

The RECORD



Volume 103, No. 3

A Publication of the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.

October 2009

Joyce Candland, President

Mary Ann Scott, Editor

Annual Fall Dinner & Membership Meeting

Dr. Julia King will present

Secrets of the Zekiah

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.

Durham Church Hall – Ironsides, Maryland

Julia A. King is an associate professor of anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where she researches, teaches, and writes about Chesapeake history and culture. King has a B.A. from the College of William and Mary, an M.A. from Florida State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She has held fellowships at Harvard University's Dumbarton Oaks, the Virginia Historical Society, and the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, and she is a past president of the Society for Historical Archaeology. In 2003 and again in 2007, President George W. Bush appointed King to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a federal agency that advises the president and Congress on matters of national historic preservation policy. She is the author of *Landscapes of Ruin*, which examines contested historical places in the Chesapeake and, one of the three authors of the award winning publication *Pathways to History Charles County, Maryland 1658-2008*.

President's Message

Our last meeting of the Historical Society of Charles County was held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at historic Maxwell Hall. The rains cleared in time



for our outdoor dinner to be served and held off until cleanup was complete. Thank you to HSCC member Betty deKeyser for her excellent presentation of "Friends and Family of Charles County." Tours of Maxwell Hall were conducted and member Shirley Sellner displayed her beautiful drawing of Glymont and Indian Head. A wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by all. See photos elsewhere.

Welcome to new members Doris Karlsson Burgess, Bradley Gottfried (CSMD President), Bob Johnston, Barry Milstead, and George Howard Post (life).

Our feature article for this edition of *The Record* is about the entertainment park that used to be at Chapel Point. A trip down memory lane for some and enlightening new information for others.

Joyce Candland, President

301-246-4488

joyce.candland@gmail.com

Officers, Board of Directors, and Committee Members

OFFICERS

President Joyce B. Candland
Vice-President Mary Pat Berry
Recording Secretary Vacant
Corresponding Secretary Danielle Webber
Treasurer Robert Pender

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James H. Berry, Jr. 2010
Charles D. Boone 2010
Ronald Brown 2011
Carol Donohue 2009
George C. Dyson 2009
Linda Howard 2010
Jane K. Linton 2010
Vivian S. Malczyk 2011
Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr. 2009
Evelyn Karlsson Merritt 2011
Thomas Pike 2009

PAST PRESIDENTS

* Bennett Crain 1962-1963
* Eugene A. Jenkins, Jr. 1963-1964, 1966-1967
H. Maxwell Mitchell, Jr. 1964-1966
* W. Preston Williams 1967-1968
* John H. Mitchell 1968-1970
* Watson M. Perrygo 1970-1978
George C. Dyson 1978-1982
* William E. Garvey, Jr. 1982-1985
** Richard E. Heise, II 1985-1986
Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr. 1986-1992
Dr. Lloyd Bowling 1992-1998
Wayne Winkler 1998-2004
Kaye O'Kelley 2004-2008

* Deceased ** Acting President

COMMITTEES

Charles County Heritage Committee:

Carol Donohue, Representative

Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites:

George C. Dyson, Representative

Genealogy and Research:

Ruby Dyson, *Chairperson*

Historian:

Tom Pike

Historic Sites:

Louise Turner, *Chairperson*

Historical Trust Representative:

Ruby W. Dyson

Membership:

Joyce B. Candland, *Chairperson*

Programs:

Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., *Chairperson*

Mary Pat Berry

Projects:

Robert Pender, *Chairperson*

Publications:

Mary Ann Scott, *Editor, The Record*

Publicity:

Tom Pike

Train Station:

Kaye O'Kelley, *Chairperson*

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you would like future newsletters sent to you by e-mail, please send us your e-mail address. Articles of historic interest on Southern Maryland are requested for publication in future issues of *The Record*. Please send your articles and photographs to: The Historical Society of Charles County, Publications, *The Record*, P.O. Box 2806, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Or you can email your articles and photographs to Joyce Candland at joyce.candland@gmail.com.

One of the largest expenses of our Society is the printing and mailing of our newsletter. In an effort to cut costs and keep our budget under control, we are asking those of you with email capability to consider receiving your copy of *The Record* by email. This would be of great benefit to the Society and you would receive your copy in color. If you can help us with this effort please notify Joyce Candland.

joyce.candland@gmail.com

Friendship House Committees

Administration

George C. Dyson, Administrator
H. Maxwell Mitchell

Cellar Museum & Shop

James H. Berry, Jr.
Mary Pat Berry

Foundation

Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., Chair
Madelyn Irish
Vivian S. Malczyk
Anita L. Wood

Furnishings

Joyce Candland, Chair
Madelyn Irish
Louise B. Turner
Anita L. Wood

Ways & Means

Ruby Dyson
Sandra Mitchell

Chapel Point Park on the Potomac

Personal Reflections by J. Parran Jarboe, M.D.

Around the turn of the century, the qualities of the fine, safe, sandy beach of Chapel Point became recognized as it was used by the clergy, visitors and local people alike. Soon the word spread and the beach became a popular family resort for picnicking and safe boating and bathing.

My grandfather, Joseph Benedict Jarboe, Sr., with the help of his three sons and three daughters, operated the resort for the priests and brothers associated with St. Thomas Manor and St. Ignatius Catholic Church.

From about 1910 to 1918, an old side-wheeler steam boat (later the “Charles MacAllister”) operated by the Washington-Norfolk Steamboat Line, brought passengers from Washington, D.C. to Chapel Point two to three times a week. The dock was located in the Port Tobacco Creek, on the west side of Chapel Point, at the site of the old dining room.

To accommodate those passengers who wished to stay overnight or several days, the “Big House” or Chapel Point Hotel – a three story wooden structure was built in the early 1900’s. A dining room was also built near the dock on the west side of the point, with bunk beds on the ground floor for added accommodations. At the same time, beach bathhouses and lockers were built for the bathers.

Gradually, Chapel Point became a popular summer resort, catering to local people and some from Washington, D.C. – but transportation was difficult, with few cars, undependable bus service, and narrow gravel roads. Although I was only five years old at the time, I remember helping my father collect admission money (50 cents per car) when no one else was available. From my vantage point in the “Big House,” I could watch cars with people coming into the Park when my father and others



were busy elsewhere, so I made sure that they paid the admission charge.

After we moved to Bel Alton in 1924, my father continued to help the priests and brothers in park operations as much as his new duties would permit – that is, up until Chapel Point Park was sold to B.B. (Jack) Wills in 1925.

Then B.B. (Jack) Wills renovated the Park, building new bathhouses (up to 400 individual units), “outhouse” toilets, and built a boardwalk on the south side of the pavilion on the Potomac River side. He had a deep-water channel dredged, and a new wharf constructed to accommodate the Wilson Line “City of Washington” vessel to bring people from Washington, D.C. to Chapel Point, which began in 1927. The ship would arrive at the park about 1:00 p.m. with up to 1200 passengers and leave for the return trip about 4:00 p.m. Often the place was a “mad-house” during this three-hour period.

In 1928, James W. “Jimmy” Wills, while working as assistant manager at Chapel Point for his brother, would take passengers for speed boat rides at 50 cents per person on the Potomac River in his new Chris-craft cruiser. This was very popular on Sundays and he was helped by his mate, Julia Blacklock, the charmer! During this time, “Jimmy”

and Harold S. Swann, organized the “Swann-Wills Oil Company,” later to become the Southern Maryland Oil Company. They believed that petroleum was the coming industry when they opened their first office in a small trailer in La Plata.

During the Wills’ operation of Chapel Point Park, Jack was assisted by many, including his three brothers: Jimmy, Reed and John Wills, and others including W. Mitchell Digges, John Warren Albrittain, Harry Turner, Joe Gosnell and Anna Farr.

In 1932, the Wilson Boat Line bought Marshall Hall Park, and this left Jack Wills without a boat to bring patrons to Chapel Point, so he bought an old coal-operated side-wheeler, the “West Point” from the Hudson Bay Line in Poughkeepsie, New York. He brought the old ship to Chapel Point, where he stripped-out the coal furnaces and installed oil burners, a relatively new modernization at the time. He renamed the vessel the “S.S. Potomac.”

While renovating the “S.S. Potomac” at Chapel Point, he leased a dock on Main Avenue in Washington as “home port” for the vessel. From this base, he operated daily round-trips to Chapel Point Park, carrying up to 1500 passengers per trip when business was good. At night, he held moonlight dance cruises down the Potomac. This continued up until World War II, when he had to cease operations on the Potomac.

In 1935, with the “S.S. Potomac” operating profitably (in spite of the depression), Jack Wills gave up the daily operations of Chapel Point Park and the Jesuits again took over the management, with Brother William E. Carley in charge. Mr. Salvatore Worthington Kemp and his wife, Catherine, (Jack Wills’ brother-in-law and sister), who had been resident managers for Jack – stayed on the job in the same capacity for Brother Carley.

When Brother Carley took over the management, Ferris Saleeby and I were the actual “on the job” managers, along with Arthur Andres and Lynn Haddox and other locals, including James Mudd.

While Chapel Point was the most popular summer resort on the Potomac River, catering to families who came either by boat, yacht and/or passenger cars, there was competition from Morgantown Park and Marshall Hall Park. But Chapel Point had

the best and safest sandy beach with facilities to accommodate up to 4000 bathers a day. It truly was a family playground and often nearly 1000 cars a day packed the parking lots – coming over narrow two-lane roads from Washington and even from Baltimore.

Saturday night and Sunday afternoon tea dances were especially popular in the summer time – with fine danceable music provided by such orchestras as Bernie Jarboe’s Nighthawks, Carl Berryman, Roy Marceron, Frank Petti, Nick Nichols and his Five Pennies, Don Lane, Watson Powell, Fred Perry and many others.

Brother Carley had the pavilion enlarged and introduced roller skating to Charles County – with special rubber-tire roller skates from the Chicago Roller Skating Company. Brother Carley continued to manage and operate the park until Hiram W. Lyon and his group took over in the early 1950’s.

The first Charles County Agricultural Fair was held at Chapel Point in 1924, being promoted by Paul D. Brown and Harold S. Swann. Several years later, when the exposition got too big for Chapel Point, it was moved to the present Fair Grounds site on route 301, south of La Plata. The first Queen Nicotina was crowned by Governor Albert C. Ritchie, and the Coronation Ball was held at Chapel Point. The Queen was Ms. Ethel Martin Bowling.

The early “Firemen’s Day” fund-raising extravaganzas were held at Chapel Point, and proceeds helped the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department. Thomas P. McDonagh (Jack Wills’ brother-in-law) helped to organize this event. The first one was held in 1927 when the need for a fire department was realized after the Posey mansion in La Plata was destroyed by fire. Organizational funds had to be obtained and Jack Wills donated the Chapel Point facility for one day a year.

Under Hiram Lyon’s management, Chapel Point Park operations continued until the early 1960’s. The old hotel “Big House” was purposely destroyed by fire in 1962, and with it, went the “spirit of Chapel Point.”

The most beautiful site on the Potomac River has been abandoned and nature’s overgrowth has replaced a once proud and majestic family resort that has “gone with the wind.”

J. Parran Jarboe prepared 'Chapel Point on the Potomac' in 1990. As an addendum, he included the following information about his family:

My grandfather, Joseph Benedict Jarboe, Sr., in early 1884, moved his family from Jarboesville, St. Mary's County, Maryland (now the site of the Patuxent Naval Air Station) to St. Thomas Manor, Chapel Point on the Potomac. St. Thomas Manor and St. Ignatius Church were owned by the Corporation of Roman Catholic Clergymen. My grandfather farmed the estate, principally in tobacco, and later managed Chapel Point when it became a resort facility. He was assisted by his children and other labor.

My grandfather married Mary Elizabeth Hazel in 1881 and had six children: James Parran Jarboe, Matthew Cajeton Jarboe, Joseph Benedict Jarboe, Jr., Mae Theresa Jarboe, Mary Elizabeth Jarboe, and Elsie Catherine Jarboe.

My father, Joseph Benedict Jarboe, Jr. was born at Chapel Point on December 13, 1891. He was a farmer and helped my grandfather manage Chapel Point Park until 1924, when he became an engineer in the road construction business. He and Jessie Harriet Darg (from Bryantown) were married in St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Chapel Point on February 3, 1915. They lived in the house (most recently occupied by Elmer Goldsmith) until 1921 and later moved into the "Big House" at Chapel Point after my grandfather's tragic death.

I was born August 28, 1918 at Providence Hospital, Washington, D.C. and lived at Chapel Point until August, 1924. In late October, 1922, I fell off a pier into 4-5 feet of water in the Port Tobacco Creek (near the old dining room) and was rescued by George Harris, a hump-backed handyman who saw me fall overboard. I nearly drowned and also nearly died from pneumonia complications, but was saved by Dr. Ernest Spencer, general practitioner from Bel Alton.

In August, 1924, we moved from the "Big House" at Chapel Point to Bel Alton so that I could attend the Bel Alton Public School (two rooms) in September, 1924. Ms. Pearl Albrittain was my first teacher.

I began working at Chapel Point, part-time, in 1928. My first job was picking "green worms" off tobacco plants and squashing them beneath my bare feet—for which I was paid 10 centers per hours. In 1929, I got a more "regular" job, picking up paper refuse and debris from the picnic grounds and got paid 75 cents per day. In 1930, I started full-time at Chapel Point, working as a "locker-boy" in the bath houses and general labor as needed. In 1932-33, I drove an old Chevrolet flat-bed truck, transporting laborers and hauling jobs about the park. This truck had to be cranked by hand. Although I had no driver's license, no one cared at that time, since there was only one sheriff in the county and one state policeman in Southern Maryland and besides, no one else could operate that truck like I could!

On June 27, 1936, I met Rebecca Simmons on a "blind date," while I was working a Saturday night dance at Chapel Point. She was introduced to me by my good friend, Bill Nalley. Our first scheduled date, three weeks later, was a moonlight cruise on the "S.S. Potomac." Little did I realize then what a mystic adventure would lead to.

From 1935 to 1943, I was assistant manager of Chapel Point Park, under the supervision and guidance of Brother William E. Carley. I worked full-time during the summers while attending the University of Maryland and Georgetown University Medical School. My salary gradually increased from \$60 to \$125 a month during those years – so I did okay during the depression years, enabling me to continue my education.

I was married on June 19, 1943 at St. Ignatius Catholic Church at Chapel Point to Rebecca Naomi Simmons, who was from Fishing Creek, Maryland, on the Eastern Shore.

Editor's Note: J. Parran Jarboe went on to become "Dr. Jarboe," a much loved and respected physician in the community. He and Dr. Arthur Wooddy opened the Jarwood Medical Clinic in La Plata. Dr. Jarboe was Chief of Staff at Physicians Memorial Hospital from 1964 to 1965. After his retirement he moved to Marietta Georgia where his widow still lives. These personal reflections were written by him in 1990.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY
Where Do Our Members Live?

CHARLES COUNTY

Bryans Road

Sandra Bauer
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Davies
Chris & Carol Iekel
Joseph Olcott
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wilbourne

Bryantown

Charles & Anne Boone
Robert Cook
Vivian B. Edelen
Larry & Shirley Schindel
Margaret Steffens

Charlotte Hall

Lloyd Bowling, Sr.
Laura Coffren
Pere Jarboe

Faulkner:

Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Albrittain

Indian Head

Elmer Biles
Jeanne Robey Bowie
Jane Linton

Ironsides

George & Ruby Dyson

La Plata

Henry Albrittain
Carl & Bobbie Baldus
Sally Barley
Mr. & Mrs. Gore Bolton
Sharon Bolton
Garth Bowling, Jr.
Karen Briggs
Miriam Cappers
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Chiarizia
Jim & Pat Day
Peggy Dobson
Carrie Dotson
William & Dolores Eckman
Robert & Barbara Ehrenstrom
Mary Jo Frere
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Gardiner III
Bradley Gottfried

Maureen Golding

Walter & Jane Grove
Linda Howard
Ernie & Madelyn Irish
Betty Levering
Rev. Fred MacIntyre
Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.
TC Mazzeo
Mr. & Mrs. Donald McGuire
Gertrude Wright McWilliams
Leesa Meyers
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Middleton
Jake & Sandy Mitchell
Linda Dent Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Pike
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Sanders, Jr.
Jane Schultz-Collins
Debra Scoggins
Beverly Stone
Paul Swope
Louise B. Turner
Ernest & Carmen Wallace
Doris White
Mr. & Mrs. Blacklock Wills
Wayne & Paula Winkler
Anita Wood

Marbury

Cynthia Shoemaker

Mount Victoria

Michael & Laura Sullivan
Ruth Wegner

Nanjemoy

John & Joyce Candland
Janet Cox
Norma Hurley
Vivian Malczyk
Christopher & Evie Merritt
Faye Wolfgang

Newburg

Marie deLozier
Ethel Hungerford
Marjorie MacEachen
Frank Matthews
Kaye O'Kelley

Pomfret

Mr. & Mrs. Hillen Morgan

Port Tobacco

Jim & Mary Pat Berry
Kathleen Blanche
Christine Harrison
Tim Hutchins
Thomas & Susan Lewis
Robert McGill Palmer
Bob & Jo Pender
George & Elsie Picyk
Linda Piepoli
Sheila Smith
Buddy & Carol Sprague
Connie Stuart
Jerry & Kay Volman
Danielle Webber
William & Muriel Werking

Swan Point

Norman & Carolyn Chlosta
Dianne Lyon
Daniel & Marge Mayer
Robert & Naomi Petrash
Robert & Peggy Schaumberg

Waldorf

Ron Brown
Suzanne Carr
Harry Kriemelmeyer
Emma Middleton
George Howard Post
Mary Louise Webb
Ken Whyte
Mary Ellen Wilmoth
Mrs. Peter Worrell

Welcome

Dale Flowers
Mary Ellen Karwasinski
Dale & Rose Speake

White Plains

Bob Johnston

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY

Where Do Our Members Live?

OTHER MARYLAND AREAS

Accokeek

Dan & Carol Donohue
Frances Donohue

Annapolis

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Petty

Baltimore

Mr. & Mrs. George Jenkins

Bethesda

Mardalee Dickinson

Brandywine

Dorothy & Quick Carlson

Chevy Chase

Mary Howard Critchell

Columbia

Patricia Ralston

Fort Washington

Jane Klemer

Gaithersburg

Barry Milstead

Leonardtwn

Patrick William O'Donnell

Lutherville

Francis Burch

Mitchellville

Elsie Dent

Pasadena

Betty deKeyser

Rockville

Dorothy Brault
Lawrence Cox

Royal Oak

Elizabeth Loker
Donald Rice

Silver Spring

Brandi Berry-Cristofaro
Patricia Cramer
Laura Hawley

Sykesville

Sylvester Adams
Matthew Candland
James Tierney-Holly

Snow Hill

Kemp Wills

Solomons

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Sparks

Stevensville

Barbara Griffin

OUTSIDE OF MARYLAND

Arkansas

Ms. Hazel Dent Ballard,

California

Doris Karlsson Burgess

Florida

Anita Foote
Jacqueline Voight Nichols
Helen Roesler
Martin Stickley

Georgia

Ken Craft

Idaho

Patricia Mortensen

Kentucky

Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Schmick

Maine

Hilda Karlsson Roderick

Massachusetts

Allen & Ann Burgess

New Jersey

Robert Posey

Ohio

Margaret Gray Sturm

Oregon

Clifton Glover

South Carolina

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Edelen, III
Jack & Tiny Greenway

Tennessee

Joel Buchanan

Virginia

Ben Candland
Rev. & Mrs. Ralph Gardiner
Richard Reese
Joseph Rowe
Mrs. William Rushton
Lydia Candland Sorenson
James Tarrant
Jerrilynn Zaccarelli

Washington, D.C.

Michael Burch
James Cobey
William Deyo

Wisconsin

Jeffrey Wills

Your Society At Work

By Joyce Candland

*T*he Historical Society participated in the “Charles County Government Day” in May. We handed out free Train Station magnets and sold eight “Windfall of Inherited Treasures” books. Thank you to Tom Pike, our publicity chairman, for making the arrangements and to Tom, Bob Pender, Joyce and John Candland for manning the table.

A grant was given to Elizabeth Stahl, daughter of Alicia and Bobby Stahl of Bryantown, to attend “Girls State” in June. Elizabeth is a student at North Point High School.

In June 2008 the Historical Society of Charles County received a gift of acreage in Bel Alton. We are moving ahead to list the property for sale.

Our finance committee met to prepare the budget for 2010. Thank you to Mary Pat Berry, Charles Boone, and Bob Pender for their service.

Volunteers are needed to staff the Train Station on Saturdays 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m during September and October 2009 and May through October 2010. If you can help, please notify Train Station Chairman, Kaye O’Kelley, at email: kayeokelley@yahoo.com

The train station has been painted and the caboose is next. Thank you to Mayor Roy Hale and the Town of La Plata.



Historic Church Dedicates Kneelers

*F*or two centuries, Christ Episcopal Church, Port Tobacco Parish, stood in Port Tobacco. Then, in 1906, the church was dismantled, moved stone by stone by oxcart and rebuilt in La Plata. After Sunday service, September 27, 2009, thirteen new Alter Rail Kneelers will be dedicated. Among those who hand-stitched each kneeler were Historical Society members Louise Turner, Sheila Smith, Kay Volman, Madelyn Irish and Peggy Schaumburg.

Maxwell Hall Site of Historical Society of Charles County May Meeting and Lawn Party





The Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.



R.s.v.p. for the October Meeting

Please reply by October 8, 2009

Saturday, October 17, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.

DURHAM CHURCH HALL

Ironsides, Maryland

Menu

A Fall Buffet – \$26.00 per person

Roast Pork & Roast Beef au jus & Parsley Potatoes & Green Beans
Beets & Sauerkraut & Applesauce & Rolls & Beverages & Apple Crisp

Program

Secrets of the Zekiah
By Dr. Julia King



Number of people attending _____ @ \$26.00 per person = \$ _____ enclosed.

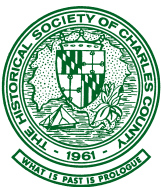
Attendees: _____

Send form and check made out to HSCC and mail to:
Mary Pat Berry
P.O. Box 227 & Port Tobacco, MD 20677

Young Students Tour Friendship House

In July, two groups of very young students toured Friendship House as part of their celebration of "American History Week." These students were from the Children's Learning Center at the La Plata Campus of the College of Southern

Maryland. Ranging in age from 3 to 10, they enjoyed a hands-on tour of life of a Colonial Family. One of the students was the three year old granddaughter of Warren and Sally Barley. At the end of the tour the students were told that Warren Barley was responsible for the collection and furnishing of Friendship House. Later that day, little Sarah told her grandmother, Sally Barley, she had been to the "Friendly House" and that her grandfather had made all the furniture!



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY, INC.

P.O. Box 2806 • La Plata, Maryland 20646
(301) 934-2564