

The HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.

Preserving Our Past For Your Future



143 N. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

Society News

November / December 2025

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this will be my last message to you as President of the Board of Trustees, I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude for your support over the past five years. During those five years, the Society has undergone significant changes. We weathered the aftermath of COVID, oversaw the development of a museum that shares the history of Harford County, managed numerous restoration efforts at both headquarters and the Hays House Museum, welcomed a new Executive Director and staff members, expanded the Society's social media presence, initiated numerous projects to develop the Society's financial solvency, and provided entertaining programs and publications for our members. It has been a rollercoaster ride at times, but one that has given me much pleasure and incredible memories.

Your new President, Dr. Chuck Castoro, will take office in January, along with the following officers: Paul Koerner, First Vice President; William Baron, Second Vice President; Recording Secretary, Roxann Redd-Wallace; and Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Kroupa. A new treasurer will be named in January to fill the position vacated by Brianne Norris. Along with Brianne, Jacquelyn Seneschal, Christopher Smithson, and George Harrison, three other members will be leaving the Board. We thank all of them for their years of dedicated service to the Society. Their contributions over the years are incalculable. Society members elected four new members to the Board of Trustees at this year's annual meeting. The Class of 2026-2027 will include: Sandra R. Wallis, Ph.D., Nicole Barnwell, Joseph Snee, Esq., and Frank Hajek.

Over the next two months, we will welcome in the Yuletide season in Harford with numerous programs, tours, and special events. I encourage you to visit the Coming Events section of the newsletter to learn about these offerings and participate. Your support makes these programs possible. In another major effort, the Society is partnering with Harford

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HARFORD MUTUAL
INSURANCE GROUP

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

AMERICA 250



The very first meeting of the America 250 Harford committee took place on July 18, 2025. Pictured from left to right: Co-chair Jacob Bensen, MD 250 Commission Director Michele Johnson, Co-chair Chris Potts, Historical Society MD 250 Fellow Rylee Miller, and MD 250 Commission Programs & Partnerships Specialist Mary Zell Galen.

The stories of Harford County's people, places, and contributions to the country span centuries. As we approach the 2026 Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the America 250 Harford Committee invites you to join in commemorating who we are and how far we've come together as a country, a county, and a community. In honor of this occasion, organizations across the county are preparing special events and activities to celebrate history, civics, and service.

HSHC is partnering with Harford County Government to promote America 250-themed programming by recruiting community members for participation in an *America 250 in Harford County* Coordinating Committee. Co-chaired by HSHC Executive Director Chris Potts and Harford County Preservation Planner Jacob Bensen, the Committee is tasked with encouraging groups and organizations across the county to participate in celebrating *America 250 in Harford County*. Fifteen members (including representatives from the County, Town, HCC, HCPS, HCPL, and HSHC, as well as trustees and volunteers) were recruited to participate in four subcommittees: History, Service, Civics, and Tourism. Subcommittee members will be reaching out to organizations throughout the county to collect and share information about upcoming America 250 celebrations.

A list of upcoming America 250 events can be found on the Hello Harford website at www.helloharford.com. For questions about America 250 in Harford County, contact the America 250 Harford Committee by email at historic@harfordcountymd.gov

NEW MEMBERS

Nicole Barnwell

John Richardson

John Russo

Virginia Lee

Regi and Steve Goldberg

COMING EVENTS

- Annual Archer Lecture: *The Bush Declaration and Its Signers***



November 8 @ 2:00 pm

The Historical Society of Harford County 143 N Main St., Bel Air

The Historical Society initiated this unique lecture series almost forty years ago. The series originated as an initiative to promote the writing of local history by supporting the research of local authors. The series has featured a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, authors, historians,

architects, planners, teachers, politicians, and more. This year's lecture features the author of the Society's 119th bulletin, "The Bush Declaration and Its Signers."

Before the Declaration of Independence, before the "shot heard round the world", Harford County declared its support of American independence. Join Sandra Wallis, Ph.D., as she recounts the harrowing story of colonial days and the role local residents played in our nation's founding.

Dr. Wallis is uniquely qualified to share this story as a retired educator, having started her career as an American History teacher and reading specialist, primarily at Bel Air Middle School. She also served as Supervisor of English, Language Arts, and Reading for Harford County Public Schools and was the Coordinator of the Graduate Reading Program at Goucher College. She holds a doctorate from the University of Delaware. She is actively involved in both DAR and the United States Daughters of 1812. She is a past president of the Kitty Knight Chapter USD 1812 and the Maryland State Society, current 1st Vice President National, National Society United States Daughters of 1812, Regent of the Governor William Paca Chapter, DAR, and past Vice President of the Board of Directors, Flag House and Star-Spangled Banner Museum in Baltimore. She also chaired the 250th Anniversary of the Bush Declaration Committee and served as Chairman of the local Lafayette Farewell Tour Bicentennial Committee. She is the current President of the Hereditary Order of the Signers of the Bush Declaration.

Visit the Society's website at www.harfordhistory.org to register. Fee \$15.

Yuletide in Harford

- Annual Greens Sale: Advent Wreaths, Centerpieces, and Trees, Historical Society Headquarters, \$ varies by item**



Once again, this year, the Historical Society will offer a variety of creative arrangements for your holiday enjoyment. Options range from beautifully designed Advent Wreaths to Christmas trees and one- or two-candle centerpieces. All will include fresh evergreens, boxwood, berries, and ribbons to grace your holiday celebration.

The sale includes:

- **Advent Wreaths** – Place your order by Friday, November 21, 2025, for pick-up at the Historical Society on November 25 between 11 am and 2 pm, \$45
- **Centerpieces and Christmas Trees** – Place your orders by Monday, December 4, 2025. Pick-up

will be on Tuesday, December 9, Wednesday, December 10, and Thursday, December 11, between 11 am and 2 pm at the Historical Society, 143 N. Main St., Bel Air, Maryland

- ✓ Single Candle Centerpieces, \$20
- ✓ Two Candle Centerpieces, \$30
- ✓ Christmas Tree, \$40

Visit the website at www.harfordhistory.org for more details.

- **November 28 – December 26, 2025 – *Spirit of Christmas Past: Candlelight Walking Tour, 6 – 7:30 pm, \$20.00***

The Society's annual Candlelight Christmas Tour returns with docent Julie Brasch. Participants will enjoy Christmas stories of days gone by, caroling, delicious treats, and much more. Tours will begin on Friday, November 28, and run every Friday and Saturday until December 26.

NOTE: *Nighttime Walking Tours are weather-dependent. If the outdoor temperature at 6 pm is below 32°F, the event will be moved indoors to the Hays House Museum for a virtual tour and celebration.*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

In addition to the Society's annual status update and elections for the Society's Trustees for the class of 2026-2027, the Annual meeting included a delicious buffet provided by Evolved Catering, an entertaining performance by Christine Potts as Sarah Grimke, and a presentation of the George W. Archer Award to two exceptional Society volunteers.

The George W. Archer Award was established to recognize Historical Society members who have demonstrated exceptional service toward the mission and goals of the Historical Society. That mission is to collect, preserve, promote, and interpret the county's rich and diverse history, essentially to "preserve our history for your future." This year's winners were Jacquelyn Seneschal and Kathleen Scholl.

Jackie served as Society President for 4 years (1999-2002). She recognized the need for professional staffing and brought on Executive Director Maryanna Skowronski. Prior to her tenure, the venture was exclusively volunteer based. In 2021, Jackie agreed to return as a Board Trustee and has just completed five years on the Board, serving on the Events Committee, Finance Committee, and working on numerous special projects.

Kathy is one of the Society's resident textile experts. She has spent untold hours conserving and exhibiting an outstanding collection of historic clothing, linens, bridal garments, and so much more. Her expertise and dedication are exceptional. All this, along with her help with Society events and programs at the Hays House, headquarters, and elsewhere, makes her an ideal candidate for this award.



(above) William Walden with Archer Award winner, Jacquelyn Seneschal; (below) Christine Potts, as a pioneering abolitionist and women's rights activist, Sarah Grimke



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County to coordinate a year-long celebration of America's 250th anniversary. This involves coordinating with agencies throughout the county to celebrate the nation's Sesquicentennial. The newsletter will keep you updated on these programs throughout the coming year. I also encourage you to consider donating to the Annual Giving Campaign. We recently sent out notices to all members asking for your support. It is crucial for our ongoing success.

Again, thank you for your support, and Happy Holidays!

Bill Walden, President

WHAT'S NEW AT THE HAYS HOUSE

- **November 9 - Mr. Hays Neighbors, Christopher Smithson, 1 - 3 pm**, Hays House 324 N Kenmore Ave, Bel Air, MD

Thomas Hays, a leading 19th-century Bel Air citizen, left a lasting legacy. He was a successful attorney, farmer, real estate speculator, shopkeeper, and landlord. He owned 15 of the 42 lots in Bel Air at that time, and more than 4,000 acres throughout the county. Join historian Christopher Smithson at Mr. Hays' former home as he recounts the story of one of Bel Air's most influential citizens, his neighbors, and life in the early days of the republic. Free, donations appreciated.

- **November 23 - Open House at the Museum, 1 – 3 pm**, Hays House 324 N Kenmore Ave, Bel Air, MD

Visit the Hays House, the Historical Society's Living History Museum. Tour the site with Society docents as they recreate the social and cultural aspects of the daily life of rural gentry in the formative days of our county. Free, donations appreciated.

- **November 29 and December 27, 2025 - Holiday Experience at the Hays House Museum, 2 – 4 pm**, Hays House 324 N Kenmore Ave, Bel Air, MD

The Society invites you, your children, and grandchildren to visit the Hays House for a special holiday treat. On Saturday, November 29 and Saturday, December 27 the museum will offer young and old alike the opportunity to explore holiday crafts, games, music of days gone by, photo opportunities, and possibly a visit with Santa.

- **December 6 and 20, 2025 – Kids' Storytime at the Hays House Museum, 1 – 3 pm**, Hays House 324 N Kenmore Ave, Bel Air, MD



Bring your young ones to the Hays House Museum to enjoy holiday crafts, games, and holiday treats. A local storyteller will share a special holiday selection with attendees, bringing the Christmas spirit to life.

Tickets are nonrefundable unless the Historical Society cancels the program. Tickets are limited. Online registration at www.harfordhistory.org is required prior to the event. Tickets are nonrefundable unless HSHC cancels the event. Fee \$ 7.50.

- **December 7, 14, and 21, 2025 – Open House at Hays House Museum, 1 – 3 pm, Hays House 324 N Kenmore Ave, Bel Air, MD**

Enjoy a nostalgic Sunday afternoon at the Hays House. Step back into Bel Air's early days as you tour this historic house and enjoy beautiful holiday decorations designed by a local garden club. Relax as local musicians regale you with the sounds of Christmas. A perfect antidote to the holiday rush! As a special treat, the WABAC Consort will join us on Sunday, December 21. Relax as these local musicians time-travel through music performed on period instruments! A perfect antidote to the holiday rush!

RICHARD'S CORNER

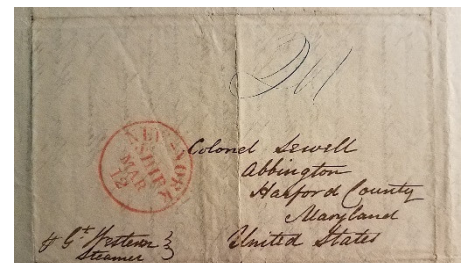
This is the third and final segment of the Postal History story. We hope you have enjoyed the journey back in time through these many fascinating stories.

Frank Stewart, Jr., Postal History Project (1989 – 1991) (continued)

Sympathies from Abroad

Mail between the U.S. and Europe was transported by ship and took weeks to deliver. This is evidenced by two letters sent from Madeira, off the coast of Morocco, to Colonel Charles Smith Sewell (1779–1848) in Abingdon, Maryland. Both letters were written in January of 1843; however, the first letter, from Sidney Smith, sent in the care of a Mrs. Johnson Lee of Baltimore via an unnamed steamer, was postmarked February 20. The second letter, from Samuel Wilkinson, postmarked March 12 was clearly delivered on the *SS Great Western*, the first steamship purpose-built to cross the Atlantic.

In his brief letter, Mr. Smith informed Colonel Sewell of the death of his son Dr. Clement Keagy Sewell (b.1811) on January 11, 1843, and his burial in the English "burying ground" on January 12. Dr. Sewell was ill when he arrived in Madeira from New York on November 19, 1842, and gradually worsened. He was eventually confined to and cared for in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson and by a Dr. Renton.



Samuel Wilkinson wrote his letter to Colonel Sewell with deep respect and heartfelt condolences. He described in detail the progression of Dr. Sewell's illness and the final hours of his life:

About Xmas, a change took place, he was attack'd with Diarrhea, and appeared to suffer much pain. He soon became so weak that with difficulty he could remove from his Bed to the sofa without assistance. At this time we provided a Nurse to be constantly with him, perceiving that you Dear Son was rapidly declining, and knowing that he had not any particular friend here. I undertook to have it intimated to the Rev^d Mr. Lowe, Chaplin to the British Church at Madeira, that a friendly visit might prove acceptable to Dr. Sewell. Mr. Lowe made an early call as a friend, and left his Card. The next day he called again and saw your Son. After this he made frequent visits, in some instances he called two & three times a day. It may be gratifying to you to know that latterly the Rev^d Mr. Lowe visited not only as a friend, but a Christian Minister. Dr. Sewell frequently mentioned with seeming pleasure, the invaluable present his

Sister made him [illegible] a Bible and Prayer Book – Your Dear Son had many kind friends among the Americans & English Residents, [illegible] ever Kind, and were I to mention names, and leave out any, I might do an injustice to some unintentionally. You will no doubt be pleased to learn that his fellow passengers out, were very attentive and expressed much anxiety on his account, [illegible] General and Mrs. Dix, Mrs. Meads, Mrs. Fondy, and Mr. Smith –

On the morn^s of the 7th instant, Dr. Renton informed me that you Dear Son could not last long. Mrs. Wilkinson & myself made immediate arrangements to relieve each other in his Room. His attendant a Portuguese man could not well understand all he said. On the 10th about ½ past 10 oclock at night Dr. S. expressed a wish to see Dr. Renton immediately. Mrs. W. was with him at the time. I went to his Room, and did not again leave it, until he had done with Earthly things. He was very restless through the night. About 3 oclock on the morn^s of the 11th I noticed a great change, he asked for some drops which I gave him. He dozed for a little while, and again revived very much, at about ½ past 5 oclock A.M. He appeared much exhausted, but perfectly Sensible. I entered into conversation with him, and fearing that I might not have another opportunity, I asked him if he had any message to send to his friends. He put me off, by saying he would tell me tomorrow. I pressed him again & again, [illegible] he wished to put off his answer. He now told me to say to you, that his friends here had been very kind to him, and that Mrs. Wilkinson had attended to him like a Mother. After some further conversation, I entreated him not to deceive himself but that if he had any message of Love to send to his Dear Father, &c he had better communicate it at once. It was a trying scene, poor fellow, his eyes moistened as he fixed them fully upon me. He hesitated for some moments, as tho he appealed to me to put off the Awful Crisis. I assure you that I was not unmoved at the time. At last he said "Love. Love." These words were the last he spoke in conversation. Soon after this his Eyes grew dim. About 7 oclock I left his Bedside for a moment. On my return he took my hand, and said "do not leave me. You won't leave me Mr. Wilkinson. Don't leave me." I mention these trifling circumstances to show how perfectly he retained his Senses to the last. At about 10 minutes past 7 oclock he motioned to be laid on his back. He again took my hand, and in a few minutes he was gone. I now removed the Pillow from under his head, and a few minutes afterwards closed his Eyes. I immediately sent a note to Mr. March to acquaint him of the melancholy circumstances and request him to send and take charge of your Dear Son's effects, which was done in Order... at Mid day on the 12 inst the Mortal Remains of your Dear Son was followed to the place of Internment by about 25 Residents and Strangers –

I trust you will excuse me having written so long a [missing] but from the circumstance of your Dear Son being here without any particular friends, I felt desirous of communicating all the particulars in my power. Before I close, allow me to assure you that every attention was paid to your Dear Son while he resided in my house.

I Remain Sir
Your Obt. Servt.
Samuel Wilkinson

"PS. I have put into the large Trunk a Lock of your Dear Son's Hair

Several genealogy references list Dr. Sewell's place of death as "Jamaica," which, based on this letter is incorrect. Dr. Sewell likely travelled to Madeira for his health as did many British and American citizens, especially to escape the winter weather. Interestingly, during this period in the history of Madeira, which is a territory of Portugal, there was serious religious conflict between the Roman Catholic Church and British Presbyterian ministers who were converting Portuguese citizens to Protestantism. It is unclear

whether Dr. Sewell was a member of the Presbyterian or Anglican Church, but the Reverend Mr. Lowe who ministered to him was most likely the Anglican naturalist Richard Thomas Lowe (1802–1874) who first travelled to Madeira in 1826 and was English Chaplain from 1832 to 1854.

Even More Letters of Interest

In Mr. Stewart's file there are also several letters that were sent between 1826 and 1852 to well-known attorney Otho Scott (1797–1864). Mr. Scott was held in high esteem by his colleagues of the Bar of the Circuit Court of Harford County. The subject matter of the letters were legal questions regarding land rights and money owed, as well as the settlement of estates.

Letters to Edward Hall (1763–1826) are also among the collection of stampless covers. There are 10 letters sent to him by Michael O'Mealy from London and Paris, between 1804 and 1819. There is also one letter written by Mr. Hall's sister, Charlotte Hall Ramsay (1758–1838), wife of Lieutenant Colonel Nathaniel Ramsay (1741–1817), who participated in the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, in 1778.

The letters Frank Stewart found open up part of county history that begs further exploration, like Dr. Clement Keagy Sewell; the "disease of the head" in 1799; the Archer/Van Bibber/Hays Family connections with the plantations of Mississippi; and "young Jarrett."

Valuable letters? Yes, Frank Stewart discovered a significant number of valuable letters in the files of the Historical Society of Harford County. But what price can you place on history? Come, see, and explore for yourself!

THE TEXTILE DEPARTMENT

Creating A Wedding Vignette With 140-Year-Old Garments: Part 3

In Part 2 (September/October newsletter), we described William Hawkins Harlan's 1885 wedding suit and Katherine Morris's 1888 wedding gown, which were exhibited at the County Administration building and are currently on display in the Society's Museum. We think the details of the journey from storage box to museum display are also worth describing, starting with choosing the right body, or form.

Most of our garments are women's petite sizes, so our adult forms range from small to really small. We sewed flexible stockinette covers onto the forms so we can pad them out for larger garments. To gently support sleeves, we can also attach arms made from wire, batting, muslin, and stockinette. We even make legs for pants from pool noodles and pantyhose (in case you were wondering...).

Mr. Harlan's suit fit best on our smallest female form, that can accommodate pants. It was a bit of a struggle to button his vest over the bustline, but a bigger challenge was how to attach the wing-tip collar to the shirt. A men's vintage clothing website said we needed collar buttons, which resemble tiny doorknobs with flat backs. Amazingly, we found one ball top collar button (we needed two) in a box of orphan jewelry. We used the collar button on the front and made a workaround for the back by sewing a flat button and a pearl button together. Our collar work is regrettably hidden by a mystery object that came with the suit—an odd configuration of silk pieces that



Kathy Scholl (Geo. Archer Award Winner) Dressing the Wedding Gown Form

didn't make sense, although we knew from the manufacturer's label that it was a fashion accessory patented in 1881. Guessing that it was a sort-of tie, we found an 1880s Gentlemen's Neckwear ad from Strawbridge & Clothier's Quarterly showing several styles of "flat scarf," including one like Mr. Harlan's. His is missing its neck piece, so we sewed a ribbon on to hold it in place. We didn't need studs, but we did need cufflinks. The orphan jewelry box yielded several that snap together, so both sides are fancy (popular in the 1920s and 30s). We were able to mix/match two similar pairs. The bit of scarf that's visible under the vest, and the stiff white cuffs with their silver and mother-of-pearl links, make the somber suit more personable.

Miss Morris's heavy, two-piece gown fit well on an old, flexible-wire dressmaker's form that we repurposed and padded out to support the skirt the way a wire-framed bustle would have done. Once freed from its box, the voluminous skirt was more wrinkled than we expected, and it needed some stabilizing repair. We sandwiched the section of waistband that had shredded between two pieces of matching grosgrain ribbon to support the skirt, and we sewed archival netting over a 4" tear at the bottom of the skirt's train. We opted to lightly iron rather than steam the wrinkles. One person held and repositioned the weight of the skirt as needed while the other smoothed out the worst wrinkles. We dressed the form to make sure of the fit and appearance, and then packed the gown back in its box for the short ride to the County Administration building. Usually, we transport fully dressed forms, but the weight of the skirt and its wide, long train created a logistical dilemma. The decision to dress the form on site turned out to be a bonus, because visitors were very interested in watching the process.

Throughout its weeks at the County building, the simple but stunning wedding display generated a lot of interest and positive comments. Seeing items from the Society's textile collection exhibited in vignettes initiates conversation and helps the community we serve value the concept of "preserving our past for your future," even if they've never heard the phrase before.

Announcement! The Hays-Heighe House on the campus of Harford Community College recently launched "Homespun: Textiles & Revolution," an impressive exhibit and programming through July 2026. We were privileged to collaborate with Julie Mancine, Hays-Heighe House Coordinator and College Archivist, on choosing featured items from the Society's collection. You can email haysheighe@harford.edu for a brochure, call 443-412-2539, or navigate to the hours and events here: <https://www.harford.edu/about/get-to-know-harford/news/2025/09-sep/homespun.php>.

By Susan K. Wooden and Kathy Scholl, Textile Department

A MAN OF LETTERS

by Mac Lloyd

Pylesville's Linkous was a celebrated 1920s athlete, then tragedy struck

Those who first saw him in action most likely thought nothing could slow down – much less stop – Fred Linkous, a country schoolboy destined to have his burgeoning athletic talent propel him into the thin air of high achievement.

He was ten years old in 1915 when his farming family left behind the Appalachian hardscrabble of southwestern Virginia for the richer soil and gentler slopes of the 142-acre spread in Pylesville that his father

had purchased for the princely sum of \$5,000.

Then, as if the adage about farming's uncontrollable and costly variables making it a risky venture needed embellishment, the United States marched into World War I two years later.

The war's impact on farming locally was immediate and significant. Aberdeen Proving Ground, for instance, was newly established. It sprawled across thousands of acres of what had been some of Harford County's most productive farmland. Labor shortages became a fact of life due to young men being drafted into military service.

Prior to World War I, the local economy had chugged along apace. The short-line Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad - colloquially known as the Ma and Pa - primarily transported agricultural goods, including carloads of farm-fresh milk. Lots of it was shipped daily from the nearby Pylesville and Highland stations.

A little farther up the track, blue-gray slate and polished green marble rolled out of Whiteford, Cardiff, and Delta, Pa., often shrouded in pungent coal-fired smoke belched from the hissing gut of a steam locomotive while en route to destinations across the country and around the globe.

Not long after Linkous first entered his six-room school, it was apparent that Highland High had a rising athletic dynamo in its midst. He was the star player on the school's soccer and basketball teams. By the time he had graduated in 1924, the Roaring Twenties was at full throat. After the Great War's artillery went silent, the local economy boomed.

And Linkous, whose life began to closely resemble that of the time in which he was living, was off to college. He enrolled at the University of Maryland, wanting to do two things: earn a degree in education, and test his ball skills against high level competition.

Spanning his three varsity seasons (freshmen were not eligible to compete until 1972) at College Park, Linkous accomplished something rare; he earned nine letters, including three each in football, basketball, and lacrosse.

In 1928, as construction of Conowingo Dam neared completion, Linkous was selected to the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) All-America First Team at the in-home position. He had earned Honorable Mention All-America recognition the previous year, at a time when the world was buzzing about the dashing 25-year-old Charles Lindbergh becoming the first aviator to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean.

Maryland, whose sports teams were then known as Old Liners or Aggies, was a charter member of the esteemed Southern Conference. In football, Linkous played fullback, then recognized as the key position on offense. In a 43-14 loss at highly-regarded Yale in late November of 1925, Linkous ran for two first-half touchdowns.

He captained the basketball squad and was chosen to the 1928 all-conference team as a guard. He was also voted the school's best senior athlete, while from back home came news that a grassroots movement to build a hospital in Abingdon was afoot. Howard K. McComas, a prominent local resident, was the first to step forward; he donated \$500 and a corner lot.

Linkous remained active on campus even when he was away from the field and arena. He was selected to the Omicron Delta Kappa leadership fraternity and Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. He also served as Sergeant-at-Arms of the Junior Class, and Sergeant-at-Arms of the Student Assembly as a senior.



As it had been throughout the liveliest of decades, jazz was the most popular - the bee's knees – kind of music. In the distance, however, a foreboding mash of minor keys, dissonant chords, and slow tempos started to rumble. It was the prelude to The Great Depression, but not even the most severe and prolonged economic downturn in modern history was up to the challenge of knocking Linkous off his stride.

With his bachelor's degree in education and crackerjack sports resume in hand, Linkous was hired as a teacher and athletics coach at Severn School. In his first year there, the private institution's football team, stocked with boys intent upon on one day passing the nearby United States Naval Academy's entrance examination, won all nine of its games.

What looked to be the continuation of his fruitful life, however, took a sudden and tragic turn. Following the extraction of one of his teeth, Linkous developed an infection. With the advent of potentially lifesaving antibiotics only a glimmer on the horizon, he died of blood poisoning the morning of March 27, 1930, at University Hospital in Baltimore. He was 24 years old.

According to an Associated Press dispatch that appeared in the Daily Times of Salisbury, Md., Linkous had been admitted to the hospital several days earlier. He rallied somewhat, but an unexpected hemorrhage changed his condition from fair to critical.

An emergency operation was performed on March 26, and a call was sent out for blood donors to replace what had been lost in the hemorrhage. Forty students and two instructors from Severn School arrived at the hospital and offered their blood. Sometime after midnight, August Keifer, a Severn instructor, donated his blood via transfusion. For a time, Linkous appeared stronger, although he remained delirious. A few hours later, however, it became apparent that he would not recover.

Due to limited seating at Fawn Grove Methodist Protestant Church, located across the Mason-Dixon Line in York County, Pa., a country mile north of the Linkous family's farm, funeral services were held at the home of his parents, Robert L. Linkous and Cynthia C. Linkous.

An estimated gathering of 800 mourners, including a large contingent from Severn School, attended the interment in the Fawn Grove chapel's adjacent cemetery. Two instructors, including Mr. Keifer, and four Severn students served as pallbearers.

At the burial site, 50 floral designs were carried by Fred Linkous's high school classmates, Mason Wilson, Kenneth Wilson, Wallace Wilson, Turner Wilson, Arthur Dunnigan, Harold Dunnigan, Emory McFadden, Robert McFadden, James DeRan, Millard Bartol, and Dick Streett.

In addition to his parents, Fred Linkous was survived by his brothers Clarence, Frank, Thomas, Otis, John, and William, and his sisters, Cavie Steltz and Bessie Ramsburg.

Fred Linkous was inducted posthumously into the Maryland State Athletic Hall of Fame (1961), the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame (1967), and the University of Maryland Athletics Hall of Fame (1982).

While nearly one hundred harvesting seasons have sailed by since his death, Maryland's flagship university – home at various times to Old Liners, Aggies, and Terrapins – and others can summon to life the archived exploits of Fred Cecil Linkous by spurring the echoes to call out his name.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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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.