

BALTIMORE GASLIGHT

Newsletter of the Baltimore City Historical Society

Volume 11, Number 1

Spring 2012

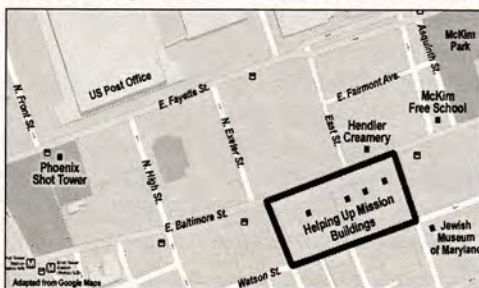
Block in Jonestown Extends Its Early Sense of Dedication

By Luke McCuster

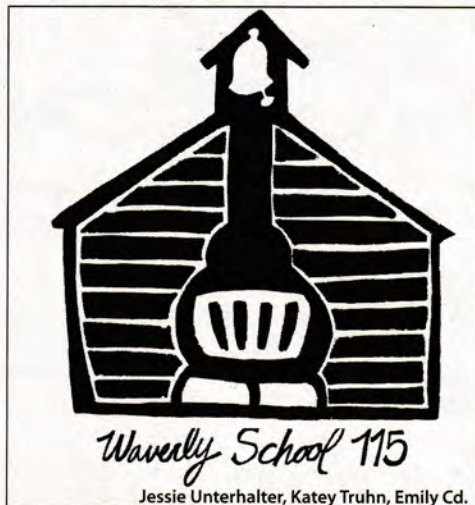
The southern side of the 1000 block of East Baltimore Street is a collection of buildings from various periods of Baltimore history now owned by Helping Up Mission, a ministry to Baltimore's homeless men in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. The Mission came together by the efforts of those concerned about the well being of this neglected group. One does wonder how the characteristics of those that lived and worked there in much earlier generations led to the union of this collection of buildings that presently benefit a needy community.

Careful examination of the history of the block bordered by modern-day East Baltimore, Lloyd, Watson and Exeter Streets shows a consistent emphasis on providing care to the people of first the founding Jonestown neighborhood and then the community at large. Places of service and fellowship were created by both social institutions and benevolent individuals, many of whom lived among the people being served. Most were ministries of religious organizations or individual religious laymen who had made their fortune in the business world and created philanthropic organizations within their community. Buildings that were constructed with ministry in mind lent themselves to future groups who desired to continue the legacy by offering comfort and hope to those who needed it.

The Jonestown neighborhood has been home to many ethnic, religious, racial and social groups that left their mark on the surviving streets. Originally a separate town, Jonestown became part of Baltimore Town in 1732, when civic leaders decided to join the land beyond a (Continued on Page 4)



Neighborhoods Issue



Waverly in Black and White: From Divisive Into Diverse

By Jo Ann O. Robinson

Professor of History Emerita, Morgan State University

Baltimore Sun columnist Jacques Kelly's books and articles on Peabody Heights/Charles Village, Joe Stewart's blogs, walking tours and commemorations in Huntingdon/Waverly and Tim and Janet Kahoe's 2011 video celebrating 100 years of the Abell community all have encouraged historical consciousness in north Baltimore. While they recognize the role of African-Americans, this has yet to be well documented. I focus here on the black community that flourished from the 1890s on Barclay Street and Brentwood Avenue and outline their interaction with white neighbors.

Waverly began when two estates dating from the 17th century--one named Huntingdon--were subdivided in the 18th century. Country residences and businesses sprang up, enabled by transportation innovations, and evolved into a bustling 19th century "Victorian village." Although it was mostly white middle-class families and wealthy mansion-builders, by the 1890s it included African-American households. Waverly was part of Baltimore County until annexed by the City in 1888.

To the west, the same pattern--estates subdivided, developed and brought into the City--produced Peabody Heights. According to Kelly, it attracted (Continued on Page 3)

BCHS Conference Takes Up City Neighborhoods May 11

The Baltimore City Historical Society and the Maryland Historical Society are sponsoring a day-long conference Friday, May 11, on Baltimore Neighborhoods, Baltimore History, at MdHS, 200 West Monument Street. Sessions begin with registration at 8:30AM and end with a Happy Hour at 5PM in the Owl Bar, 1 East Chase Street. Tickets are \$20, coffee and lunch included. A third sponsor is the Orser Center for the Study of Place, Community, and Culture at University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

"Neighborhoods play a complex role in Baltimore's past and present and illustrate the struggles and rewards of building a sense of community within an urban space," the sponsors note. They offer "two panel discussions and two presentations on recent works that preserve and commemorate the complicated history of Baltimore." Tickets are available at www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?beavid=227647 or at the door. Limited parking is available at MdHS. Suzann Langrall at baltimorehistory@law.umaryland.edu or 410.706.4529 can provide further information.

The 9:30 panel is on "Classroom and Community," moderated by former BCHS president Mike Franch, organizer of the Third Thursdays City History Lectures at the Village Learning Place, whose speakers this season have focused on neighborhoods [see story on page 4]. Panelists include Morgan State University Professor of Architecture and Historic Preservation Dale Glenwood Green, who seeks to connect heritage preservation, tourism and education to historic African American neighborhoods. Green and his students explored the impact of Morgan State on the area around it.

Denise Meringolo of UMBC will discuss training the next generation of public historians. Her graduate public history course is partnering with Baltimore Heritage in a course designed to challenge students to recognize history as a vehicle for smart growth and urban redevelopment. She will relate how the architectural history of Baltimore's west (Continued on Page 2)

Chair of Board of Directors... John C. Murphy
President..... Judith Arnold
Newsletter Editor..... Lewis H. Diuguid
Newsletter Layout..... Tina Fleming
Staff..... Jay Merwin and Don Torres
bchs@mdhs.org www.historicbaltimore.org

From the President **Firming Up Society's Structure**

By Judith Arnold

One of my major goals for my 2011-12 presidency of the Baltimore City Historical Society has been to implement "Standing Committee" provisions of the by-laws adopted by the Board during the 2010-11 year, so that the Society will have a solid organizational structure to carry out its work in the future.

A second major goal has been to establish closer ties to other groups in Baltimore's "history community," especially the Baltimore National Heritage Area, the Greater Baltimore History Alliance, Baltimore Heritage, the City Archives, the War of 1812 Bicentennial organizations, and the Historical Society of Baltimore County. I believe that important progress has been made toward both of these objectives.

Under the BCHS by-laws, there are four standing committees: membership, program, communications, and collections. All of these committees have met and most of them have selected chairpersons. The Program Committee, in particular, has mapped out a full series of programs extending through the end of 2012. The by-laws permit members of the Society who are not Board members to join and support the standing committees, and several members have already done so. If others are interested in joining a committee, they can e-mail me at jarmold@verizon.net.

With respect to liaison, BCHS has recently been recognized as an official partner of Star-Spangled 200, the War of 1812 Bicentennial organization. We have strengthened our working relationships with BNHA, GBHA, Baltimore Heritage, and the City Archives, and we have embarked on a new partnership with the Historical Society of Baltimore County, which will result in a Fall program at the County Society's headquarters in Cockeysville on the topic of Baltimore City's establishment out of Baltimore County and subsequent expansion of the City.

I am looking forward to turning over a stronger organization to my successor at the Annual Meeting scheduled on June 23



Judith Arnold, at Peale Museum, reflects on presidency.

at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum.

One last subject has raised recent concerns: the fate of the former Peale Museum building and other historic City structures. In late March, The Sun reported that the City is engaging a consultant to make recommendations concerning the possible sale, lease, or other adaptive reuse of 15 historic structures, including the former Peale Museum. Readers are likely aware that BCHS has long maintained that the Peale building should be restored to active use by the history community, and that the Society has raised funds and otherwise worked toward that goal.

Some years ago, those members of the Society most active in pursuing adaptive reuse of the Peale formed separate nonprofit organizations, so that the Society itself could concentrate on programming and other work that would not involve capital resources.

While the Society is no longer directly involved in the effort to preserve the Peale building, it continues to support efforts of the Baltimore History Center at the Peale and the Friends of the Peale.

For this reason, on March 28, I wrote to the Mayor on behalf of BCHS expressing its concern that any sale, lease, or other arrangement regarding the future of the building be decided only after full consideration of its historic character and after consultation with the Society, the Baltimore History Center at the Peale, the Friends of the Peale, Zion Lutheran Church, and other interested parties. The BCHS Board will continue to monitor developments.

Because this is my last President's column, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board and the Society for all of their ideas, encouragement, and hard work throughout my presidency.

Members of Society to Meet June 23 at Streetcar Museum

The annual meeting of Baltimore City Historical Society will take place at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum from 9:30 to 11:30AM on Saturday, June 23. Officers and board members for the 2012-13 year will be elected and attendees will be offered a brief presentation and video on the City's streetcars history, the museum preserving them and their development role.

Admission will be free and attendees will be given an all-day pass to view displays and ride the old cars. The museum is along Jones Falls at 1901 Falls Road, Baltimore, 21211. For information, 410.547.0264 or www.baltimorestreetcar.org.

BCHS Conference - Continued from page 1

side can assist residents to preserve livable neighborhoods. Also on the panel is Betsy Nix, University of Baltimore, speaking on the People's Free Health Clinic that offered free medical care and mental health services in the 1970s Waverly.

At 11:15 is a presentation by Mary Mashburn, "Globe Posters Comes to Maryland Institute College of Art." The Globe company's vivid day-glo posters on telephone poles, coffee shops, bars, and churches became part of the neighborhood landscape for 80 years, reaching across racial and ethnic boundaries.

Lunch at 11:50 will include presentation of BCHA's and the University of Maryland Law School's Joseph L. Arnold Prize for Outstanding Writing on Baltimore's History. Speaker will be Aaron Henkin of WYPR's The Signal.

In the 1:30PM panel on Historic Preservation, Community Sustainability, Eric Holcomb of the City's Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation, will note that as Baltimore "now has more than 150 landmarks and 32 local historic districts comprising more than 10,000 structures . . . , it is time to rethink" current preservation goals. Eli Pousson of Baltimore Heritage will describe how it, Parks & People and organizations around Lafayette Square, Harlem Park, Franklin Square, and Union Square established Friends of West Baltimore Squares to promote their heritage and green space for community development. Todd Marcus of Newborn Holistic Ministries will discuss the struggle to sustain Sandtown.

At 3:30, journalist Deborah Rudacille will present "Aftermath: What happens to a company town when the company goes bust?" She examines the decline of the Sparrows Point steel mill that provided jobs in southeast.

Waverly - Continued from page 1

residents who "were comfortably fixed... with the necessary servants." One of these residents noted, in a 1921 Sun interview, that "all the property was restricted--the deeds all containing clauses preventing its sale to persons of other than the Caucasian race."

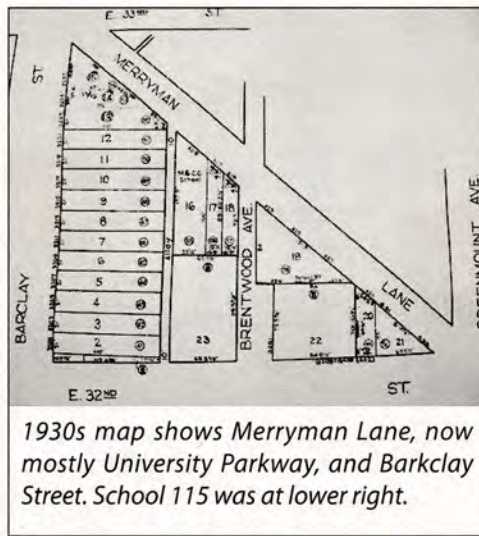
No evidence of racial covenants on Abell Avenue has appeared but census data and oral testimony show that the street opened as a development in 1911 and remained white until the 1960s. It was named for Sunpapers owner A.S. Abell, whose summer estate of Guilford was just to the north. The first home buyers included European immigrants. Economically and geographically they were closer to Waverly than to Peabody Heights and were generally considered part of Waverly until the latter neighborhood was reinvented in the 1960s as Charles Village, with Greenmount Avenue on the east.

Waverly whites also promoted racial segregation. In December 1910, The Sun called attention to a plan by the Huntington Improvement Association to "just fix up our narrow streets and alleys," where "our servants who must live near the homes in which they are employed," already lived. The association also sought to "reclaim" other parts of the community from black residents.

Oral histories of African Americans from the Barclay/Brentwood neighborhood detail racial mores that prevailed for decades, especially in the Greenmount Avenue shopping district. Here, a black could try on merchandise in the clothing stores--an advantage over shopping in downtown--but purchases in restaurants or confectionaries had to be eaten outside. The Boulevard and Waverly movie theaters were off limits except to a black babysitter with a white child in tow.

For the most part, whites appear to have been civil in their interactions with African-Americans. Black residents worked in local white businesses and homes. In recent interviews they cite examples of whites who showed personal concern for them, and they pay homage to Harry Asche, the Jewish owner of a Barclay corner store, where families could run a tab and where mutual courtesy was the rule. Peabody Heights also provided black employment, but most compelling are descriptions of two public institutions in that area which were open to all--Public Library Branch #1 on St. Paul Street--the Village Learning Place today--and the Baltimore Museum of Art. Barclay/Brentwood childhood recollections paint these as magical places.

While the racial climate in Waverly and Peabody Heights compares favorably with



more virulent racism in other places, the public school to which local blacks were assigned is another story. No evidence tells it better than the 1920 Baltimore School Survey, conducted by George D. Strayer of Columbia University Teachers College. He assessed the physical plant of every public school in the City. One thousand points indicated a perfect building. His finding:

School 51, Waverly Elementary for white children, was "one of the best schools in the City," ranked 11th of 128 white schools, with a score of 649. School 115, no name, for "colored" children, "is not fit for the housing of school children ... and should be demolished." It ranked worst of 27 "colored", with 94.

School 115 consisted of three wooden classroom buildings, with an outside toilet next to the water fountain. It housed the offspring of Waverly's blacks from 1889 until, in the aftermath of the 1954 Brown Supreme Court decision, authorities transferred them to School 51. Today on the old 115 grounds, vendors and shoppers gather on Saturdays for the Waverly Farmers' Market. Reflecting on her experience at 115 in the 1940s, Morgan State University Dean of Education and Urban Studies Patricia Welch stressed that her teachers and community "made the best of what they had" to create a "school that I couldn't wait to go to ... I was learning, and I was happy ... I didn't know that I shouldn't have been happy."

Interviews with other 115 alumni, some looking back to the 1930s, offer similar views. Although they called their school "the chicken coop," they reported secure and happy childhoods, thanks to skilled, caring teachers, devoted families, and community bonds strengthened by Mt. Zion Baptist Church at 32nd and Barclay. The proof of what they say lies in the adults they became:

• Betty Williams earned a Masters Degree from Johns Hopkins University, where her

grandfather, born into slavery, was a custodian. She served City schools for 39 years and was principal of Eastern High School, "six blocks from where I grew up, and couldn't cross the door."

• Dr. Patricia Welch was among the students who integrated Eastern. After two plus decades as a teacher, she worked in the State Department of Education before becoming a dean at Morgan. She was appointed to the City School Board in the late 1990s and was its president.

• William Wells, now retired, founded and coached the basketball program at St. Francis Academy, with 28 seasons and six Catholic League championships.

This year, a changing Waverly dedicated an historic marker on March 17 commemorating the histories of Merryman's Lane, where School 115 was built, and the school itself.

Advocacy for Barclay in Abell and Charles Village is an important part of the history of both communities. So is increasing diversity in all three communities. Abell serves as an example: many Abell houses, built by 1915, remained in the same families for generations. With porches painted common colors--the same shade of brown for some blocks, green for others, and with flags on July 4--the neighborhood was quiet and insulated for decades. However, homes that changed families eventually attracted a new kind of buyer. Part of a nationwide movement into city living, newcomers were young and often associated with the social justice movements challenging the nation in the 1960s and '70s. They arrived, just as concern mounted among the more established neighbors about "crime and grime," and developers with disliked plans.

To address such issues, in 1973 newcomers and old timers founded the Abell Improvement Association (AIA), with boundaries that encompassed Guilford Avenue and Barclay Street. Establishing a working partnership between Barclay residents and the still largely white residents of Abell and Guilford Avenues was a significant step toward genuine community.

While the weight of the history of racial division has not entirely lifted, the promise of this community becomes apparent every fall, when AIA sponsors its Street Fair. Old and young, black and white, conservative, liberal and radical--you will find us eating, drinking, schmoozing and dancing--on an avenue where the "Painted Lady" phenomenon has turned brown and green into a rainbow of vivid colors. Check the AIA website and join us in September!

Jonestown - Continued from page 1

separating falls to a small Baltimore Town that had a good harbor, and merchants to keep it busy. David Jones was one of these merchants, and he had established a home across the Gay Street Bridge in 1661. The falls that served as a natural border between Baltimore and Jonestown was named after him, as was the town. The formal agreement to join the towns came with the defining of land plats, and 20 were established as half-acre lots, each to be built upon in a reasonable time period or lost to a new owner. These lots filled the space between Jones Falls and Exeter Street.

The streets of Jonestown were well defined by the time of the creation of Folie's Map in 1792. Some were named as now, others not. The southern side of the 1000 block East Baltimore Street, as it is known today, was bordered by York, Lloyd, Salisbury and Exeter Streets. Harford Run, toward the right, would later be covered by modern-day Central Avenue. No structures were drawn into the 1000 block, but one can see Friends Meeting House on the northeast, Baltimore's oldest religious structure, just west of Harford Run. It was constructed in 1781, is City-owned and in repair.

Poppleton's Map of 1818 shows a growth of businesses and dwellings. It contains a key to drawings of buildings of importance. Second Presbyterian Church was shown at the intersection of Baltimore and Lloyd Streets. In 1803, John McKim Jr. and Henry Payson had purchased a plot bordered by present-day Baltimore, Lloyd and Watson Streets for it. John Glendy was pastor. The congregation included Mrs. Thomas Kelso, William Pechin and Isaac McKim. Each was a church neighbor and important community leader. The church drew others. Mayors James Calhoun and Edward Johnson contributed to its construction. Many built substantial homes in the neighborhood.

New Jerusalem Temple, a Swedenborgian church, stood at the southwest corner of Baltimore and Exeter, just west of the block under examination. It was dedicated in 1800 by John Hargrove, a former Methodist minister, who was the first ordained New Church minister in the New World. He was a friend of John Carroll, America's first Catholic bishop, and would preach before Congress at the request of President Thomas Jefferson. Three homes of civic and business leaders took up the balance of the block, the foundation of a neighborhood that would transition to a place of public service.

The Colvin family was one of the largest



Photo by Lewis H. Diuguid
McKim Free School on Baltimore Street is on City list for possible sale.

real estate holders in Baltimore. Richard Colvin, was a "gentleman" listed as living on York Street in 1807. This would later become East Baltimore Street. Colvin ran a lottery shop at Baltimore and Calvert Streets. Rachel Colvin also lived on York. She was an important real estate holder. Her home included a niece, nephew and four to six slaves. Rachel was executor of her father's estate. She died at 81 in 1853. Her will, printed in *The Baltimore Sun*, funded Colvin Institute for Girls. Thomas Kelso, a neighbor and sponsor of the Kelso Home for Orphans, served as its president. Rachel freed her slaves, provided lifetime incomes for them, and gave use of one of her other houses to ex-slave Anne Hutchins. Relatives continued living in the Colvin estate until 1873. The family is remembered in a local street name.

Isaac McKim (1775-1838) was next door to Miss Colvin in the 1810 Census. His home was on York at present-day 1023 East Baltimore. His household had seven members, no slaves. Isaac's family had several important merchants, including his father John and a brother, William. Isaac contributed to Second Presbyterian but the family, staunchly abolitionist, favored Quakerism. Isaac was a charter member of the Protective Society of Maryland, founded in 1816 to protect the rights of "free negroes."

Many Quakers were pacifists, but Isaac chose to serve as General Samuel Smith's aide-de-camp in the War of 1812. His interests included shipbuilding and the milling. He helped found the Baltimore Exchange in 1815, and was a director of the B&O. He served three terms in Congress. He and his brother William supervised completion of McKim Free School, filling their father's will, in 1822. The veritable Greek temple was intended for the poor of Jonestown, built amid grand estates, including Isaac's. His example of service to the poor was emulated.

Lectures on Neighborhoods

By Michael S. Franch
BCHS President Emeritus

I was living in Baltimore in 1976 when residents of its far south Fairfield neighborhood first received sewers. I, like probably 99 percent of my fellow Baltimoreans had no idea that some residents weren't hooked up to sewers. We knew nothing of the primitive conditions in which some of our fellow citizens lived.

I learned about the Fairfield sewers situation from a fascinating talk by Dr. Nichole King at the February Baltimore History Evening at the Village Learning Place. Entitled "Mapping Baybrook: Environmental Justice in Industrial South Baltimore," Dr. King's talk described these disappearing industrial communities to many in an audience that had never heard of them. By the end of the evening they probably knew more about them than most people did in the 1970s!

This illustrates how even the more aware of us have little idea of the conditions under which many of our fellow Baltimoreans live, or the things that are important to their lives. Many factors contribute to this: we are often separated not only by geography but also by income, ethnicity, race, religion, and even our recreational preferences. Sometimes it takes the historian's "eye in the sky" view of the past to assemble these disparate parts, enabling us to see a past more complete than what we know of our own day.

In another History Evening focused on neighborhoods, Eric M. Daniel, co-winner of the 2010 Arnold Prize for Outstanding Writing on Baltimore History, described a restrictive covenant targeting an Italian in Ashburton a century ago.

This fourth year of free Baltimore History Evenings continues with Baltimore Sun columnist Jacques Kelly speaking about Charles Village on May 7. His is the Grace Darin Lecture, annually honoring the woman who named and served Charles Village. The Village Learning place formerly was a branch of Enoch Pratt Free Library. Author Michael J. Lisicky concludes the set on June 21 with "The Rise and Fall of Hutzler's." The presentations begin at 7:30PM after a reception at 7. The Learning Place is at 2521 St. Paul Street.

William Pechin (1773-1849) also lived on Great York Street, helped build Second Presbyterian and was one of many pro-slavery congregants. Editor of the *American and Commercial Daily Advertiser*, he was elected to the State Assembly in 1811. He favored war with the British (Continued on Page 5)

Arnold Prize Winner Chosen

Thanks to the generosity of the Byrnes Family, in memory of Joseph R. and Anne S. Byrnes, the Society presents an annual Joseph L. Arnold Prize for Outstanding Writing on Baltimore's History, in the amount of \$500. The winning entry for 2011 is: "Playing Fair: The Fight for Interracial Athletics in Baltimore," by Sara Patenaude, PhD candidate in history at Georgia State University.

The paper was praised as "a vivid reminder of the world of legal racial segregation." It has been posted on the Society web page. Judges were: History Professor John Breihan of Loyola University of Maryland; Elizabeth M. Nix, assistant professor, Division of Legal, Ethical and Historical Studies, University of Baltimore, and Michael Franch, past president of BCHS. The competition was administered by Edward Orser, professor emeritus of University of Maryland, Baltimore County. The award will be presented May 11 at the Baltimore Neighborhoods Conference.

Jonestown - Continued from page 4

and his paper reflected his enthusiasm. When Baltimore faced attack, Pechin shut his paper and became a major in Maryland's 6th Regiment. He was involved in the battles of North Point and Fort McHenry, then returned to his Advertiser--where the National Anthem first appeared, on September 21, 1814, written by Francis Scott Key.

The south side of East Baltimore Street's 1000 block continues to serve the greater community. The Helping Up Mission, founded in 1885, came to its now expanded campus in 1955. Nearby new housing, landscaping and City historic markers orient visitors in this historic setting. A new-age outreach is happening. Men in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction are being helped along a street that has experienced generations of change.

Green Mount Walking Tours

BCHS member Wayne R. Schaumburg offers four guided tours of historic Green Mount Cemetery on Saturdays, May 5, 12, 19 and 26. Opened in 1839, Green Mount is the final resting place of Johns Hopkins, Enoch Pratt, William and Henry Walters, Mary Elizabeth Garrett, Betsy Patterson, and many other famous Marylanders. The two-hour walking tours begin at 9:30AM from the main gate at Greenmount Avenue and East Oliver Street. The cost is \$15. Reservations are required at 410.256.2180 or wayne.schaumburg@gmail.com.

It's Time to Join or Renew Your Baltimore City Historical Society Membership

2012 - 2013 Membership Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Ph: _____ Work/cell: _____ email: _____

A. BCHS Membership. Please check type of membership desired:

- Student/Senior (65 or older) \$10
 Individual \$15
 Family/Household \$20
 Sustaining \$50
 Endowment \$100*
 1797 Circle for Business & Corporate Leadership . . . \$500
(Sponsor of BCHS educational program)

* A new benefit for those who donate \$100 or more to BCHS - - "**Reciprocal Admission Pass.**" Since BCHS is a member of the Greater Baltimore History Alliance (GBHA), donors at the \$100 or greater level will receive a pass offering free general admission to participating GBHA member museums, such as: Baltimore Museum of Industry, B & O Railroad Museum, Historic Ships in Baltimore, Jewish Museum of Maryland, and more. A full list of participating museums and events is available on the GBHA website at www.baltimoremuseums.org.

B. Special Joint Membership Option - - I wish to be a joint member of the Baltimore City Historical Society/Maryland Historical Society (BCHS/MHS) and receive a *discounted* MHS membership (see below):

- MHS Individual (usual rate \$50) - add \$35 to your BCHS membership above
 MHS Family/Household (usual rate \$65) - add \$50 to your BCHS membership above

Note: If you are already a member of the Maryland Historical Society, the above discounted dues will be applied to your next MHS membership year.

Total amount enclosed (A plus B) \$ _____

Please mail application form and check made payable to:

Baltimore City Historical Society
201 W. Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

410.685.3750, ext. 379
email: bchs@mdhs.org
Visit our website: www.historicbaltimore.org

War of 1812 Up Close: One for the History Books

The War of 1812 has interested authors over the years and its 200th anniversary has stirred a modest revival. Here is Gaslight's initial, brief review of four particularly regional books, including one given by members to the Society. The reviews, too, are by members.

The War of 1812 in the Chesapeake: A Reference Guide to Historic Sites in Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia, by Ralph E. Eshelman, Scott S. Sheads, and Donald R. Hickey, Johns Hopkins Press, 2010.

This great work is an encyclopedia of over 800 War sites in the Chesapeake region and includes historical maps, drawings, prints, and photographs, and narratives that portray the significance of the engagements on lives of its citizens. The book starts with an overview of the war; then a section on warfare in the Chesapeake; followed by Maryland, Virginia, and District sites—all in alphabetical order. Even more great references are presented in the appendix on over 700 veterans' grave sites, chronology of the war in the Chesapeake, and military actions. This is the most comprehensive reference list ever assembled by three noted 1812 authorities and a must for all interested in the War.

--Nelson M. Bolton, Past president, Society of the War of 1812, Maryland.

Merchant Congressman in the Young Republic: Sam Smith of Maryland 1752-1839, by Frank A. Cassell, University of Wisconsin Press, 1971. I am in awe of the role this great leader played in saving the new Republic from near defeat in its second war of independence. Surmounting an incredible array of obstacles, Smith took upon himself the job of preparing Baltimore for a British invasion by land and sea--while having to battle his own country's military, state and federal bureaucracies at almost every step. What a fascinating Baltimorean! He spend 40 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, fought in both American Wars of Independence, won and lost fortunes as a merchant, counseled U.S. presidents, was beloved by the militia he led and in his 80s helped save his city from anarchy when bank failures resulted in riots by quieting the unrest by agreeing to serve as mayor.

--Joe Stewart, Waverly Village history enthusiast.

Fort McHenry, Home of the Brave-An Illustrated History, By Norman G. Rukert, Bodine & Associates, Baltimore, 1983.

Rukert is an historian, philanthropist, preservationist, and former CEO of Rukert Terminals, one of the largest private shipping terminals in Baltimore. This 113-page book, despite its

coffee-table look, is a very thorough, engaging history of America's most famous fort. Its history at Whetstone Point on the eastern tip of the Locust Point peninsula begins as an iron-ore mining site for a British company in the 1720s. With the onset of the Revolutionary War, the strategic importance of the site to the growing port of Baltimore was recognized and the first fortifications were built in 1776 as Fort Whetstone, but never engaged in battle. With England going to war against France in 1793, and blockading U.S. shipping in the 1790s, Fort Whetstone was rebuilt and improved, and in 1800 was renamed Fort McHenry in honor of Secretary of War James McHenry.

In this book from the Society collection, Rukert details the beginning of the War, and the British confidence after an easy victory at Bladensburg, followed by the burning of federal buildings in the capital, leading up to the invasion of Baltimore. The brave defense of Fort McHenry, the strategic importance of stopping the attempted British invasion of the City from North Point, the leadership of Sam Smith, George Armistead, John Stricker, the courageous thousands of soldiers and sailors, and, of course, Francis Scott Key--it's all here, up through the fort in modern times.

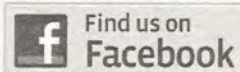
--Don Torres, Keeper of the Society's gift books.

The Democratic Republic, 1801-1815, by Marshall Smelser, Harper & Row, New York,

1968. Why would a major force of the British Army, terribly strained by more than a decade of adventures against Napoleon, set out to land an expedition in the Chesapeake Bay? Burn Washington? No more than a wooden village. Occupy Baltimore? Small town, but with stylish women. Remember Bette Davis's line in Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes"? Under stress, she ponders: "I'll go to Baltimore and shop." Maybe to help Dr. Key finish his anthem? Most probably, the British were dismayed at the successes of their former colony; naval victories against the Barbary Pirates and against the British in the Northwest; the burning of York (Toronto), and the Americans' cozy relations with the hated French; signs of emerging permanence of an American culture, with a solidly free press such as the Niles Weekly Register; a famously active political life, and an emerging arts world. Indeed, the British command thought Washington no more than a "sheep walk," and turned to Baltimore as both a conquest and a prize of war. But the Baltimoreans repulsed the British afloat and inflicted enough casualties on their infantry to stall its march up North Point to Patterson Park. Smelser's achievement is in setting these familiar events in a story of an emerging national culture of a former colony.

--Tom Cripps, Professor Emeritus, Morgan State University.

The Baltimore City Historical Society Inc.
c/o The Maryland Historical Society
201 West Monument Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201



PRRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE MD
PERMIT NO. 353

