

THE LEGACY

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2021, Volume 58, Number 3

MOTOR TOURING IN HOWARD COUNTY

H enry Ford first distributed the low-priced, mass-produced Model T Ford in 1908. Since an automobile was then within reach for many more Americans, it created more desire for better roads. Rural voters lobbied for paved roads with the slogan, "Get the farmers out of the mud!" The Federal-Aid Road Act of 1916 created the Federal-Aid Highway Program. This funded state highway agencies so they could make road improvements. However, World War I intervened and was a higher priority, sending road improvements to the back burner.

The roads in Howard County in the early 1900s were still dirt or gravel. The turnpike toll roads were in a little better condition with macadam hard-pack gravel. John McAdam, born in 1756, designed roads with harder surface using broken stones placed in symmetrical, tight patterns and covered with smaller stones. His design was called "Macadam" after his name, and was a huge achievement in road construction, starting in the 1800s.



The Green Garage

According to the 1927 Maryland Geographical Survey for Howard County – seven roads were macadam, eight roads were concrete and seven roads were loose gravel and dirt. The rest of the roads in Howard County were dirt roads.

The first major car dealership and garage was Green Cross Garage owned by Edward S. Warfield in Ellicott City. Edward Warfield lived in Glenelg, but decided in 1916 to move his mother Mary S. Warfield, his brother Charles and his two sisters (Amy and Irene) to the city to help him with the dealership and garage.

Edward started the Chevrolet dealership and repair garage on January 1, 1916 in the Oldfield's Pump House building. He bought the Hillsinger's livery

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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 р.м. www.hchsmd.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 р.м. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 1:00- 5:00 р.м.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ellen Flynn Giles



A warm summer welcome to our members and guests! As the "state of emergency" regarding CV-19 health and safety restrictions has been lifted in Maryland and Howard County, we are delighted to begin a phased return – aligned with applicable CDC and HC Health Department guidance - to in-person operations over the summer and into the fall. First, our Saturday-morning *Ellicott City Walking Tours*, through the services of FFC Historical Tours (ffchistorialtours.com), have

already returned and offer an up-close-and-personal look at mill-town life in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, and the addition of a bus tour of America's first interstate highway, the historic 'National Road,' is in the works. In August, we look forward to seeing everyone at the 75th Anniversary of the Howard County Fair from August 7-14. This year, our exhibit will highlight our collection of period maps and mark the launch of a family-friendly map-based *Passport to the Past* to encourage and guide in-person visits to historic sites around the county.

Next, our popular 1st Friday *Lunch Date with History* series will continue to be recorded and posted to the Society's YouTube page, but returns in person to the Museum of Howard County History on September 3, 2021, with Alana Snyder sharing her grandmother's Holocaust experience in "A Survivor's Story." These monthly lectures are free for Society members and \$5.00 for non-members, which can be paid at the door, but registration is required for ALL due to limited space. Please email **info@hchsmd**. org, including the lecture title and date in the subject line, to reserve a space. This fall we will also welcome the return of the Museum's stained-glass windows to their full glory following a restoration project directed by the experts at Great Panes. Stay tuned for an invitation to the Grand Opening Celebration in September.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that December 12 marks the return of the Society's *Holiday House Tour* to in-person exploration of local historic sites decked out in their holiday finery. Plans are well underway with historic homeowners and Society organizers already getting into the festive spirit. Details will be announced as elements are confirmed in late summer/early fall.

We thank you all for your generous support of our mission - especially over the last 15 months. All comments and/or suggestions on ways to make the Society and our services even better are welcome. You can reach us with feedback and suggestions at **info@hchsmd.org**.

In closing, we look forward to seeing you in 2021 as we work to collect, preserve, and share the history of Howard County – and move forward in making at bit of it together!

Editor's Note Janet Kusterer

The National Road runs from Baltimore through Ellicott City and on to Frederick. In the early 19th century stone Mile Markers were installed along the way–45 in all–to let travelers know how far they had come. That is hard to imagine in these days of fine-tuned GPS. The most obvious Marker I know of still in existence is under the railroad bridge on Main Street in Ellicott City, Mile Marker 10. But, I didn't connect this history to the flurry of activity recently at the junction of Frederick Road and Route 40. Workers built a gazebo, then surrounded it with a low stone-walled seating area. An information plaque followed, then Mile Marker 14 was replaced in the middle, a fine display commemorating a piece of local history that in recent times had been ignored. Credit for the project goes to Howard County Government. *

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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



As the "Dog Days" of summer fall upon us, the Howard County Historical Society is "ramping back up" our public programs and events as the COVID restrictions are lifted in Howard County. In this edition of the *Legacy*, you will find a full events calendar for the rest of 2021 and

some dates to remember for 2022. We have made the decision to return to in-person lectures and programs including the very popular Lunch Lecture Series, the return of Ellicott City Main Street-associated events like the Main Street Music Festival and the Headliner Show for the Ellicott Silly Comedy Festival, AND we are thrilled to announce that we WILL be having the Holiday House Tour Bus Trip in December. Check out the full schedule in this issue of the Legacy or on our website: www.hchsmd.org

We have had a staff shakeup since our last newsletter, archivist Erin Berry was offered a management position with the Columbia Archives and has left our organization. We were very happy with the work that Erin did for us and wish her the best at CA. To fill the position, Fred Campbell resigned from the board and was hired as the new Archives Manager. Fred has filled a great void in the archives; together with a wonderful cadre of new volunteers he has tackled the backlog of material waiting to be processed and accessioned into the collection and is overseeing numerous archival organization projects. Fred is a wonderful addition to our staff; he is a colleague of mine from Howard Community College where he was a full time History Professor for over 13 years and the International Travel Coordinator for the History Department. We plan on utilizing all of Fred's talents over the next few months as we plan programming leading into 2022, Ellicott City's 250th Anniversary.

Regarding programming, I am happy to announce that the Board has decided to resume our Annual Holiday House Bus Tour this year on Sunday December 12th. We have already secured a few houses and will have more details as we develop the tour over the next month. Members of the Historical Society will get first opportunity to buy tickets by the 1st week of September.

We are planning an invitation-only reception in September, at the Museum, to show off the newly renovated Stained Glass Windows. Thanks to Len and Sherry Berkowitz of Great Panes, we were able to completely restore all of the original stained glass windows in the museum building, which was the 1st Presbyterian Church of Howard County, built in 1894. We will send email and snail mail invitations for this event by August. We would like to use this event as a meet and greet for members



FRED CAMPBELL, NEW HCHS ARCHIVES MANAGER

and an opportunity for guests to inquire about possible Board of Directors openings that we have.

As I type this message, I am working on this year's Howard County Fair exhibit. This year's exhibit will be a "Map History" of Howard County, showing off unique historical maps from the HCHS collection. We are working to do a "Map Activity" in lieu of our "Passport to the Past" Family activity that was not produced this year. If you have someone in your family that would like to participate in a Passport type Map Scavenger Hunt activity, come see us at the Fair Booth or stop by the Museum or Archives after August 7th to pick up a map.

As we return to "normalcy", we are very excited to resume all the programming and activities that have made us one of the best Historical Societies in the State of Maryland. We look forward to seeing all of you again, very soon. *

MOTOR TOURING IN HOWARD COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

stable and carriage repair shop next door in 1917 that was constructed over the Tiber Branch. The building bordered one side on Hamilton Street and the other side on Columbia Pike. Warfield named it the Green Cross Garage and with the help of his brother and sisters, they sold Chevrolets and repaired automobiles. He also continued to repair carriages for Hillsinger's former customers.

From 1918 to 1929, sales and services were provided and the dispensing of gasoline under the name of "Wizard" from a pump located on the corner of Main and Hamilton Streets. The Post Office had not been constructed at that time.

Automobiles to be repaired were taken to the second floor by way of a ramp leading from the Columbia Pike side. If an automobile could not drive up the ramp, a rope connected to a winch near the front of the shop was used to pull the car to the second floor.

Edward Warfield was called for military service in World War I and before he left, he made Melville Scott the Manager. Eventually Melville Scott



bought out Edward Warfield.

The business of selling automobiles in Howard County blossomed during 1917. Green Cross was selling Chevrolets, the Ellicott City Garage sold Fords and Studebakers, the Burgesses sold Buicks and the Dayton Motor Company sold the Overland.

Motor tours became a very popular pastime. On April 30, 1922, the American Automobile Association designed a tour around Howard County that started and ended in Washington, D.C. Ellicott City was a "pit stop" along the way because of the availability of gasoline and repairs. The beauty of the countryside was an added pleasure in spite of the dusty roads.

The motor touring was a big hit with the ladies. Alda Hopkins Clark, wife of Judge James Clark was one of the first women to drive a car around the county. The motor car was also instrumental in the Suffragist Movement of the 1920s in Howard County as these ladies motored around the county on gravel and dirt roads to Clarksville, Highland, Savage, Lisbon, and Elkridge to educate all of the ladies on voting rights in Howard County.

Farmers gradually gave up the horse and wagon and converted to trucks. Businesses in Ellicott City and Elkridge would use trucks for deliveries. The trips to Baltimore for supplies and inventory were much quicker then as these trucks and automobiles could travel at 30 miles per hour providing that road conditions were good – much faster than a horse and wagon. The automobile helped the businesses and the economy in the county grow.♥

CICADAS FADE INTO HISTORY

By Mary Sanphilipo

As the cicadas fade into history, we thought we might provide one last story from the Museum artifacts. We found an amusing item in our inventory from 17 years ago when the last swarm of cicadas invaded Howard County.

Tucked away in a box was a small jar with bugs in it. Upon further inspection, it was discovered that they are three cicadas in our collection that were collected at Wilde Lake in June 2004. Some sentimental volunteer felt the need to add them to our collection. I'm sure it would be shocking to the current horde of cicadas to see their ancient relatives in a jar in the Museum. And it is probably even more shocking for them to see that 17 years later, there is still road work happening on Route 32! Some things change and some things never do!

Cicadas have a long history in Howard County. Benjamin Banneker recorded his own account of Brood X from 1749 as a "great locust year." His first encounter was at the inquisitive age of seventeen when he was sure they would destroy the family crops. He soon realized the crops were safe but his ears were not as he noted in his journal.

"I like to forgot to inform, that if their lives are Short they are merry, they begin to Sing or make a noise from the first they come out of Earth till they die, the hindermost part rots off, and it does not appear to be any pain to them for they still continue on Singing till they die."

Brood X, referred to by scientists as the "Great Eastern Brood" show up in Maryland every seventeen years so we can look forward to seeing them again in 2038. But we are not going to collect any more specimens in the future. And let's hope the road work on Route 32 is completed by then! \clubsuit

The Lunch Lecture Series Returns to The Museum of Howard County History in August!

August 6 at 12 PM – 1:15 PM

"Whipps Garden Cemetery" Betty Walke

The Howard County Historical Society is happy to present a Lunch Lecture on Whipps Garden Cemetery with Betty Walke, member of the Friends of Whipps Cemetery and Memorial Gardens Board of Directors.

September 3- "A Survivor's Story" Alana Snyder

Alana Snyder recounts the story of her maternal Grandma, Bernice Horon a Holocaust Survivor.

Oct. 1st – Lecture TBD Nov. 5th – Lecture TBD Dec. 3rd – Lecture TBD



HCHS members are free, BUT reservations are required due to limited space. Members please email **info@hchsmd.org** to reserve space for the Lunch Date Lecture. Fee for non-members is \$5.00 which can be paid at the door, BUT reservations are still required. The Lunch Lecture Series focuses on provocative History topics, local and national; presented by local historians, educators, and community leaders. All Lectures take place at the Museum of Howard County History and will be recorded and uploaded to our YouTube Channel

For more information visit https://hchsmd.org/education-programs-activities/ info@hchsmd.org or 410-480-3250

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 31st 11:00 – 1:30 Ellicott City Historic Walking Tour https://hchsmd.org/walking-tours/

Friday, August 6th 12:00-1:00 Lunch Date w/History: "Whipps Garden Cemetery" w/Betty Walke

August 7th – August 14th – The Howard County Fair – Exhibit: "A Map History of Howard County" Featuring Unique Historical Maps from the Collection.

Saturday, Aug. 28th 11:00 – 1:30 Ellicott City Historic Walking Tour https://hchsmd.org/walking-tours/

Friday, Sept. 3rd 12:00-1:00 Lunch Date w/History: "A Survivor's Story" w/Alana Snyder

Saturday, Sept. 4th - The National Road History Bus Trip – HCHS Historian Fred Campbell leads a Bus Trip of Historic Sites along the National Road with a sneak peek at the new National Road Museum in Boonesboro, MD.





Saturday, Sept. 11th 11:00 – 1:30 Ellicott City Historic Walking Tour https://hchsmd.org/walking-tours/

Saturday, Sept. 18th 1:00 – 6:00: MUSEUM STAGE MAIN STREET MUSIC FESTIVAL: Featuring the return of The Villagers (60s and 70s Rock Tribute) and 2 other bands TBD.

Saturday, Sept. 25th 11:00 – 1:30 Ellicott City Historic Walking Tour https://hchsmd.org/walking-tours/

Friday October 1: 12 PM – 1:15 PM – Lunch Date w/History: "Roots of Black Politics in Howard County" Dr. C. Vernon Gray, former Howard County Councilman.

Saturday, Oct. 9th 10:00 – 1:30 VOLUNTEER FAIR at the Museum of Howard County History In anticipation of the opening of the Ellicott Mills Children's Museum in 2022, the Education Committee will host a Volunteer Fair at the Museum.

Saturday, Oct. 9th 11:00 – 1:30 Ellicott City Historic Walking Tour https://hchsmd.org/walking-tours/

Oct. 12 – 16 - Ellicott Silly Comedy Festival -The Comedy Festival Returns to Ellicott City with the "Headliner Show" at the Museum of Howard County History

The United States Colored Troops from Howard County

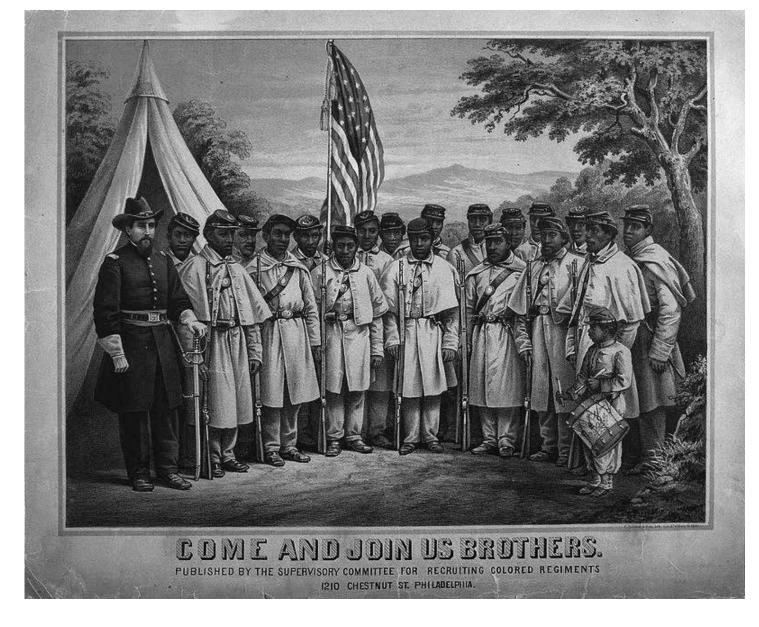
By Lauren Fletcher

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln read to Congress the Emancipation Proclamation that influenced slavery abolishment and the enlistment of Black men. In 1863, The Government Bureau of Colored Troops was established to guarantee the enlistment of Black men. Many Black enlistees came from various backgrounds. Some were born freed men; others were born slaves but freed before their first tour. There were others who ran away from their bondage to seek freedom through serving in the Union Army. While the draft was progressing, many more Black men chose to fight for the rightful cause: ending slavery.

Despite Maryland being regarded as Confederate

sympathizing state, Howard County had split loyalties. It was not long until Black men of Howard County joined in the fight. Men like **Samuel Johnson** (born 1826), enlisted in the US Colored 39th Infantry organized in Baltimore; **John Connor** (born ca. 1845), enlisted in the US Colored 1st infantry organized in Camp Hamilton, Virginia; and **Joseph Shipley** (born 1839), enlisted in the US Colored 9th regiment organized at Camp Stanton, Maryland. Howard County had a relatively high percentage of USCT enlistments; of the 544 men who enlisted from Howard County, 84 were USCT, 15% compared to 8% nationally.

According to the US National Archives, pay discrepancies existed between the White and Black infantry. Black soldiers



were paid ten dollars a month, yet three dollars were subtracted from their pay for their uniforms leaving them seven dollars per month. Meanwhile, White soldiers were paid thirteen dollars per month without deductions for their uniforms.

To further the discrimination, Black soldiers were not utilized as much as their White counterparts in combat. Most of the time, they helped contribute to battles through manual labor on the battlefields, cooking for the infantry, guarding campgrounds, surgeons, and scouts.

Despite the blatant racism, a certain number of Black soldiers rose in ranks as officers. Howard County's Joseph Shipley, who enlisted in 1863 for the 9th infantry of the USCT, Company K, earned the rank of Sergeant.

The Battle of the Crater, one of the battles in the ninemonth siege of Petersburg, Virginia, many attempted to cut off the supply route to Richmond, the Capital of the Confederacy. For the Battle of the Crater, Black Union soldiers, under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants, planted mines under the battlefield and set up four tons of gunpowder to explode beneath the Confederate banks. On July 30th, 1864, the explosion killed and injured many troops. The explosion left **George Preston's** left hand mutilated. **Samuel Johnson** was hit by shrapnel from the explosion.

Facing the challenges of war amplified the challenges that these brave men faced after the war ended. Lifelong war injuries, disease and mental illness took a toll on their employment, domestic life, and mental health. The most common war injury was the unspecified medical disorder, rheumatism, that causes pain in muscles and joints. **Samuel Johnson** suffered from this disorder that affected Johnson in finding and keeping labor jobs causing him to relocate repeatedly.

Eventually, his brother-in-law took him into his care. According to his pension documents, Johnson suffered rheumatism in the spine and shoulders along with heart disease and senility. He eventually suffered a stroke in 1896 and his dementia prevented him from being gainfully employed. He died on July 14th, 1929.

Joseph Shipley suffered, what seemed to be in today's standards, a concussion after he fell and got trampled over by a third of Company K. The effects on his service by today's standards would be considered Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Many of his brothers-in-arms witnessed his awkward behavior like repeatedly smacking his head. Sometimes, others would take over his Sergeant leadership duties for him.

His condition worsened after the war as he continued his erratic behavior by shouting and using violent behavior towards his family when he cut his sister and his mother with a knife. He was admitted to Bay View Asylum. Five months after his release, he burned down a senator's home and was sent to Spring Grove Asylum. In 1874, he was then admitted to Maryland Hospital for



the Insane in Baltimore, Maryland. He died on September 19th, 1928, at Crownsville State Hospital.

Due to systematic racism, another post-war challenge for Black Union veterans was obtaining a pension. Many applied for invalid pensions and were denied by the government. While suffering from rheumatism, **Samuel Johnson** repeatedly filed for a pension for his rheumatism, but since his disorder was not recognized, he was unable to gain a pension from 1889 to 1892. Finally, he received \$6 per month and pension increases were granted until his death.

Widows of Black veterans received unfair treatment as well. Two and a half years after **John Connor's** death on December 2nd, 1886, his wife Susan Connor filed for a widow's pension and was denied for the argument that her husband's rheumatism and debility began after the war. She filed again in 1892 and finally received \$8 per month, including extra \$2 for her son, John, who was still a minor. The Disability Act signed on September 8th, 1916, granted \$20 per month for widows at least seventy years old and allowed Mrs. Connor to receive \$20 a month until her death on February 4th, 1927.

Black Civil War soldiers, particularly those who fought for the Union, have not been discussed in the school curriculum. Yet, in this ever-changing social environment, their perspectives deserve to be heard and should be taught in schools today.

For more information on the United States Colored Troops from Howard County, please visit the Maryland Archives website, "Legacy of Slavery in Maryland" www.slavery.msa.maryland.gov/ html/casestudies/usct_hocs.html



HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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