

USED TO BE...

CLEAR SPRING DISTRICT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

CSDHA Celebrating 32nd Year of Promoting Historic Preservation

A Dead Mule

By David Wiles

As a child, I remember my great-aunts and my great-uncles from the Hull side of my family telling funny stories about their neighbors who lived long ago in the Clear Spring district. Stories about people who were around during the 19th-century. Like old Mr. Keef. Now, keep in mind, I was always told, this was the Keef family from Ireland not to be mistaken for the Keefer family from Germany.

According to my family lore, Mr. Keef saw an advertisement in a Clear Spring newspaper offering for sale a "*strong work mule in excellent condition.*" The price was high — one hundred dollars. But it was a good investment for farmer Keef and he decided to purchase the mule to help increase his farming production. He quickly mailed a one hundred dollar gold coin to the seller.

A few days passed and the man selling the mule arrived at the Keef farm located somewhere in the Pinesburg area. The man saw Mr. Keef working in the chicken coop and went and introduced himself and said, "Sorry Mr. Keef, but I have some bad news. The mule died last night." Mr. Keef replied that he was sorry to hear that and added if the mule seller gave him his gold piece back every thing would be fine.

But the seller said, "Sorry, I can't do that. I spent it already." Mr. Keef calmly said, "OK, then just bring me the dead mule." The man said loudly, "What are you going to do with a dead mule?" Mr. Keef told the man that he was going to chance (raffle) him off. And the man told him, "You can't sell chances for a dead mule." But Mr. Keef insisted that he could chance off a dead mule if he didn't tell anyone that the mule was dead.

A few months had passed and the man who sold the mule ran into Mr. Keef in Clear Spring shopping at the Prather&Reitzell Store. He said, "What did you do with that dead mule? Mr. Keef told him that he went to the Clear Spring tournament (known for drawing thousands of visitors) and he chanced off the mule. Said he sold 500 tickets for two dollars each and made a profit of \$998.00.

The man said, "My goodness, didn't anyone complain?" Mr. Keef replied, "Well, the feller who won got upset so I gave him his two dollars back."



The yearly Clear Spring Tournament drew large crowds.

The old dead mule tale reminds me of the hard-working devoted Clear Spring neighbors who got together 32 years ago and started the Clear Spring District Historical Association. People were asked to take a chance on a new rural historical society that was going to restore the vacant, falling down, Plumb Grove Mansion. They asked people to take a chance and give the fragile new society money and also volunteer their time. The new group even asked people to take a chance that organization would grow over the decades and good folks were asked to donate antique furniture and other heirlooms.

Over time, hundreds and hundreds of wonderful people with ties to Clear Spring have "taken chances" to promote historic preservation and preserve local history. And because of this, the Clear Spring District Historical Association has thrived for 32 years. The dividends from the investments of the members have been tremendous. The CSDHA is no dead mule! The organization is alive and kicking.

Clear Spring District Historical Association

Monthly Meetings

Now Held on the Third Monday of Each Month

At Plumb Grove

7 P.M.

Everyone Welcome

Monthly meetings offer fabulous opportunities to raise your hand and volunteer to help with projects!

A Proud Colleague Charter Member In Partnership With Preservation Maryland
A Proud Partner With The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Trust and Lockhouse 49

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

David Wiles 301-842-2342

VICE-PRESIDENT

Philip Downs 301-842-2259

SECRETARIES

Bruce Massey 301-797-7055

Eric Trail 301-842-3091

TREASURER

Lisa Shank Poole ...301-842-1101

Membership: Ten dollars per person per year. Donations towards our monthly expenses and special projects are very welcome. We are a 501-3c tax deductible organization.

We are devoted to historic preservation of local landmarks and to the preservation of community and family history.

Clear Spring District

Historical Association

PO Box 211

Clear Spring, Maryland
21722

Historic Properties Owned
By

CSDHA:

Plumb Grove Museum

12654 Broad Fording Road
Ring 301-842-3314

Browns' Meeting House

11 South Mill Street
Ring 301-842-1393

Post Office Museum

106 Cumberland Street

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Bowman301-842-2843

Barbara Clopper301-842-0097

Danny Clopper 301-842-0018

Raymond Divelbiss .301-842-3091

Cindy Etzel 301-331-2821

Dr. Joan McKean ... 301-842-2696

Kent Reid 301-733-0222

Danny Rohrer 301-432-8350

Betty Shank 301-842-1101

Gregg Sigler 301-842-2727

Michele Smith 301-992-2460

Sue Stine 301-842-1076

Ralph Young 301-223-8149

E-MAIL:

dwilshistory@verizon.net

Preserving Local History

Since 1980

Plumb Grove Placed on National Register Of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of our nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized as the Federal Preservation Act of 1966 and signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the register is part of a national program to coronate and support public efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic resources.

Consider for a moment how many homes and buildings are in the United States. Perhaps zillions. And out of that massive number there are only about 85,000 individual structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This register includes the homes of U.S. Presidents and other historic sites in cities and towns all across the United States.

Monetary donations from CSDHA members Tish Miller and Joan Hull, plus added funding from our savings account, gave the CSDHA the opportunity to contract the highly respected firm of Paula Reed and Associates to submit an application to place Plumb Grove on the register. Paula Reed and her associates were successful! Plumb Grove is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Context of The Plumb Grove Area

Based on the research done by the Paula Reed firm, Plumb Grove represents an important slice of regional history rooted in the rich soil cultivated and developed into prosperous farms by German husbandmen. A few pioneering farmers and fur traders initially settled the area in the 1730s and 1740s. At that time Lord Baltimore had just opened Maryland's frontier or "back country" for settlement, and Ger-



Plumb Grove as it appeared when CSDHA volunteers decided to restore the property and make it a rural farmhouse museum. The property is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

mans were migrating through the area to create settlements in Virginia. Seeking to develop the back portions of Maryland, Lord Baltimore began to encourage settlement on his colony's frontier. Speculators from eastern Maryland responded by acquiring large tracts for subdivision and resale to German farmers. As settlement progressed, political divisions of the frontier occurred. Until 1748, the land was part of Prince George's County. Afterward it was Frederick County until 1776 when Washington County was formed.

Settlement was sparse until the close of the French and Indian War in 1763 and the end of Pontiac's rebellion the follow-

ing year. Thereafter, settlement progressed rapidly as transportation routes improved and word of the rich farmland in the Cumberland and Shenandoah valleys spread.

The land was made fertile by numerous limestone outcrops, which give special visual character to the landscape as well as providing material for buildings and fences. The English speculators who had acquired large grants of land as investments began to subdivide and sell into smaller lots of 100-300 acres which were ideal for a profitable family farm. These farms were divided into fields of 20-40 acres and planted with small grains and corn or clover. Other lands were left in pasture and

woodlots, as the process of clearing the land was slow. Woodlot and pasture functions were often combined in areas where rock outcrops made cultivation difficult. Allowing cattle and hogs to forage through woodlands helped to keep them open and clear.

While the valley lands of Washington County were easily converted to the general/grain farming traditions carried on by German and Pennsylvania-German immigrants, the mountains bordering the valleys on the east and west provided different opportunities for development. Covered with old growth trees and laden with iron ore, the mountains were soon home to several iron furnace operations. The Green Spring Furnace, nestled within the North Mountain ranges to the west near Fort Frederick, was established in 1765 by Lancelot Jacques and Thomas Johnson, the nephew of the first governor of Maryland. The insatiable need for wood to provide charcoal for the furnaces ensured that previously forested mountain land was eventually cleared.

Through the first half of the 19th century, the west-central region of Maryland became known for grain production. Grain was sold in bulk, or processed into flour and meal, or distilled into whiskey. These commodities were shipped to markets in Baltimore or Philadelphia.

Shipping from western Maryland was a problem, and hindered the growth and prosperity associated with grain production. There was no reliable inland water route to the farming areas, although navigation of the Potomac River was seasonally available from the 1790s through 1828.

Road transportation served as the primary artery for the freight hauling needs of the region. Maryland, therefore promoted turnpike development, although most of these toll routes were privately funded. The output and growth in population in the western areas of Maryland encouraged construction and improvement of roads.

In 1806 the Federal government began the construction of a highway that would

lead to the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase lands comprising much of the central portion of the United States. The "National Road" began in Cumberland, Maryland partly following the old Braddock Road, a rough wagon track established by explorers and traders, and led to Wheeling in Virginia (West Virginia) and later on to Terre Haute, Indiana. The main wagon road from Baltimore to Cumberland, a collection of privately owned and operated turnpike segments that ran through the heart of Washington County, was eventually upgraded and consolidated to become part of the National Road system. The National Pike, as it became known, was one of the most heavily traveled east-west routes in America with traffic passing all hours of the day and night.

Construction of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal along the Potomac River as an alternative transportation system began in 1828 and reached the western districts of Washington County by 1839. Not only did the canal open a new avenue of transportation for agricultural products but it also became a source of employment for many who lived nearby. The "canal towns" of Washington County, as well as throughout the adjoining rural areas, were full of men whose occupation was listed on the census as "boating on the canal" or "boatman." Other common occupations in rural Washington County included farmer, farm laborer, and – in areas around the several active iron works – miner, collier, and "works at furnace."

The Clear Spring District in Washington County benefited from both the National Pike and the C&O Canal being in close proximity. Although highway transportation waned as the canal and railroad peaked through the second half of the 19th century, the district ranked among the higher rural district populations in 1880. Still, the west-central Maryland "bread basket" saw a slow decline in the dominance of grain production and milling, largely due to the advances in steam powered mills and the railroad. As mid-western farms began to concentrate on

wheat, the farms of Washington County developed a more diversified product list, eventually shifting to dairy products, fruit, and vegetable production. By 1900, the "General Farm" designation was commonly found on the census in Washington County.

The advent of the automobile in the first decades of the 20th century briefly revived the aging National Turnpike. However, the urbanization and industrialization process of the late 19th century gradually transformed the economy of Maryland. While agricultural pursuits continued in the rural parts of the state their relative importance as the driving force of the economy declined. In 1920, Maryland had become 60% urban with slightly over half the state's population in Baltimore. Meanwhile suburban residential districts and recreational areas spread outward from Washington D.C. and Baltimore into Montgomery and Baltimore Counties, a trend that has continued to the present.

The conversion of farmland use to dairy and orchards led to the decrease of traditional agricultural industries particularly milling and attendant businesses and industries. After World War II with the advent of the post war booming manufacturing economy and the emerging Cold War, population began to shift once again. This time with the encouragement of the government's new interstate highway system, the defense highways developed during the Eisenhower administration, upwardly mobile and automobile owning city dwellers left the urban environments of Washington DC and Baltimore to create suburban neighborhoods on the edges of the cities. Since the late 1940s, suburban development has sprawled outward into and throughout mid-Maryland substantially reducing agriculture and profoundly altering the rural scene.

Farmhouses from the 18th century through the mid-20th century exhibit great variety in mid-Maryland, yet all are readily identifiable to the region. Little housing remains from the settlement period.

Dwellings that do survive represent the more durable buildings and not the general population of houses. Log was the preferred building material, although probably a disproportionate number of early period survivors are of stone construction. These very early stone houses use the type of stone found in the nearby landscape, often limestone in the Cumberland Valley section of Washington County.

Later farmhouse builders introduced brick and light weight framing systems with various milled sidings or shingles. Brick houses were much less common on mid-Maryland's farms in the 18th century than they were in urbanized areas. When 18th century brick farmhouses do occur they are distinguished by the presence of water tables, Flemish bond facades and common bond secondary walls with three or four courses of stretcher rows to each header row. Much more common among mid-Maryland brick farmhouses are those from the 1820-1900 period.

Those constructed before approximately 1850 display Flemish bond facades and thereafter, common bond or all-stretcher facades. Farmhouse form followed several traditional paths. Among the earliest buildings were Germanic central chimney dwellings with one or two stories and three or four rooms clustered around a massive group of fireplaces. British settlers more frequently constructed one or one and a half story buildings with a hall and parlor plan, one room deep with inside or exterior end fireplaces. Generally farmhouses spanned three to five bays, sat on cellars and had side gables.

By the second quarter of the 19th century typical floor plans consisted of center passages with one or two rooms on either side or a two or four room plan where the main entrance opened directly into a room. A common arrangement attributed to Germanic traditions exhibits two central front doors, side by side, which open directly into two front rooms. Porches began to appear with frequency, either across the



Plumb Grove is a museum representing all of the pioneers, families, and neighbors who lived in the Clear Spring community.

entire front or recessed in an inset containing two or three bays along the front elevation at the kitchen wall.

Another variation is an L-extension to the rear of the main part of the house, almost always with a recessed double porch along one side. This L configuration accommodates a kitchen wing and these rear wings were consistently referenced in 18th and 19th century records as "back buildings," even though they were attached to the main part of the dwelling. Houses were almost universally roofed with wooden shingles, often long and double-lapped, top to bottom and side to side. This shingle type seems to be associated with German traditions. Otherwise, top-lapped thin wooden shingles prevailed with staggered joints and there is evidence that thatch was used, along with "cabbin" or clapboard roofs. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries roofs of slate or standing seam metal appear.

Resource History for Plumb Grove

Nathaniel Nesbitt was among the earliest settlers in the west-central mountain and valley region of Washington County,

then still part of Frederick County, when he acquired several land patents in the 1750s.

By 1776, when Washington County was formed, Nesbitt owned over 1,400 acres on the eastern edge of Fairview Mountain. His land was located in an area known for its iron ore deposits and plentiful supply of wood for charcoal production. His valley land was underlain with limestone bedrock, the soil known for its fertility and well-suited to grain production. By the late 18th century, wheat production on Washington County farms, then part of the "bread basket" of the young United States, placed some area farmers among the wealthiest property-owners. By 1790, Nathaniel Nesbitt had nine children, including five sons. His eldest son John was already living in his own household in 1790. Perhaps in preparation for his sons' inheritance, in 1791 Nesbitt had his land resurveyed as *Nesbitt's Inheritance*, by then down to 708 acres. By 1800, two sons, John and Jacob, had separate households while Nesbitt and his remaining three sons worked the land along with three slaves. Up to the turn of the 19th

century, the Nesbitt plantation was served by several early transportation routes that proved seasonally unreliable. The Potomac River, just to the south of the Nesbitt land, was used to move farm produce from as early as the middle of the 18th century.

In the 1790s, George Washington's Potomac Navigation Company opened channels through the rapids along much of the upper Potomac and began skirting canals around the Great Falls and Little Falls above the port at Georgetown. The river was unreliable however, as winter ice, spring floods, and summer droughts all negatively affected boating.

The east-west road, today's Broadfording Road, which ran between Elizabethtown (Hagerstown) and Jacque's Green Spring Furnace where it joined the road to Hancock and beyond (today's Route 56), remained a crude and rutted wagon road impassible in bad weather. But with the construction of the National Road, beginning at Cumberland in 1806, sections of road leading from the port at Baltimore to Cumberland were improved as turnpike roads, including a section west from Hagerstown, becoming part of the National Turnpike system, better known as the National Pike.

The National Pike was an invaluable improvement in transportation through western Maryland and brought dramatic changes to the rural landscape. Nathaniel Nesbitt died in 1807 knowing that his lands would soon be more valuable by their proximity to the National Pike.

According to his will, the land was divided among his five sons – Peter, Jonathan, Nathaniel, John, and Jacob. Peter Nesbitt died in 1809 and by 1820 all the remaining brothers except Jonathan had removed to Ohio, Indiana, or western Pennsylvania. Jonathan Nesbitt, who inherited Lot 2 of *Nesbitt's Inheritance* including the homeplace, was the only Nesbitt listed in the 1820 census. His household included four sons, one daughter, three slaves, and three free blacks.

The National Pike section west from Hagerstown was completed in 1823, passing through the recently platted town of Clear Spring (platted in 1821, recorded in 1825). Located 11 miles west of Hagerstown, Clear Spring was a natural stopping place for travelers on the Pike to rest themselves and their horses, buy provisions, or repair wagons. The small town of 74 lots stood on part of Nathaniel Nesbitt's *Resurvey on Locust Thicket*, just a short distance southwest of the Nesbitt homeplace by then occupied by Jonathan Nesbitt [I]. By 1825, Clear Spring included five tavern-keepers, four stores, fifteen carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, wagonmakers, other craftsmen, and a school.

The number of tradesmen related to building crafts indicates the demand for such skills in the growing town. In addition, the number of tradesmen related to the business of travel (wheelwrights, wagonmakers, tavern keepers, etc.) provides some indication of the economic importance of the National Pike to the town. The road continued in this important role, as seen by the steady increase in the number of establishments serving travelers and by 1836 Clear Spring had seven hotels. The building boom was not limited to just the town as nearby farmers embarked on their own improvements.

In 1826, the young widow of Jacob Meixsell of Frederick, Maryland, Mrs. Frances Meixsell, moved her family to the new town of Clear Spring – the occasion noted by Jacob Engelbrecht in his Frederick diary. By 1831, Mrs. Meixsell's daughter Ann was preparing to marry into the Nesbitt family, among the most prominent families in the area.

The marriage of Jonathan Nesbitt, Jr. to Ann R. Meixsell took place on March 23, 1831. The newlyweds moved into a new brick farmhouse on a 157-acre section of the Nesbitt plantation, built using distinctive features from the lately popular Greek Revival style. By 1840, the household included three young children and two free black laborers. The Nesbitt's named their

farm "Plumb Grove," as noted in the Clear Spring Academy ledger of the 1840s where the Nesbitt children attended school located on South Martin Street.

Several of the farms located on the Lots that made up the former *Nesbitt's Inheritance* had undergone similar transformations. The log Nesbitt homeplace, located on Lot 2 and still occupied by Jonathan Nesbitt Sr., appears to have been significantly enlarged, first with a stone addition and later, probably after about 1825, with a brick addition. One of the additions is said to have included a ballroom. The neighboring house located on *Nesbitt's Inheritance* Lot 3, was probably built by Daniel Gehr ca. 1830. Gehr purchased the tract from Nathaniel Nesbitt (Jr.) in 1813 for \$5,000, indicating there was likely an earlier house on the property. Gehr's new house combined elements of the outgoing popular Federal style with Greek Revival features strikingly similar to those found at Nesbitt's Plumb Grove. In 1837 Gehr sold his house and land to Tobias Johnson, nephew of the first governor of Maryland. (CSDHA note: Nesbitt family oral history states that the above Johnson House was called "Poplar Hall," and was built by John Nesbitt, brother of Jonathan and Otho. He soon afterwards left the area moving to Indiana, PA.)

The elegant Greek Revival styling of Jonathan Nesbitt Jr's Plumb Grove reflected the social standing of Nesbitt who, in addition to his successful farm operation, represented Washington County in the Maryland House of Delegates in 1842. This house too appears to have replaced an earlier dwelling. Located on Lot 4 of *Nesbitt's Inheritance* devised to John Nesbitt in 1807, Jonathan Nesbitt Sr. purchased the 137-acre tract from his brother John in 1816 for \$6,000.

In May 1855, one year before his death, Jonathan Nesbitt Sr. conveyed the Lot 4 farm to Jonathan Nesbitt Jr., in exchange for "the support, maintenance and comfort, of the said Jonathan Nesbitt Sr. for and during the term of his natural life."

The tract included 20 additional acres, for a total of 157 acres. Jonathan Nesbitt Jr.'s Plumb Grove farm was valued at \$10,000 on the 1860 census, while the Nesbitt homeplace, occupied by his brother Otho Nesbitt, was valued at \$12,650.

Jonathan Nesbitt Jr. died in 1877, followed by his wife Ann in 1885. Of their five children, three had moved to Missouri. Allen Nesbitt bought out his siblings' interest in the farm and remained until 1893 when he sold it to Rosa Warner. Rosa Warner was the wife of Clear Spring hotel owner Fred Warner, who used the farm to produce food for his hotel while the house was tenanted. The Warner family retained Plumb Grove until it was sold in 1967 to the Washington County Board of Education.

The Plumb Grove house remained vacant from 1967 through 1981 when it was sold, along with just under one-acre of land, to the Clear Spring District Historical Association. The house was in deteriorated condition and the Association embarked on a restoration of the building.

Plumb Grove, an 1831 Greek Revival style brick farmhouse sits on a .95-acre plot of land parceled from a farm belonging to the Washington County Board of Education. The farmland now contains the Clear Spring School Complex, athletic fields, barns and agricultural land. The Plumb Grove house property is enclosed on three sides with a white picket fence and on the fourth side by a post and rail fence. The entire property, including the school's land was once part of the Plumb Grove (Nesbitt) farm. Aside from the school buildings and playing fields, the landscape retains its agricultural character.

Plumb Grove faces southeast toward Broadfording Road. A gravel lane leads approximately 1/4 mile from Broadfording Road to the Plumb Grove house. The lane parallels Draper Road, just to its northwest. The house stands on a fairly level plot of land with Fairview Mountain be-



The interior of Plumb Grove was in sad condition when CSDHA volunteers began working. The late Frank Hull, Carl Brown and Jake Troupe spent endless days one winter when the house had no heat, restoring the staircase to the way it looked in 1831.

hind to the west and the rolling floor of the Cumberland/Hagerstown Valley extending to the east. The Town of Clear Spring is approximately 1/2 mile to the southeast. Plumb Grove is one of three Nesbitt Farms that stand in close proximity to each other. The Otho Nesbitt Farm (Nesbitt Mansion) is about 1/4 mile to the east, and the other Nesbitt Farm (Poplar Hall) is about 1/4 mile to the northeast.

Plumb Grove Exterior Details

Plumb Grove is a two story L-shaped brick dwelling resting on limestone foundations. The front elevation is formal with five bays and a central entrance. Bricks are arranged in Flemish bond at the front elevation, with splayed brick jack arches over the openings. Sawtooth brickwork and corbelling finish the cornice at the front elevation. Side and rear walls are laid in common bond with five stretcher courses to each row of headers. Double inside end chimneys joined with a parapet complete the masonry work. The rear L-extension continues seamlessly from the south end wall of the front section. On the north side a recessed double porch spans the length of the L. The porch side of the L has two

bays, a door and a window at the first story, and an upper level with three bays, two windows and a central door. Doors also open onto the lower and upper porches from the front section of the house. All of these doors have six panels. The absence of a window at the west end of the L's north elevation is the result of an interior boxed stair in that corner. The porch has square posts and is enclosed with a balustrade.

A Greek Revival style entrance porch dominates the front elevation. It has a low hipped roof with a plain entablature below and four large Doric columns, two pair, one pair each placed on either side of the three steps leading to the porch deck. A balustrade links each pair of columns. Plumb Grove has a trabeated entrance with a broad transom and sidelights. These surround an eight-panel door with a vertical molding suggesting that the door is bifold, but no evidence is present to suggest that the door was ever hinged in the middle. Attached columns flank the door.

Windows have six over six light sash within narrow rounded frames with mitered corners. Windows in the rear exten-

sion are smaller than those in the front section, but all have six-pane sash. The wide south gable end of the main section of the house has three windows at each level, one at the forward side of the chimneys and two to the west of the chimneys. This arrangement allowed two windows in the southwest rooms of the front section of the house. The north gable end is arranged more symmetrically with one window on each side of the chimneys at each level. The west elevation of the front section, within the angle created by the extension, has one window at each level. Thus the northwest and southwest rooms each have two windows and the northeast and southeast rooms each have three. The roofing material is wood shingles.

Plumb Grove Interior Details

The front entrance opens into a formal stair and entrance hall with two rooms on either side. The floor plan layout has large rooms diagonally opposed in the northeast, a withdrawing Room, and in the southwest, the dining room. The northwest and southeast rooms are significantly smaller. The same is true of the second floor. At the first floor, wide doorways separate the front and rear rooms.

The staircase rises against the north wall of the entrance hall and appears strangely out of character with the other woodwork in the house. While the mantelpieces, door and window trim are very bulky and heavily molded, the staircase has a graceful, delicate round railing that



One of the elaborate mantels at Plumb Grove.

sweeps in a single curving form from the top to the base of the steps where it bends in a scroll to alight on top of a narrow turned newel. Balusters, two per step, are turned and tapered. Scroll carvings decorate the spandrel along the edge of the stairs.

Contrasting with the staircase is the robust and massive door and window trim and mantels. Architraves have large symmetrical moldings and decorated corner blocks. Each mantelpiece is different, but the two most prominent are very elaborate. The northeast withdrawing room mantel has Doric colonettes, a frieze with central projecting tablet, protruding semi-elliptical bolection moldings and a three part projecting mantel shelf. The dining room mantel has fluted Doric colonettes, and a frieze with large Greek Key molding running its length. The mantels in the smaller rooms are much simpler, with architraves around the fireboxes and narrow shelves.

Plumb Grove also includes a cellar with a cooking fireplace.

The wing to the rear (backbuilding) contains the kitchen with a large service fireplace in the west end wall and an enclosed winder stair adjacent to the fireplace in the northwest corner. The upper story room reportedly housed the Nesbitt slaves/servants.

In addition to the house there are three service buildings in the rear yard, all of fairly recent construction. A brick summer kitchen/wash house was added to the landscape just behind the house and in the traditional work yard. A frame, board and batten covered restroom and storage building with an attached shed stands immediately behind the house's kitchen wing. Behind that is a small frame shed, also covered with board and batten. All of these accessory buildings



The section of Plumb Grove showing the porches was called the backbuilding.

have been constructed since the 1980's.

Evaluation of Integrity of Plumb Grove

Plumb Grove is an excellent example of a Greek Revival style farmhouse from west central Maryland. It remains highly intact with key components – design, layout and woodwork – all present. Although the setting has been altered by the addition of non-historic support buildings, these newer constructions are compatible in materials, scale and design to the 1830s period of the house. The .95-acre plot of land is part of the original Nesbitt land, and aside from the school development to the south of Plumb Grove, the surrounding land remains in agricultural use, preserving the setting. Therefore, Plumb Grove retains a high level of integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association.



Plumb Grove outbuildings.



Celebrate
July 3rd
Independence Eve
At
Plumb Grove

**Fireworks, Food, Kids Games,
Music and Plumb Grove Tours**

**Enjoy the evening with family,
neighbors and friends...**

***“May the hiss of the
rocket, the boom of the
cracker and the sight of
the stars and stripes ever
continue to thrill you and
make you feel proud.”***

The Independence celebration is under the direction of the Clear Spring Independence Jam Committee. The CSDHA is proud to be one of the major sponsors of this event.



Mary M. Fiery Donates \$10,0000

Towards PG Shutter Fund

In a previous newsletter we requested donations to purchase shutters for Plumb Grove. At about that same time, Mary M. Fiery asked if she could use the Plumb Grove lawn to celebrate her 80th birthday. (And it was a grand party.) For using our facility, she donated ten thousand dollars toward our Plumb Grove shutter fund. No written words can express how touched, or how overwhelmed, or how grateful our association was to receive such a generous gift.

Plumb Grove was the home of Mary Fiery's great-great uncle, Jonathan Nesbitt, II. She has been very kind over the years helping in various supportive ways to have the old home transformed from an empty shell in the early 1980's to a property now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

To complete the shutter project from start to finish, a total of \$14,500 was needed. Including all donations to the shutter fund, we now need only \$3,040.00. Mary Ruth and Rich Reis donated to our fund. The following people gave monetary gifts in honor of Mary Margaret Fiery: Betty Lee, James Reeder, Rhoda Whittington, Joan Hull, Raymond Divelbiss, Eric Trail, David Wiles, Kenneth Lee, Barbara Williams, and Mary Fisher. Thank you very much.

Wooden shutters on the exterior of a house can be traced back to the 17th-century. They were used for security, provided privacy from people passing by, and added a layer of insulation during winter months. Shutters were used in the summer to block out the sun, to cool a house, and to prevent furniture from fading.

When Plumb Grove was constructed in 1831, it was the proper fashion to have paneled shutters on the lower level and louvered shutters on the upper windows allowing a breeze to enter the house, keeping the rooms cool on a very hot August day. During that time period, shutters were only painted one of two colors: black or Paris green. We have chosen the latter for Plumb Grove.

Window screens were invented during the Civil War and louvered shutters were less needed. By the end of the 1800's the storm window was introduced and working shutters were no longer appearing on new homes.

The \$14,500 price tag includes shutters for Plumb Grove and the summer kitchen, all historically made, primed, painted, and delivered to Plumb Grove. Quote also includes all new historic shutter hardware. Installation of the shutters is also included.

Help purchase shutters for Plumb Grove as a gift to the house

for being placed on the

National Register of Historic Places!

Make your shutter donation in memory of a family name

or

make your donation in honor of special person...

Please send your monetary donation by June 20th

Only \$3,040 Additional Dollars Needed

Let us all plan on a big gathering this fall to celebrate the NRHP, the shutters, and all the years of volunteering and giving that has made Plumb Grove so special to the Clear Spring community.

Thank you.....

Local Village Businesses In 1902

In the early 1900's one would find small villages and towns scattered all over the United States. It was also that way in the Clear Spring district. All of the following mentioned villages were in the Clear Spring area and part of a 1902 survey.

At the turn of the 20th-century, the village of **Ash** had a population of 15. Howard Smith operated a grocery store and sold coal. Samuel Kreps had a grist mill. The Ash Saloon and schoolhouse was already a thing of the past.

Big Pool had a hefty population plus a large store operated by Newton Funkhouser. The Hull Saloon and the Tice Saloon were doing well in the village.

The population for the **Big Spring** was under 100. Mrs. F. M. Angle sold groceries. B. F. Charles and the Kuhn Brothers were operating mills and another Tice had a saloon, or else there were a chain of them.

Broadfording had a population of 32 and the only listed business was T. H. Spickler's grist mill.

Charlton had a grocery store operated by John Grosh and John Charles had a flour mill and Sam Cushwa had a flour and grist mill.

Folks in the Conococheague area could shop at **Wilson Village**. Rufus Wilson's store was going strong as was the blacksmithing business of John Bowers. The population for the area was 40.

Dry Run was so small that they didn't even report a population in 1902 but they did have a store operated by D. A. Bloyer.

Ernstville offered groceries at the M. S.



Perry Prather in front of his store located at 122 Cumberland Street in Clear Spring.

Zimmerman Store.

The village of **Fairview** had a population of 40 and had B. M. Kinsell operating a blacksmith shop, S. G. Spickler running a saloon, and Shank & Spickler operating a store.

Four Locks had a population of 25 and three stores were in business operated by Hassett and Flory, Tunis Newkirk, and Snyder and Fernaner.

Hager Herr and J. W. Meyers were both selling groceries and notions in **Green Spring Furnace**.

The hamlet of **Huyett** had one grocery store run by Millard Huyett.

Things were popping in **Indian Springs** with a saw mill run by Henry Forsyth, a store operated by John Sponseller, and a large hotel under the direction of William Mauer.

Shady Bower with a population of 40, had one store, located on the south side of the pike across from the toll house, owned by Nelson Harsh.

The village of **Spickler** had the grain and hay operation of W. S. Corbett and the large carriage manufacturing business of the Spickler family.

With a population of 474, the town of **Clear Spring** offered everything needed to live a comfortable lifestyle. John Anderson sold drugs, F.O. Boswell sold jewelry, O. K. Bovey sold groceries, David Clopper sold groceries as did William Deeds.

James Draper manufactured whiskey, David Flory sold notions and groceries, the Frantz brothers manufactured modern solid wood furniture and did undertak-

ing, Miss Fellingner and Miss Frantz sold hats, Joseph Garver and Mrs. Warner operated hotels, and Clarence Goodrich sold cookstoves, woodstoves and tin.

Charles Kreps had a livery stable, cigars were sold by James Little, William Loose sold everything at his store, Charles McDonald was a blacksmith, John Peterman sold groceries, and George Prather sold hardware and feed.

Perry Prather sold notions, and Theodore Reeder made harnesses. Sam Reitzell had a store and Charles Schleigh had notion store. Leonard Snyder manufactured furniture, made coffins, and did all phases of undertaking.

John Snyder had a grocery store as did Jacob Sponseller. H. E. Tosten was a tinner, and David Yeakle had the only saloon in the town of Clear Spring.

Just about every home in the Clear Spring district owned a cow, some chickens and a hog or two. Milking was done by lantern. Neighbors carried water into their homes. Windmills were popular.

It would be another ten years before the first home in Clear Spring got an indoor toilet. Could rural life ever get any better than that?

Five CSDHA Members Attended Wyck Old Rose Symposium

Five CSDHA members represented Plumb Grove at the Wyck Old Rose Symposium in Philadelphia on May 19th. The Wyck garden is the oldest rose garden in America dating back to 1820. The event is held in partnership with the Heritage Rose Foundation. This was the fourth year in a row that CSDHA members have attended this educational day-long event for historians and gardeners of heritage roses. Our 2012 representatives were Mary Haines, Gail DiMarino, Bob Morgan, Joan Morgan and Jean Morgan.

Several of the highly esteemed heritage rose speakers of past years have heard about the more than 100 heritage roses bloom-

ing at Plumb Grove and have come in person to witness the gardens. Several variety of roses growing at Plumb Grove can be traced back to 1791 and the Prince Family Nursery in Flushing, New York. This is the same nursery where Thomas Jefferson purchased many of his roses and plants.

The Plumb Grove lawn is blooming with history this summer. How unique to see and smell the roses of yesteryear. The German philosopher, Friedrich Hegel, wrote, "We may affirm absolutely that nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion." The Plumb Grove roses are a living testament to the philosopher's words.

PG Gardens Offers Variety of Heritage Food

The Plumb Grove heritage vegetable and herb gardens are off to a great start this year. Devoted gardeners have the patch spaded and various items planted. Several types of lettuce have been sewn including Speckled Trout which dates back to 1804. The leaves are speckled with a bright reddish-brown variegation. Tennis Ball lettuce has also been planted. This was Thomas Jefferson's favorite lettuce. Also sewn was Brown Dutch lettuce. This variety was often planted by President Jefferson and dates back to 1731. Jefferson urged gardeners to plant a thimble full of lettuce every Monday morning and the PG gardeners are adhering to his advice.

Pocket Melon seeds have been planted. Ladies of the olden days carried these melons in their pockets as a perfume. The yellow Arikara bean has also been planted. This bean was given to Thomas Jefferson by Lewis and Clark. Other items to be found in the PG garden are cheese peppers (this yellow pepper was used to color cheese,) lemon cucumbers, yellow wax beans, salsify, also known as the oyster plant, squash, onions, and four heritage varieties of tomatoes.

Herbs remain important in the gardens

at Plumb Grove. They are used for food sources, and also medical and beauty needs as well. Aloe is one herb growing at PG. The gel squeezed from its leaves is used to heal burns. Basil is growing and is used for food flavoring, and the leaves can be chewed to relieve cramps.

Tansy is growing to be used at Plumb Grove to keep flies and mosquitoes out of the house. (Has not been tested on stink bugs yet.) Thyme is at Plumb Grove so it can be dried and used to throw on the cooking coals in the kitchen fireplace to flavor meats and to disinfect the air. Fennel is at PG so the seeds can be later used as a treat for visitors. Not only do the seeds taste good but are great for gas and indigestion. Numerous other herbs are growing at Plumb Grove.

The garden committee would be thrilled to have more help this year planting and maintaining plants grown by the pioneers of the Clear Spring community. Current volunteers are Pat Violet, Mary Haines, Toni Hose, Bob DiMarino, Gail DiMarino, Kathryn Corwell and Mary Ogle. The Plumb Grove gardeners are not paid, not because they are worthless, oh, my no, but because they are priceless to our organization.

Great Garden Road Trip for PG Members

Three members of the Plumb Grove garden committee, Pat Violet, Gail DiMarino, and Mary Haines were private guests at Fulton Farm in Charlottesville, Virginia. This farm is Monticello's center for historic plants with greenhouses and gardens for the history, study and propagation of plants, trees, and shrubs sold at the home of Thomas Jefferson.

The Plumb Grove heritage gardeners had a private invitation from the nursery manager to this facility which is usually closed to the public. The gardeners were given a tour of the Bell Heritage Rose Garden. They toured the greenhouses and Pat was given a demonstration on rooting heritage roses.

The facility donated roots of blackberry lilies to Plumb Grove. These lilies are irises grown by President Jefferson. They are orange with red spots. The seeds look like blackberries.

The facility also donated eight heritage rose bushes along with lettuce seeds. Books on heritage gardening were also donated.

It was a very productive day for the members of the Clear Spring District Historical Association.

PG Monday Volunteers Remain Remarkable

A devoted group of volunteers arrive at Plumb Grove every Monday and go to work painting, mowing grass, building fences, and endless other chores.

If a person drops-in at PG upon their arrival, you can almost hear the workers inner thoughts as they get out of their vehicles and begin working. Just look into their eyes and you can sense they are telling themselves, "*I am only one, but still I am one.... I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.... And because I can not do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.*" And they go to work in all kinds of weather and keep Plumb Grove looking like a showcase. What a wonderful group of volunteers!

This crew currently consists of Paul Bowers, Sam Gossard, Harold Kline, Max Kline, Stan Suffecool, and Jim Seibert, crew leader. These guys would like to have some additional helpers so give Jim a call at 301-842-3945.

Plumb Grove Steeple Rose Draws Attention

The most popular rose at Plumb Grove when viewed by rose historians is the Steeple Rose. It is a hybrid developed in China in 1820. The Steeple rose at Plumb Grove is a gift from Hedwig and Robert Belz of Clear Spring. This rose has been identified by nationally known heritage rose expert Douglas Seidel.

The old Steeple Rose was growing in the lawn of Olive and Arthur Tenney's home near Clear Spring when the property was purchased by Mrs. Belz parents, Franz and Bertha Heinemann in 1925. Mrs. Belz took a piece with roots to her present home and from that rose started the one she donated to Plumb Grove.

A rare specimen today, the Steeple Rose was popular in Western Maryland in the middle 1800's. This rose blooms once in late May and has crimson, very full and fragrant flowers with a bud in the center where there should be a pistal. The bud is well-formed, never blooms, and resembles a steeple.

We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Belz for contributing this rare rose to Plumb Grove.

The large steeple rose is shown in full bloom behind the wedding cake at the Heinemann-Belz wedding on May 23, 1953.

(Happy anniversary Mr. and Mrs. Belz.)



Appreciation Grows For PG Gardeners

Volunteering as a PG gardener is an exciting, GROWING, enjoyable experience. It is gratifying to research and study heritage horticulture and then plan and plant and watch... see and smell the fragrances of days of old... Work with fun people ... And enjoy the beautiful gardens and lawn and know you had a hand in the results.

Discover the beautiful world of heritage vegetables, heritage flowers, and heritage roses.

Join the PG Heritage Gardeners

Give Pat Violet A Ring

301-842-3140

FINDING THE STARLIPER FAMILY'S 1797 HOME PLACE AT INDIAN SPRINGS

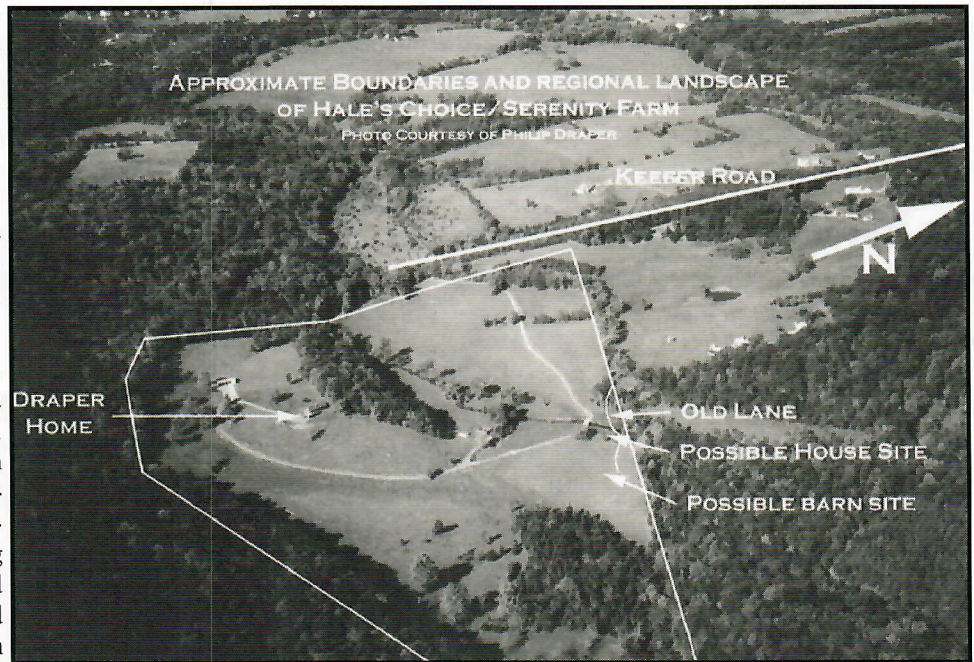
by Charles Harry Starliper

Anton Sterlepper was a German Hessian soldier who was brought to America from his home in Eckenheim, today a suburb of Frankfurt, Germany. He was shipped to Quebec, Canada, probably in June 1776, to help put down the American Revolution. He was captured at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777 and remained a prisoner of war until 1781 when, it is believed, he escaped near Winchester, Virginia.

Anton, who soon became Anthony, made his way to the Indian Springs area and became the progenitor, the originator, of the Starliper line of descent in North America. He married an American widow, Catherine Eichelberger, approximately during the period 1785 – 1787. During the early years of their marriage, they had three children, Anthony, Isaac, and George. Besides, Catherine had had seven children with her late husband, Michael Eichelberger. On September 26, 1797, they made their home place on a property known as Hale's Choice. It was purchased in the name of "Catherine Starliper (formerly Eichelberger)." Why was Anthony's name not on the deed? It is very likely because Catherine inherited money from her father barely three months before buying Hale's Choice.

My objective is to tell you the story of my good luck in finding Hale's Choice and how it relates to our Starliper family history. I am responsible for the information about locating Hale's Choice. With respect to the broader subject of Starliper family history, all of us are greatly indebted to more accomplished genealogists including Bonnie Bingaman of Greencastle, Pennsylvania, Steve Lynch and his late wife, Connie, of Rincon, Georgia, Ron Butts, of Martinsburg, West Virginia, and Steve Starliper of Knoxville, Tennessee. I am privileged to know them as friends.

Soon after I began researching my family's history, I learned the well-known basics about Anthony Starlepper from the 1790 census and other bits and pieces that sent me to the F.B. Snyder Union Church at Parkhead. Little did I know when I first



Aerial view shows possible home site in 1797 for Anton Sterlepper. The property is located near Keefer Road in the Indian Springs district.

went to that church's cemetery that I was just a couple miles from the home of our earliest ancestors on this continent!

I knew that Anton began using the name Anthony Starliper, probably by the time he married Catherine. I was then very fortunate to meet Bonnie Bingaman and learned from her a lot of information for which I will always be grateful. Bonnie showed me a copy of a page from the 1877 Map of Washington County and it set me on the path to Hale's Choice.

The 1877 map shows the names of property owners at the places where the properties were located. I set out to find the property that I knew was owned by an Eichelberger and that it was in the Indian Springs area. Sure enough, I found on the map a "J. Eichelberger" property less than two miles from the Parkhead Church. Next, I drove back Licking Creek Road off of U.S. Route 40. I drove around and headed toward the spot on Lane's Run, shown by the pattern of roads and streams on the map – Licking Creek and Lanes Run in particular -- where the property should have been. This drive, and stops to study

the surroundings, took me on to Keefer Road and shortly thereafter onto a private property. Trespassing onto the lane of the property and hoping for the best, I passed a handsome stone marker.

The marker announced that I was now on "Serenity Farm." At the bottom of the gently sloping hill, I stopped the car and got out to walk around a few steps beside Lane's Run. I was sure that I had found a place that had to be at least close to Anthony's and Catherine's home. It was the first of other truly awesome moments to come that I will never forget. Even then I got goose bumps thinking that I was walking on or near the same ground on which my earliest American ancestors lived. I didn't know it at that time but I was standing an easy stone's throw from their old house foundation.

Some months later, in August 2007, during a gathering of Starliper family researchers at the home of Ron Butts, I agreed to take Bonnie Bingaman, Lee Tabisola, and Dirk Rakentine, all having interest in Starliper family history, to see the place that I had found. Again, we drove



Starliper family researchers at Hale's Choice in 2007 were Larry Statler, Nancy Starliper Statler, Robert Starliper, Cecile Angle, Bonnie Bingaman, and Charles Starliper.

onto Serenity Farm. All of us thought that this must be *the place* and were excited about it as we drove away.

We were then about to enjoy more good luck. Within less than half a mile from Serenity Farm, I drove slowly toward a house where several people stood outside talking. Bonnie suggested that we stop and ask them the name of the owner of Serenity Farm. A tall, lanky gent among them smiled and said, "Yes, I can tell you. I own it." The man was Phil Draper, a retired State Trooper. We were elated and explained our interest in his property as possibly being part of Hale's Choice, the home of our ancestors. He agreed to meet me at a later date to talk about this matter in greater detail.

Within a few weeks, Phil met my wife, Lois, and me at the same spot where I had stopped my car the first time I drove onto his property. He showed us the Property Line Survey of his place, made by Frederick Seibert and Associates. He chatted with us as if we had known each other for years and agreed to authorize that firm to make a copy of his document for us. Then Phil gave us another exciting experience. He loaded us into his big off-road pick-up and drove us a few hundred feet into one

of his pastures and showed us the remains of a very old natural stone foundation, about 70 feet uphill from Lanes run. We think that this foundation is likely the remains of a small farmhouse from 200 years ago. Phil then drove us a hundred yards further up the hill to the large, remaining foundation stones, now level with the ground, in a rectangle of about 33 by 25 feet, plus the attached lines of a possible lean-to, that we believe to have been the barn on the old homestead. Phil had studied these old foundations but he had not known the history of his property.

By this time, I had begun researching deeds in the land records at the Washington County Court House, with the patient and tremendously professional assistance of the ladies on staff in that office. One of the first of my many important discoveries there was the "indenture" that documents Catherine Eichelberger Starlipper's purchase of Hale's Choice for "the sum of one hundred and fifteen pounds of current money of Maryland." I took this document to the offices of Frederick Seibert and Associates. I sheepishly imposed on a very busy man, Mr. Fred Frederick, to take a look at my document, showed him his company's Property Line Survey done for Mr. Draper, and asked if he would show

me how to plot the points from the 1797 deed. He did not send me packing, as well he might have, but rapidly plotted several points, talked a mile a minute about how he was doing it, and in about two minutes had drawn some lines that included some unique angles.

Mr. Frederick and I looked at those angles and identical angles on his company's recent line survey. "You have your property," he said. He told me to go buy a few basic drafting tools and said, "Now you go home and plot the rest of those points."

I did as Mr. Frederick advised. As a result, I learned that the Serenity Farm property of today and the Hale's Choice Property of 1797 are identical along most of the lines of the two surveys. However, on one side, the property has changed somewhat and enlarged from 64 to 68 acres. The intoxicating feeling kept growing.

Continuing my research in the Land Records office, I found and connected every single deed in the chain of ownership of the property from 1779 to Phil Draper's purchase of it in 1988. There were fascinating twists in the story. First, after the deaths of Anthony and Catherine, probably in the approximate 1830 time period, their heirs sold the property in 1833 to Catherine's oldest son, John Eichelberger, for the combined total of about \$190.00. (This document had been available from the other researchers mentioned above.) After John's death in 1862, the property was auctioned by the court on behalf of John's heirs, and advertised in the *Hagerstown Herald and Torch*. It was said that "*this limestone farm is improved by a frame house, a log barn, and a springhouse.*" A later ad was needed because the first sale of the property fell through. The second ad also said the "*premises are in ruinous condition by the reason of the natural decay of the buildings and improvements.*" This information helps confirm in broad terms, but cannot prove, that the remains of the foundations Phil Draper showed me are those of the original house and barn.

There was one more happy bombshell waiting for me as I struggled through the old land records. I had come to the next deed in the chain that was dated January 6, 1920. It said that Emmert and Mary M. Mason sold the property to Samuel Wilson Starliper for \$1,800! I was stunned and read it several times to be sure of what I was seeing. Sam Starliper was my grand-



Samuel Starliper

Washington County Sheriff

father, in whose house my family and I grew up in Clear Spring. We lived about 12 miles from the property of the very first Starlipers beginning in 1797. Neither I nor any of my family who were then still alive ever knew that Sam owned the property that Anthony and Catherine had settled in 1797. Sam died in 1949. My grandmother, Leathean Starliper, surely knew about the property but never discussed it to my knowledge. Sam must have known that the property had been owned about 90 years earlier by his great grandparents, Anthony and Catherine. One indication is that Sam's brother, Jerry Starliper, lived most of his life less than a mile away on another small "farm" that was passed on to him by their mother (my great grandmother), Mary Elizabeth Mason Starliper. Sam sold Hale's Choice to J. Newman and Frances Corwell in 1947. How I wish it had stayed in our family! Sam was Sheriff of Washington County from 1917 – 1919.

Mary Elizabeth bought that property that was so close to Hale's Choice, after the terrible death of her husband, Sam's father (my great grandfather), Henry W. Starliper, on July 7, 1891. As reported by the Hagerstown Herald and Torch, the accident happened on the Henry Snyder farm

near Conococheague. Henry Starliper was riding one of the horses pulling a harvesting machine that was driven by David Grove. The horses were spooked and they bolted. Henry fell from the horse, in front of the harvester, and was cut to pieces by it. He died two days later. Steve Lynch found and gave me these newspaper accounts.

It has been a wonderful experience to visit, many times, the Hale's Choice property, now Serenity Farm. My immediate family and many of my extended Starliper family have been very fortunate and grateful to Phil Draper for his extraordinary kindness in helping me with these discoveries and in permitting us to visit our ancestral home. It has been one of the most rewarding and fascinating experiences of my life. Good luck came along several times just when I needed it most. Phil has told me that he would probably have kept the Hale's Choice name for his property if he had known this story when he moved there in 1988.

There are many other details of this story that I have documented in my papers, The Starliper 1797 Homestead: Hale's Choice, November 2007, and Ancestors, Families, and Homeplaces of the Seven Starlipers from Clear Spring, June 2008. One of my favorite aspects of this history is the tantalizing possibility that that Anton Sterlepper might have spent some time as a prisoner of war in Fort Frederick. It is known that the old fort was used to house "British" prisoners of war during the revolution but there is no known documentation that Anton or any Hessians were held there. But consider this coincidence: After the Revolutionary War, Anton lived in the Indian Springs area and then lived with his new American family about five miles from Fort Frederick. Perhaps it is at least possible that he was imprisoned there before the end of the war in 1781. But history cannot be based on coincidences.

It would have been nice to learn that my great, great, great grandfather had been a patriot in our fight for independence rather than a mercenary on the wrong side! But Anton Sterlepper (whose name changed to Anthony Starliper) was surely a penniless young man from Germany, even before Germany was a country, who was doing

what he was told. Imagine what it would have been like for Anton in 1776 at age 25. He was hustled onto a Rhine river boat and then a sailing ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean to a strange new world and be thrown into a war fighting a people of whom he had little knowledge, not understanding the language used around him, and then captured at the Battle of Saratoga in October, 1777. When he had the chance, he chose to become one of the very first citizens of the United States when the nation was a wobbly, newborn infant that had only a slim chance of even surviving. Anthony's youngest son, George, and his wife, Mary Margaret, lived in the nearby village of Little Cove, Pennsylvania. George's son, Henry, and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, lived in Conococheague and became the founders of my own immediate family, the "Clear Spring Starlipers."

I welcome any additions or corrections to this information. I would be particularly interested in any information about the graves of Anthony and Catherine, that we have not found, and the specific location of what was the Henry Snyder farm near Conococheague in 1891. Please contact me at 21601 O'toole Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland 21742, 301-824-5160, email c.starliper@myactv.net. *Thank you for your interest!*

**The
CSDHA Library
is Always Seeking Family Trees,
Stories, and
Pictures of Any Person Connected To
The Clear Spring
Community.
Your Grandma and Grandpa Would
Want You To Do This....**

The CSDHA is pleased to see two empty buildings in the community back in business: The Clear Spring Creamery is selling ice-cream and sandwiches, etc. in the old West End Garage on Cumberland Street. Conococheague Market is now open in the former Gene Albert store on Route 40 near the Conococheague. The also sell ice-cream, sandwiches, etc.
DO DROP IN....

Historic Preservation Doing Exceedingly Well In Clear Spring, Maryland

Two years ago a fire ripped through four of the oldest buildings in downtown Clear Spring. Fire and EMS units from 21 different departments from three states worked to control the fire. One structure, the Martin log residence, seemed repairable, and is a home again thanks to Carollee Martin. But the other buildings the next morning after the fire seemed hopeless for restoration. Time passed and one insurance company offered to raze one building and replace it with a large concrete pad for our historic downtown.

Then Clear Spring businessman Donald Bragunier stepped forward and purchased the three fire-gutted buildings and announced he was going to restore them. As with all restoration projects done by Mr. Bragunier, the results thus far have been astonishing. He owns a multitude of farms in the Clear Spring district, all with well-maintained historic homes, barns, and other outbuildings, plus endless farmland that has been preserved, and actually used for farming. Mr. Bragunier is among the top, if not the top historic farmland preserva-



A fire during the summer of 2010 destroyed the core of downtown Clear Spring. The building on the left is 113 Cumberland Street. It was gutted from top to bottom. The large building to its right is 111 Cumberland Street. The west end section was the Brewer Hotel built around 1821. The clear spring is located next to it.

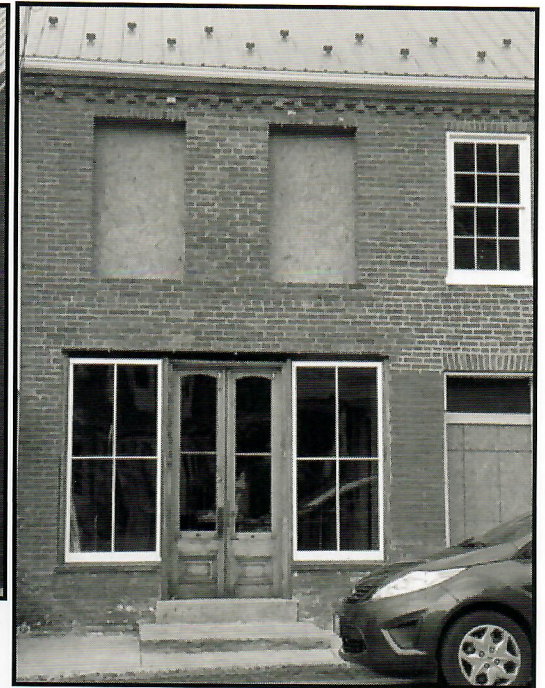
tionist in the State of Maryland. This earned him last year the Washington County Historic Preservation Award of 2011. Donald and Charlene Bragunier are

long-time CSDHA members.

It was a challenge to begin saving the downtown fire damaged structures. The interiors and roofs were gone but the walls



Left photo shows back view of Brewer Hotel. Other names for this business were the National Hotel and the Overbrook Hotel. The right photo shows 117 Cumberland Street, a covered log house damaged in the fire, and 115 Cumberland Street, a brick dwelling with a porch. That structure was heavily damaged.



All four buildings that were in the fire are shown. The restoration work to-date has been remarkable.

The fire gutted structure at 113 Cumberland Street is beginning to look very charming again.

were standing. Tom's Run, a large stream, runs through the cellars of the buildings. Concerns about lead paint and other unwanted debris getting into the waterway during restoration had to be addressed. But issue after issue has been resolved. Uses for the buildings are still up in the air and Mr. Bragunier is open to hearing what the community believes would be good for the town. But what we cannot as a community forget is if Donald Bragunier did not come forward to restore the buildings, our little town today would have nothing but a huge eyesore hole in the center of its most historic area.

The one building saved, the Brewer Hotel located at 111 Cumberland Street, is responsible for having the town's name changed from Myersville to Clear Spring. Advertisements dating as early as 1823 for the Brewer Hotel states, "Located beside the clear spring." People began calling the hotel the Clear Spring hotel and soon folks began calling the town Clear Spring and by 1825 all newspaper advertisements were using that name instead of Myersville, the name of the town given by its founder in 1821.

Another remarkable Clear Spring preservation project is the former Downs residence at 150-152 Cumberland Street. It is now under the ownership of Mark and

Amy Myers and the property simply looks grand after a total interior and exterior makeover. The western side of the property remains residential and the eastern side is now home to *Dollie's Tea Room*. Not only are local folks enjoying a cup of tea but the business is attracting people from the four-state region and beyond. *Dollie's* is a wonderful new addition to Clear Spring.

The Downs property is by no means the first preservation project in Clear Spring for Mark Myers. He owns numerous 19th-century homes in Clear Spring that he has



Mark and Amy Myers added a flair of beauty to Clear Spring upon completion of their restoration project at 150-152 Cumberland Street. One section of the building is now *Dollie's Tea Room*. The business was named after the late Dollie Weaver of Big Pool.



Back view of the Dollie's Tea Room complex. The summer kitchen has also been restored.

converted into apartments. His buildings are always well maintained and still add a touch of the past to our town.

A few years ago Mr. Myers purchased three homes on Cumberland Street that were, agreed by most everyone, to be beyond restoring. He razed the properties but replaced the structures with houses using the same foundation locations, thus preserving our streetscape. The three houses look as if they have been there forever, all in line with the other older homes.

Mark Myers has done numerous restoration projects at Plumb Grove and generously worked with the CSDHA to save Browns' Meeting House. Mark and Amy are CSDHA members and are always supportive to the organization.

Two additional CSDHA members have done marvelous preservation work in Clear Spring — Jerry and Gail Aleshire. They purchased the large property at the corner of South Mill Street and Mulberry Street. Mr. Aleshire needed a site for his business and he tastefully transformed the old home into a pharmacy and offices. The Aleshires' also converted the vintage three-car garage on the property into an office for a doctor.

Gail and Jerry Aleshire also rescued an old log house located on west Cumberland Street. The old house needed a lot of restoration help but the property again looks fabulous. Mr. and Mrs. Aleshire are both supporting members of the CSDHA.

Doctor Pasha desired to be located in Clear



Mark Myers preserved the streetscape of Cumberland Street when he replaced three 19th-century homes with new homes that blend with the other old homes. An 1820's log home covered in siding is shown sitting between the new homes. The log house was restored by Gail and Jerry Aleshire.



Jerry Aleshire saved an old home on South Mill Street by converting it into a pharmacy and offices.

Spring and instead of using farmland for a new building, he instead purchased the house located between St. John's Church and McDonald's, and converted that structure into an office. This was a good use of using an existing property instead of creating sprawl.

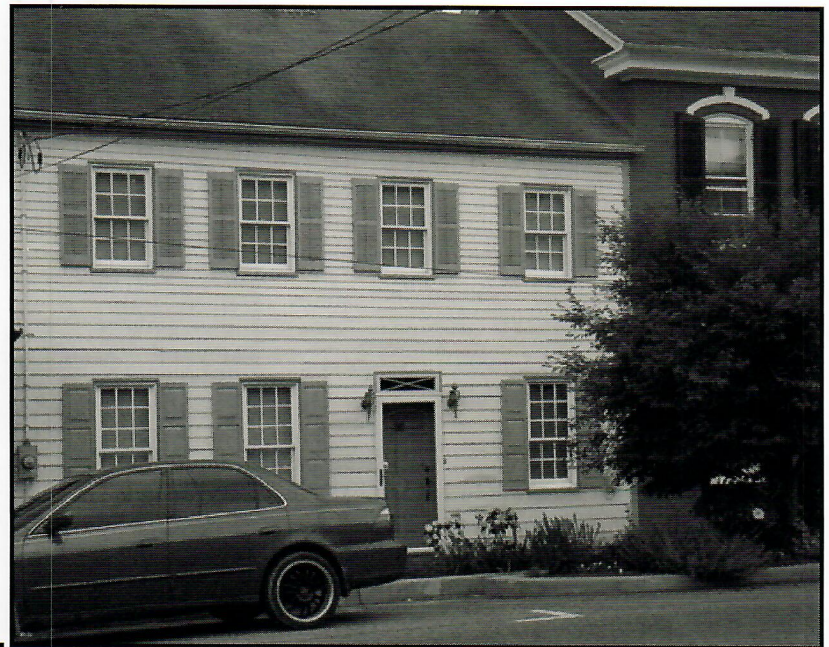
The late CSDHA member Linda Record did wondrous preservation work to her home at 161 Cumberland Street. She preserved the weatherboard siding, and even though she replaced the windows, she used the correct style of the 1820's with the new windows being nine panes over six panes on the lower level and six panes over six on the upper level. She also put the correct style of wooden shutters on the house. The house may now be vacant but Linda's legacy remains.

CSDHA member Jim Snyder owns the Walter Peterman home located at 10 Cumberland Street. He is currently adding a back addition. The design is so well done to match the late Victorian home that one cannot tell it is a new addition. Great work!

Aside from properties restored by the CSDHA, Clear Spring has other property owners that do well at maintaining the historic charm of their homes and they too need to be commended. And we cannot forget the old-town charm the streets of Clear Spring now have with the addition of the lamps provided by the Clear Spring Garden Club. Saving old buildings is a very effective way to provide continuity in our small town and the Clear Spring community.



The streetscape was preserved on Mulberry Street when Jerry Alshire converted this building into a medical facility.



The late Linda Record did a wonderful job restoring her log weather board covered home at 161 Cumberland Street. Although she replaced the windows, she used the correct style of the 1820's period with the lower windows being nine over six panes and the upper being six over six panes. The shutter style is also correct.



Above view shows new back addition at 10 Cumberland Street. Jim Snyder did a fantastic design of having his new addition blend with the rest of the house. The construction work was done by Mark Myers. The photo on the right shows the house as it neared completion in the early 20th-century.



Clear Spring Residents Demand New School

As the school year came to a close in 1927, many Clear Spring residents paid for a large newspaper advertisement in the Hagerstown newspapers demanding a new schoolhouse. The school building in Clear Spring was only 29 years old in 1927. (Currently, the Clear Spring High School building is 38 years old, the middle school building is 32 years old, and the elementary building is nearly 60 years old.) But back in 1927 the folks of Clear Spring didn't give up and in 1929 construction began on a new modern building that would hold grades one through twelve. This building to be built on Schoolhouse Hill on South Martin Street remained in operation until 1979. It was later razed. Below is the 1927 newspaper advertisement. It was published by the authority of the trustees of Clear Spring School — J. C. Downs, Leo A. Cohill and George Boward.

“We, the undersigned tax-payers and patrons of the Clearspring School District, respectfully petition our honorable representatives in the General Assembly of Maryland — Senator Alexander Hagner, Scott Corbett, Simon Downey, John Strite, Martin Ingram, Robert Bridle and George Hicks, to support a measure that will provide funds for a new school building in Clearspring. We feel fully justified in making this request, because of our rapidly growing school population — two temporary rooms, walls of the main building bulging, but one wood stairway and lacking proper sanitary equipment, and being the last large center to secure a modern building.”

M/M George Rohrer	G. W. Widmyer	Elizabeth Hull	W. G. Zimmerman	John H. Clopper	Charles Brennan
George C. Boward	John F. Beard	M. E. Tosten & Wife	Armond D. Rhodes	B. H. Knepper	C. Cunningham
Mrs. G. C. Boward	Mrs. G. W. Widmyer	Otho Myers	J. F. Kuhn	W. W. Frantz	George Rhodes
George Hose	Harry M. Bain	Robert E. Roach	A. C. M. Houck	M/M F. E. Speck	Mrs. Jacob Ankeney
Isaac Ankeney	Mrs. Albert M. Bell	Nellie E. Spickler	M/M David Flory	J. Will Powers	John Farrow
L. Allen Schnebly	George T. Prather	Mrs. Henry C. Foster	Raymond Sufflecool	M/M Allen Seibert	Edna Miller
J. T. Snyder & Son	Albert M. Bell	Mrs. W. F. Snyder	R. Marie Warner	M/M C. A. Tenney	Christian Ebersole
J. E. Frantz	Mollie B. Prather	Katherine Johnson	M/M William Boyd	Leo A. Cohill	Sylvester Shoemaker
Carlton Ernst	Mrs. Harry Bain	Otho S. Horst	M/M Gardner Miles	Mrs. J. H. Needy	Elsie Leshar
Mrs. J. E. Frantz	Felix Peck	John Hastings	M/M Finley Clopper	Fred Draper	M/M Rush Strite
Mrs. Carlton Ernst	Ida D. Beard	Mrs. H. Schnebly	M/M W. J. Herbert	Elizabeth Needy	Elmer Leshar
H. E. Tosten	Rush Hawbaker	Mrs. Clara B. Strite	Emma Frantz	Mrs. Leo A. Cohill	Ms. Elsworth Leshar
C. G. Ankeney	G. L. Brewer	Charles L. Smith	M/M Newton Corwell	G. W. Mills	Clyde Forsythe
G. B. Haugh	Harry Schnebly	Samuel Starliper	M/M Wade Suffecool	Bernard Mills	Milton Leshar
Bernard Seibert	George A. Mullin	Guy K. Angle	M/M Franz Heineman	Rosie Mills	H. G. Ditto
Nannie Haugh	Isabel S. Boyd	Charles T. Kreigh	J. L. Rowland	L. A. Spickler	Charles Cowton
Robert N. Bain	D. L. Boyd	Dr. Mrs. F. W. Rich	C. F. McDonald	C. M. Schnebly	J. A. Repp
Harry S. Shupp	Carrie E. Sowers	J. C. Pound	Lawrence Rowland	Victor Spickler	W. R. Gehr
Mrs. R. N. Bain	H. P. Boward	M/M T. W. Jameson	Samuel Troupe	D. S. Seibert	Jacob Strite
W. E. Troupe	Isaac D. Rowland	M/M W. L. Peterman	M/M George Young	David Spickler	Laura Gehr
R. E. Cushwa	J. C. Downs	Paul Shank	Dr. J. P. Perry	Fred Leshar	Emma Strite
Virginia L. Seibert	Arthur Suffecool	A. L. Bartles	Mrs. E. S. Helser	Annie E. Miller	
Enos Seibert	Mary L. Downs	Bertha N. Pound	M/M C.C. Dennis	Matilda Leshar	
Mrs. Paul Ankeney	Viola Widmyer	R. L. Funkhouser	M/M C. S. Repp	William O. Miles	
Lewis P. Ankeney	Laura E. Widmyer	Roy P. Jacobs	D. R. Smith	Laura Cunningham	

Maryland Historical Trust Honors Lockhouse 49 Efforts

CSDHA member Dick Cushwa got a message forwarded to one of our monthly meetings that the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Trust was planning to open a few lockhouses along the canal. The Trust was going to furnish the homes with antiques and rent the facilities by the night. But the Trust needed volunteers. Upon hearing the news, CSDHA members immediately agreed to help.

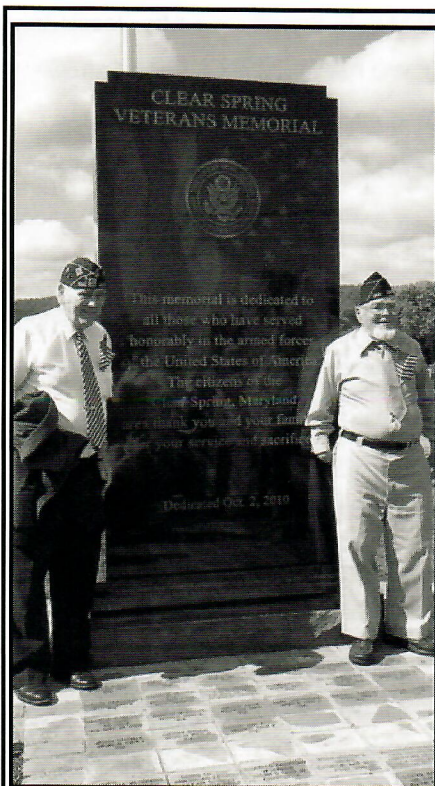
The CSDHA soon made friends with the C&O Canal Trust by helping to get the house ready and also agreeing to clean lockhouse 49 at Four Locks before and after every over-night stay. Volunteering for this glamorous position were Bob and Sue Stine and Kenny and Barbara Clopper.

A total of six lockhouses can now be rented and recently the Maryland Historical Trust recognized the C&O Canal Trust and the National Park Service. Both received a much deserved reward for Outstanding Stewardship of Historic Properties. Since the opening of the lockhouses 3,139 people from 34 states have spent the night in a historic house located along the canal.

The CSDHA is very pleased to be in partnership with our friends at the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Trust. They do wonderful work to preserve the canal and towpath. To make a reservation at Lockhouse 49 call 301-745-8888.



Lockhouse 49 is located at Four Locks, Maryland.



World War II veterans Guy Haines and Brady Haines at the Clear Spring Veterans Memorial. The CSDHA proudly purchased bricks to help build this memorial. (We are also proud that the Haines brothers are CSDHA supporters.)

CSDHA Donations Wisely Used....

Monetary donations to the CSDHA are always appreciated and we always try to put your donation to good use...

Two years ago when money was being raised for the long over-due Clear Spring Veterans Memorial, the CSDHA purchased bricks for all of our known veterans of the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Spanish American War.

Every July 3rd the CSDHA is a major sponsor the Clear Spring Independence Jam. It is wonderful that the Clear Spring community celebrates our nation's birthday at historic Plumb Grove.

We maintain three historic buildings in Clear Spring so that our future residents will know how we lived, and we can learn how our ancestors lived.

We purchase furniture, books, pictures, and other objects relating to our community and preserve them for others to enjoy. We publish two newsletters, Used To Be... and Scoops.

We promote historic preservation in our community. We remember our traditions. We give scholarships to those entering the field of historic preservation and American history.

We remember our traveling pioneers every year as we gather at Plumb Grove to celebrate the historic National Pike and the wagon train. We maintain the AME graveyard.

We celebrate the Christmas season every year with a festive get together at PG.

We collect and preserve beautiful roses, flowers, and vegetables of a forgotten era.

We are grateful for your past support. We need your current support. Please pay your 2012 dues if you have not already done so. Thank you for always being there for us.

Memorial Day Reflections On Departed Members

by David Wiles

Sadie, my Husky, enjoys taking me on daily walks around Clear Spring. Often, we walk pass the old vacant Widmyer home. The last two family members who dwelled there, Miss Ethel and Miss Carmen, have been long gone. And yet, every spring their flower beds are in full bloom. The Tedrick and Reiff neighbors still keep the lawn mowed for the two departed sisters.

Then Sadie and I turn the corner in the alley and walk past the old Methodist graveyard and the adjoining Episcopal graveyard. Goodness knows when the last grave was dug in these two cemeteries, but I do know the first grave was hand dug in May 1832 for the daughter of John and Sarah Ridenour.



Saint Paul's Cemetery is truly an outdoor museum. It dates back to 1795. Memorial Day is a good time to visit the resting places of your ancestors and dwell upon how their generation help shape our community into what it is today.

Decades ago, George Rohrer, who had no family members resting at either burial places, kept the cemeteries mowed and planted flowers every spring. Today, Jim Lapole takes care of the Methodist graves and Don Kriner keeps the Episcopal plots well manicured. Neither men have family buried there either, but they maintain it for the very same reason Mr. Rohrer did. Rural people understand what I am saying.

Robert Frost said, "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned in life: It goes on." The poet is correct but life is never quite the same after a neighbor departs in rural areas where we all know everybody. The Widmyer home, the cemeteries, and thinking how life indeed keeps going on made me think about all of our departed CSDHA members over the years. The following is some reflections on members we have lost just during the past three years. All, who in their hearts had a connection to rural life and Clear Spring.

I will begin with the late Joe Boyd who died in 2009. We first met many years ago at the George Snyder estate auction. The CSDHA had spent every cent it had to buy some items at that auction. Then someone

introduced me to Mr. Boyd (he moved from Clear Spring as a young man and was back visiting that day) and he asked if there was anything else that we had planned to buy. I told him we really wanted the 1850's solid walnut sideboard that was made in Clear Spring but we were broke. When the sideboard was auctioned off, Mr. Boyd was the top bidder paying a hefty sum for it. He then walked up to me and said, "It's yours. Do you have a way to get it to Plumb Grove?" I'll never forget that day.

A few years later at the George Boyd estate auction, Joe Boyd purchased a beautiful pine cupboard made in Clear Spring around 1830. He gave it to his daughter who lived in New York, who, a few years ago she donated it to Plumb Grove. Mr. Boyd continued over the years supporting us with monetary gifts but his greatest gift to our organization was a book of his memories about growing up in rural Clear Spring during the 1930's and 1940's. The Boyd book captures rural life so well that

our group has been keeping the material on hold until we get Browns' Meeting House completed. We will then use the book as part of a lecture series. Memories of Joe Boyd will be around Clear Spring forever.

Allan Clopper died in 2009. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of the CSDHA. He attended just about every event we ever held. He donated some very large sums of money over the years. He once told me that writing a check was easy. It was the volunteers who did the work that did the hard part. He sincerely believed in preserving local history.

My neighbor Grace Downs died in 2009. She and her late husband John were always very supportive of the CSDHA. I recall a beautiful pine cone wreath she handmade one year for Plumb Grove. She was active in other projects in our rural community also. Aside from St. Peter's Church, she was a long-time volunteer with the ladies auxiliary of the Joseph C.

Herbert American Legion. Upon her passing, her family requested that friends send monetary donations to the CSDHA. Memorial donations were received from: Aliene and Charles Downs, Jerry and Gail Aleshire, Jack and Nancy Newkirk, Betty and Rodney Shank, Rose Tosten, Lisa and Cedric Poole, Andy and Cindy Downs, and the Potomac Fish and Game Club Auxiliary. Additional funds were raised for the CSDHA when the Downs family requested we provide a food stand at the John and Grace Downs estate sale. How thoughtful of everyone involved.

CSDHA member Carol Smith also died in 2009. She was very active in doing family research. Frank "Buck" Artz died that year also. He was one giant supporter for historic preservation in Washington County. Harry Blair also succumbed. He certainly had strong family ties to the area with the Blair and Grosh lines. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Kretzer died in 2009. They were wonderful members. That was also the year that the community of Blair's Valley lost one of its most respected citizens upon the death of Thelma Bragunier. She was the widow of Clarence Bragunier, and together they made a true difference for their valley neighbors. Their devoted life together was a great inspiration to others. They were married for 67 years and they always enjoyed telling the story of their first date: Clarence invited Thelma to go with him to his uncle's funeral.

The year 2009 also brought the death of Mildred Hess. She grew up in Clear Spring and had amazing stories about our community during the 1930's and 1940's. She invited me to spend a day with her to record her terrific stories. I never got around to it and then one day her obituary was in the newspaper.

The following year we lost members Pete Hawbaker and James Sigler who attended many of our events. Lewis Shank died that year. I fondly recall visiting Mr. Shank with my grandfather in the early 1960's when Mr. Shank worked at Hoffman Chevrolet. It was located on Locust

Street in Hagerstown and we would go there for car parts. Mr. Shank would open a book that appeared to me to have a least a million pages in it and he would find the part my grandfather needed. I thought Mr. Shank was one of the smartest men in the world back then.

In 2010 our faithful Fort Frederick Market Fair volunteer Carolee Kelley also left us. The Clear Spring community was also saddened by the death of Fonda Newkirk. We all have memories of her friendliness during the many years she was a teller at the bank. And long-time school teacher Sarah Secrest Zimmerman died that year at age 95. CSDHA member Theda Kieffer gave our group a kind monetary gift in remembrance of her.

I had the good fortune to live across the street from Hartzell Rohrer until her death in 2010 at age 92. For many years the CSDHA could count on Mrs. Rohrer to support our fund-raisers with her homemade baked items. Her hometown was really special to her. I recall several years ago she let me read a poem she had written about the people in Clear Spring. Her neighbors and friends were mentioned in the poem. She even praised her landlord. Only in a rural setting could someone know who lived where and so forth to write a poem about their neighbors. I can't think of a better example of someone's love for their community than taking the time to write a poem about it.

Everyone who passed her home could expect to find her in her porch swing during good weather. And all who passed her could count on a friendly chat or a neighborly wave. Hartzell Rohrer was also the best card player in town too, playing for decades with groups in Clear Spring. Upon her passing, her family requested memorial donations be given to the CSDHA. Monetary gifts were received from Barbara Caton-Miles, Jerry and Gail Aleshire, Judith Miner, Jim and Cindy Stoneburner, Pearl and Rachel Eckstine, Edith and Lawrence Keefer, Gregory and Patsy Henry, Mary M. Fiery, Nellie Bowman, Bill

Newkirk, Theda Kieffer, the VFW Auxiliary #6241, and the Clear Spring Wednesday Card Club. The memory of Hartzell Rohrer lives on in Clear Spring.

Mildred "Shirl" Shryock passed away in 2010 and she has not been forgotten by the CSDHA. She was so faithful to us when we did fund-raisers. We could always count on her help. Aside from the CSDHA, Shirl belonged to another group directly related to her rural upbringing. She was a charter member of "The Mildreds and Margarets." Members in this group aside from Mildred Marie Kershner Shryock were: Mildred Marie "Millie" Bloyer Powell, Margaret "Pudge" Kershner Cornett and Margaret Ann "Maggie" Kretzer Clopper. All four members graduated from Clear Spring High School, all four were 4-H members, all four attended the same rural Sunday School, all four supported the CSDHA, and all four were life-time friends.

The M&M's last got together at the Cornett home three months before Shirl's death. Mildred Powell recalls that the Clear Spring community and its history were special to Shirl and it was her wish for the group to share and write down their reminiscences of growing up in rural Clear Spring at that last gathering. Memories recalled included summer Bible school, picnics, Easter, Christmas and Children's Day programs where memorized "pieces" were nervously recited.

There were also farm memories of working in a hot kitchen preparing food for thrashers and memories of picking beans on hot summer days, playing cards on cool evenings, pulling taffy, popping corn, sewing projects, canning, baby showers, birthday parties and funerals.

The circle has been broken for the Mildreds and Margarets but long after all four are gone, their file folder of their recollections will still be at the CSDHA library and decades from now someone will open that folder and read the written memories of four great Clear Spring friends.

The year 2010 was filled with sadness for

the Kershner family. Not only did Shirly Shryock pass away that year but so did her sister Ruth Webb. Although she lived many decades in Arizona, she always maintained special memories of growing up in Clear Spring.

We lost Jesse "Buck" Shoemaker two years ago. He was so devoted to Plumb Grove. For years he volunteered every Monday doing repairs for the house and property. He was also a masterful artist designing and building miniature log buildings. Just a few days before his death he donated most of the structures that he had made for his village. What a joy to know his work has been preserved forever.

In 2011 our group lost Charles Tedrick. He had deep family ties connecting to our local history, and Annie Hawbaker who was a long-time member and helper to our society departed this earth. Linda Record died. She will be remembered for the wonderful restoration she did to her historic Clear Spring house. Genevieve Cook also died. Mrs. Cook resided at 27 South Martin Street for 82 years. She helped our association many times with fundraisers. Charlotte Clopper Eccard left us also.

Death claimed Charlotte Sorge in 2011 and took with her endless memories of growing up on a farm. Her parents, Gardner and Evelyn Miles were a well known farmers in Clear Spring. Anna Martin also departed in 2011. She made history in Clear Spring when she became the first woman in the area to drive a school bus.

Bus driving until then was considered a man's job but Mrs. Martin opened the (bus) door for other women to follow her including our good helper Betty Shives who also died that year. She drove a rural school bus for 18 years.

Leaving us also was the very kind Mick Holler and Janet Dayhoff who loved all local history. On Christmas day of 2011 long time member Alice "Patty" Mills died. She sang on her church choir for 30 years among other volunteer work in her community.

This year we have lost three CSDHA members. Herman Weaver was killed in an accident at his job where he has been employed for 48 years. Richard Forsythe, a person very proud of his heritage line, has also left us. Ray Kelley died on May 10th. This very kind man volunteered many times at CSDHA events.

Memorial Day is now upon us. I wish I could have mentioned all departed CSDHA members during the past 32 years instead of the past three years (and please forgive me if I missed anyone.) Past members made the CSDHA what it is today by taking the place of other departed helpers and, yes, life goes on. Our local cemeteries



Saint Peter's Cemetery in Clear Spring dates back to 1828. Row upon row of silent neighbors of our past once lived and worked in our community. They left behind a great legacy.

are filled with silent voices that will confirm that.

We all try to hold onto the things we love, the people, the things we never want to lose. I encourage all of our members this Memorial Day, in a quiet sadness, to remember all of our members that have departed over the years, and not that these people have died, but that they lived and had various connections to Clear Spring, Maryland.

Plumb Grove Visit

Twenty members of *Leadership Washington County* hosted by Nick Hill II, recently toured Plumb Grove. The goal of this group is to develop and inspire excellent leaders dedicated to serving Washington County and shaping its future. A hearty thank you to CSDHA volunteers who had the gardens and lawn looking superb and the house looking grand.

Preservation Maryland Reception

Preservation Maryland of Baltimore recently held a reception at a historic site near the town of Sharpsburg, and it was neat to see folks at the gathering wearing different hats representing other preservation groups that were also CSDHA members. Those people were: Ralph Young, Doug Bast, Pat Schooley, Alliene Downs, Betty Shank, Philip Downs, and David Wiles.

Plumb Grove Museum

(Listed on the National Register of
Historic Places)

Open

Third Sunday of Each Month

June — October

1 P.M. — 5 P.M.

Enjoy touring the house and gardens

Bring your basket and have a picnic

— Tables available —

Was That Harry and Bess?

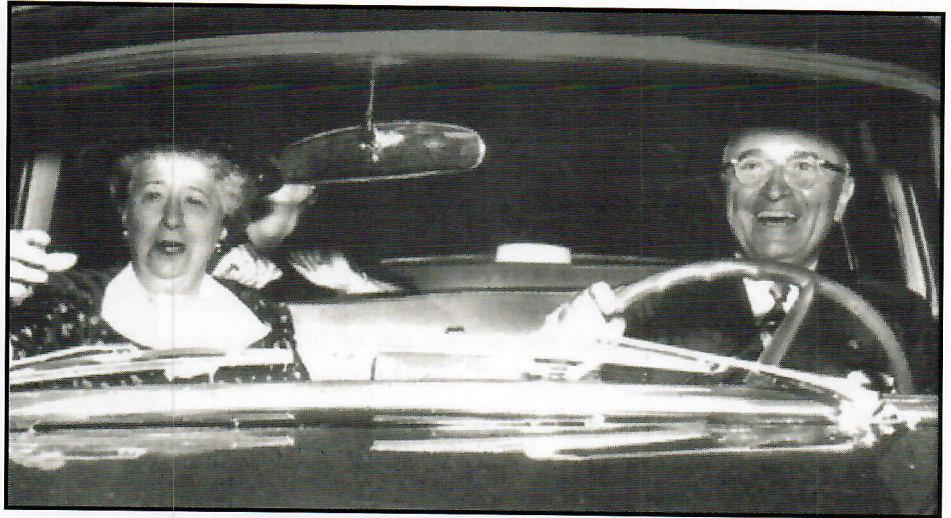
In June 1953, Harry and Bess Truman did something millions of Americans do every summer. They took a road trip. Harry Truman didn't own a Cadillac or a Lincoln but he did own a Chrysler that he had purchased from Haines Motor Company in Independence, Missouri. A large portion of the Truman vacation would be traveled on Route 40, one of the most historic roads in America.

President and Mrs. Truman took their luggage and other items needed for a vacation. What they didn't take were Secret Service agents, bodyguards, or attendants of any kind. Harry and Bess Truman drove from their Missouri home to the East Coast and back. Mr. Truman was behind the wheel. Bess Truman rode shotgun. They stayed in roadside motels and ate at various diners located along the old National Pike.

While coming through Frostburg, Maryland, a man waved down the Chrysler. He walked up to the car and then recognized the driver. The man then said shyly, "You are going the wrong way."

"What do you mean?" asked the President. The man politely told him he was going the wrong way on a one-way street. Bess leaned across the front seat to the driver's window. "He never listens to me," she said. "I thought he was making a wrong turn."

While in Frostburg, the Trumans ate lunch at the Princess Restaurant located along the main street. The President ordered the Sunday special: roast chicken with stuffing, lima beans, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, rice pudding and coffee. The price for the entire meal was 70 cents. Bess got the same meal. But they had difficulties enjoying their home-cooked meal because of the endless invasion of people wanting to talk to them and wanting napkins signed. The Trumans remained gracious and were not annoyed.



President and Mrs. Harry Truman are shown in their car during their road trip in 1953 that took them through the Clear Spring community.

While trying to eat lunch, a man approached President Truman and asked him if he wouldn't mind driving a few miles out of his way and visit his mother and "cheer her up." The Trumans followed the man to Eckhart, Maryland and spent about 30 minutes at the elderly lady's home before getting back on the National Pike and heading east toward Hancock.

While in Hancock, the Trumans passed Creek's Jewelry Store, the National Restaurant, Rosen's Department Store, Hoffman Chevrolet, Exline's Hardware Store, Younkin's News Stand, Conn and Fine Department Store, Western Auto Store, Reed's Radio Service, H&S Furniture Store, and the Park&Dine on the way out of town. They also passed all of the beautiful Hancock orchards.

President and Mrs. Truman cruised

through the village of Indian Springs passing the schoolhouse, hotel, store, and other businesses and homes. They proceeded over Fairview Mountain and past the Corwell farm and the modern homes of Ted



The Indian Springs Hotel was located across the National Pike from the Indian Springs two-room school.

and Nora Snyder, Reed and Florence Frantz, and others.

Upon entering Clear Spring, the Trumans passed open farm land that would one day be home for three school buildings and a library. Then they drove by the West End Garage and gas station and the modern fire hall.



This business situated on the top of Fairview Mountain offered gas, sandwiches, beer, soda pop, and over-night lodging in its fancy cottages. The letter “C” was missing from the sign below the right front window and was instead advertising “Old Beer.” The building is now a residence.

Entering the Clear Spring downtown area, they passed the offices of Dr. Cohen and Dr. Brewer. In addition, they drove by Graff’s Lunch & Fountain, C.W. Clopper’s Self Service Market and Frozen Food Bank, Main Street Market, Baublitz Variety Store, Yeakle’s Grocery Store, the Clear Spring National Bank, the hardware store, the post office and the churches before leaving the town limits. It is not known if they were recognized in Clear Spring but it is most certain that the late Jake Blair gave them a friendly wave as they rode through town.



President and Mrs. Truman came rolling into Clear Spring on Route 40. The Max Corwell farm is shown on the left.

The Chrysler headed towards the village of Shady Bower and then onward on the National Pike past Knepper’s House of Hocus Pocus. Oh, what a shame they didn’t stop because Harry would have loved it. Knepper’s, as many local folks may recall, sold a million things, but nothing anyone needed. The store was open 24/7 and Sunday, the day the Trumans passed by, was a non-stop day of customers ordering real milk shakes, and ice-cream sandwiches made from fresh cuts of ice-cream placed between two flat cone cakes.

As they crossed the Conococheague bridge, the Trumans must have noticed the large Sunday crowd at Rowe’s Amusement Park. If they would have stopped in, the couple could have enjoyed a free musical

concert, perhaps jumped on a few rides, and even taken a dip in the “crick.”

Just a stone’s throw from the amusement park was the Gateway Nursing Home and Bloyer’s Restaurant and Motel which the Trumans passed before continuing east on the old pike toward robust downtown Hagerstown and beyond to the small, sleepy town of Frederick.



Cumberland Street in Clear Spring as it appeared during the early 1950’s.

President Truman Travels East Beyond Clear Spring...



For those who still have the memories, visiting Knepper's House of Hocus Pocus east of Clear Spring, was as much fun as going to Disneyland. A visitor could ride "animals," purchase Cities-Service gasoline, get a sandwich for some change, rent a cabin for the night, and fill the Chevy station wagon with fabulous gifts. The Knepper complex was located next to St. Paul's Church and was also a popular truck stop.

Right photo: The sliding board at Row's Park was just one of the many great attractions. The park was located along the Conococheague on Route 40.

Below is the Gateway Inn. The facility was a nursing home when President Truman passed by on June 21, 1953.

