

The HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.

Preserving Our Past For Your Future



143 N. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

Society News

March / April 2025

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The Historical Society of
Harford County, Inc.,
headquarters.

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COMING EVENTS

• TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS: A TRAVELING EXHIBIT

For the past year, the Historical Society and the Hosanna School Museum collaborated on an exciting research project entitled *Trials & Triumphs: A History of the African American Experience in Harford County*. Researchers delved into the people, places, and events that shaped the African American experience from colonial times to the present day in Harford County. They discovered a culture that overcame incredible odds in everything from the arts to healthcare. The research highlighted significant contributions in numerous fields, including sports, military, education, religion, civil rights, and more. While all this material was carefully documented for researchers, an amazing story evolved, which needs to be shared.

During this year-long adventure, the Society's staff and partners gathered the accumulated research materials, artifacts, and personal stories. These materials became the basis of a traveling exhibit that visually illustrates the story of Harford's African American community.

Chris Potts, the Historical Society's Executive Director, says she hopes visitors leave feeling proud of their county's history. She explained, "The responses we have gotten to the exhibit so far have been very positive. People have expressed feeling both informed and moved by stories we include--stories of both struggle and accomplishment--many of which truly are nothing short of remarkable.

Cont'd on page 2



HARFORD MUTUAL
INSURANCE GROUP

The Historical Society of Harford County newsletter is funded in part through a gift from Harford Mutual Insurance Group.

COMING EVENTS – CONT'D

But remember, these stories do not represent the whole history – that is why we entitled the exhibit - A History of the African American Experience in Harford County, not The History because this exhibit serves as an introduction, a starting point. There are so many more stories to discover, study, and share. I hope that when people see the exhibit, they will feel inspired to learn more and to join us in continuing to trace and tell this history further."

The exhibit's grand opening was celebrated at the Hays-Heighe House at Harford Community College in January. The exhibit is now on display at the Abingdon Branch Library and will be at the following locations from now until August 2025:

- Feb. 15-March 16: Abingdon Branch Library, 2510 Tollgate Road in Abingdon
- March 22-April 20: "Roni" Chenowith Activity Center, 1707 Fallston Road in Fallston
- April 26-March 26: Havre de Grace Opera House, 121 N. Union Ave. in Havre de Grace
- March 31-June 29: Hosanna School Museum, 2424 Castleton Road in Darlington
- July 7-Aug. 1: Historical Society of Harford County, 143 N. Main St. in Bel Air

For more information, visit www.harfordhistory.org.

- **HARFORD CELEBRATES 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUSH DECLARATION FOR INDEPENDENCE SIGNED "AT THE RISQUE OF OUR LIVES AND FORTUNES"**

March 9, 2025: Life in Harford County in 1775

The Hays House Museum, 324 Kenmore Avenue, Bel Air, MD, 1 pm

What was the buzz in Harford County in 1775? Step back in time to Revolutionary Harford at the Hays House as people go about their daily routines, sharing the news of the coming revolution. Visitors will experience county citizens' fears, excitement, and uncertainty as they learn about Harford County's role in the American Revolution.

This is a free event. Donations appreciated.

April 6, 2025, Hays House Museum Open House

324 Kenmore Avenue, 1 pm – 4 pm

Tour the Hays House and learn about life in Harford during the post-colonial days.

Free event. No registration is required. Donations appreciated.



The Hays House at 324 Kenmore Ave.



Before the American Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, 34 elected representatives in Harford County signed the Bush Declaration on March 22, 1775, pledging their support for independence "at the risk of our lives and fortunes." Named for the colonial town of Bush, where the signers assembled, it was the first such document signed by elected representatives of the people. Two hundred and fifty years later,

Harford County is planning a weekend of celebrations, including a display of this important document, a gathering of the signers' descendants, and public events honoring those brave souls who risked everything for liberty.



*Signers Meet & Greet
Liriodendron Mansion*

On Friday, March 21, descendants of the signers from across the nation will gather at a ticketed social event. The general public is also invited. Attendees can view the Bush Declaration and re-enact the signers' dilemma by choosing whether to sign a replica of the document as a brave "citizen" or remain a "subject" of King George III. The event will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and music from the colonial period. The WABAC Consort, featuring voice and viol, crumhorn and corn amuse, and four-part recorder arrangements of period music, will take attendees on a musical journey back in time.

Joyce White, author of *Cooking Maryland's Way*, will be on hand highlighting the cuisine of 1775. Hosted by the Historical Society of Harford County and the Hereditary Order of the Signers of the Bush Declaration and sponsored by the McComas family, the Descendants of the Signers Meet & Greet will be held from 5 – 8 pm at the Liriodendron Mansion 502 W. Gordon Street, Bel Air. Tickets are \$55 and can be reserved at www.harfordhistory.org/bushdeclaration. Space is limited. The registration deadline is Friday, March 7.



*Bush Declaration Celebration
Bel Air Armory*

On Saturday morning, March 22, the Bush Declaration Celebration will feature a dramatic reading of the document and a presentation by a living history interpreter portraying Colonel Aquila Hall, the Declaration's first signer. This free event will include a discussion of the Declaration's historical significance and live performances of patriotic music. No reservations are necessary; the public is welcome to attend from 9:30 – 11:00 am at the Bel Air Armory, 37 N. Main Street, Bel Air.

Passport to History – Free Tours

Later, on Saturday, March 22, and Sunday afternoon, March 23, historic sites related to the Bush Declaration will be open for visitors, with a docent at each location to explain its significance. The sites, some rarely open to the public, will include historic homes, church cemeteries, and the last remaining Colonial-era structure in the village of Bush. The Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters will also be open, and the Declaration will be on display. Visitors can document their travels with a Passport to History that will be stamped at each site. All who visit at least four sites will earn a certificate; children and students will also earn a Junior Historian Badge; Scouts can earn a special Bush 250 Badge. Passport to History sites will be open from 11 am – 5 pm on March 22 and 12 – 4 pm on March 23. Passports with information and addresses for each location are available at Harford

County Public Library branches and the Historical Society of Harford County, 143 N. Main Street, Bel Air. March 22-23, 2025.

Passport to History Tour Locations

Numerous sites throughout Harford County are connected to the Bush Declaration and its signers. The tours are free and open to everyone as part of the Bush Passport to History program. Participants will learn about the site's history and role in the Revolutionary War. Various Passport sites will feature live performances, tours, militia practice for "young" recruits, and games from colonial times. Sites include the following locations:

- ✚ The Historical Society of Harford County, 143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD
- ✚ Churchville Presbyterian Cemetery, 2844 Churchville Rd, Churchville, MD
- ✚ St. George's at Spesutia Cemetery, Perryman Rd. (MD 159), Perryman, MD
- ✚ Sophia's Dairy, 4602 Pulaski Highway, Belcamp, MD
- ✚ The Bush Hotel, 4014 Philadelphia Rd, Philadelphia Rd, Abingdon, MD
- ✚ Broom's Bloom, 1616 S. Fountain Green Rd, Bel Air, MD
- ✚ Broom's Bloom Creamery, 1700 S. Fountain Green Rd., Bel Air, MD
- ✚ Edgeley Grove, 864 Smith Lane, Fallston, MD
- ✚ Hays House Museum, 324 Kenmore Avenue, Bel Air, MD

The original Bush Declaration will be on view at the Historical Society, offering a rare opportunity to see this historical document on display along with the Society's new museum offerings. The Bush Hotel is now a doctor's office. Docents will provide information about the town of Bush and its significance to Maryland's history. Docents at the two church cemeteries, Churchville and Spesutia, will talk about the history and importance of the churches and the signers buried there. Sophia's Dairy is a private home in Belcamp built by Aquila Hall, the chairman of the Harford Committee. Visit the property to learn more about Aquila Hall and tour the beautiful home. Edgeley Grove is the home of signer Samuel Calwell. This site will feature games for children, stories about the county's historic preservation programs, and the tale of the signer who built this property. Broom's Bloom was the Webster family house at the time of the Bush Declaration. Learn about the Webster Dallam connections and then visit the Creamery next door to sample special treats based on colonial offerings. Finally, the Hays House will welcome visitors on Saturday and Sunday, March 22nd and 23rd. Sunday hours are from noon to 4 pm. Visit the militia encampment on the grounds of the Hays House and learn how local citizens formed militia units to prepare for possible conflict. On Sunday, period interpreters will also be in the house discussing the impact of the Bush Declaration and their



Sophia's Dairy

concerns for the future. Bring your stamped passports at the day's last stop on Saturday or to the Hays House on Sunday and redeem them for a certificate and Junior Historian badge.

These events are free; no registration is required.

Bush Declaration Annual HOSBD Dinner – Mountain Branch Golf Club

On Sunday evening, March 23, the Hereditary Order of the Signers of the Bush Declaration will hold its annual dinner at Mountain Branch Golf Club, a ticketed event open to the public. Tickets are \$60, and the deadline to register is March 1. Details are online at www.bushdeclaration.org

For more information about the above events, visit the Historical Society of Harford County website at <https://www.harfordhistory.org/bush-declaration/>

- **HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR HISTORIC PROPERTY, PRESENTATION BY CHRISTIANA LIMNIATIS & JACOB BENSEN**



Christiana Limniatis

April 26, 2025

The Historical Society Headquarters, 143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD, 1 pm

Ever wonder how to learn more about the history of your property? What resources are available, and where to find them? Christiana Limniatis, a historian with Preservation Maryland, and Jacob Bensen, Harford County's Historic Preservation Planner, will share their voluminous knowledge about researching properties, preservation programs, and resources available to owners of historic buildings and homes. The speakers will describe research techniques, then follow with hands-on assistance for those who would like to research their properties in the vast resources of the Historical Society. This is a free event, but registration is encouraged. Register at www.harfordhistory.org.

- **THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE FAREWELL TOUR CELEBRATIONS**



Alisa Dupuy

The nation is currently celebrating the bicentennial of the Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour. Lafayette's final stop was in Havre de Grace in July 1825. General Lafayette played a major role in the American Revolution and Harford County's history. Events are planned in March and April to celebrate Lafayette's Farewell Tour. These events will lead to a finale in July with a reenactment of Lafayette's last visit to the city.

March 6, 2025

An Evening with Adrienne Lafayette

Havre de Grace Opera House

121 N. Union Avenue, Havre de Grace, MD, 7 pm

On March 6, 2025, storyteller and first-person interpreter Alisa Dupuy will appear at the Havre de Grace Opera House, portraying Adrienne de Lafayette, wife of the Marquis de Lafayette, who also has a fascinating history of her own. Tickets are \$15. Tickets and more information are available at www.hdgoperahouse.org

April 27, 2025

Concert: Music from the Life and Tour of Lafayette
David & Ginger Hildebrand
Havre de Grace Opera House
121 N. Union Avenue
Havre de Grace, MD, 3 pm



David & Ginger Hildebrand

Join the Historical Society of Harford County and the Cultural Arts Board for The Concert: Music from the Life and Tour of Lafayette. Musicians and music historians David and Ginger Hildebrand have chosen pieces from period sources to create a historical music program to commemorate the anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour. Selections will be played on period instruments that may be new to many in the audience. Tickets are \$25. Tickets and more information are available at www.hdgoperahouse.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is finally on its way, and the Society promises to offer many exciting programs and exhibits as we come out of winter hibernation. The Society's African American exhibit, *Trials and Triumphs: A History of the African American Experience in Harford County*, is currently at the Abingdon Library. This traveling exhibit is a must-see, tracing one community's progress from colonial days to modern times. See a list of exhibit sites in the Coming Events section of the newsletter.

Revolutionary Harford programs begin in March with a three-day celebration of the signing of the Bush Declaration. This document outlined the county's support for the coming Continental Congress and the frustration of colonial Harford with its British overlords. *Harford Historical Bulletin* No. 119 tells the story behind the Bush Declaration and its signers is currently available at the Historical Society for \$15 (paper or PDF). See www.harfordhistory.org/product-category/bulletins. The celebration will include dinners, concerts, tours, reenactments, and more. Again, details are included in the Coming Events section of the newsletter.

For more information on these events and the many programs and publications available at the Historical Society, I encourage you to visit the Society's website at www.harfordhistory.org. The website includes access to bulletins and publications, many only available through the Society. The works include local histories, genealogical publications, and Historical Society Bulletins dating back more than 40 years. Additionally, website visitors have free access to videos of past speaker series programs, genealogy workshops, and online lectures. If you ever miss one of our afternoon programs, visiting the website's online lectures section will take you to these stories on topics from railroads to community histories and everything in between.

I look forward to seeing you at some of these upcoming events and hope you take a few minutes to explore the website's treasures.

Bill Walden, President

Harford Historical Bulletin

Number 119 Harford County, Maryland 2025

The Bush Declaration and its Signers



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, INC.

THE TEXTILE DEPARTMENT

Now that we've installed our Do You Want to Build a Snowman display of vintage winter clothing in the County Administration building, we're focusing on two major projects. Our collection includes more wedding dresses than we can assess in a reasonable time, so we set a goal in 2024 to begin sorting them according to decade, condition, and historical value. The process includes photographing each one against our new professional backdrop. Extra-long archival garment bags will hold the dresses that pass the final sorting and cataloguing in 2025.

We are also choosing linens to dress the beds in the Hays House Museum's bedchambers in time for the February 23rd re-opening. During the museum's prolonged closure, we brought all of the household linens back to headquarters to assess, catalogue, and store them. In late 2024 we received more bed linens, so we can switch them out every few months to better preserve their current condition.

How was an early 19th century bed dressed? We consulted *A Workwoman's Guide*, by A Lady*, first published in 1838. The following excerpts describe the components of a well-managed bed:

The first mattress usually laid on the bedstead is made of straw, it is very thick, and as hard as a board... The second mattress is made of horsehair or wool for large beds; and for children, of chaff, sea-weed, beech leaves, cocoa nut fibre, paper, and many other things of the sort... These mattresses are made of various sorts of ticking, of which linen or cotton stripe, and a kind called cranky tick are most in use. Beds [the soft mattress], bolsters, and pillows... are filled with chicken, turkey, goose feathers, and down, for the higher classes, and mill-puff, which is a kind of cotton, for the lower classes. Every bed should have one under blanket, and two or three upper ones. These last are usually the Witney [soft wool blanket] whilst the under blanket is of an inferior sort... Blankets are generally sold in pairs... These, for beds, must be cut, in which case, the edges are sewed over in a very wide kind of button-hole stitch, with red, or other coloured wool...

So different from the beds we sleep in today! Instead of horsehair, straw, chaff, or other plant materials, we'll place our antique feather beds over a base layer of stiff ticking without a filling, then add sheets, blankets, and quilts from our collection. We're fortunate to have several wool blankets that were woven, cut, and edged as described above. The Historical Society has a blanket that likely belonged to Ada Blanche Carman (1877-1921), according to the donor. It is made of two lengths of fabric sewn together at selvage edges with fine whip stitches to make a flat join down the center. The cross-stitched initials and number indicate the blanket's owner and chronology. We have blankets #2 and #4, so we know there were at least 4 blankets in the set. To prepare the blankets, we put them in our freezer for several weeks to kill any moth larvae. We then vacuumed them with a soft brush attachment (we use a SEBO Airbelt K2 vacuum cleaner) and gently pulled some pet hairs from between the threads with tweezers.

We're still exploring the collection for elegant finishing touches, such as a counterpane and layover pillow covers. This is the most fun we've ever had making a bed!

*To learn a lot more about early American housewifery, you can read the 1840 edition of *A Workwoman's Guide* at www.google.com/books/edition/The_Workwoman_s_Guide/JCsBAAAAQAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1

Susan K. Wooden and Kathy Scholl, The Textile Department

RICHARD'S CORNER

Doug Washburn contributed the following article. It highlights the Hall family's properties in the 1700s. Three members of the Hall family were signers of the Bush Declaration. For more information about the Hall family and other signers of the Bush Declaration, copies of the Society's most recent bulletin, *The Bush Declaration, and its Signers* is available through the Society's website, [www.harfordhistory.org/bulletins and publications](http://www.harfordhistory.org/bulletins_and_publications), or you may pick up a copy at the Society's headquarters, 143 N. Main St., Bel Air (410-838-7691).

Hall's Rich Neck, mentioned in the last newsletter, was originally a 400-acre patent surveyed for John and Martha Hall on 15-Dec-1699, thus the "late 17th-century" reference. The property was a parallelogram that sat east of Priestford Road (MD 136). The western edge was about 1 mile east of Priestford Road, in the long driveway marked "3310 Cool Branch Road". The eastern edge of the patent vertically split the current Sayre property called Waffle Hill Farm in half. The north end was roughly level with the intersection of Harmony Church and Priestford Roads, and the south end fell short of Cool Branch Road.

John and Martha had the property re-surveyed and enlarged to 620 acres on 20-Dec-1716, but the associated patent (HA-P:326) was not issued until 17-Sep-1720. This encompassed the original 400 acres and extended north, meandering with Deer Creek, the northeast corner a little south of where the Noble's Mill Road bridge crosses. The vertical distance across the property after the re-survey was nearly two miles.

In 1740, 110 acres of 620 passed from Grandfather John Hall to grandson John Hall, "son of Edward," for "seventy-three pounds of tobacco, and thirty-eight pounds four shillings & eleven pence sterling money ..." (B.C. deed TB-E:549). The same deed also reveals the remaining 510 acres were conveyed to John (grandson) "taken in consideration of the said judgment obtained in the provisional court by the said Col. John Hall against the said John Hall son and heir at & divisoo (sic) of Col. Edward Hall containing in the whole five hundred and ten acres...".

In 1748, John Hall, the grandson, conveyed 510 acres of Hall's Rich Neck to Thomas White (B.C. deed TR-C:118) "in consideration of the sum of fifty-seven thousand nine hundred and fourteen pounds of tobacco, and thirty-eight pounds four shillings and eleven pence sterling, and nine pounds nineteen shillings and five pence current money, and the sum of twenty-two pounds thirteen shillings and eight pence currency ...(for) all building(s), orchards and other improvements thereon ...". The deed did not state if the 510-acres was the north or south section but based on the metes and bounds in the 1740 deed, the "building(s), orchards and other improvements" were certainly the Cool Branch Road end of the property (i.e., the original 400 + half of the enlargement).

Col. Thomas White died in 1779. His 15-Mar-1773 Will, recorded in Harford County as AJ-R:167, states he was "of the city of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania but formerly of Baltimore County in Maryland" (Harford County did not separate from Baltimore County until Mar-1774). At eleven pages, White's is one of the longest Wills ever recorded in Harford County. If you are a WHITE descendant, Thomas' Will includes significant genealogical information (e.g., he had two sisters still in England).

White's daughter Sophia was the recipient of five tracts of land, including Hall's Rich Neck. The Will does not indicate that she was married but Find-A-Grave shows Sophia White was Sophia White Hall. Sophia was married to Col. Aquilla Hall (1727-1779).

Note that Sophia White Hall lost her husband and father in the same year, Aquilla Hall in April, and Thomas White in September. So, Sophia did not become the owner of Hall's Rich Neck until several months after her husband's death, therefore Aquilla would have never laid claim to it.

The 1783 Tax List for Harford County shows Thomas Hall as the owner of Hall's Rich Neck. Harford Land Records do not show any deeds from mother Sophia to son Thomas in the 1779-1783 timeframe.

Thomas Hall died in August 1804. His 30-jun-1804 Will was recorded in AJ-C:245, but none of the 1783 properties were listed individually. Thomas' brothers, William and Edward, were named executors and authorized to rent or sell any items "real or personal" as they saw fit to care for Thomas' wife and his eight children. Each son received 1,000 pounds on their 21st birthday.

Given that Thomas owned nearly 2,000 acres, it is impossible to tell if he occupied Hall's Rich Neck in 1790, even though he appears to be the owner at the time in question (the question posed in the last newsletter).

(Thanks to Henry Peden for the Hall-White marriage and several dates used herein.)

ROMANCE AND ELOPEMENT IN WARTIME BEL AIR

by Jim Chrismer



McCaskey and Halas.

How often do "Moments of Silence" at a football game excite a TV viewer? Well, on Sunday, February 9, 2025, moments before the kickoff of the Super Bowl, this writer jumped to attention when reference was made to the February 6th death of Virginia Halas McCaskey, majority owner of the Chicago Bears.

Why? First, Mrs. McCaskey was over 100 years old, 102 to be precise; second, she was the daughter of the famed George Halas, a Founder of the NFL and longtime owner and coach of the Bears; third, she had operated the team for close to 40 years since she had inherited it in 1988 at her father's death; and, fourth, at age 20, she and her 23-year old boyfriend, both Philadelphia area college students, had eloped in February of 1943 to Bel Air and were married in a chapel at St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church.

Virginia Halas, born January 5, 1923, was the oldest child and only daughter of Halas and his immigrant wife, Wilhelminia. A bright young woman, she graduated from Chicago's St. Scholastica High School and enrolled at age 16 at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Here, she studied business administration, anticipating the likelihood

of becoming a secretary for her father's football enterprises.

While at Drexel, she had met Ed McCaskey at a "tea dance." After graduating from Lancaster Catholic High in Pennsylvania, McCaskey had worked for three years at odd jobs, including as a band singer in South Central Pennsylvania, until he received a senatorial scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania, a stone's throw from Drexel. The couple fell immediately in love and determined to be married. They faced, however, a major obstacle in Virginia's father.

Although George Halas's life was outwardly consumed by football, he also possessed a powerful protective streak for his only daughter. That he even permitted her to attend Drexel was largely attributable to the presence on campus of his brother Walter, with whose family she lived, the school's football, basketball, and baseball coach. Moreover, George was unsure of McCaskey's character and asked two football friends, Bert Bell and Art Rooney of the Steelers, to check into McCaskey. After all, McCaskey was a band singer, had waited three years after high school to enroll in college, and faced the probability of having to join the wartime army.

Nonetheless, the couple went to the 1942 NFL title game between the Bears and Washington Redskins, intending to ask Halas for permission to marry. The Bears were two-time champions, undefeated, and heavy favorites to win the year's trophy; the time seemed ripe. But their well-laid plan blew up in the young lovers' faces as the Bears lost 14-6 and devastated Virginia's and Ed's hopes for a positive reaction from the bitter, high-strung Halas.

This confounding setback resulted in the creation of Plan B: elopement. With Ed now stationed with the Army in Maryland, Virginia took the train from Philadelphia to Baltimore, where she met her beloved. After attending Mass in the downtown Basilica (then the Cathedral of the Assumption), the couple took a scheduled bus to Bel Air, then a village of 1800+ inhabitants. Once at their destination, a short walk down Pennsylvania and Hickory Avenues took them to St. Margaret's Parish, where the 59-year-old pastor, Father Walter L. Read, a friend of a Philadelphia priest whom the couple knew, had agreed to marry them. The date was Tuesday, February 2, 1943, George Halas' 48th birthday.

The site and the ceremony were exceedingly simple. Rather than heat the parish church, Father Read chose to use the small chapel in the convent of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, a modest Queen Anne structure (formerly the home of C. Milton Wright) and one of four buildings (including the school) on the expansive campus at the edge of the Town. The chapel, converted from a parlor, consisted of a tiny altar, four pews, two windows, and a few statues. Two church employees or volunteers, Neil Lochary and Mrs. White, served as Best Man and Matron of Honor.

Following the wedding, the newlyweds enjoyed a simple breakfast of ham, raisin sauce, and mashed potatoes at a restaurant, likely the American, on Main Street. The couple split the bill of \$1.20 and a 30c tip, returned to Baltimore, and began their life as Mr. and Mrs. Ed McCaskey.

From this super-modest start, the McCaskeys went on to enjoy a blessed marriage of sixty years that ended with Ed's death in 2003. They had eleven children (a very appropriate number for a football family) and amassed a fortune said to be in the billions. They lived very modestly, supported numerous charities, most notably the 'Bears Care' Foundation and the Brian Piccolo Fund, and have enjoyed great personal popularity in the Chicago area and throughout the world of professional football.

And it all started in Bel Air!

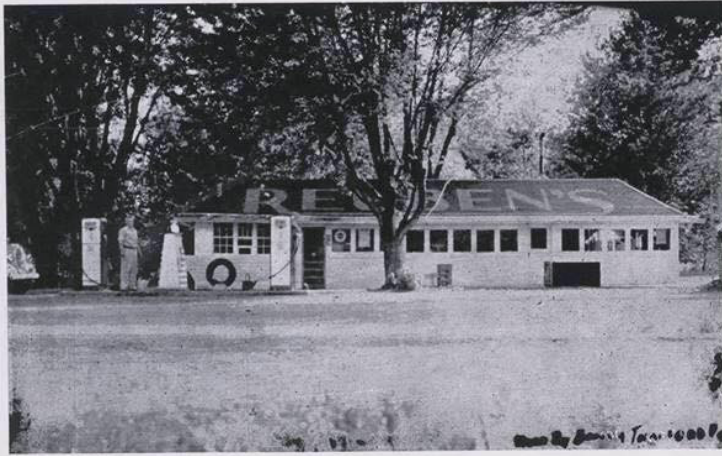
(inspiration and assistance from Karen Saccenti, retired Pastoral Assistant, St. Margaret Church)

NEW MEMBERS

Evelyn T. Gillard, Josh Pons, David and Linda Chamberlin, Allan and Wanda Brethauer,
Barbara Risacher, Kristen Swart, Kristen Sanders, Janet Knight, Annie Kovach

RETURN TO REUBEN'S

REUBEN'S DRIVE IN Route U.S. 1. BEL-AIR, Md.



Reuben's Drive-In, home of Curly-Q fries.

Remember the good old days when everyone gathered at the drive-in after high school football games and on weekends? Or maybe you missed this experience and yearned to step back in time to servers on roller skates with burgers, curly fries, and milkshakes – rock and roll music, dancing in the parking lot. Well, here's your chance!

The Historical Society plans to recreate the Reubens Drive-In experience at the Society headquarters on Saturday, August 16, 2025. Everyone, young and old, will have the opportunity to relive those happy days. For now, we are seeking volunteers to help

plan this event. It would be wonderful to have people who remember those fun times at Reuben's to help recreate the experience. If you would like to be part of the planning committee for this event, whether you remember Reuben's or not, please contact us at info@harfordhistory.org or call the Society to add your name to the committee list. (410-838-7691)

For newcomers to the county or youngsters who missed the days of Reuben's, the drive-in was near the corner of Hickory Avenue and Moores Mill Road next to Bynum Run. After years of sitting vacant, the building was demolished a few years ago, yet memories of its glory days remain.

IN MEMORIAM

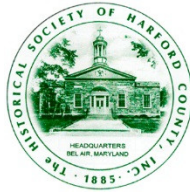
Marijane Weeks, nee Hackett, passed away peacefully in her sleep at Dakota Assisted Living in Aberdeen on February 9, 2025. She was 93 years old. Marijane was a longtime volunteer at the Historical Society. She served from 2000 to 2020 and was Chair of the Court Records Department from 2011 to 2020, providing expertise and outstanding leadership.

The daughter of William and Jane Hackett and sister to William (Bill) Hackett, she was born on August 9, 1931, in New York City. She met "her sailor," Charles D. Weeks (Dan), at the USO when he asked her to dance. It would be the start of a lifelong love of dancing with each other. They were married 56 years before Dan's passing in 2009.

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The Historical Society
of Harford County, Inc.
143 North Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BEL AIR, MD 21014
PERMIT No. 40

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
March / April 2025

DATED MATERIAL

The NEWSLETTER of The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. is published bi-monthly.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY and GIFT SHOP HOURS

Tuesday
COURT RECORDS
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Wednesday
ARCHIVES
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Third Wednesday
ARCHIVES & HENRY
C. PEDEN Jr. LIBRARY
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Thursday
HENRY C. PEDEN Jr.
RESEARCH LIBRARY
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Fourth Saturday
ARCHIVES & HENRY
C. PEDEN Jr. LIBRARY
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.