERER
JOAN FOWLER
JOAN SHEA-COHEN
JOHN EVANS
JOHN TEICHMOLLER AND
KATHY FARNSWORTH

JOSEPH L. AND
JUANITA COLBOURN, JR.
KATHLEEN BOWEN
LISA MARKOVITZ
LOIS K. LANIER
MAE BEALE
MAX BUFFINGTON
MD ANTIQUE
ARMS COLLECTORS
MICHAEL J. OSBORNE BOOKS
LLC ABAA (MICHAEL OSBORNE)
MR. AND MRS. PAUL PALLADINO
NELLIE ARKINGTON
PATSY KENNAN
RICHARD CLINCH
RICHARD NICHOLS
ROBERT BROTZMAN
ROBERT GLASCOCK
ROGER CAPLAN
RUFF ROOFERS
S. DONALD DALFONZO
STEVE CASTRO
STEVE MILLER, REMAX 100
SUSAN STONESEIFER
THEODORE F. AND
VERONICA MARIANI
TOM AND JUDY SHEEHAN
XINA KOJAZAR