

Used To Be...

VOL. XI, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY, 2004

“A Post Office, We Understand, Has Been Established At Clear Spring”

By David Wiles

Time, space, and money often influences what goes into our *Used To Be...* publications. During the last days of Autumn in 2003, a date slipped by in our small community which should have been celebrated by us, in memory of our ancestors' wise judgment. But as newsletter editor, I just couldn't get the message to members in time. November 11, 2003 was the 180th anniversary of the founding of the Clear Spring Post Office.

Now I seldom write articles in present-tense, but I thought CSDHA members might find it enlightening how a story is prepared for this newsletter, and this post office topic is a superb example of how many months it could take to do one article in detail.

Upon starting my research on the local post office, I had nothing but some hand-written notes by the late Hilda Cushwa. Attached to her research was a list of the postmasters that was compiled in 1940 by James Wolfinger, a person unknown to me. Also in her folder was her history of the Clear Spring RFD, which is published in full following this article.

I had two goals in mind when I started my story. I wanted readers to reflect upon the many men and women who have faithfully processed our mail for the past 180 years — those neighbors of our past and present, who have, and who are currently working behind the counter at the Clear Spring Post Office.

My other goal for this story was to help readers rekindle their thoughts and imagina-



This illustrated drawing shows the thrill of receiving mail in the early 19th-century. The Clear Spring Post Office opened when the town was two years old.

tion as to what the very early days of the founding of Clear Spring was like, and what it must have meant for our early Clear Spring residents to have a post office before the days of telegraphs, telephones and party lines, UPS and Fed-Ex, faxes, cell-phones, e-mail and chat-rooms.

The first little post office building in Clear Spring was the messenger of sympathy and love. It was a servant of parted friends. It was the consoler of the lonely.

The Clear Spring post office was the bond of the scattered family. It was the enlarger of the common life, the carrier of the news and knowledge, and the instrument of local trade and industry. It was the promoter of mutual acquaintances and of peace and goodwill among all Americans in the 24 states.

In 1823, the town of Clear Spring was just a handful of new structures offering services to travelers. At that time, the Federal Government held the belief that if the areas of the Maryland wilderness (Washington County)

In This Issue

A tribute to the Clear Spring Post Office and devoted workers.

Do note the picture on this page of the lady holding the nice basket. Everyone should own a basket...

See you at Basket Bingo on March 14th. See page 20 for details.

In this issue we remember departed members... pages 14-17.

We celebrate a record number of 68 new members since January... page 19.

Maple Tree Tapping on February 28th. See page 19.

In Our Next Issue

We will list all recent monetary donations that members have included with their 2004 dues.

We will also be seeking Fort Frederick Market Fair help for April 22-25. Please keep your calendar open for us.

We really need volunteers who can build shelving in our barn. Call 301-842-2342.

and beyond to the wild west of Ohio were expected to grow, there must be mail service. That meant subsidizing with tax dollars small post offices located in very low population areas. There was protest in Washington, but those with a vision won, and in 1823 a post office opened in Clear Spring.

Clear Spring was chosen for a post office site due to the high volume of traffic heading west. Picking the perfect site in Clear Spring for the post office was important. The town was now two years old and it was plain to see that all activity centered around the spring and next door at the hotel.

Martin Myers, a land developer in Clear Spring, chose a vacant lot (one of dozens) across the street from the spring. On this property, Mr. Myers constructed a one-story log structure, 15'x15' in size, for the sole purpose of renting it to the Federal Government for a post office. A front door was located on the right-side of the front of the building with a back door also on the east side. This modern structure was in the heart of Clear Spring. (It is now the headquarters for the CSDHA.)

The Federal Government appointed a postmaster, giving local residents the privilege to go to their own local post office building and pay to get their letters. That is right. Pay! The postage stamp had yet to be invented. People

could mail letters free; the receivers had to pay!

To begin my research, I thought it would make a good feature story if I did a detailed biography on the first postmaster. I turned to the sheet prepared by Mr. Wolfinger, and he had Mr. George Lowe as the name I needed to research.

I spent endless lonely evenings at the Hagerstown library staring at the microfilms of early 19th-century newspapers. The name of George Lowe appears in Clear Spring in early 1823. He had just opened a large inn in Clear Spring called The Western Hotel. His advertisements called his business "a house of entertainment with a good assortment of choice liquors." The name of George Lowe was suddenly appearing everywhere in the microfilms — he was a constable — his daughter got married — his wife dies — large landowner along the Potomac, and on and on and on. But nothing about the post office. But what a good article I was able to write about him based on what I had discovered. Just as I was to move on to postmaster number two, I found a four-line article dated November 18, 1823 in the Torch Light newspaper. Here is the complete article, "A post office, we understand, has been established at Clear Spring, in this county, and Mr. Nicholas Lowe,

Postmasters and Postmistresses of Clear Spring

1823 — 2004

Mr. Nicholas Lowe	1823 — 1826
Mr. Daniel Brewer.....	1826 — 1834
Mr. David Ridenour.....	1834 — 1836
Mr. William Knepper....	1836 — 1841
Mr. William Cushwa.....	1841 — 1845
Mr. John Sosey.....	1845 — 1849
Mr. Elijah West.....	1849 — 1851
Mr. George Keefer.....	1851 — 1861
Mr. David L. Houck.....	1861 — 1865
Ms. Anna Newcomer.....	1865 — 1867
Mr. John Sosey.....	1867 — 1869
Mr. Soloman Stinemetz.	1869 — 1883
Mr. John Stinemetz.....	1883 — 1885
Mr. Luther Peterman....	1885 — 1889
Mr. William Loose.....	1889 — 1893
Mr. Samuel Reitzell	1893 — 1897
Mr. William Loose.....	1897 — 1912
Mr. David Flory.....	1912 — 1914
Mr. John C. Downs.....	1914 — 1922
Mr. Charles Tedrick.....	1922 — 1934
Mr. Charles Kreigh.....	1934 — 1938
Mr. Fred E. Speck.....	1938 — 1940
Mr. John L. Downs.....	1940 — 1948
Mr. W. Blaine Mills.....	1948 — 1984
Ms. Patricia Pajtis.....	1984 — 1988
Ms. G. Chris Fox.....	1988 — 1992
Mr. James McCoy.....	1993 — 2002
Ms. Lori Kriner.....	2002 — Present

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Clear Spring District Historical Association

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21722

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106 Cumberland Street
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12654 Broadfording Road
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11 South Mill Street

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Negroes for sale.

Will be sold, at public sale, on *SATURDAY* the 21st inst at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Tavern of Daniel Brewer, in Clear Spring —

A NEGRO WOMAN AND 6 CHILDREN.

Two or three of the children will be sold with the woman; and the three eldest separate. The woman is about 28 years of age — her eldest child, a girl, about 11 years old — the next, a boy, about 9 — and the third, a girl, between 7 & 8. Due attendance and a reasonable credit will be given by the subscriber.

Michael Smith
Agent for Sophia Smith.

This newspaper advertisement, dated February 5, 1829, announces that Negroes will be sold in downtown Clear Spring at the tavern of Daniel Brewer, who at the same time was serving as the postmaster of Clear Spring.

appointed postmaster."

All of my hours of research and writing (about 20 hours) had just gone down the toilet. Mr. Wolfinger was wrong. George Lowe was never the postmaster.

Nicholas Lowe was indeed the first postmaster of Clear Spring. But after hours of research, I could find nothing about one of the most prominent men of our community during the 1820's. So I moved on to the second postmaster, a person I found plenty to write about.

Here, is a good place in this story to explain why postmasters changed often and why the locations of the post offices moved so many times. Politics and business. Postmaster appointments were political, and as the political parties switched in the White House so did the postmaster when their term expired, if they were registered differently than the President. Also understand that more than one person (of the correct political party) could apply for the job, but again the political powers of the district-

1824. It is said that he was a friend of Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky.

"Mr. Brewer was married three times. In 1820 he married Elizabeth West. She died in 1830. In 1831, he married Mary Mish, daughter of George and Mary Long Mish. She died six months after their marriage, leaving behind a two-month old daughter, Mary Elizabeth Brewer. In 1833, Mr. Brewer married Mary Margaret Heller, the daughter of Daniel and Dorothea Bargman. They had two sons, Lewis Brewer and James Henry Clay Brewer.

"Daniel Brewer died in 1855 from dropsy and is buried at St. Peter's graveyard. His third wife died in 1862."

Daniel Brewer operated a successful transportation business on the C and O Canal. But prior to that he opened the first hotel in Myersville (now Clear Spring) in the early 1820's. His hotel/tavern was advertised as being "at the clear spring" and these promotions are credited with helping to change the name of our town from Myersville to

county-state, did the Clear Spring. picking. And what businessperson wouldn't want the post office located in his place of business? Customers were likely to shop when picking up their mail.

Daniel Brewer became postmaster in 1826. It is uncertain as to where the post office was during his term, but at his hotel next to the clear spring, would seem logical. Philip Downs provided me with the following family history on Mr. Brewer: "He was born in the Clear Spring district in 1791 and was the son of Peter and Mary Magdalena Grove Brewer.

"He received a captain's commission in the Eighth Maryland Regiment during the War of 1812. He served until

Clear Spring.

When the topic of slavery is mentioned in Clear Spring, I often hear the remark, "It was different here, not like in the deep South." An 1829 newspaper ad to sell slaves at Daniel Brewer's Tavern can't be read without getting sickening chills of how life used to be in Clear Spring. Michael Smith was acting as the sales agent for Sophia Smith. Brewer's Tavern was chosen for the auction site for "a Negro woman and her six children." The ad states that two or three of the children will be sold with the woman and that the three eldest will be sold separate. The woman was 28 years old. The eldest children to be sold separate were ages eleven, nine, and seven.

Holding auctions at the tavern was wise for inn-keeper Brewer, the sale brought him business — food and drinks were sold during the slave auction.

I found nothing in my research concerning Mr. Brewer's duties as postmaster and concluded that he performed his duties with honor.

But that tends not to be true with his replacement, David Ridenour, who became postmaster in 1834. This man knew how to ruffle feathers as postmaster. He was a young and admired figure in Clear Spring and was one of the founders and board members of the Clear Spring Academy while serving at



The home of former postmasters David Ridenour, William Loose, John C. Downs, and John L. Downs. The latter, who became postmaster in 1940, still resides here.



“Old Hickory” shown above — the leading males of Clear Spring accused Postmaster Ridenour of “using words no moral man would make under any circumstances,” concerning President Andrew Jackson.

the post office.

(I began my research on Mr. Ridenour by visiting the man who now owns the Ridenour home, store, and post office, John L. Downs, an expert on post office history, since he himself was appointed postmaster of Clear Spring 64 years ago.)

It is safe to guess that Postmaster Ridenour had the post office in his store at 150 Cumberland Street. (I did discover in my research that in 1830 a store was operated in Clear Spring by Hammett & Ridenour but I do not know if this was the same Mr. Ridenour.)

Our country was young when Mr. Ridenour was a postmaster during the 1830's, and politics was serious business in Clear Spring. A problem with researching Postmaster Ridenour is that many newspapers from his era can not be found, but here is what I discovered in newspapers from 1835 to 1836: According to the following citizens of the Clear Spring district during the 1830's — Jacob Snyder, Sam Tice, Daniel Hauer, Jonathan Nesbitt, Jr., Jonathan Kinney, Abraham Sosey, Michael Jones, John Gregg, Nicholas Lowe, Daniel Sprecher, Daniel Brewer, and Cephas Buttles — they claimed that

Postmaster Ridenour, who was a Whig, was obnoxious to the President Andrew Jackson political party of Clear Spring, and made use of language relative to the President, which was highly offensive to the party. This group of Clear Spring men claimed that Postmaster Ridenour used words that no moral man would make under any circumstances. (I wonder how his actions would be judged according to today's standards.) They said that Postmaster Ridenour wounded their feelings, and his language was greatly aggravated for a man holding the most lucrative office in the district.

The Jackson Democrats demanded that Postmaster Ridenour be fired. This crisis went on until 1836, at which time David Ridenour was removed from office. He was also accused of taking customer's money, and then refusing to give them their mail, if they were Democrats.

Clear Spring Tavern owner Cephas Buttles stated in one newspaper article that he asked Dr. James Ward, a leading Whig of Clear Spring, why Postmaster Ridenour didn't give some of the Democrats their mail when they so frequently had been in the post office. Dr. Ward replied, “What in hell was the use



The Ridenour store and post office, 150 Cumberland Street, with hitching posts for customers convenience., opened in 1834 at this location.

of giving them their mail when not one in three Democrats can read?”

As I try to piece together the Ridenour debate, it seems to go back to what I earlier stated in this article about postmasters changing every time the White House switched parties. Ridenour was a Whig, the man in the White House was a Democrat. But Whigs at that time had a lot of power in Maryland, but in the end, the party in the White House had the last word.



Home of Dr. James Ward, a leading Whig of Clear Spring. He is quoted as saying, “Not one in three Democrats can read, so why give them their mail?” His Federal home was located next to St. John's German Reformed Church. The house was razed 100 years ago.



Painting of Houck Store and Post Office by the late Mildred Houck. It was located where the Verizon Telephone building is today. The cucumber water pump and trough was owned by the town, and was used by residents who didn't want to walk to the clear spring to get their water.



Postmaster David Houck. Was he one of the two men in Clear Spring who voted for Lincoln?

formation on Mr. Cushwa in our CSDHA files.

William Cushwa was born in 1810 near Clear Spring on a farm. At the age of 20, he left home and got a job at Hammett & Ridenour, a leading merchant store in Clear Spring. He stayed at this job for eight years before switching to the Edelen Store in Clear Spring. By 1841 he was Postmaster of Clear Spring. It is believed that while he was postmaster, he built the beautiful home at 145 Cumberland Street. His mail job ended in 1845, and a few months later he married Ann Elizabeth Prather of Clear Spring.

In later years Mr. And Mrs. Cushwa moved to Charlton and in 1864 William Cushwa was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. He died in 1893.

John Sosey became postmaster in 1845. I know that Sosey is an old name in the Clear Spring community, and that some members of this family operated a store in Clear Spring. But I have no data on John and do not know where his post office would have been located. But while he was postmaster, postage stamps were issued to Clear Spring residents for the first time.

Elijah West was the next postmaster in 1849, followed by George Keefer in 1851. Mr. Keefer was a store-keeper and sold unusual items such as kneesprings for bow-legged people — guaranteed to straighten their legs.

Well-known store-keeper David Houck became the ninth postmaster of Clear Spring. His store was located at the corner of Cumberland and Mill Street, and it was also the location of his post office.

In the 1860 election, the nation elected its first Republican, Abraham Lincoln. Voting records show that only two men living in Clear Spring voted for Lincoln. Was David Houck one of those two men? After all, he was appointed postmaster when Lincoln moved into the White House in 1861.

(Just in case you are curious about the 1860 election in Clear Spring, Democrat Stephen Douglas got a few more votes than Lincoln. Most of our voting ancestors supported the man from Tennessee, John Bell of the Constitutional Union party.)

Hard times were not over for David Ridenour. He had monetary problems in 1849 and lost his home and store at 148-150 Cumberland Street. Perhaps it was due to health problems, because in December of the same year, David Ridenour was dead at the age of 45.

William Knepper became postmaster in 1836 following the departure of Mr. Ridenour. I have no files on Knepper history and I couldn't find newspaper information as to the location of his post office or anything about him.

Mr. Knepper was followed by William Cushwa in 1841. Again, the post office location is unknown but I did discover in-



Soloman Steinmetz, a veteran of the War of 1812, was postmaster from 1869 — 1883.

Mr. Houck served as postmaster during the Civil War years, 1861 to 1865. His store was robbed by soldiers. Many times his store and post office filled with Union soldiers one day and Confederate soldiers on another day. Letters to and from soldiers passed through the hands of Postmaster Houck. The saddest letter however must have been from young soldier James Dorrance telling the Houck family that Union

soldier Albert Houck had been shot above the heart and was left dead in a field at Chancellorsville, Virginia.

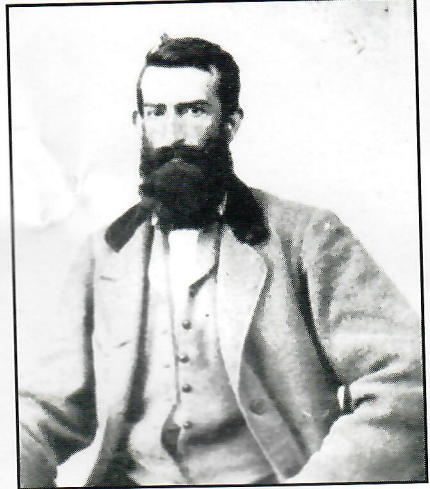
As the Civil War came to a close, the first woman postmistress was appointed. Mrs. Anna Newcomer began her duties on March 22, 1865. The location of the post office is unknown, but Mrs. Newcomer lived at 26 Cumberland Street. Her historic home was razed last year.

In 1867, former postmaster John Sosey regained his position as postmaster. He retained his job for two years.

Soloman Stienmetz, another veteran of the War of 1812, became the Clear Spring postmaster in 1869. The job was passed on to his son, John Stienmetz in 1883, but he lost the title in 1885. For the following four years Luther Peterman was the postmaster.

In 1885 the post office returned to 150 Cumberland when William Loose became postmaster. (William's father, Jonathan Loose, purchased this property at a sheriff's sale in 1849 to settle the debts of former postmaster David Ridenour.)

At this location, Mr. Loose operated the largest store in Clear Spring, offering such items as woodstoves, stamped paper, 500 pounds of French candles, waist ribbons,



John Steinmetz was postmaster from 1883 — 1885.

French worsted collars, shawls, brandy, rum, dress trimmings, the largest cucumbers ever offered, and medicine.

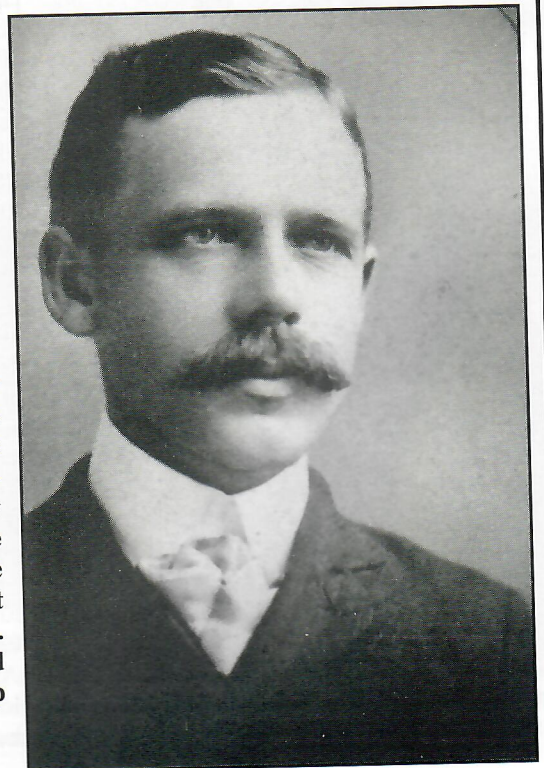
In 1893 the post office moved east five doors to 160 Cumberland Street. Store-keeper Samuel Reitzell was the postmaster. I now own this property and I recall being told years ago the story that a small fire took place in the store/post office around 1897 when a mouse chewed on a match and it ignited. That was in the days before safety matches.

Four years later, William Loose re-



Left: William Loose became the postmaster in 1889, opening his office at the old Ridenour site. (Photo loaned by Philip Downs.)

Right: Postmaster John C. Downs also served on the town council. History shows that he made very wise decisions in that job capacity. (Photo loaned by Philip Downs.)





Reitzell Store and Post Office was at 160 Cumberland Street. Shown are Elva Summers, Venette Reitzell, Sam Stonebraker, and Billie Reitzell. This home/store was modernized in 1912 and is credited with having the first inside toilet in Clear Spring.

gained his postmaster title and the post office went back down the street to his store. Here it stayed until the sudden death of Postmaster Loose in 1912.

David Flory was the new postmaster. There was a Flory Hotel located at 110 Cumberland Street, but I am not certain of the connection or where he might have operated his post office.

John C. Downs, one of the most respected citizens of Clear Spring, became the postmaster in 1914. The post office location was back at the former Loose Store, now the Downs Hardware Store, at 150 Cumberland Street.

Mr. Downs, a Democrat, lost his postmaster job when the Republicans took over the White House in the 1920's. World War I veteran Charles Tedrick was uneasy about seeking the job held by his good friend John C. Downs. But Mr. Downs told him to "go after the job because I'm going to lose it anyway," his son, John L. Downs, told me. Mr. Tedrick moved the post office to 135 Cumberland Street, where Mr. Tedrick lived and operated an antique business, decades ahead of his time.

I wanted to know more about Mr. Tedrick so I contacted his daughter, Peachie Haines. I had more interest in his business than being postmaster. Imagine how old an item had to be to be considered an antique in his time of

business! Mrs. Haines described her Dad as, "just happy all of the time. He was always joking and laughing and didn't mind if the laugh was on him."

She said once a man showed up wanting to sell her father a beautiful garden urn. He paid the man \$25 for it, and put the urn behind his building. It was a fine piece of art and Mr. Tedrick was very pleased with the purchase. A few days later the same man returned to the shop and said he had decided to also sell the matching urn. Mr. Tedrick quickly made the second purchase.

When the man left, Mr. Tedrick took the urn out back to see how well it matched the first buy. To his surprise, he had bought the same urn twice. The man had stolen the one in back of his store and sold it to him again. To make matters worse, Mr. Tedrick discovered that the urn was stolen from a cemetery and he lost his \$50 investment. Mrs. Haines said her father loved to laugh as he told this story.

Other facts about Mr. Tedrick include that he was on the Clear Spring High School football team, and he was once the mayor of Clear Spring. And, he liked to travel by motorcycle.

Postmastering ended for Mr. Tedrick when FDR came to Washington. Charles Kreigh, the town magistrate, was the new postmaster and he moved

his office to 124-126 Cumberland Street, today operating as Mills Liquor Store. John L. Downs told me that as a boy he would visit the post office often. Postmaster Kreigh was very kind to him and would let him help with the mail, even providing him with a small work area. Postmaster Kreigh told me, "I'm going to make you a postmaster," said Mr. Downs. The he added, "Charlie Kreigh broke me in." Postmaster Kreigh served until 1938.

I called Postmaster Kreigh's niece, Emily Poole, and she shared information with me. Mrs. Poole said he lived at 163 Cumberland Street and his magistrate office was in the small building east of his residence. She also said that he served in the Maryland House of Delegates after being postmaster.

Fred Speck was the next postmaster, and kept the office in the same location held by Mr. Kreigh.

In 1940, John L. Downs became postmaster. He too began his job at the Kreigh-Speck location but soon moved it back to his father's store at 150 Cumberland Street. The Federal Government allocated him \$240 per year for rent, heat, electricity, and other expenses



World War I veteran Charles Tedrick was a postmaster and antique dealer in Clear Spring. (Photo loaned by Peachie Haines.)



Charles Tedrick, a future postmaster, on a Harley-Davidson with his friend, Lillie McDonald (Fiery). Picture loaned by Peachie Haines.

such as office furniture. Mr. Downs was told he could hire a full-time clerk, offering a \$250 a year salary. While Mr. Downs served as postmaster, the position became a civil service job and politics was at last put to rest.

The service of his country called Mr. Downs into World War II in 1942. Esther Hull and Richard Brennan served as acting postmasters until he returned home in 1946.

The Clear Spring post office had a job opening in 1948 for a mail-carrier, and



After serving as Postmaster, Charles Kreigh was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates.

this job paid more than it did for being postmaster. Mr. Downs applied for the job and go it.

Like his father, Mr. Downs has always been active in his community. He is a charter member of the local fire department and the local Lion's Club, and has a green thumb when it comes to gardening. He is today among the most respected citizens of our small town.

When I visited him to get data for this story,

Mr. Downs took me from his kitchen through a door that lead to the room where Mr. Ridenour had his post office in 1834, and where Mr. Loose had his post office in 1889-1893 and again in 1897-1912, and where the senior Mr. Downs had his post office from 1914-1922, and John Downs himself had his post office from around 1940-1948 and where following postmasters had the post office until 1987. I found myself within the walls of so much small town history that was never recorded. I stood

there wondering, "What would Mr. Ridenour say to me?" Perhaps he would tell me to "Support the Whigs!" I could imagine ladies walking through the front door in search of a letter from a loved one, and I could imagine a cowboy asking directions to the wild west of Ohio. And let us just be honest here, all town news and gossip was shared at the post office and this old building heard it all.

W. Blaine Mills replaced Mr. Downs as postmaster, holding the record as the longest serving postmaster in Clear Spring, retiring in 1984. He too, was involved in his community and volunteered endlessly for decades.

This prolific town citizen died last year.

For the first time in local

post office history, an "outsider" became postmaster when Patricia Pajtis was given the job in 1984, and she over-saw some big changes. After being at the same location for 47 years, the postal system decided to move the post office to a new and much larger building owned by Andy Downs. The new post office on Mulberry Street opened on February 17, 1987.

After Ms. Pijtis, the following postmaster and postmistress were also not from the Clear Spring community: Chris Fox served from 1988-1992 and James McCoy served from 1993-2002.

Since 2002, Lori Kriner has been the postmistress, and has served the community, where she has roots back to the 1700's, faithfully.

Weeks have now passed since I started this article. If I had the time, I would spend a few months at the county courthouse searching deeds of properties trying to find the missing post office locations. The early census would also help. But this is where I end my research for the time being.

I enjoyed talking to all of my sources for facts so I could then track down pictures, and put it all together, so I could begin entering the next story in



Fred E. Speck began his postmaster's job in 1938.



These two young town residents are shown in front of the Clear Spring Post Office when it was located on Cumberland Street.



Postmaster Kreigh used to tell young John L. Downs that "he was going to make him a postmaster." Mr. Downs, shown above on the porch of the former Reitzell Store and Post office, did become the Clear Spring postmaster in 1940. On the left is Frances Angle, who became the postmistress of Big Spring. On the right is Elizabeth Niemyer, who became the acquisitions director for the Folger Shakespeare Library. All three are CSDHA members! (Photo loaned by Fonda Newkirk.)

our newsletter; and I thank Lori Kriner for her research help, updating me with names and dates of the past 20 years.

Now, when I consider this newsletter complete, I will take copies to my proof-readers. Corrections will be made, and then it will be taken to the Mercersburg Printing Company and printed. It will then return to Clear Spring to be stuffed, sorted by zip-code, bundled and counted, and then mailed at the Clear Spring post office.

Then it will be delivered by mail carriers to the mailboxes of CSDHA members. It is just like our ancestors anticipated for it to work.

Our praises to all of the people who have kept the Clear Spring Post Office doors open for more than 180 years. A 37 cent stamp is a great bargain!

Support the CSDHA
Be At Basket Bingo
March 14, 2004
See Page 20 For Details



Joan Hull is shown taking a picture of the retired post office crew as they gathered on the steps at 150 Cumberland Street to talk about old times. The post office shown was about to close and move to Mulberry Street in 1987. L-R, Frank Hull, Vera Hines, Inez Troupe, Clarence Baker, former postmaster John L. Downs, and former postmaster W. Blaine Mills. All are now deceased except Mr. Downs. (Photo courtesy of the Herald Mail newspaper.)

Saving The First Clear Spring Post Office Building



Right: Back view of post office building when CSDHA began restoration work in 1995 to save the structure.



Left: Front view of post office building after preservation work was complete several months later. The building has been our headquarters for the past nine years.

The first Clear Spring post office building was at 106 Cumberland Street. It was a one-story log building. It is believed that the post office was only at this location for a few years.

For unknown reasons, the building was remodeled during the 1850's. A second story and garret were added. The doors were switched to the west side of the front and back. The occupant at that time remains unknown.

During the 1860's, the building became the telegraph office for a few years. In the late 19th-century, the Clear Spring town band held their practices in this building and stored their uniforms upstairs.

From around 1930 until 1958, Houck's Store used the post office building for storage. Hundreds of pounds of chicken feed often filled the first floor.

The structure was sold to Donald Ankeney after the death of Mr. Houck. Mr. Ankeney, a lawyer, never used the building. The heirs of the Ankeney estate, Jane Stansbury and David Ankeney, donated the building to the CSDHA in 1995.

On the positive side, the building was so seldom used that it was very original. On the down side, it received very little upkeep over the years. When the CSDHA signed the deed, the building had already been condemned to be razed. Half

of the second floor had collapsed to the first floor and the east wall had fallen into the building.

With a generous donation from Dan Burke of Kentucky in honor/memory of Emmett and Lillian Kriner, and money from fund-raising, plus a \$10,000 loan from Preservation Maryland, the building was restored.

It is has been the headquarters for our organization since 1995. The upstairs displays the Hilda Cushwa Memorial Library and the lower level is used for files.

It is a beautiful, simple, primitive building that would not have been saved without the loyal support of CSDHA members and a group of board members with a vision.

May the pictures with this story aid our newer members in understanding what a huge undertaking it was to save the first post office in Clear Spring.



Half of the second floor had collapsed to the first floor. The exposed log walls are shown on the right side.



The left photo shows the first floor as it now appears. The stove was made in Cumberland, Md. The left photo shows past CSDHA board member Fred Cornett, standing upstairs, looking at the missing east wall. This room is now our library.



The above photo shows Philip Downs working in the same spot Fred Cornett is examining in the upper picture. This library is named in memory of our first president, Hilda Frantz Cushwa.

Have You **MAILED** Your 2004 CSDHA
Dues?
Please Go To The Post Office Soon!

Current 2004 Employees of the Real Clear Spring Post Office

Lori Kriner Leshner +++ Postmaster
Linda Ernst Kriner +++ Clerk
Tammy Bryan +++ Clerk
Greg Weaver +++ Route 1 carrier
Jean Lease +++ Route 2 carrier
Tim Mongold +++ Route 3 carrier
Sherry Timko +++ Route 4 carrier
Jackie Divelbiss +++ Substitute carrier
Stan Stottlemeyer +++ Substitute carrier

Post Office Headquarters To Be Painted; Other Work Is Needed

We mentioned in our December 2003 newsletter that our headquarters needed painted. CSDHA member Dr. Bud Hawbaker has volunteered to be the foreman of this project. Kathleen King agreed to assist him. Other painters are needed. We also need to have insulation blown in three small walls upstairs. Does any member own such a company? We need a front door sill. We need front door repairs and some window glasses replaced. A toilet would be nice, too.

Call David Wiles and let him know how you can help. Thank you.
301-842-2342.

Clear Spring Rural Free Delivery

By Hilda Cushwa
Article Written 1987

We turn now for a look at the rugged men who first carried the mail to outlying areas of Clear Spring when Rural Free Delivery began in 1896.

Route one and Route two were established out of Clear Spring. Route one extended East-North-East, and South-East to the Conococheague Creek, to the Potomac River, and slightly across the Mason Dixon Line in the Fairview-Dry Run areas.

Route two left Clear Spring via Holmes Valley thence onto the Lanes Run — Hanging Rock roads into the Indian Springs area, and over Fairview Mountain on U.S. 40.

Bruce Knepper on Route one and George C. Boward on Route two, undertook the task of "getting the mail through." During the spring and summer months their position might seem rather idyllic — trotting along with a gentle horse through sun-dappled farm land, and green woods.

However, the coming of winter brought another story, when they often had to resort to a sleigh, its floor fortified with hot bricks against frostbite, and the heaviest of lap robes across mail and carrier. When drifted roads became too much even for the sleigh, these early Clear Spring couriers often took to the fields on horseback to reach



Local druggist John Anderson was a substitute mail carrier for the Clear Spring Post Office.



Clear Spring mail carrier George Boward going home to home in a sleigh.

their destination. One local carrier is reported to have carried mail in the shelter of his hat, against the elements! Junk mail had not yet been invented.

One of the lesser problems of the job was the difficulty of retrieving pennies, with cold fingers from the jar lids which seemed to be the most popular money containers in rural boxes.

Route two was the more isolated of the Clear Spring routes, traveling as it did principally through the mountains. Here some patrons had no link with civilization except through the daily visit of the mailman.

How heavily they relied on this contact is exhibited by the story of the twin Forsythe sisters who were extremely shy of outlanders. They grew attached to George Boward, with his well-known record of dependability, so much that they "sent along" with him for medicine from Dr. Jonathan Perry of Clear Spring, whenever they were indisposed. Armed with the description of their symptoms, George Boward faithfully visited the doc-

tor's office, and returned, next day, with medicine for their needs. This system seems to have served them remarkably well for they attained a ripe old age.

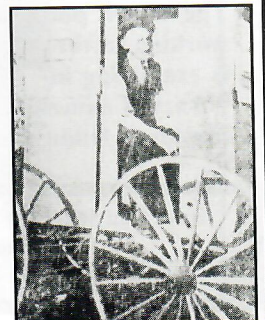
It was not unusual for the mailman of those early days to pick up groceries and other staples from the store and deliver — gratis.

With the advent of the automobile, the horses were of course retired. George Boward's faithful gray Peg, the successor to Pet the dark horse, was put out to pasture on Troupe's Farm located on Hicksville Road. Peg refused to accept retirement and repeatedly returned alone to her owner, in time to take out the day's mail.

These horses were so accustomed to the route that it scarcely required a touch of the reins to bring them to each box.

One summer day, a particular enticing

Clear Spring
mail carrier
Bruce
Knepper in
his mail
wagon.



tree full of cherries overhung a mail box. Mr. Boward decided to avail himself of a supply of fruit to take along. Getting out of the buggy, he snapped a sizable branch which the noise so startled the horse that she took off without him — with the mail! Peg was found patiently waiting for her master at the next mail box.

The improved roads and heaters in cars removed many of the rigors of the routes, but patrons still remember the times when the local carrier got out of his warm car to wade waist-high snow, to serve the people who were unable to keep their boxes open. Worthy of note also is the devotion of a present day mailman who never failed to deliver to the door for an old gentleman who had fractured his spine on a trip to the mailbox.

The tradition of postal employment appears to have gotten in the blood of families we find in the service of the two Steinmetzes, the Kneppers, the Loose family and the Downs family, and father and son of the Hull family. The same with George Boward and his son, Guy.

Unabashed nostalgia will always be associated with rural post offices in Smalltown, U.S.A. No generation born to expect world-wide communication at the flick of a button can truly realize the impact of the earlier messengers.

Those who served their countrymen — above and beyond the call of duties — forged a link with the outside world never to be forgotten by those who experienced it. Before the advent of radio, the postman's horse was the most welcome sight in the entire day for isolated patrons. He carried the bearer of tidings, good and sad, and was a life-line to loved ones far away.

These couriers brought us the whole gamete of human motion. Joyous details arrived, which the church bells had already heralded, on that November day — 1918.

In 1927 our spirits soared with the news of the young Love Eagle who dared to try his wings alone across the Atlantic.

Then came the utter bleakness of a day in 1932, when we first knew that little Charles Lindbergh would never



This picture was taken between 1938 and 1940 in front of the Clear Spring Post Office (now Mills Liquor Store) showing all of the staff workers: L to R — Buffalo Ankeney, assistant carrier; Esther Gossard Hull, clerk; George C. Boward, Route two carrier; Bob Bain, Route one carrier; and Fred E. Speck, postmaster.

return to his mother's arms. That impact was greater for its rarity. Not yet had a nation become inured to violent crime as a daily occurrence.

The mail came that day — and went — leaving us with the black headlines which spelled the end to our hope. Trudging home from the mailbox — that memorable morning — was a long journey.

Small wonder then that we bless the memory of all good postmen who car-

ried out their duties in the light of an almost-sacred trust. May their kind flourish in this land.

We are seeking post office histories and pictures of other areas for future publications.

Mary Beard Remembered As Always Giving

CSDHA member Mary E. Beard died December 27, 2003 at the age of 88. She was born on February 10, 1915 in Clear Spring, and was the daughter of the late John Feidt Beard and Lucy May Frush Beard.

She graduated from Clear Spring High School in 1932. She received her bachelor's associated degree from Towson State Teachers College and her master's degree in elementary education from the University of Maryland.

She was a school teacher in Washington County for 38 years. She began her teaching career at the small one-room school at Shanktown, near Fort Frederick. Her next school was Broadway in Hagerstown. She was then assigned to Clear Spring where her devoted career spanned for decades, until retirement.

She served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II.

She was a world traveler and enjoyed the cultures, music, and history of many countries. She is also remembered for enjoying her time with family and friends at the Calypso in Ocean City, Maryland.

She was a lifetime member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Clear Spring. She served as a volunteer for the auxiliary of the Washington County Hospital and also at Ravenwood Retirement Home.

In the past, Miss Beard was very generous to the CSDHA. Aside from yearly monetary gifts, she donated her collection of local miniature furniture, worth thousands of dollars, a rare antique rocking chair once belonging to the Bain family, and her valuable collection of



The late Mary Beard served in the Women's Army Corp during World War II.

local arrow heads.

She is survived by her nephew, Jerry Beard; one great-nephew, Dr. Allen Beard of Baton Rouge, La.; two great-nieces, Audrey Morton of Ellicott City, Md., and Stephanie Mankoski of Chambersburg, Pa.; three great-great nieces; and a special cousin, Mary Hull of Clear Spring.

Miss Beard was preceded in death by her sister, Martha Beard in 1999.

Burial was at Rose Hill Cemetery in Clear Spring.

Mary Beard was a wonderful neighbor, faithful friend, and giving school teacher. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Our sympathy to all family members and to all friends.

Mary E. Beard
1914 — 2004



With the passing of Miss Beard, all of the Clear Spring Elementary School teachers shown on this picture are now deceased. L-R seated in front row: Bill Carr, Mrs. Virginia Shupp Hull, Mrs. Bessie Hull Snyder, Mrs. Florence McDonald Frantz, Mrs. Carmen Widmyer Garnand, and Elizabeth Clopper (Troxell). Back row— William Wyand, Miss Mary Beard, Paul Reger, Mrs. Mary Michael, Miss Ethel Widmyer, Miss Lena Shives, Miss Ruth Perry, Miss Nellie Newkirk, Miss Mary Steele, Mrs. Nora McDonald Snyder, and Miss Helen Smith. They were among the best of the best of teachers.

Marvin Trumpower, World War II Veteran Dies

CSDHA member Marvin Trumpower of Nesbitt Ave. in Clear Spring, died January 8, 2004 at the age of 78. He was born in Clear Spring and was the son of the late Clinton Trumpower and Etta Slayman Trumpower.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. The late Mr. Trumpower received the Good Conduct Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, the Army Occupational Medal, and the World War II Victory Ribbon.

Mr. Trumpower retired as a warden in 1984 from the Roxbury Correctional Institution with 26 years of service.

He was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, the Joseph C.

Herbert American Legion, the Medairy Lodge 140, the VFW and Moose clubs of Mercersburg, and the Rattle Run Hunt Club.

He is survived by a daughter, Cathy Mills of Clear Spring; one son, Thomas Trumpower of Boonsboro; and two grandsons, Clint Trumpower and Brent Mills; and his special friend, Rosie Starli-per.

Mr. Trumpower was preceded in death by four brothers, Ralph Trumpower, Allen Trumpower, Mason Trumpower and Guy Trumpower.

Burial was at Cedar Lawn Memorial Park in Hagerstown.

Our sincere sorrow to all family members and friends.

Thelma Schildtknecht, Descendant Of Early Pioneers, Has Passed Away

CSDHA member Thelma Schildtknecht, a descendant of some of the oldest family names in Washington County, died January 13, 2003. She was 78 years old.

She was born in Clear Spring and was the daughter of the late Paul D. Kretzer and Lovesse Wishard Kretzer.

She graduated from Clear Spring High School in 1943 and was employed by Bell Atlantic for 32 years, retiring in 1986.

She was always thoughtful of the CSDHA, always providing yearly monetary gifts. She was also a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the Telephone Pioneers, and Coffman Home Aux-iliary.

Mrs. Schildtknecht is survived by her husband of 47 years, Charles A. Schildtknecht; one daughter, Ann Moore of Hagers-town; one son, Dennis Ommert of Yardley, Pa.; two sisters, Alice Mellott of Waynesboro, Pa. and Margaret Clopper of Hagers-town; two brothers, Marshall Kretzer of Clear Spring and Fred Kretzer of Roanoke, Va.; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Burial was at St. Paul's Cemetery east of Clear Spring.

We express our deepest sorrow to all of her family members and friends.

Anderson Pharmacy

Moved from the downtown
Clearspring bridge
to
the D. H. Flory property where
we will
be
pleased to meet our friends at all
times.

Barber Shop and Pool Room

Try me for good clean shave
or an up-to-date hair cut.

S. N. Hull,
prop.

Downtown
Clearspring

Clearspring Lunch Room and Grocery

My many friends are hereby invited
To call and see my new store which I
have just opened. I have everything in
the grocery line you need.

Confectionery Department

The best and freshest candy you can buy.

Lunch Department

I can give you lunches of all kinds at
short notice. Pies and cakes fresh every-
day.

A. L. Barlet

The three above advertisements appeared in print in 1912. Little has changed in our town in 92 years. Today, Clear Spring has Druggist Jerry Aleshire, you can still get an up-to-date hair cut at the Perry House, and McDonald's offers lunch on a short notice.

Betty Clopper — Her Caring and Generosity Touched Many

CSDHA member Elizabeth “Betty” Clopper died peacefully January 23, 2004. She was 89 years old.

She was born in Decatur, Illinois on May 5, 1914 and was the daughter of the late William and Flora Smith Caskey.

While attending college in Ohio, she met her future husband who was from Clear Spring. The residents of Washington County have been blessed by her living here for over six decades.

Mrs. Clopper taught elementary school for two years in Decatur before becoming a teacher, principal, and consultant in early childhood and special education; not only in Washington County but for the state of Maryland.

She was a private tutor of the mentally-challenged in Hancock, Maryland before opening a private nursing school in Hagerstown.

After moving to Hagerstown, she co-founded the first private school for the mentally-challenged, and pioneered special education classes in Washington County public schools.

She was a past consultant for special education programs in Carroll, Frederick, Allegany, and Garrett counties.

She retired as the director of special education for the Washington County Board of Education. She was also an advisor to the architects in the design of the Robinwood Early Childhood Center.

She was a past president of the Hagerstown Zonta Club and a member of the local and state Retired Teachers’ Association, and had been the editor of their local *Report Card* newsletter. She was also a member of and secretary of the League of Women Voters.



Elizabeth Caskey Clopper
“Betty”
1914 — 2004

She was elected as a distinguished alumna of the University of Findlay and was listed among the Most Wonderful Citizens in Washington County. She was included in Who’s Who of American Women in 1991.

Mrs. Clopper was a member of the Hagerstown Presbyterian Church for 58 years. She volunteered in the nursery

and child care departments, and served as a deacon, and was secretary of the Women’s Coordinating Committee.

She and her husband — we can’t discuss one without the other — have been among the most faithful CSDHA members. Together, they donated generously every year and with special gifts, have been associated with our most substantial contributors since our organization was formed 24 years ago. They have also given generously to the L. P. Snyder Library of Clear Spring, the Washington County Museum of Fine Art, and numerous other local organizations.

But Mr. And Mrs. Clopper have been more than monetary givers to our group — they have been supporters. Seldom did an event happen that they did not make an appearance, always praising our efforts, always making our hard work feel meaningful. Should it be the Fort Frederick Market Fair, or our Christmas social at Plumb Grove or a fund-raiser, it is sad to think that Mrs. Clopper will never appear again, smiling and offering her praise.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 65 years, J. Allen Clopper, one daughter, Elizabeth L. Finlay of Reading, Pennsylvania.; one son, Dennis Clopper of Austin , Texas; one brother, William Caskey of Clayton, California; three granddaughters; three grandsons; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, William Dale Clopper, and a brother, Rufus M. Caskey.

Burial was in peaceful Blair’s Valley at the Church of God Cemetery.

Our sincere sympathy to all of the family, and to all of the friends of Mrs. Clopper.

*She had the heart
 that cared completely.*

*She had the smile
 that brought so much pleasure.*

*She had the love
 that brought joy beyond
 measure.*

Memories of Aunt Betty

By: C. Kenneth Clopper

When Aunt Betty (Mrs. Elizabeth C. Clopper) passed away on the 23rd of January, 2004, it marked the passing of an important era of my life.

Aunt Betty was the wife of J. Allen Clopper, my father's older brother. She and Uncle Allen were a significant part of my life from the time of my earliest recollections. As a matter of fact, my earliest memory is my being at Aunt Betty and Uncle Allen's house on Club Road when my sister, Carole, was born — I was less than three-years-old at the time.

I was always awed by Aunt Betty's capability to juggle the responsibilities of raising a family, while, at the same time, being a schoolteacher. Back then—the late 40's & early 50's — all my schoolteachers were old maids, and I was scared to death of them. Therefore, I couldn't imagine how somebody as kind and caring as Aunt Betty could also be a teacher. I found out, in later years, that Aunt Betty was a true pioneer in the Head Start Program and special education programs targeting mentally disadvantaged children

Some of my fondest memories growing up were the infrequent visits and trips that I was able to make with Aunt Betty, Uncle Allen, and their family of two sons and a daughter. Since we had a dairy farm, milking cows twice a day, seven days a week was the norm and being able to get away for a day occasionally was a treat that I never missed if I could manage it.

One trip, I remember, was especially significant. During the summer of 1952, I got to go along with Aunt Betty, Uncle Allen and their family to Deep Creek Lake in far Western Maryland. As one whose longest journeys were occasional day trips to Baltimore and Washington, between milkings, to visit aunts and uncles, Deep Creek Lake was like going to the other side of the world! Nineteen fifty-two

was an election year, pitting Dwight Eisenhower against Adli Stevenson — Harry Truman had decided against a second term. Aunt Betty and Uncle Allen were following the campaigning closely — I don't remember which candidate they supported — but that was my first taste of politics, and I've loved it ever since.

During a visit to their house several years later, Aunt Betty and Uncle Allen's older son, Denny, and I rode our bicycles to the Hagerstown Airport to look at the airplanes. I guess we stood around looking pitiful enough because one of owners of a light aircraft asked us if we wanted to take a ride in his airplane. I remember it was an Aeronca Chief, a two-person, single engine plane that had no electric or electronics. To start it, you had to spin the prop by hand. That ten-minute flight over Hagerstown set my life's priority — to fly, or at least be associated with flying — something I was able to do for 43 years with the U.S. Air Force.

Aunt Betty and Uncle Allen's younger son, Bill, (who was my age) would usually stay at our farm for a week or so during the summers. He and I were able to get into all sorts of mischief — which my parents and Aunt Betty usually found out about. When Aunt Betty and Uncle Allen would come to pick Bill up, he and I would hide, hoping that they couldn't find him — they always did.

I'll miss Aunt Betty terribly. In later years, during our visits, she would always remark about the good times that we had together. She was a classy lady who proved that every child has a potential. She was an ardent patron of the arts in Washington County and she and Uncle Allen have been generous supporters of the Clear Spring District Historical Association. The world will be a little less kind and gentle from her passing.

Seeking Information For Future Newsletters

Stories and pictures of Row's Park at Conococheague.

Black-cating in Clear Spring.

Strict teachers and the types of punishments they used.

The KKK in the Clear Spring community.

Clear Spring alley memories. Would you like to do a walking or driving tour, and describe the missing buildings and long ago activities for a newsletter article?

Pictures and stories of a good old-time family reunion.

Halloween parades, tricks, and decorating that was popular in your youth in the Clear Spring community. Also would like to know what types of treats were given. It has been said that some ladies spent days making homemade candy to give away. Can anyone verify this?

What feature stories would you like to read? We really need pictures for future newsletters.

Give us the information. We will write the story. It can be one paragraph or several pages.

Please share your memories.

Women who chewed snuff and related stories.

Contact: David Wiles, 301-842-2342

Board of Directors Change; D&O Insurance Coverage Is Issue

The CSDHA elections were held in January. It was an event of surprises and changes. One member declined to serve for concern of our lack of insurance to protect our board members from being sued.

Lisa Poole requested not to serve another term as treasurer. This is a very time consuming position handling everything from depositing dues, paying bills, doing income tax forms, raising funds, making loan payments, handling grant money and forms, and much more. Lisa has been our treasurer since 1995, and a board member long before that, and she has done her job superbly. Indeed, she needs a break and we praise her and thank her for her devoted service of handling our financial affairs for nine years. She is staying on as a board member, and she will remain devoted, and busy saving local history.

Our new treasurer is Colleen Cashell, owner of a historic home in Clear Spring, and a very active member of our group. Colleen is not new to our board. She has been serving as our secretary. We are happy that she has switched seats because it gives us the opportunity to elect board member Betsey Lillard as our new secretary. Just like Colleen, Betsey is well known in our group for her dedication. She can be found at most all times working on various CSDHA projects.

Cedric Poole and Betty Shank also declined to serve another term on our board. Both are true believers in preserving local history and have made numerous contributions as board members. They will both remain as active members, with Cedric helping in various ways, and Betty remaining as membership chairperson, among many other duties.

Claire Seibert, another long time board member since

1994, decided not to seek re-election. Claire devoted her energies to youth activities and she will be missed. She remains as a regular member, and will continue to serve on the scholarship committee.

Kenny Clopper was elected to the board but he very respectfully declined to serve based on the issue that we do not have "directors and officers" insurance to cover our volunteer board of directors. As it stands today, a person can sue the CSDHA, and sue individual board members for neglect. (Even church council members can now be sued and lose everything they own if their church does not have D&O coverage.)

The topic of D&O insurance has been discussed in the past, but our board members were concerned that the CSDHA membership already pays over \$4,000 a year for fire/injury/theft insurance for our three properties. But should a board member have to put his own home at risk of losing just to volunteer? It's a crazy world today. Kenny has given us all something to ponder. More on this topic will follow in future newsletters.

Also joining our board in 2004 is Michelle Dyer, a long-time CSDHA supporter and a devoted volunteer for the Friends of Fort Frederick. She and her husband, Gil, live in the restored Widmyer house near the fort.

Joining Michelle is Danny Rohrer, another devout CSDHA member. Danny lives on a historic farm near Keedysville. He is a pure preservationist and brings excellent insight to our group.

All other board positions remained the same. The CSDHA exists because of volunteers and our 2004 board is ready to serve. But they can't do it alone. Please help when you can.

Wooden Replicas of Plumb Grove For Sale



Plumb Grove wooden replica for sale.

The Clear Spring High School Alumni Association has produced a new wooden replica of Plumb Grove. It is stunning!

The houses are for sale at M&T Bank in Clear Spring and at Wilson Store in downtown Wilson Village. The price is \$13.

For an additional \$4, the house can be mailed. Send \$17 each to the CSDHA, PO Box 211, Clear Spring, MD. 21722.

It was very gracious of the alumni association to produce this new version of Plumb Grove plus donate all of the profit to our organization. Thank you Don and Mary Jane Spickler and all others involved.

ORDER TODAY ... ORDER NOW ... DON'T DELAY

For more details contact:

Colleen Cashell

301-842-3482

A Record 68 New Members Since January: WELCOME

Donnie Long
Bill Weaver
Sam Beauchamp
Jayne Becker
Mel Davis
Denny Duddleson
Dr. Robert Cody
Thelma Clopper
Tom Fiery
Joyce Weaver
Pat Fiery
Courtney Gorham
Megan Micco
Joey Micco
Ronald Michael
Evelyn Sampson
Amy Weaver
Wanda Wade
Alice Mills
Toni Hose
Edward Whyte
Michael Reid
Donna Reid
Jack Reed
Melodie Davis
Don Bevis
Kevin Noll
Lois Noll
Scott Leshner
Debra Kennedy
Joyce Corbett
Deb Kline
Ogle County —
Geneological Society
Edna Wyand

Sally Ridenour Wagoner
Thomas Stinson
David Starliper
Carl Witmer
Jonathan Witmer
Jesse Witmer
David H. Witmer
David A. Witmer
Dr. Franklin Wagner
Raymond Suder
Wilber Sprecher
Glenn Smith
Sam Smith, Sr.
Eugene Simmons
David R. Shank
Charles Schildtknecht
Harry Russell
George Rowe
Ray Kepler
Ron Lyles
Keefer Martin
Oakie McKee
Henry McMullan
Les Milburn
Paul Roth
Charles Rowe, Jr.
Charles R. Rowe
Robert Kelley
John Grove
Albert Fockler
William Eckard
Douglas Davis
Paul Bowers
Earl Barkdoll, Jr.

Let Us Know Your Talents
— We have a job for you —

Holiday Clean-Up

We thank the following volunteers who spent a total of 38 man hours cleaning up from our holiday celebrations, putting the furniture back, etc. It was a very cold Friday and Saturday to work and all help was appreciated. Helpers were: Emma Seibert, Carl Llewellyn, Betsey Lillard, Phil Seibert, Eric Trail, Cedric Poole, Colleen Cashell, Lisa Poole, Philip Downs, Claire Seibert and David Wiles.

PG Gifts Charming

Additional charm has now been added to Plumb Grove upon recently receiving several tasteful gifts from Joe and Joanne Rockwell.

They donated two English ironstone transfer-ware plates popular in the 1820-1830 time period; two Adam Rose design plates and one matching cup, all popular during the 1830-1840 time period; a small plate and matching cup with a sponge design popular in the early second quarter of the 19th-century; a very unique 19th-century blue glass vase; a tall decorative 19th-century vase once belonging to the George Boward family; a small 19th-century pitcher once belonging to Flora Peterman; and two matching pewter candlestick holders.

In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Rockwell donated three beautiful wooden frames popular during the mid-Victorian times. One frame contains a crewel made by the late Helen Hamilton.

The Rockwells also donated several books to our CSDHA library, including one written by Leonore Wilson, the daughter of the late Gov. Hamilton, the former owner of Stafford Hall east of Clear Spring. In her book, Mrs. Wilson describes 19th-century life in Washington County. It is a great source of information for a future newsletter.

We thank Mr. and Mrs. Rockwell for thinking of Plumb Grove as they "down-sized." They have sold the large historic home in Mercersburg and now reside in Newville, Pennsylvania. We wish them many years of happiness at their new residence.

Maple Syrup Tree Tapping Public Invited

Fair View Outdoor School
Draper Road (behind Plumb Grove)

Plumb Grove Open

Saturday

February 28, 2004

9 A.M. to Noon

*Watch as the February Sun
Stirs The Lifeline Of The
Maples*

**Spring Must Be Around The
Corner!**

CSDHA Basket Bingo Blast!

Sunday, March 14, 2004

— Clear Spring Fire Department Bingo Hall
Big Spring Road next to American Legion —

Doors open at 11:30 A.M.

Roast beef lunch served at noon

BINGO starts at 1 P.M.

\$25 per ticket

**Call 301-842-1101 For Tickets Or Purchase At Clear
Spring Hardware Store or Pharmacy.**

**Twenty-two regular games with gift-filled baskets
3 special games — 3 great raffles
50/50 Drawings**

All Proceeds Go To The CSDHA

Please buy tickets in advance! Seating is limited.

**Businesspeople are needed to donate gifts to fill
baskets. Please be generous.**

Call 301-842-1101. Thank You!

Help Us Fill Baskets!

**The above mentioned Basket
BINGO could be our largest
fund-raiser for the year. We
need the support of our mem-
bers, neighbors and friends.
Please buy a ticket.**