



The Hays House Museum
324 Kenmore Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

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**HAYS HOUSE MUSEUM'S PRESERVING OUR PAST SERIES BEGINS WITH A CLOSE-UP
LOOK AT HISTORIC FURNITURE**

Bel Air, MD—Visit the Hays House Museum on Sunday, **March 11, 2012 at 1 p.m.** for a rare opportunity to closely examine the timeless furniture at home in Bel Air's oldest house. The inaugural event of the Preserving our Past series at the Hays House features local furniture restoration expert Arthur Benser, who will engage visitors in a discussion about the historic construction and provenance of the major pieces in each room. The presentation also includes ways to determine the age of a piece of furniture through design and types of construction.

Mr. Benser's credentials include more than 30 years of restoring and repairing antique furniture with tools and techniques of the appropriate period. He teaches courses on antique furniture history, identification, and repair at Harford Community College, and he helped establish a woodworking program as part of Jerusalem Mill Village's living history activities.

The Hays House Museum is located at 324 Kenmore Avenue in Bel Air. Admission to this special event is \$5.00/adults and \$3.00/students and seniors. For more information about the Hays House Museum and this event, please e-mail HaysHouseMuseum@gmail.com or call the Historical Society at 410-838-7691.

The Hays House was built in 1788 and is now a history-in-action museum and a valuable educational resource that actively illustrates and recreates to the extent possible the social, cultural, economic, and practical aspects of the daily life of rural gentry during the historical period 1788–1820.

The Preserving Our Past series is sponsored by The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc., and is made possible in part by a grant from the Maryland Council for the Arts through the Harford County Cultural Arts Board and Harford County Government. The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. is a not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to collect, preserve, present, promote, and interpret the rich and diverse history of the County area, in its regional context, from its prehistoric origins to the present. Please visit the Historical Society website at www.harfordhistory.net. ###