

September 2021

Harford Heritage News

250th Anniversary of Founding of Harford County—2023

200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Tour of America— 2024



Harford 250 Planning Session—September 16

Thursday, September 16, 2021, 10:00 am

Bel Air Armory, 37 N. Main Street, Bel Air.

Come plan Harford 250's January 2023 Kick-off event, the grand finale in March 2023, and share ideas and information for the celebratory year! The small group format will allow social distancing and encourage more discussion. Come prepared to share ideas on where the kick-off event should be held and what the program should include. Bring your most creative thoughts about the Grand Finale in March 2024. And don't forget your own organization's events and ideas for 2023. Your plans can generate ideas, discussion and contribute to the overall vision. If you are unable to attend, please share any suggestions or plans with your liaison.

Register now for this engaging event. Please respond promptly to allow organizers a chance to create the seating plan for best results.

[Register Now](#)

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Trivia Questions for September

1. The Silver family began commercial fishing operations for shad and herring on the Susquehanna as early as 1810. When did this commercial fishing enterprise end?
2. Where was Harford Chemical Works located?
3. What was the original name of La Grange Furnace in Rocks?
4. There were at least 15 limestone kilns in Harford County. Can you name 3 ways that the lime was used?
5. What was the name of the first Paper Mill in Harford County?

Answers on the last page.

Telephone Game Revisited

Remember the game “Telephone” that we played as children. You start with one person whispering a message, the second person then whispers the message and it continues on. Ultimately, the message bears little resemblance to the first. Perhaps this is a fine time to revise this game. Recently, I read an article about an artist, Nathan Langston who initiated such a project to meet fellow artists resulting in a way to connect a global audience during the pandemic.

Langston shared a piece of poetry and gave it to an artist to interpret. The resulting painting was then shared for interpretation and so on. Eventually, three hundred iterations were gathered. For our purposes we are sharing a quote from the late Senator William S. James

Harford County has always lain in the main stream of national life

In a sense, its history is the record of our country, reduced in scale

You are challenged to reinterpret this based on your experience in Harford County. Send your interpretation to 250celebration@harfordhistory.org and pass your effort on to a friend asking them to do the same. Ultimately, we hope to collect a multitude of fascinating pieces (stories, art, poetry) offering insight into life in Harford.

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the main stream of national life.*

*In a sense, its history is the record of
our country, reduced in scale.*

Senator William S. James

Harford 250 Website Online

The website subcommittee continues to work closely with representatives from Main Street Design on the Harford 250 website. We encourage you to visit the site and add any upcoming events your organization may be planning. We hope by offering this information now, it will begin to become a go to site for visitors now and in the 2023 celebratory year. The process is very simple. Go to www.harford250.org and click on “Event”. Fill in the form to add your event and let patrons know that future events will be included at this site.

In other website news, a timeline highlighting Harford’s history is in the works. The first of seven segments of this section will launch in the near future.

Sharing Your Story—A Gentle Reminder

It is time to start writing a story for the 2023 Anthology; either a personal tale of your time in Harford or about your business, organization or institution. The deadline of December 31, 2021 is fast approaching. Send submissions to 250celebration@harfordhistory.org.

To help spark some ideas and creativity here is an excerpt from one submission. Of course you will need to wait for the 2023 edition of the Anthology to read the rest of the story.



Tudor Hall by Karin Harrison

The wipers clack back and forth as the rain taps upon my windshield. I turn into Tudor Lane. Flanked by picturesque houses with well-manicured lawns, the narrow road leads to the entrance of the Tudor Hall property, the former home of the notorious John Wilkes Booth, the man who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC. The gate is wide open, and I drive the path leading past the pond where a pair of mallards glides smoothly through the rippling water with their brood of five ducklings in tow.

An example of Palladian architecture, the house, with its front-facing gable and Venetian style windows, comes into view. The white painted brick is accented by the deep green color of the trim, the shutters, and the flooring of the front porch. The rain has slowed down as I navigate the sharp curve leading to the small parking area next to the cottage. Two cars are already parked, and I pull in next to them. The flower garden lining the footpath to the side door of the house is in full bloom. The array of colors is breathtaking as the roses, daisies, columbines, and lilies stretch their petals to soak up the gentle rain.

I turn off the engine and glance out the window. The parking lot is facing the side of Tudor Hall where the famous Juliet balcony is located. I smile as I envision the beautiful, young Juliet positioned on the charming balcony while her sweetheart, Romeo, stands below orating memorable prose. The Booth family's affinity with the theatre inspired the Juliet balcony and other noteworthy architecture inside.

When Junius Brutus Booth, an English Shakespearean actor, built the house in the eighteenth century, he intended it to be a country retreat. Alas, Junius was never able to live in Tudor Hall as he died on November 30, 1852, before it was finished. Edwin, one of his sons, lived at Tudor Hall only briefly, while Edwin's brothers, John and Joseph, his mother, and sisters Asia Frigga Booth and Elizabeth Booth, lived at Tudor Hall from December 1852 through 1856. Some say the house is haunted. There is talk that a poltergeist plagues this Gothic Style cottage. Strange noises coming from John Wilkes Booth's bedroom have been reported. So far, our group has not encountered the infamous assassin's spirit during any of our meetings. Of course, there is always a first time.

Trivia Answers:

1. 1925
2. Harford Chemical Works replaced Harford Furnace or what became known as Fair Meadows, built by Clement Dietrich on Creswell Road (MD 543).
3. Martha Furnace
4. Agriculture to reduce acidity or sweeten soil; Hominy; Iron making; Mortar; Soap making; Tanning; Whitewash
5. Laurel Paper Mill (It was located on Winters Run about 1 3/4 miles from Bel Air)

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HARFORD 250

SHORT STORIES WANTED!

Together, we're writing a book the Historical Society will publish.

Write a true story (in 2,000 words or less)
about places, events, and/or people
that were part of your past here in
Harford County.

Just a few examples:

- *Did you have a favorite hangout that isn't around?*
- *Perhaps a business was located elsewhere in its early days*
- *A person from the county who had a profound impact.*
- *What were some things we did 50 or more years ago that we don't do or do differently now?*

TELL US!

We want to make YOUR story, part of OUR story.

Email stories to 250Celebration@HarfordHistory.org

DEADLINE for submission is December 31, 2021

All submissions will be reviewed by a committee. The society will notify those whose stories have been selected for publication.

All submissions will be retained in the Society's Archives. Submission constitutes the individual's agreement to allow the use of the story in the anthology and also acknowledges that extracts/pictures may be used for publicity purposes. It is also understood that no payment will be given for use of the stories and pictures.