HOWARD COUNTY ON THE EVE OF THE CIVIL WAR

By Gerald W. Ueckermann, Jr.
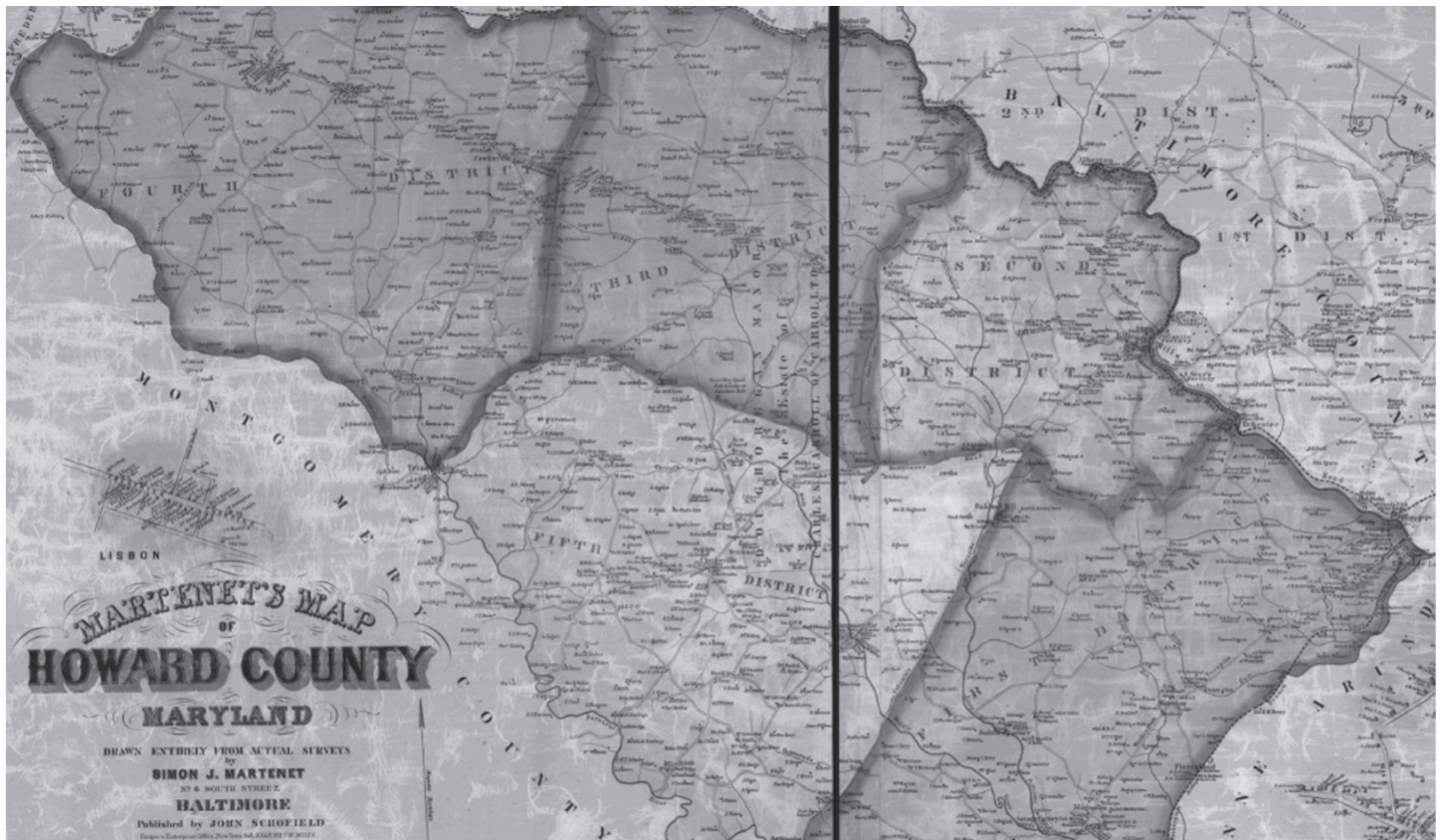
THE COUNTY WAS DIVIDED INTO FIVE ELECTION DISTRICTS, THE BOUNDARIES OF WHICH ARE SHOWN ON THE MAP ABOVE.

In 1860, Howard County was Maryland's newest county, and one of its smallest. Its 238 square miles made it the second smallest county in the state, and its population of 13,338 was the third least. The county was home to 9,081 whites, 8,218 of whom were born in the United States and 863 of whom were born in other countries. It was also home to 4,257 Blacks, 2,862 of whom were enslaved and 1,395 of whom were free.

Editor's Note
Janet Kusterer

The celebration of 250 years of our town's history brings with it a heightened awareness of where we came from and where we are going. Now, many people are working to preserve the memories that make up our heritage, holding events to record oral histories, scan unique documents and collect meaningful artifacts. Be a part of this–the Historical Society can help you preserve your piece of local history and share it with the community. ❧

Upcoming Events

Friday, September 2nd, 12:00-1:00PM
Lunch Lecture Series
LUNCH DATE WITH HISTORY: "BENJAMIN BANNEKER - FRIEND TO THE ELLICOTTS"
w/Mary de la Ruguera
Museum of Howard County History
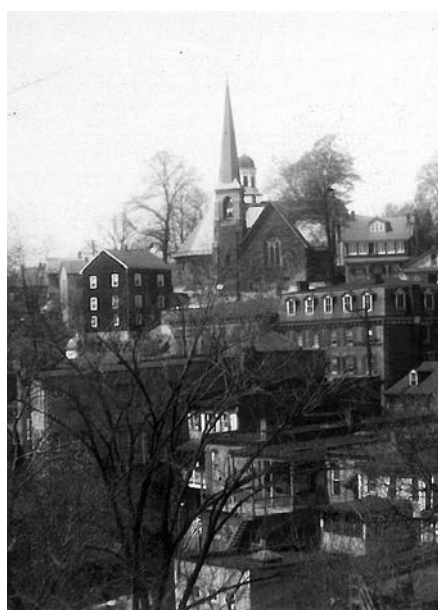
Friday, October 7th, 12:00-1:00PM
Lunch Lecture Series
LUNCH DATE WITH HISTORY: "HAUNTED ELLICOTT CITY"
w/Shelley Wygant
Museum of Howard County History

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
ELLEN FLYNN GILES

Welcome to the summer of EC250! As we move through the third quarter of this sestercentennial celebration year, the Society is proud to be both a sponsor and a partner in the programs, exhibits, and engaging activities scheduled around this anniversary. The Society's commemorative exhibits: *The Ellicott Legacy* at the Museum of Howard County History; and *Mill Town to City* at the Ellicott City Welcome Center on Main Street, continue to draw visitors and hometown history fans. Happy 250th Birthday, Ellicott City!

The grand opening of the Ellicott Mills Children's Museum (EMCM) in late April has already brought hundreds of visitors – young and older – to the Park Avenue side of the Second Ellicott Quaker School/Weir House to travel back in time and experience first-hand the life and culture of a 19th-century mill town. From agriculture to the mills, domestic life to commerce, and a lesson in a Quaker school room, each visitor can see and touch artifacts of the early 1800s and even try their hand at writing on a slate, weighing out kitchen staples, or playing with a vintage toy.

Our first *Friday Lunch Date with History* series continues to be popular. May and June brought exciting presentations from Dr. Henry K. Sharp on "America's First Factory Town, followed by an introduction to EC250 summer programming and a preview of the Patapsco Female Institute's new May Jerdone Coleman Garden that includes plants matching pressed flowers in the former student's album with Victoria and Riley Goodman and Rita Hamel. In July, we welcomed Deirdre Foley Citro and Friends to answer, "Are there Still Quakers?" and in August, Lee Preston returns to cover "Documenting the

SLATE PAVERS AND PATIO AT THE EMCM

Achievements and Contributions of the Ellicotts to Howard County and Beyond." September will bring "Benjamin Banneker – Friend to the Ellicotts" with Mary de la Ruguera and popular local author Shelley Wygant returns to explore "Haunted Ellicott City" in October – just in time for Halloween.

In-person events are also back at the Museum of Howard County History (MHCH), as the Society hosted the Chinese American Parents Association's (CAPA) awards ceremony for their 4th Annual Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) Student Art Contest in May, and noted Russian cellist Ian Maksin's *Cello for Peace Tour*, benefitting Ukrainian relief, was sold-out on June 11th. The Howard County Poetry and Literature Society (HoCoPoLitSo) held a community poetry reading of works featured in their EC250 *See through Poems* project and an outdoor reception to the Museum on June 12th. And, June 18th brought a special EC250 event which had us all journeying back in time on the streetcar from Baltimore to Ellicott City with "Baltimore Streetcar Museum Presents: the No. 9 Line." Check out **EC250.org** for events at various locations around town featuring water-colorist Wiley Purkey, the Battle of Monocacy, instrumentalist Robert Mouland and "Dancers on a String," a "Fells Lane Community Reunion," and an "Open House" at 100F Centre Lodge #40.

As part of our continuing celebration

of EC250 and in support of the expansion of our museum complex and program offerings, we are constructing a slate patio between the MHCH and the EMCM. We invite you to leave your mark on Ellicott City history and sponsor a personalized commemorative brick paver in the new courtyard for $150 each (each brick can be engraved with up to 3 lines of 14 characters each). This link will provide access to the sponsorship form and allow you to download the sponsorship form and write a check or take care of the entire process online: **https://hchsmd.org/ museum-brick-paver-sponsorship/**

We hope you were able to join us at the 5th Howard County Fair for Hands-on-History Day on Thursday, August 11th, and also a stop by the Society's booth in the Exhibit Hall where this year's exhibit highlighted the renovation and rehabilitation of the Second Ellicott Quaker School/Weir House and the creation of the EMCM. We also invite you to visit us at the Archives and HIstorical Center or our Museums and remember, history is alive and well in Howard County - and still being made, each and every day.

As always, thank you for your support and engagement with the Society's exhibits, programs, and activities. Please feel free to contact us with, comments, suggestions, and requests at **info@hchsmd.org**. ⚜

HOWARD COUNTY ON THE EVE OF THE CIVIL WAR

The population of the county was divided among the election districts as seen in the chart to the right.

The local economy was mostly agricultural, with principal crops including wheat, corn, and tobacco. Important regional differences existed, however, in the crops that were grown. Tobacco, which had been the principal crop of the early settlers to the area, and which relied heavily on slave labor for its production, was grown primarily in the Fourth District, and to a lesser extent the Third District. Few farmers in the First, Second or Fifth Districts were growing tobacco by 1860. The owners of the large farms – who were also the largest slaveholders – made up the planter class. This class had dominated the affairs of the area since it was settled more than a century earlier.

Although primarily agricultural, there was also significant industry in the county. The Patapsco valley had been the cradle of textile manufacturing in Maryland. By 1860 there were cotton factories, as well as flour, woolen, paper and other mills along the Patapsco and Patuxent rivers and their tributaries. The two largest factories in the county were on the Patapsco at Alberton, in the Second District, and on the Little Patuxent at Savage, in the First District. A smaller cotton factory was located at Sykesville, in the Third District. Additionally, there were four large

	Total White	Immigrant White	Total Black	Free Black	Slaves	Total
First District	2,672(71%)	301(11%)	1,108(29%)	525(14%)	583(15%)	3,780
Second District	2,340(71%)	339(14%)	963(29%)	285(9%)	678(20%)	3,303
Third District	1,087(64%)	116(11%)	623(36%)	170(10%)	453(26%)	1,710
Fourth District	1,548(65%)	48(3%)	828(35%)	236(10%)	592(25%)	2,376
Fifth District	1,434(66%)	75(5%)	735(34%)	179(8%)	556(26%)	2,169
Total	9,081(68%)	879(10%)	4,257(32%)	1,395 (10.5%)	2,862 (21.5%)	13,338

ELECTIONS BY DISTRICT, HOWARD COUNTY, 1860

cotton factories on the Baltimore County side of the Patapsco opposite Ellicott's Mills, and a large cotton factory on the Prince George's County side of the Big Patuxent, at Laurel. A smaller cotton factory was also located at Triadelphia, on the Montgomery County side of the Patuxent River.

The presence of these factories was especially important because they generally did not use slave labor, and many workmen employed in factory villages were immigrants or natives of Northern States who had little sympathy for Southern concerns about slavery. Another area of disagreement between manufacturing and agricultural interests involved trade policy with those dependent on manufacturing supporting protectionist tariffs, and those engaged in agriculture wanting to be able to purchase cheap imported goods. During the Civil War, the residents of the factory villages would prove to be decidedly pro-Union and pro-emancipation in sentiment.

Parts of the county enjoyed convenient access to rail transportation, with the main stem of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad running near the northern boundary of the county, and the Washington Branch of the B&O running along its eastern boundary.

Politically, Howard supported the candidates of the Whig Party (the pro-business party) in the Presidential elections of 1844 and 1848 but supported the Democratic candidate in 1852 (who ran on a platform supporting the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850). After the disintegration of the Whigs in the early 1850s, the County supported American Party (Know-Nothing) candidate Millard Fillmore by a wide margin in the 1856 Presidential election, and American Party candidate Thomas Hicks by a smaller margin in the 1857 gubernatorial election. In the November 1859 election, however, Democrats won a decisive victory and captured all the county's seats in the legislature. This election took place several weeks after John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry had set the South on edge and inflamed the sectional divide between North and South.

The only newspaper published in Howard County in 1860 was the Patapsco Enterprise, which was published in Ellicott's Mills by John Schofield.

It was in this setting that the election of 1860 took place in Howard County.

In June of 1860, the Democratic Party

	Number of Farms	Farms Producing Tobacco	Slaves (as percent of district population)	Slave owners (as percent of 1860 vote)	Ratio of Population to no. of Farms
First District	177	5	583(15%)	96 (25%)	21:1
Second	74	2	678(20%)	80 (22%)	45:1
Third District	119	24	453(26%)	54 (26%)	14:1
Fourth District	184	106	592(25%)	165 (56%)	13:1
Fifth District	200	4	556 (26%)	115(40%)	11:1
Total	754	143	2,862	510(33%)	18:1

INDUSTRY BY DISTRICT, HOWARD COUNTY, 1860

split into two factions after the party failed to agree on a Presidential nominee. Stephen A. Douglas was the nominee of the Northern Democrats, but he had little support in the South because of positions that he had previously taken regarding slavery. Southern Democrats nominated Vice President John C. Breckenridge of Kentucky. Breckenridge was the most pro-South of the candidates, and he ran on platform supporting enactment of a federal slave code that would protect slavery in the territories. Extremist supporters of Southern rights were among those who backed Breckenridge.

Abraham Lincoln was nominated by the Republican Party, but he had virtually no support in the South where he was considered a Black Republican who supported abolition and Black equality.

In an attempt to prevent a Lincoln victory and to preserve the Union, a newly formed Constitutional Union Party made up of old conservative Whigs nominated former Senator John Bell of Tennessee as its candidate. This party took no stand on issues that divided the North and South, and instead adopted a platform "to recognize no political principle other than the Constitution… the Union…and the Enforcement of the Laws". Party leaders did not expect to win the election but hoped to draw enough support away from Lincoln in the lower North to throw the election to the House of Representatives.

Ultimately, the election was essentially two separate elections: Lincoln against Douglas in the North, and Breckenridge against Bell in the South. In Howard County the more moderate Bell won with 54% of the vote, followed by Breckenridge with 34% and Douglas with 12%. Lincoln received only one vote in the county, that of Charles Carroll MacTavish a large slaveholder who was a great-grandson of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Statewide, however, Breckenridge won with 46% of the vote, followed closely by Bell with 45%. The votes cast for Douglas and Lincoln thus threw Maryland's electoral votes to the more extremist Breckenridge.

Howard County voters were also asked to vote on what was known as the Free Negro Act or Jacobs Act. That act, which was primarily sought by slave owners on the Eastern Shore, imposed extremely harsh conditions on free Blacks, including a mechanism by which free Blacks who failed to hire themselves out to work for one-year terms could be made slaves. When discussed at a Maryland slave owners convention in June 1859, the idea of enslaving free Blacks was described by J.T.B. Dorsey of Howard County as "monstrous". (Dorsey himself would "go South" and serve in the Confederate government during the Civil War). As enacted by the state legislature in 1860, the Free Negro Act applied to nine counties, including Howard County, but did not become operative in any county unless approved by its voters. When the Free Negro Act was put to the voters of Howard County in 1860, it was defeated by a margin of 97% to 3% (1,397 to 55).

Lincoln's election in 1860 triggered a secession crisis across the South that swept up Howard County, and which ultimately led to the Civil War. ✤

NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OPENED
BY GEORGE TOLEN (TREASURER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

On April 22nd, 2022, the Society opened up the new Ellicott Mills Children's Museum, in a newly renovated unique historical building. The Museum is housed on the second floor of the historic "Second Quaker School," or the Weir Building (HO-258), circa 1790. The original stone structure was a single level, one room deep, and had a gable roof. It was extensively altered over the ensuing years and now is three levels with basement excavated from the crawlspace. The renovation work which was funded by County and State grants, took nearly five years and yielded some surprises. At some point the original gable roof was removed, the depth of the house was doubled and a Salt-box style roof was added. In 1910, the existing gable roof was added on top of the saltbox roof and included a sleeping porch over the original front porch This enclosed the steep portion of the saltbox roof including three ornamental exterior windows. This renovation removed the sleeping porch to expose the windows and the cedar shingles. The renovations included the entire interior of the house. All mechanical systems and wiring were replaced. The Museum level was built to

THREE ORNAMENTAL WINDOWS EXCAVATED DURING RENOVATIONS.

comply with ADA standards. The Society is very proud of what has been accomplished. Not only have we rescued a deteriorating historical building, but also this restoration has added storage space for larger items in the collection, temperature/humidity-controlled vault for textiles and the EMCM. The EMCM is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 pm - 5 pm. It is found on Park Avenue immediately behind the History Museum.✤

How History Comes to Life within Research Requests

By Geeta Shanbhag (Lead Researcher)

As a researcher, it's always an absolute pleasure to see aspects of your own life reflected back at you in your work. That's just what happened when Ms. Owings walked into our office in order to find out more information about the Owings Farm. After some back-and-forth, we were able to give her information about how that tract of land she was referring to is registered within the Maryland Historic Trust as landmark HO- 158, filed in 1977 and listed as the former residence of the man Richard B Owings mentioned. At one time, it was part of a land tract known as the "Four brother's portion" at 500 acres.

Furthermore, we were able to pull out an Aerial/Map Volume taken in 1970, titled as the "Real Estate Atlas of Howard County, Maryland" (R 333.33 A 71-10212). Within this bound book, on page 35, lay the answer to our research question. Dan Materazzi, one of our Volunteer Researchers, and I were able to see the outline of what was listed on the map as
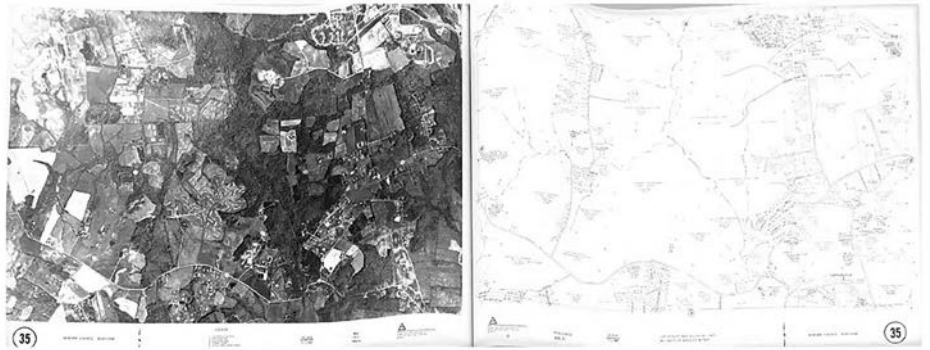
Real Estate Atlas of Howard County (R333.33 A 71-10212).

"Howard Research and Development Corp." within which the Owings Farm was located in 1970. In that time period, the River Hill Farm would've operated as a game preserve for the Howard Research and Development Corporation, an entity affiliated with James Rouse, the forefather of Columbia, MD.

Not only had Dan, back in the day when he had first moved to the County, thought about joining the game preserve at one point; but also, as it turns out, I currently live within the Neighborhood of Pointers Run which would've emerged from the development of this particular land tract.

This research inquiry really brought home how interconnected the history of Howard County is within our everyday lives– which is one of the main goals of our Howard County Historical Society in providing access to resources and archival materials that can aid in historical exploration, research and discovery for all ages and cultural groups. ❧

From the Stacks: a Howard County Hostage

By Matt Overton (Collections Manager)

As Collections Manager at the Howard County Historical Society, you never know what you might come across in the Archives. What may seem like endless stacks of paper is actually hiding an untold amount of secrets and unique perspectives into Howard County's past. One such shock came when an unused absentee ballot was discovered; the name on the envelope was Donald T. Cooke, who it turns out, was one of the 52 Americans taken hostage in Iran during the final months of 1979. Cooke was a Howard County resident and a 24-year-old junior diplomat when he arrived in Iran, with the nation's political revolution underway.

The ballot is from 1980, when President Carter was running for re-election against former Governor Ronald Reagan. The militant students in Iran hoped to influence the election by making President Carter look weak through his inability to save the hostages. He sought ways to free the hostages that would avoid conflict or bloodshed, which ultimately led to a failed rescue mission in April of 1980. Donald Cooke would never get to fill out his ballot for the 1980 presidential election, but the hostage crisis he was at the center of ensured President Carter would face defeat in an electoral landslide. Cooke knew throughout his one year imprisonment that the U.S. government wouldn't be able to do anything meaningful because of the fact that it was an election year; Iranian authorities deliberately held off on releasing the hostages until the day of President Reagan's inauguration, delaying their take off precisely until his inaugural address was over. Once the peaceful transition of power had concluded, all 52 Americans returned safely to the States after 444 days of imprisonment, where they were greeted with free tickets to the Super Bowl. ❧

A Shared Vision:
Collaboration between Historical Societies

By Ellen Kwan Lewis (Office Manager)

As stewards of our county's history, the staff at HCHS endeavors to collect what will enhance and complement our current holdings. Conversely, we may revisit and review our collections for what might be a better fit at another institution. Maryanna Cain, one of our long-time volunteers, and a decade-long member of the Society, was our point person to process our collection of postcards with such a purpose.

Maryanna first became involved with organizing and categorizing 2,500 postcards back in 2019. Recently she was tasked to identify which in the collection are related to Howard County. Some of the postcards were already accessioned into the HCHS collection but most were not. She marveled that many of the postcards were in very good condition with the earliest one dating back to 1889. Maryanna determined with the staff that postcards unrelated to Howard County and never accessioned into collection could be donated to our neighboring counterparts. She recalled "that those counties just might like to have the old historic postcards that had come from their county in their collection".

One of the benefits of examining the postcards for re-housing, she noticed some patterns of subject matter and usage. Many of the postcards were never mailed, so they were probably "collected as a remembrance for when that area had been visited." She observed, overwhelmingly, that over a century ago, Marylanders vacationed in Maryland, notably to the western parts of the Eastern Shore and to the parks in Western Maryland. Another observation, "In the early 1900's, there were National Road postcards in different [Maryland] counties, especially through mountain passes." She pulled them all together and during a stop in HCHS's recent bus tour, she hand-delivered them to the newly formed National Road Museum in Boonsboro, MD.

She contacted approximately 20 different historical societies across Maryland. It is during this part of the out-processing that Maryanna felt a shared purpose between societies to preserve local history and offer reciprocal support. Her initial experiences with personnel ranged from gratitude to skepticism of what seemed to be a generous donation offer. In the end, she was able to unite the contacted organizations to find new homes for all of the non-HoCo postcards. "One historical society's treasurer

Page showing Maryanna Cain's postcard discoveries from a recent newsletter of the Charles County Historical Society

tracked down another historical society's new president for me" for the very last set of postcards to be sent off. Maryanna said that two societies assured "that if they came across anything in their collection that was from Howard County that they in turn would donate back." And still, some have immediate plans to showcase them, such as the Charles County Historical Society in its recent newsletter or the Wicomico Historical Society's preparation to mount them for exhibit.

Personally, and in her capacity as HCHS volunteer, Maryanna summarized, "It has been a joy to work on these many wonderful postcards and take a trip back in time to look and see just how life was reflected through them!" ✣

HOWARD COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

9421 Frederick Road
Ellicott City,
MD 21042
address correction
requested

Gold Sponsors

Gail Bates
Ellen Flynn Giles
Amanda Hof
Howard County Tourism and Promotion
Charles Lewis
Maryland History Tours, LLC
Judith Miller
Thomas Pue
John Slack

Silver Sponsors

Karl Briers
Lawrence Caldwell
Sherri Collins-Witzke
Cathy Dymek
Ed Germroth
George & Victoria Goeller
Alan Heck
John McDaniel
Charles Miller
Paul Palladino
Charles Rees
Ryan Simmons
Bruce Taylor, M.D.

Bronze Sponsors

James Adair	Gordon Katz
Michael Allison	Jay and Marjorie Katzenmeyer
Nellie Arrington	Hugh and Sandra Kendall
Katherine Arth	Janet E Kusterer
Mae Beale	Veronica Mariani
Carole Bell	Vladimir Marinich
Elizabeth Bobo	Richard S. Marriott Ph.D
David S. Bogen	Shirley Matlock
Max Buffington	Dennis McDermott
Roger Caplan	Kaitlyn McKay
Richard Clinch	Dessie Moxley
Joseph Colbourn, Jr.	Donald Powers
Melissa Curtin	Eileen Rusnock
Barbara Cusack	Patricia Sadler
Edward G & Darlene Cushman	Thomas Scott
John Gardiner Evans	General Trimble Camp, SCV
Elizabeth Fixsen	John Slater
A. Thomas Fleming	Michael J. Smith
Richard and Sandra Funke	Fayette Stewart
Sarah Gerrett	George Stone
Kyle Gitautis	Randy and Mary Strem
Robert Glascock	Bruce Taylor
Victoria Goodman	John Teichmoeller
Karen Griffith	Michael Tennor
Stephanie Hagberg	George Tolen
Karol Hess	Melinda and Carl Utt
Douglas Isokait	Matthew Walsh