The RECORD

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George C. Dyson, *President* Charles G. LaHood, Jr., *Editor*

Future Historians Depend On You

by Marcia E. Monaco*

As members of the Historical Society of Charles County you are vitally concerned with the gathering and preservation of historical records for the use of future generations. Are you sure that the material you so painstakingly seek out and collect will still be in usable condition 20, 50 or a hundred years from now? The major enemies of paper are at work silently, right now, damaging your collections and rendering your hard work useless unless you take the proper precautions. The main enemies are bugs, heat, excessive humidity and acid. Bugs and insects chew up your records, fluctuations in temperature and humidity render paper brittle, and acid (an inherent component of all wood-pulp from which most paper is made) is a self-destructing time bomb which turns paper yellow and eventually renders it extremely fragile.

Fortunately there are simple suggestions which will, if followed, prevent most of the damage:

1. NO regular paper clips, NO pins, NO staples, NO rubber bands, NO mending tapes. Instead use plastic or stainless steel paper clips which are inert and will not rust if papers need to be clipped together. The staff of the Southern Maryland Room at the Learning Resources Center will be glad to provide you with a demonstration on mending torn paper. It is better to do nothing than to use sticky mending tape.
2. DO NOT FOLD anything. Unfold all letters and clip them to their envelopes. Unfold all papers and documents because the paper will eventually break at the fold.
3. Obtain ACID-FREE legal size filing folders and ACID-FREE boxes in which to file your material. Acid migrates from one piece of paper to another. Ideally two sheets of wood-pulp paper should never touch each other, but practically speaking most of the damage comes from newspaper clippings, so.....
4. MOUNT all newspaper clippings on acid-free bond paper (costs about the same as regular paper) using ordinary cornstarch paste. DO NOT USE glue or rubber cement. CLEARLY print the source and date of your clipping on each sheet, then file in the acid-free folders in the acid-free boxes.
5. Label your file folders in ink and directly on the folder tab. Do not stick on a separate label, or at the very least make sure your label does not touch the items filed within the folder.
6. Photographs require special handling: DO NOT MOUNT them. Insert each photograph into its own acid-free envelope before putting in a file with other materials. Do the same with negatives and house the protected negative in the same file folder as the print.
7. Temperature and humidity are hard to control in the home, but at least remove your materials from the attic and basement and into a more stable temperature/humidity area. Fluctuation can be worse than the wrong temperature or humidity. Ideally materials should be stored at not more than 68 degrees Farenheit and 50% relative humidity. Anything more than that shortens the life of the item in logarithmic proportion, i.e. a 10 degree rise may shorten the life of the documents by one-half.
8. Fumigation will get rid of silverfish and other crawlers which may eat up your records. Simple fumigation may be accomplished using a plastic trash can with a tight lid and pure mothball crystals. Call the Southern Maryland Room for details.
9. If some of your material is too brittle to unfold, you can humidify it by setting it in a closed container next to (NOT IN) a pan containing warm water for about 24 hours.
10. Mold and mildew are special problems requiring technical solutions. Do not try to treat these conditions yourself. Air and isolate the affected materials and call for help.

The basic preservation techniques are simple and if the suggestions above are followed future historians will be forever in your debt. To summarize: Unfold everything, store everything in acid-free containers, use nothing but plastic or stainless steel clips to fasten items together, mount your newspaper clippings, try to eliminate bugs, and store in an area as free from fluctuations in temperature and humidity as possible.

For other suggestions and sources of supplies contact Barbara Couchenour or Marcia Monaco at the Learning Resource Center (934-2251, Ext. 331 or 266) let us help you to help preserve our heritage.

**Technical Services Coordinator, Learning Resource Center, Charles County Community College.*

Rambling Thru the Cemeteries of Charles County

by Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.

This summer I had the opportunity to explore the many cemeteries in Charles County, both public and private, and was able to extract the inscriptions from each tombstone.

Through this project, the Historical Society now has information on more than 60 cemeteries containing 5044 tombstones.

I along with Elizabeth Dailey, Julie Ford, Thomas Johnson, David Mazzeo, Stephanie Mazzeo, Cynthia Williams and Jeffery Williams extracted tombstone inscriptions from the following public cemeteries:

St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Chapel Point
Sacred Heart Church, LaPlata
St. John's Episcopal Church, Pomonkey
St. Charles Catholic Church, Glymont
Park Hill, Marbury
St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Hill Top
Old Durham Episcopal Church, Ironsides
Marbury Baptist Church
Nazarene Church, Pisgah
Chicamuxen United Methodist Church
Old Shiloh Methodist Church, Bryans Road
Mount Rest, LaPlata
Holy Ghost Roman Catholic Church, Issue
Pisgah Methodist Church
Smith Chapel United Methodist Church, Pisgah
Zion Baptist Church, Pisgah
St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Pomfret
Nanjemoy Baptist Church
Emory Chapel Methodist Church, Nanjemoy
Calvary United Methodist Church, Waldorf
St. Peter's Catholic Church, Waldorf
St. Peter's Catholic Church (New), Waldorf
St. Peter's Catholic Church (Old), Waldorf

The following private cemeteries were done:

Graves near the Grace Baptist Church, (Dement, Tubman, Wilmer), Bryans Road
Stoddert Graves, Bryans Road
Smallwood Grave, Marbury
Graves at the Kozak Farm, (Rennoe, Saunders), Doncaster
Franklin Graves, Pisgah
Millar Graves, Riverside
Carin Graves, Mt. Victoria
Haislip Graves, Rison
Eilbeck Graves, Bryans Road
McDaniel Graves, Pomfret
Tubman Graves, Pomfret
Fenwick Graves, Fenwick
Grave at "Betty's Delight", (Thomas Howe Ridgate, Jr.), Port Tobacco
Grave at "Rose Hill", (Doctor Gustavus Richard Brown), Port Tobacco
Graves at "Harbre DeVenture", (Brown, Cooksey, Stone), Port Tobacco
Graves at "Mulberry Grove", (Day, Contee, Fergusson, Hanson, Leeland, Mitchell, Muschett, Shackelford), Port Tobacco
Graves at "La Grange", (Stone, Stonestreet), LaPlata
Graves at the "Old Port Tobacco Court House"
Hancock Graves, Nanjemoy
Dent Graves, Nanjemoy
Graves at "Harwood", (Brawner, Penn), Port Tobacco

Danny Fluhart of Waldorf sent in tombstone inscriptions from the following cemeteries: Mt. Zion Cemetery, Aquasco Road; St. John's Baptist Church Cemetery, Patuxent City; Moran Cemetery, Patuxent City; Gibbons Cemetery, Aquasco Road; Waters Cemetery; Huntt Cemetery, Mattawoman Beantown Road; Friends Cemetery, Hughesville; and Naylor Cemetery, Malcolm.

The largest cemetery was Mt. Rest in LaPlata with 603 tombstones and the oldest grave was that of Marianne T. Stoddert in Bryans Road which read:

Here lyes the body of Marianne T. Stoddert, (wife of John Stoddert and daughter of Col. Thomas T. Greenfield and Susannah, his wife), who departed this life in the 42d year of her age on the 20th of Octo'r Ani Domi 1750

Each inscription from each tombstone was written down, then typed on an index card. These index cards were then put in alphabetical order according to cemetery and then typed on paper. All this information is now available to anyone interested in the Southern Maryland Room of the Charles County Community College.

Friendship House Dolls

These delightful rag dolls, reproduced in the manner of those found in the inner walls of Friendship House when it was being disassembled, can be seen and purchased in Friendship House, the Southern Maryland Room in the Charles County Community College Library, The Added Touch, and The Attic. Some will be available at the October 13 meeting of the Society. For more information call Mrs. Mitchell 934-9708 or Mrs. Couchenour 934-2251 ext. 331.

Early American Furniture Sale

The Committee in charge of Furnishing Friendship House reports that two of the three antique pieces of furniture offered for sale in the May 1979 issue of the Record have been sold. The Hepplewhite Mahogany Card Table for $1100.00, and the American Cherry Hepplewhite Bow Front Chest for $900.00.

Proceeds of the sale will be used to acquire additional period furnishings for Friendship House. The Ways and Means Committee is planning to organize a raffle for the American Sheraton Mahogany Sideboard, the third piece offered earlier.

The Revolutionary Soldiers of Charles County

A supplement to the article appearing in the May 1979 RECORD by Susan Shaffer

Thomas Simpson

There are 2 Thos. (Thomas) Simpsons listed in Captain Bowie's Muster Roll - 1777. Here is the information exactly as it appears in the Records of the Maryland Line:

Name	Thos. Simpson, Sr.	Thos. Simpson, Sr.
When Enrolled	July 16	July 16
By Whom	William Shircliff	William Shircliff
Place of Nativity	Charles County	Charles County
Height	6.	6.
No. guns	1	1
Age	17	25

Thos. Simpson, Jr. Hight

One of these men served as a Private and the other became a Corporal. However, in all the records from July 16 onward they are both referred to simply as Thos. Simpson.

On 12 November 1789, Thos. Simpson and Judith Wathen were married in Charles County by Rev. Pile.

On 23 May 1782, Thos. Simpson and Sophia Mary Kidwell were married by Rev. George H. Worsley, Rector of Port Tobacco Parish.

I have a considerable amount of additional information on "Thos. Simpson", but I simply can't separate the 2 individuals. Can anyone in the Society solve my dilemma?

Lawrence Simpson

b. 1763
d. circa 1843
m. Sarah Carrico, circa 1795 in Charles County, Maryland.

Mr. Simpson was a Private in the Maryland Line. He was "drafted" the 11th and 12th of June, 1781, by Francis Ware in Port Tobacco. As of 28 August 1781, he was listed as a Private in the 6th Company, 3rd Regiment on army pay musters, when he received "Bills of Credit and in Specie, pay due for the present campaign" from Robert Denny. The Maryland Line pay records from 1 January 1782 to 1 January 1783 show Mr. Simpson as a Private in the 4th Company, 4th Battalion under Captain George Richard Bird, Lieutenant John Brevet and Ensign Thomas A. Dyson. Then from 1 January 1783 to 15 November 1783, he was in the 4th Company under Captain James W. Gray. On 29 November 1783, he was discharged.

As of December 1816, Lawrence Simpson of Charles County received the half pay of a Private soldier, quarterly, as further remuneration for his services in the Revolutionary War. Then on 27 February 1843, payment was made to Peter W. Crain, for the widow of Lawrence Simpson the balance due the said Lawrence at his death.

Special Collections In The Southern Maryland Room

The Southern Maryland Room is an area designated in the Learning Resource Center at the Charles County Community College for the collection and preservation of printed material about Southern Maryland. The Historical Society and the College are working together to collect primarily print material. Included are unpublished documents, books, maps, photographs, microfilm, slides, pamphlets, journals, clippings, audio tapes, and original art.

As a regular part of The Record, we will try to give you a synopsis of a different collection that has been accepted and cataloged in the Southern Maryland Room.

A brief description of the Robert V. Norris Collection:

Robert Vincent Norris, born in Charles County, Maryland in 1888, was active in the county as a farmer, store owner, and honorary director of the Charles County Farm Bureau. After his death in 1978 at the age of 90, the papers and memorabilia described in this collection were donated on September 13, 1978 to the Historical Society of Charles County for the Southern Maryland Room of the Charles County Community College Learning Resource Center by his widow, Dorothy May Burdette Norris.

The collection divides itself into five basic record groups: (1) Records of the Norris Store, (2) Records of Laurel Springs Farm, (3) Personal papers and personal miscellanea, (4) Agriculture miscellanea, and (5) Maps, travel brochures, etc.

The Norris Store records consist of ledgers listing customer accounts by name, sales and receipt ledgers, business and machine inventory records, tax records, receipts, bills receivable and notes receivable. Also included are over one hundred miscellaneous sales catalogs and price lists of farm implements from various companies covering the period ca. 1914-1965. The records finally include insurance bills and receipts, employer's tax returns, cash register receipts and tapes, trader's licenses, automobile sales invoices and correspondence, gas rationing certificates and miscellaneous photographs.

The Laurel Springs farm records include rainfall data, series of pocket ledgers of records about tobacco, threshing, veal, beef, corn, hay and miscellaneous crop information. Also included are farm labor ledgers showing hours worked and amount of pay, gasoline records for tractors, cars and trips, hampshire boars stock registration certificates, and photographs.

The personal papers and memorabilia group include information about the Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph's Church, Pomfret, Md. (including five complete years of church bulletins), McDonough Institute, personal diaries and autobiographical materials, a cassette tape interview, newspaper clippings and photographs.

The Agriculture miscellanea material consists primarily of brochures, pamphlets and booklets which have been abstracted from the collection and cataloged separately. In each case the location of the item is given.

The final portion of the collection, Maps, Travel Brochures, etc., consists primarily of pamphlets, road maps, American Automobile Association maps, travel and tourist information, etc.

For additional information on this collection or any of the other materials in the room, please contact Barbara Couchenour, 934-2251, ext. 331.

Our sincere thanks to Marcia Monaco, Technical Services Coordinator for the scope and contents note on the Norris Collection.

Letter To The Editor

As a member of the Society I receive The Record and read it thoroughly and enjoy it. I noted that the Fall Dinner Meeting will be October 13, 1979 at Wayside Church.

Wayside is the town where my grandfather, Notley Thomas Bateman (married to Mattie L. Burke) was born on July 27, 1865. Mattie L. Burke was born in Newport, Charles County in 1873.

I would be so grateful if any member can help me find out who Mattie's parents were. Surely there must be one of the members who is related or knows of someone who is, when there were so many Batemans and Burkes from that immediate area.

My great grandfather was Thomas Bateman, born 1821 in Charles County. My great grandmother was Caroline Jackson, born in 1838 in Virginia.

My grandfather married Mattie L. Burke. His brother Robert married Francis E. Burke. Brothers married sisters. In 1870 they lived at Harris Lot Election District 2. In 1880 they lived in Election District 5.

If I knew my great-great grandparents, I could connect with the right Bateman from 1821 back, and with the right Burke from 1873 back and with the right Jackson from 1838 back. Please help since every bit of information would be an added clue. Thank you so very much.

Florence S. Roclevitch
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Editor's Note

Articles of historic interest on Southern Maryland are needed for future issues of the Record. Please send articles and other communications to: Editor, The Record, P.O. Box 273, La Plata, Maryland 20646

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