

December 2021

Harford Heritage News

250th Anniversary of Founding of Harford County—March 2023 to March 2024

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



General Meeting—February 3 2022, 1PM Bel Air Armory

Join us to discuss the plans for the celebration and bring your scheduled events for January 2023 - March 2024. We are seeking coordinators and committee members to plan for each major event and ongoing activity. Let's make this historic vision a reality!

In this issue:

- ◆ [Trivia Questions](#)
- ◆ [Committee Updates](#)
- ◆ [Local Stories](#)
- ◆ [Memoirs Information](#)

Plans Are Progressing

The Harford 250 Steering Committee, incorporating the bountiful ideas provided at the charrette earlier this year, is moving ahead with some exciting venues slated to begin in March 2023. The Harford 250 Celebration will open on a Friday evening with a First Look event including music, displays, raffles, a silent auction, and more to kick off this year-long celebration. This will be followed on Saturday with an open house for the entire community to view displays, artwork, participate in storytelling events, oral histories, a kickoff of a planned trading card project, time capsule project and more. Century farms and businesses will be recognized and performances from local music and dance groups will be featured along with food and fun for everyone. Local groups, communities and organizations are encouraged to participate in these events and to begin planning their own Harford 250 celebrations.

A mid-year celebration will be held in the fall with the theme *The History of Sports in Harford*. This event will include band performances, awards programs, a historic baseball game featuring the resurrected Susquehanna League vs. Harford's Famous & Infamous. Recreation councils throughout the county will be invited to participate in a parade of athletes. There will be displays featuring local sports figures from the worlds of horse racing, boxing, jousting, football, and more. In addition to food trucks, the event will feature a beer and wine garden, a children's fun area, and a grand finale with fireworks.

The year's final event will be planned for March 2024 at the Harford County Courthouse. The theme is *Celebrating Tomorrow – Make Harford History Now*. The tentative program will open with a high school band performance followed by an introduction by local dignitaries and the burial of a time capsule, unveiling of a statue of the Bush Declaration and the sounding of bells and sirens throughout the county. County communities will be asked to design their own local festivities, based on their unique history and perceived future, following the sounding of the bells.

Our next step is up to you. Use the theme of Harford's 250th anniversary to develop plans for events and activities during the 2023-2024 celebratory year and work with us to February 3 planning meeting.

Memoir Deadline Extended. Time is running short. In response to numerous requests, the deadline for forwarding your story for the 2023 Anthology is extended to January 31, 2022. Submission Requirements on [page 5](#).

Trivia Questions

1. What is the name of the museum near the Susquehanna River featuring programs, events and demonstrations of the county's agricultural history?
2. Name the park that features an historic mill and holds an annual Pumpkin Chunkin festival?
3. What style of gardening is featured at Ladew Gardens?
4. Next door to Ladew Gardens, the annual My Lady's Manor horse race has taken place each April since 1902. What is this heart pounding, timber-jumping style of racing called?



Ladew Gardens

Answers on page 4

Memor Project—Deadline Extended to January 31, 2022

Time is truly running short. To date more than 40 people have submitted stories of life in Harford. Each is quite unique and will make wonderful reading, but we still would like to hear from you about your experiences, your business, family or organization. Were you born here or moved to the county from elsewhere? What was your life like growing up in Harford? Why did your family move here? What kind of business did your family have? What unique experiences have you had here?

Deadline for submission is January 31, 2022. This timeframe allows the editorial committee time to prepare the manuscript, submit it for printing and meet our deadline for distribution in 2023.

Committee Updates

As you can tell by all of the plans outlined in this newsletter, the Steering committee has been very busy. We held two meetings, November 10 and December 9 and are preparing for the Harford 250 Planning meeting in January. We expect to see all of you there, helping make this an exciting celebration!

All of our members have helped to bring us to this point, but today we must say goodbye with great regret to a few of these volunteers. Due to changing work status, Greg Pizzuto, who is retiring from Visit Harford is leaving the committee. Also, Kathi Santora and Lyle Garrity have tendered their resignations due to other work obligations, although Kathi will still assist with the website. We sincerely appreciate all of their efforts and wish them well. Meanwhile, we welcome two new members to the committee: Stephanie McKaughan, Dublin/Darlington Advisory Board and Julie Mancine, Hays Heighe House at HCC.

If you have questions or are looking for advice, there is a list of Steering Committee members with their assigned networks on [page 4](#).

Website Committee

Please take advantage of this opportunity to download the event logo, share your event information and your logos at www.harford250.org.

Governor William Paca Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution

By Carol Clancy Johnson



July 1923 Dedication of the Memorial Tablet in front of the Bel Air Armory

It is Sunday, September 3rd, 1916 when Georgiana “Georgie” Sheldon Fulford and eleven of her friends gather in her home at the corner of Main and Fulford Streets in Bel Air. They hold the very first meeting of their newly-formed chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution...

The chapter's name honors Governor William Paca, born in Harford County. He became a leading Maryland attorney, judge, member of the Maryland legislature, and its governor. He represented Maryland at the First and Second Continental Congress and became one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. To help people correctly pronounce his name, he spoke this rhyme:

...and so do I, tho' I cannot but think we take a
Rash step in doing so, but no more from Will Paca...

A year later, the chapter was granted a charter, signed by three national DAR officers and listing the charter members, who, in addition to Georgie, were Annie Farnandis Munnikhuysen, Mary Pue Preston, Fanny Archer Strassbaugh, Hattie Harrison Stone, Elizabeth Dorsey Farnandis, Anna Spalding Coale, Lydia Marshall Smith, Isabel Price Richardson, Matilda Price, Inez Henry Osborn and Elizabeth Osborn.

The chapter thrived and worked toward the DAR mission of promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism. They sent resolutions to Congress in support of the naming of our National Anthem, the building of the cross-country National Old Trails Road and making the DAR a tax-exempt organization. They studied our country's flag and gave flags and copies of the flag code to local schools and organizations. Meanwhile, they placed historic markers in county locations and made sure they were well tended. There was tireless effort made to locate and appropriately mark the graves of Revolutionary Patriots buried in Harford County, something they still do today.

Perhaps their loftiest project in the early days was the purchase and installation of the Memorial Tablet to WWI soldiers, which is familiar to all Harford Countians, and still stands in front of the Reckord Armory in Bel Air. Money was raised through their many card parties, movie showings, an annual Christmas dance and the sale of Christmas Cards. They purchased the bronze tablet naming the fallen, then they scoured the county for an appropriate boulder to use as its base. Local dignitaries were guests for the proud unveiling.

(Watch for the Anthology's release in January 2023 for the rest of the story)

Harford 250 Steering Committee

Chair: Carol Deibel Co-Chair: Jackie Seneschal

Arts & Entertainment Liaison –

- Chris Potts – cpstory@aol.com
- Diane Booth – booth@ix.netcom.com

Memoir and Monthly Newsletter –

- Jackie Seneschal – jackieseneschal@gmail.com
- Carol Deibel – caroldeibel@verizon.net

Grants and Fundraising

- Arden McClune – ardenbeachlvr@verizon.net
- Bill Walden – bill@mainstreetdesign.net

Website development –

- Bill Walden bill@mainstdesign.net
- Jackie Seneschal – jackieseneschal@gmail.com
- Carol Deibel – caroldeibel@verizon.net

County Liaison –

- Jacob Bensen – jmbensen@harfordcountymd.gov

Municipal Liaison –

- Jenny Falcone – jenny@downtownbelair.com
- Patti Parker – pparker@belairmd.org

Museum Liaison –

- C. John Sullivan, Jr. – jsullivans@verizon.net
- Iris Barnes – iris.l.barnes@gmail.com
- Julie Mancine – jmancine@harford.edu

Business Liaison –

- Bill Walden – bill@mainstdesign.net
- Stephanie McKaughan - s.mckaughan@gmail.com

Trivia Answers

1. Steppingstone Museum
2. Eden Mill
3. Topiary
4. Steeplechase

*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.*

Senator William S. James



Published by:

The Historical Society of Harford County

143 N. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

Ph. 410-838-7691

Email: 250celebration@harfordhistory.org
www.harford250.org

Editors: Carol Deibel and Jackie Seneschal

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 extended - January 31, 2022

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.