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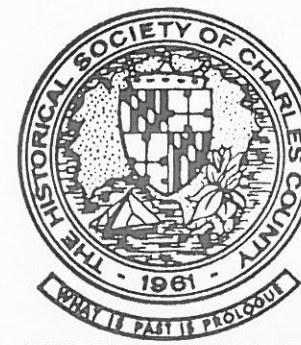
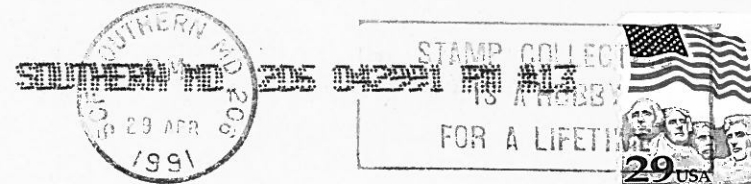
Mrs. Sarah L. Barley

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

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

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130 Wood Duck Circle
La Plata, MD 20646



The RECORD

Publication of The Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.

No. 51 May 1991

Mr. Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., President

Mr. Garth E. Bowling, Jr., Editor

Charles County Board of Education Minutes, 1892-1901

Editor's Note: We are grateful to Norma Hurley for painstakingly transcribing into type, the old handwritten minutes of the Charles County Board of Education from 1892 to 1901. Your editor had the easier job of reading through the minutes and selecting some of the most interesting excerpts.

Today, more than ever, concerns about the education of our children are on everyone's mind. Lately, all we have to do is look at the front page of the local newspaper to see the degree to which our community is involved with this issue. Whether we are talking about Charles County schools in 1891 or 1991, you will find that some things never change.

(All grammar and punctuation is reproduced here in original form.)

August 9, 1892

The Board met to-day with a full attendance. The court-house was destroyed by fire Wednesday night, Aug. 3. The journal, pay-roll, desk, the printed annual reports of the public schools, teacher's reports for the first three terms of the scholastic year, and other valuable papers belonging to the Board were wholly destroyed. The Secretary, however, has a record of the sum of receipts and disbursements.

August 23, 1892

The contract for building new school-house in Harris Lot district was awarded to Mr. Geo. C. Oliver? for \$280.00.

October 18, 1892

The Board authorized the placing of Tarbell's Language Lessons and The Montgomery's Primary History on the list of text-books for use of schools.

November 1, 1892

The public schools were re-insured in the Phoenix Assurance Co. of London. The Secretary was authorized to buy a stove with 10 ft. of pipe, 12 pupil's desks, and one teacher's desk for new white school near Harris Lot, and the Trustees of said school were authorized to have added platform pegs, and shelf. Mr. G. C. Oliver was requested to buy shingles for col. school near Issue P. O.

Feb. 14, 1893

Messrs. T. R. Farrall and A. Posey appeared before, and offered to furnish a bell for the white school-house at La Plata, provided the Board would paint said school. The Board concluded that the finances would not permit the acceptance of the offer at this time.

The Secretary was authorized to inform Prof. Prettyman that the finances of the Board would not permit the making of a school exhibit at the World's Fair. The Secretary reported that he had purchased a

blackboard for new white school in 5th election district, which was approved.

June 13, 1893

The object of the meeting was to consider the wisdom of going before the County Commissioners and informing them that the public schools could not be kept open ten months the ensuing year unless they made an extra appropriation. The Board of School Commissioners, after hearing the Treasurer's statement of the probable receipts and disbursements the ensuing fiscal year, went before the Board of County Commissioners, and asked for an increase of \$600. The latter promised to give the request careful consideration, and grant it if possible.

The Board declined to accede to the request of Mrs. John Ritchie, Frederick, Md., who through Prof. E. B. Prettyman asked for a penny collection from the public school pupils for the purchase of a World's Fair Columbian Bell.

August 1, 1893

The trustees of the Bel Alton School were appointed a building committee, and they were requested to prepare specifications for the addition to their school, and send them to the secretary of the Board who was authorized to publish them, and invite proposals for building the same. The new building must be 20 ft. long, and the same width as the old building.

August 15, 1893

The Board passed an order giving the Trustees the right to receive bids to furnish the schools with wood, and to award the contracts to the lowest bidders. The wood must be prepared to the satisfaction of teachers who must enclose in their reports the bills approved by them, collect the amounts, and pay them over to the contractors.

Nov. 21, 1893

The Board met to-day with Dr. Boarman and Mr.

Halley present. The object of the meeting being to examine Teacher's Quarterly Reports, they were examined, and the teacher's salaries ordered to be paid. The trustees white school No. 1, District No. 2, were authorized to make the needed repairs on the school. The teacher of the same school, Miss F. G. Bibby, was permitted by the Board to purchase curtains for the windows of the school. The Secretary was authorized to order blackboards for White Schools Nos. 1, District 2, and 1, District 7, and colored school 3, District 7, and a teacher's desk for white school No. 2, District 4, and a teacher's chair for white school No. 6, District 4. Miss Maggie M. Dyer was authorized to have made several long benches for the accommodation.

March 13, 1894

The Board met to-day with all the members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The object of the meeting was to meet the tax-collectors and inform them of the great need of money to pay the expenses of keeping the schools open till the end of the scholastic year, and ascertain the amount each collector could collect by the next quarterly meeting of the Board. All the collectors promised to exert their best efforts to meet the demands of the Board, and report to the Treasurer by April 15th the result of their efforts. Upon their promise the Treasurer was authorized to negotiate a loan to supply the deficiency, if any, in the amount needed. Mr. M. Clement, agent for Crain's Atlas, requested the Board to purchase it as a reference book for the use of teachers in their schools. The Board could not purchase it on account of scarcity of funds, but highly recommended it, and hoped in the near future to put it into the schools. After attending to some other matters of a negative kind, the Board adjourned subject to the call of the President or Secretary.

April 23, 1895

The Secretary was instructed to write to the National Bank of Baltimore, relative to borrowing one thousand dollars to pay salaries of teachers now due.

July 30th, 1895

Mr. H. H. Wade was before the Board with a petition asking for the rebuilding of a colored school in the ninth election district, which was destroyed by fire. The matter was discussed with a view to some definite action in the future.

October 8th, 1895

The Secretary was instructed to order one stove and elbow of pipe for colored school No. 2 election district No. 1, one for colored school 9, also two desks, one teacher's desk and chair, and one for white school No. 2 election No. 9.

February 18th, 1896

Free books were granted to the indigent children of

colored school No. 3 election district No. 2, taught by Mrs. H. C. Harrison, and to other indigent children of the county.

A petition from the colored teachers of the county was presented to the Board, requesting that they be granted Monday after each pay-day for the purpose of holding their Association; which was cheerfully granted by the Board.

February 26th, 1896

Application for an additional cord of wood for colored school No. 1 election district No. 6 (by Alfred Young - trustee of said school), was granted.

April 21st, 1896

An order was passed to pay the Chesapeake Stove Company the sum of fourteen (\$14.11) dollars, and eleven cents for stoves and fixtures for the public schools.

August 11th, 1896

Twenty-nine applicants came before the Board to take the examination which was begun at 10 o'clock A.M. after which the Board held an executive session at Smoot's Hotel and elected Mr. T. M. Carpenter, secretary, Treasurer and Examiner for the ensuing two years. The question of moving and enlarging the La Plata School was discussed, but no definite action taken.

Sep. 15, 1896

Ordered that the amount of lime necessary for white-washing the Bryantown School house be purchased. The Sec'y will order black board for school No. 3 E. D. 4, and insert notice in papers that the contract for 3 cords of seasoned wood for the respective schools shall be awarded by the trustees to the lowest bidder—limit not to exceed \$3.00 per cord (½ oak ½ pine preferred) cut stove length and must be approved by teacher before payment is made.

Sep. 29th, 1896

Ordered that the Secy. will order for School No. 5 E. D. 8 Eight hundred feet of flooring plank No. 1. Eastern Shore, same to be shipped in care C. A. Bowling (Trustee) to Gallant Green; that three hundred bricks be purchased for white school near Grogstown; that Treasurer will pay to J. H. Madeiry & Co. as much as possible of the amount due him by the School-Board of Charles County, - that Secy will write to Trustees of School No. 1, E. D. 8 and ask that they thoroughly examine school and see if it can not be repaired, that he purchase a seal for the County-School Board, and that he insert notice in Crescent and Independent for the assemblage of teachers at La Plata on Friday October 9th for instructions on the distribution of Free Text Books.

May 18, 1897

The letter from Alexander Chaplain Treasurer of

Tourism Season Has Started

Our Weekend Tourism Season began on Saturday, May 11, 1991 with the celebration of Charles County's Charter Day.

Friendship House will be opened weekends from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. through Labor Day. Please come by and visit and relive early Tidewater Maryland and the everyday lives of Colonel William Dent, his wife Elizabeth and their nine children: Thomas, William, Gerard, Elizabeth, George, Anne, Peter, Philip and Elizabeth.

To complete your day in Historic Charles County take a tour of the Port Tobacco Courthouse, Catslide House, the Port Tobacco one-room School, the Thomas Stone National Historic Site, the Afro-American Heritage Museum, Smallwood's Retreat and the Dr. Samuel Mudd home.

Colonel Dent's Inventory

(Continued from News & Notes issue No. 50)

An Inventory of the goods & Chattells and Credits of Col. William Dent of Charles County Deceased Taken by us Jn^o Beale and Tho. Stone this 1st day of August 1705.

In the Closset

a fild bed and furniture
2 Straw Chaires a 2.6.5/1 1 leather D^o 3/
a leather trunk
a large Scudere
a razor Case wth 3 razors & 1 hone
a Coffee mill 8/. a dice bord 12/
8 pictures 6/ a table and carpet 5/
9 Large books on foilio at 15/
20 Small Ditto a 10/
47 Small Quarto
40 books in Octavo at 9
9 Large Quarto D^o
a p cell of old Ditto in N^o 28

Table and bed Linnen

11 old Diaper Napkins & Table Cloth
8 hoggoback D^o
4 new Towels at 18
6 old ditto at 4
2 doz: Damask Napkins & Table Cloths at 22
per doz.
3 doz: Diaper D^o - & D^o at 18/
2 Diaper Side bord Cloths at 2/6
1 damask ditto at

Program Committee

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The Historical Society's Spring Dinner Meeting is Saturday, May 18, 1991 at Marshall Hall Park.

Special Exhibits and tours will be available prior to the dinner followed by a program entitled "Remembering Marshall Hall." Reservations are required at \$16.00 per person sent to:

Mrs. Ann Liebrecht
Route 4, 4149 Mimosa Drive
La Plata, MD 20646

Membership Committee

The Historical Society would like to welcome the following NEW MEMBERS:

Ms. Wanda Prosser, California
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Milstead, Indian Head
Ms. Patricia L. Mortenson, Idaho (Life Mem.)
Mrs. Dorothy M. Brault, Rockville
Mrs. Barbara Wright Griffen, Stevensville
Mrs. Ellen A. Williams, North Carolina
Mr. & Mrs. Hillen Morgan, Jr., Pomfret
Mrs. Meg Dunleavy, Waldorf

Currently, our membership consists of 31 life memberships, 1 student, 119 family, 125 individual for a total of 395. If you have not paid your 1991 dues, please do so at the Historical Society's address c/o Membership Chairman.

1/2 doz: Napkins & Table Cloth about the house
6 p Large holland Sheets at 25/p

In the Hall Chamber

6 Chairs at 3/
a bed and furniture
a p bellows 2/6. i p tongs 18 andirons & fend^{er}

In the Room Chamber

6 wooden Chairs at 3/
a Groaning D^o 4/6 a Straw d^o 6/
an Ovall Table 10/ a Chest drawers 1 . . 10
a Looking Glass
a bedd & furniture
a p Andirons & fender 10/. a p tongs & fire
shovell 3/6
a p bellows out of order
7 turky work cushions at 12
a Suit of Curtains and Vallins
10 pillow and Small bolster
a p old Sheets 2/. a Chest 7/

(to be continued . . .)

State Teachers asking for a donation of \$10.00 towards defraying the expense of said Association to be held at Blue Mountain House in Alleghany County in July was read to the Board by the Secretary. The question was discussed by the Board and finally left to the discretion of the Secretary whether the School Fund would justify this expenditure. It was ordered that notice be inserted in County papers, for the schools to be closed May 31st. Also that the Free Text Books be securely nailed up in boxes and placed in the hands of one of the Trustees for safe keeping during the vacation.

August 2, 1897

The contract for building school-house in Cedar Point neck was awarded to Robert M. Brawner at \$189.00.

September 14, 1897

The Board of School Commissioners convened in their office in La Plata on Tuesday September 14th with a full Board of Attendance. Miss Edna K. Tippet and Ruby M. Lyon were appointed to the vacant scholarships at the State Normal School. The Secretary was ordered to purchase furniture for the McConchie School as follows. 12 No. 1 Soper desks. 1 Blackboard, 1 Teachers desk and 1 stove - to be shipped in care of Geo. W. Cross to La Plata. Also for Mr. F. D. Howard schools at Benedict furniture as follows. 8 No. 1 & 4 No. 2 Soper desks with rear seats to match, to be shipped to Benedict in care of F. D. Howard, he was also instructed to authorize Mr. Robt. M. Brawner to build two out houses and repair spring at Cedar Pt. neck school. Cost of building out houses not to exceed \$10.00. A. A. Butler was before the Board and asked that a new school for colored children be opened at McConchie which request was granted and the Secretary was ordered to furnish said school with a new stove. The Trustees appointed for this school were A. A. Butler, Wm. Smith, William Henson. Geo. Brown was substituted for A. A. Butler at Cedar Pt. neck school.

October 12, 1897

By request of Mr. W. B. S. Chapman Secretary of the Farmers Institute the Board granted on the 12th of November one half days holiday to teachers and pupils within a radius of five miles of La Plata to attend meeting of said Institute.

February 8th, 1898 Benjamin Gillem (?) teacher of col. school No. 2, E. D. 4 was before the Board asking for an extra cord of wood, which was allowed.

February 28, 1898

The secretary was ordered to write to Prof. E. B. Prettyman asking his advice as to whether children residing at Indian Head a Government reservation were

entitled to the benefits of the Public Schools of Charles County without paying said County for said privileges.

May 10, 1898

The question of closing the schools was discussed by the Board and the view of the financial embarrassment under which the Board is laboring and the fund being inefficient to defray the expenses of another term, they were ordered closed, April 30th, 1898.

July 19, 1898

Messrs. Wade and Jenkins trustees of Port Tobacco white school was before the Board asking that the fence be repaired around said school - Estimate of cost \$17.00 order passed.

Aug. 2, 1898

Ordered that fifty-cents be allowed for cleaning site for new school house at Gallant Green. Examinations was continued on Monday the 3rd in the presence Mr. W. P. Jameson with twenty two applicants present.

Aug. 30, 1898

That secretary insert notice in County papers asking for bids under plans and specifications published for building two school houses for colored children. One in the 5th District near the farm of Dr. A. J. Smoot the other near Bryantown on the site of the old one, which was destroyed by fire.

Treasurer was ordered to pay to Dr. A. J. Smoot the sum of \$50.00 for one acre of land in the 5th Election for school house site, also \$25.00 to J. L. Mudd for one acre of land in the 8th District for same purpose. To pay to Maryland Independent and La Plata Publishing Co. the respective sums of \$63.00 and \$83.50 for school printing for year ending July 31st, 1898. Also to pay to Mr. Price Gray the sum of \$113.12 for repairs on col school No. 1, 3 Dist.

The Secretary was ordered to have shipped to Riverside per Str. Potomac 15 No. 1 Soper desks c/o Mr. Price Gray for colored school No. 1 Dist. 3 Mr. Gray was also authorized to have said school white-washed.

The Secretary was ordered to purchase Book cases for the various schools from J. W. Bond & Co. at \$10.00 per case.

A. A. Butler was allowed rent at the rate of \$2.50 per month for use of his house for school purposes.

Sept. 17, 1898

It was further ordered that secretary give notice through County papers that the various trustees of public schools be authorized to have furnished three cords of well seasoned wood for their respective schools. Price not to exceed \$3.00 per cord.

Ordered that Treasurer pay C. F. Flanders the sum of \$5.00 for whitewashing Mt. Hill col. School.

Nov. 22, 1898

The Secretary was also ordered to purchase crayons and keep a supply on hand in depository at La Plata and give notice through county papers that teachers paying more than 8 cents per box would be individually responsible for the difference. Further ordered that teachers or Trustees having repairs put upon the school houses (not ordered by the Board) must assume the responsibility of all indebtedness contracted.

Feb. 7, 1899

The Secretary was instructed to have printed in condensed form, on card Board, a summary of the "By Laws" of "Rules and Regulations", for guidance of teachers and school officers, the same to be posted in a conspicuous place on the walls of the schoolroom and a copy to be sent to the Secretary of the State Board of education.

The Secretary was ordered to purchase 10 No. 1 Soper Desks for Col. School No. 3, E. D. 2, to be shipped to Grinders Wharf, in care of Rob't. Price, also 6 No. 1 Soper Desks for use of white school No. 7, E. D. 8, to be shipped to "The Oaks" via Brandywine. S., M., R. R. c/o B. H. Carrico.

April 18, 1899

It was ordered that Treasurer pay teachers salaries for said term allowing for time not exceeding five days lost during the blizzard.

Sept. 12, 1899

Ordered that the white school near Holly Springs be whitewashed and building be provided with new shutters.

Nov. 8, 1899

Ordered that the secretary be authorized to sell the bricks at the old school house site near Hughesville where the building was recently destroyed by fire. It was further ordered that secretary order one new stove for white school near Grosstown and one for colored school at Bel Alton.

Dec. 13th, 1899

Authorized that Geo. Higgs Trustee of colored School No. 2, Dist. 2, purchase necessary boards to cover well at said school and that Mr. Price Gray purchase 150 bricks to complete walling of well at same school.

Feb. 6, 1900

Ordered that bill for repairing flue at school house taught by Miss Blanche Mudd be paid when said bill be endorsed by Trustees of said school. Ordered that three benches be made for use of Coxs (?) Station colored school.

Sept. 11th, 1900

It was ordered that Th. R. Stone be paid five and

19/100 dollars for money expended by him for postage stamps., stationary, and for expressage; and that he be authorized to purchase one hundred (100) two cent postage stamps, and draw a check for the payment of same. The Board adjourned to meet at its office, Tuesday, Sept. 18th, 1900.

Sept. 18, 1900

The Board directed that the following order be published twice, for two successive weeks, in the two newspapers published in Chas. County, that all teachers of the public schools in said county are required to send to the Secretary of said Board, as soon as possible, their certificates, and contracts for inspection, the contracts to be ratified and confirmed, or rejected, by the Board. All teachers failing to comply with the foregoing requirement will teach at their own risk, and will not necessarily be paid for their services.

It is further ordered, that all teachers now holding certificates whose average, in the branches required by law to be embraced in a certificate, is below seventy (70) percent, are permitted to teach during the present scholastic year, but, at the expiration of the present scholastic year they will be required to satisfactorily pass the next ensuing annual examination of applicants for teachers' certificates before being permitted to teach again in the public schools of this county. The secretary was directed to order from J. W. Bond Co. 450 dozen Ginn and Co's. Vertical Round-handwriting books, and 200 Wentworth's Elementary Arithmetics. An order was passed directing the treasurer to pay the following bills :

H. C. Page for surveying lot for colored school	\$8.00
A. Jameson for repairing white school No. 6, E.D. 8	8.40
Oscar Fendall for repairing colored school Mt. Hill	4.65
J. W. Bond Co. for printing examination papers, etc.	21.81
- do do for office stationary etc.	7.30
- do do for 5 sets Pub. school Laws & By Laws	1.25
- do do for 1 Record Book & express on same	1.25
- do do for 8 desks for White School No. 7, E.D.6	25.00

Jan. 21, 1901

The Sec. was ordered to call on the tax collectors for their quarterly payments of taxes for school purposes.

March 8, 1901

It was ordered that Miss M. Blanche Mudd be paid in addition to her salary for spring term, the sum of \$2.85 erroneously deducted from her salary for winter term.

June 19, 1901

An order was passed that, in the future, all teachers who claim to have lost time from school on account of inclement weather must produce . . . a certificate to that effect, signed by their district school trustees.