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 Mrs. Diane Winberly, Editor *The Record*,
 Mr. Joseph A. Diachenko, Editor *News & Notes*

Publicity: Mr. Tom Pike

Ways and Means:
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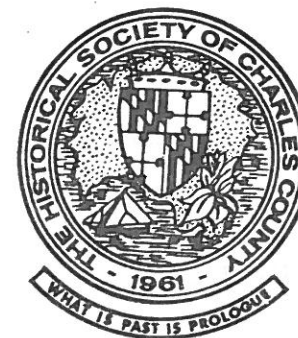
Charles County Heritage Committee Representative:
 Mrs. Carol Donohue

Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites Representative:
 Mr. George C. Dyson

Small Museums Association Representative:
 Mrs. Naomi Petrash

EDITOR'S NOTE

Articles of historic interest on Southern Maryland are requested for possible publication in future issues of *The Record*. Please send your typewritten manuscripts to: Publications, *The Record*, Box 261 Port Tobacco, MD 20677



News and Notes from The Historical Society of Charles County

A Supplement to The RECORD

Publication of the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.

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*You are cordially invited to the winter meeting program
of the Historical Society of Charles County*

Saturday, January 9, 1999 at 2:p.m.
Charles County Community College New Library

Our Portrait of Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher

Dr. Lloyd Bowling will present our portrait of
Admiral Fletcher to the Charles County Community College.

Admiral Fletcher graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1906 and served our country for nearly 50 years retiring in 1947. He and Mrs. Fletcher purchased *Araby* and moved there in 1944. When he died in April, 1973, Admiral Fletcher was one of the most decorated military heroes of modern American history. His ribbons included the Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Purple Heart, Mexican Service Medal, World War I Victory Medal, Tangtze Service Medal, American Defense Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Navy Occupation Medal, the Sulu Mindanao Campaign Badge, the Medal of the Imperial Order of the Dragon of Annam, and Medal of the Order of the Bath.

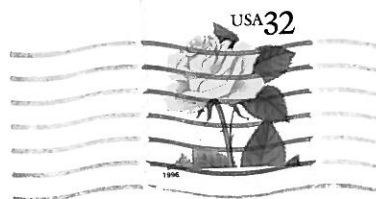
MENU

A fine assortment of desserts with coffee and tea will be provided by the college.

(No Charge)

PARKING: Plenty of parking is available behind the library referred to as the LR Building. Enter the building through the glass doors on the parking lot side and walk straight to the stairs which will take you to the main floor. To access the elevator to the first floor, walk through the glass doors and straight ahead as if going to the stairs. At the stairs go right to the elevator.

The Historical Society of Charles County
Post Office Box 261
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677



Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mazzeo, Jr.
6795 Normadie Woods Dr.
LaPlata, MD 20646



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership

As of this month, December 1998 our memberships add up as follows:

Life = 69
 Family = 96
 Individual = 82
 Total memberships = 247
 Total members = 343

Thank you very much, Life Members:

Mr. & Mrs. William M. Albrightain	Miss Mary Clare Matthews
Ms. Hazel Dent Ballard	Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Warren E. Barley	Ms. Gertrude Wright McWilliams
Mrs. Henrietta A. Barnhart	Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Middleton
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer S. Biles	Mr. & Mrs. H. Maxwell Mitchell, Jr.
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Mrs. Ethel D. Hungerford	Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. Turner
Mr. Pere J. Jarboe	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph C. Wilbourne
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Mr. & Mrs. George S. Jenkins	Mr. Jeffrey Wills
Ms. Elizabeth Loker	Mr. Kemp B. Wills
Mr. & Mrs. James J. Long	Mrs. Cynthia Q. Wilmer
Ms. Betty L. Lybrook	Mrs. Anita Wood
Mrs. Vivian S. Maiczuk	Mrs. Peter Worrell

Friendship House

Volunteers are needed to act as docents in conducting tours of Friendship House. Please call Naomi Petrash at 301-259-4279 if you are interested in lending a hand. Just a few hours when needed would be much appreciated.

Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher

His years of retirement were spent in Charles County, and both he and Mrs. Fletcher contributed much to the development of our community. They were particularly interested in historic preservation. Not only did they restore *Araby*, but they were charter members of the Smallwood Foundation, which was responsible for the restoration of General Smallwood's home. The Admiral was also a charter member of the Historical Society of Charles County and a member of its first board of directors.

The Fletchers were well know for their interest in flower gardens, and with the Admiral's help, Mrs. Fletcher organized the Charles County Garden Club with its annual spring show, and she was named first pre. dent of the Garden Club in November 1938. Both were also charter members of the Hawthorne Country Club.

Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher died four days before his 88th birthday at Bethesda Naval Hospital, April 25, 1973, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mrs. Fletcher died a year-and-a-half later.



For those members who have not yet served on one of our committees, the editor offers you this glimpse of how smoothly committee members do their work.

CHARLES COUNTY HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

Over the past fifty years Charles County has lost a large number of its historic resources at a rapid rate. According to statistics developed by the Maryland Historical Trust in 1986, Charles County had the second highest rate of loss of historic buildings in the state. According to these figures, nearly 50% of the County's pre-1940 building stock was destroyed between 1940 and 1980. With mounting development pressures being felt throughout the county, many more historic properties are threatened. Historically significant structures and sites make unique contributions to the County's character and social fabric.

Charles County has recently been awarded a 5-year grant from the Maryland Historical Trust to identify, document, and research historic sites within the county. A full-time Architectural Historian/ Historic Sites Surveyor, Kathryn Gettings Smith, has been hired to undertake the necessary research and on-site survey. The purpose of the project is to fulfill the goals laid out in the County's Comprehensive Plan (I 997). These include:

1. Identifying historically significant sites and maintaining the integrity of those areas of the County.
2. Increasing public awareness of the historic and cultural influences that enhance the quality of life in the County.
3. Preserving the heritage, contributions, and interests manifested by the various cultures in the County.
4. Identifying appropriate methods for preservation of significant and important historic districts, properties and structures.

The first step in pursuing these goals is to identify and study the various historic properties in the County. In order to better understand the history and architecture of Charles County, Smith will undertake a comprehensive survey of historic resources in the County. During the 1998-1999 survey season, the survey will begin by documenting historic buildings located in the north-central section of the county in the area designated for future development in the County's Comprehensive Plan. Smith will begin by conducting a windshield survey of the area, identifying historic resources, and documenting them through photography, notes, and drawings.

Historic resources are defined as districts, sites, structures, objects or buildings that are greater than fifty years in age, and that are significant in local or national history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. The Surveyor will be documenting local sites in order to better understand the full range of the County's history. This will include surveying all types of historic resources from 1930s gas stations to 1850s plantation houses, from Victorian Farmhouses to one-room schoolhouses.

The County hopes to utilize the information gathered in the survey to develop a program for protecting its most significant historic resources; one that will promote intelligent growth, stimulate economic development through heritage tourism and educate the public about the history of our community.

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer information on the County's "unknown" historic sites please contact Kathryn Smith, Charles County Department of Planning & Growth Management at 301-645-0653.

Kathryn Smith will be at our winter meeting, January 9, 1999, to answer any questions you may have.