

The Inkwell

SPRING 2022

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Volunteer!
**410-398-
1790**

***Renew
your
membership
today!***

A FORGOTTEN CECIL COUNTY CHURCH: THE BOHEMIA-BROAD CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION

By Bruce Bendler

On June 13, 1723, Richard Thompson leased one acre on the south side of Broad Creek, and on the west side of the "main county road," to Peter Bouchell, Samuel Alexander, and "the rest of the Presbyterian congregation" for twenty years. Thompson required that the grantees construct a meeting house on the site. Bouchell and Alexander, probably serving as elders of that Presbyterian congregation, helped organize the first church of that denomination in southern Cecil County, heretofore dominated by the St. Stephen's Anglican and St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic churches.

The new congregation came under the oversight of the Presbytery of New Castle, organized in 1707. Even before the church leased the property from Richard Thompson, the presbytery had supplied its pulpit with Alexander Hutchinson, a young Scotsman. Educated in Glasgow, Scotland, Hutchinson had crossed the Atlantic and presented his credentials to the New Castle Presbytery by September 1722, when that body received him as a probationer. On October 4 of that year, the presbytery appointed him to "supply ye people of Apokuinomy" and "likewise the people of Bohemia and Broad Creek until sd. people shall agree" to call Hutchinson

as their pastor.

Hutchinson supplied the two pulpits "as appointed." Word spread of his pastoral gifts. The congregation at Head of Elk presented a supplication to the presbytery to allow him to preach for them for two Sundays, after which he would return to Bohemia. Hutchinson favorably impressed the congregants at Bohemia. On April 10, 1723, Thomas Glen, commissioner from that congregation, presented a call to Hutchinson to the moderator of presbytery. Hutchinson "desired time to our next meeting to give his answer." Even so, he continued to minister to the Bohemia congregation, and the presbytery also granted the request of the congregants at Head of Elk for Hutchinson's pastoral services.

On May 8, 1723, Hutchinson accepted the call even as he continued to work to fulfill the rigorous requirements for ordination. He had to deliver a "presbyterial exercise" on Romans 8:1, present a "scholarly exegesis" affirming the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, and present a "popular sermon" on Psalm 63:8. Until he passed those "trials," he continued to supply the Bohemia pulpit and ministered to the Head of Elk congregation "every third Sabbath."

President's Corner

Letter from the President –

I am so happy to be back to normal at the Historical Society. What a challenging two years. I am hopeful that this will be the year we can start crossing projects off our list. Of course, there are always new ones to take their place. Our volunteers have been out and about representing the Historical Society at Elk Landing's Defenders Day event and St. Mary Anne's Garden Market in North East. The Society is now open on the Town of Elkton's First Fridays from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. the first Friday of every month. We have re

-scheduled the Dancing Through the Decades event for October 8, 2022 to coincide with the Elkton High School Alumni Weekend. Unfortunately, we had to postpone this event twice because of COVID, but it's time to put on those dancin' shoes and come dressed to represent your favorite decade. Lisa Dolor, our Curator, is planning a new exhibit to showcase our large collection of Indigeneous people's artifacts from Cecil County and tell their history.

This will be a permanent exhibit on the second floor. Our gardens are blooming and we can always use help with the weeding and planting. No need to make an appointment, just stop in and we'll put you to work. Bring your own work gloves.

The Society really needs some input from our members. Your input is very valuable to us and we need to hear from you. Please send us an email to cecilhistory@gmail.com. We would like to know what can the Historical Society do that

Officers

- ◆ PAULA NEWTON – PRESIDENT
- ◆ BETH MOORE—VICE PRESIDENT
- ◆ PAMELA HOWARD – TREASURER
- ◆ MIKE DIXON – HISTORIAN
- ◆ CAROL DONACHE – LIBRARIAN
- ◆ BETH MOORE – CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
- ◆ MARGIE BLYSTONE - MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
- ◆ LISA DOLOR – CURATOR

HSCC wants to email the Inkwell to as many members as possible! Please send us your email address to receive future issues via email.

Trustees

- ◆ TRAVIS HUMISTON
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- ◆ KAREN PETERSON
- ◆ RUSTY EDER
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- ◆ DAVID BESTE
- ◆ CHUCK DOLOR
- ◆ WANDA OWENS

Do you want to get involved? Contact us! cecilhistory@gmail.com

is of interest to you. Do you value our publications, Cecil Whig stories, would you like to see more programming (on-site or at various venues), how-to workshops, annual dinner meetings, or membership events. What would inspire you to attend an Historical Society event.

The Historical Society is looking forward to more membership participation. We are here to serve the residents of Cecil County and people who have ties to Cecil County so please let your voice be heard.

Sincerely,

Paula H. Newton

President



Bendler —From page 1...

Hutchinson passed his “trials” with flying colors. In addition to meeting the preaching and exegetical requirements, he underwent “ye usual process of trial in the learned languages & extemporaries in order to his ordination.” On June 5, 1723, at the Bohemia church, the presbytery unanimously approved Hutchinson’s ordination, and “solemnly set [him] aside to ye work of the ministry by fasting & prayer with ye imposition of hands by ye Presbytery.” Rev. George Gillespie preached a sermon to Hutchinson and his congregation. The presbytery also directed Gillespie to write a letter of thanks to Scotland “for sending Mr. Hutchinson over to these parts.”

Hutchinson’s responsibilities encompassed more than ministering to his parishioners at the Bohemia and Broad Creek church. The presbytery, with more congregations than pastors, still called upon him to fill vacant pulpits in churches under its oversight. He travelled far and wide, ministering to congregations at Elk River, New Castle, Conestoga,

and Donegal. In addition, he officiated at the installation of Thomas Craighead at the White Clay Creek Presbyterian Church in New Castle County.

Despite his busy schedule, Hutchinson surely at times felt lonely. On June 15, 1724, he wrote to John Stirling, principal of the College of Glasgow, and one of his mentors back in Scotland. He recalled Stirling’s kindness to him at the university in Glasgow. He expressed his sense of lonesomeness, remarking that a letter “would be very refreshful in a strange land.” He also asked prayer for “the success of the Gospel in these parts.” In turn, he inquired “how the Gospel prospers with you.” Evidently, Hutchinson had seen little spiritual fruit as a result of his labors. “The double measure of God’s power would seem necessary here,” he commented. He asked to be remembered to all of his professors, regents, and ministers in Scotland, no doubt hoping that at least a few of them would favor an alumnus in a faraway land with a letter.

Hutchinson continued, at the request of the New Castle Presbytery, to divide his time between his own church and other congregations. He spent at least one Sunday each month filling other pulpits. Oftentimes, this involved considerable travel. He was called upon to minister to congregations as far away as Pocomoke and Snow Hill, in Somerset County. On March 23, 1724/5 (O. S.), he became the stated clerk of the New Castle Presbytery, a position he held at least until August 1725.

By some accounts, Hutchinson’s frequent travels resulted from a “feeble” ministry at Bohemia and Broad Creek. In addition, his congregation was not a wealthy one: the presbytery “gave him aid out of the fund” to meet his worldly needs, leaving him “at liberty” to supply the numerous vacant pulpits within the bounds of the New Castle Presbytery.

By the late 1730s, a major revival of the Christian faith shook up churches and denominations across British North America. In 1739, evangelist George Whitefield crossed the Atlantic Ocean on the first of seven evangelistic journeys to the colonies. Whitefield traveled from one location to another, often preaching in public spaces out of doors. On November 24, 1740, Whitefield preached at Bohemia to, by his estimate, 2000 people. He stayed at the home of Susanna Bayard, “a true mother in Israel,” who “kindly received” him. After his brief stay in Bohemia, he and his companions travelled on to St.

Bendler —Continued Page 4...

Georges, where “a kind and courteous Quaker received us into his house.” That kind reception no doubt encouraged Whitefield even though he parted from “good old Mrs. Bayard” in tears.

Whitefield made no mention of encountering Alexander Hutchinson or his congregation while at Bohemia. Whitefield often mentioned ministers with whom he worked, as well as those who opposed his evangelistic endeavors. His failure to mention Hutchinson may reflect the relative insignificance, or the very diminished state, of the Bohemia Presbyterian congregation; one account called it nearly “extinct” by 1740. Identified as “a friend of the revival” by another account, Hutchinson evidently could not or did not provide strong support to George Whitefield’s ministry.

Alexander Hutchinson, perhaps in discouragement, set a new course for his life in 1740. On March 31 of that year, he purchased 250 acres of land from farmer Roger Merrick on the east side of the Elk River. The deed itself identified Hutchinson not as a minister but as a “gentleman.” Indeed, he may well have parted ways with the small Bohemia congregation before Whitefield’s visit in November of the same year.

The congregants of Bohemia and Broad Creek did labor on for at least another decade. The broader ramifications of the Great Awakening might well have brought about the demise of Bohemia Presbyterian Church. In 1741, Presbyterians in British North America divided, mainly as a consequence of the Great Awakening. The faction known as the Old Side viewed the “enthusiasm” of the revivalists with apprehension. Their opponents, known as the New Side, not only accepted, but welcomed, that enthusiasm.

Those issues led to the splintering of Old Drawyers (Appoquinimink) Church in nearby New Castle County. By 1750, some members of that congregation had joined folks from Bohemia and Broad Creek to form a new congregation. On June 6, 1750, Robert and Mary Armstrong sold 123 square perches of land situated on a mill branch adjacent to the property of David Witherspoon to Peter Bayard, James Bayard, Sluyter Bouchell, Benjamin Sluyter, William Moore, John Moody, Jacob Shaw, Thomas Rothwell, and John VanDike. The deed identified these men as trustees of the Presbyterian congregations of

Bohemia in the province of Maryland and the Appoquinimink congregation in New Castle County. The deed noted that the church was “under the care of the [New Side] synod of New York,” and it required the trustees to build a meeting house which became the Forest Presbyterian Church.

The migration of at least part of Bohemia’s leadership to the Forest congregation likely meant the demise of the Bohemia congregation. Its building remained on the landscape until at least 1809, but, as of 1857, only tombstones remained on the site. The Presbyterian schism ended in 1758, when the Old and New Sides reunited. By then, Forest Church was firmly established.

Alexander Hutchinson did quite well as a gentleman farmer, and he remained attached to the Presbyterian cause. When he wrote his will on January 4, 1765, Hutchinson left one pound to each of the widows of his one-time colleagues James Blair and George Gillespie, who had preached his ordination sermon. He also requested that “my dear brother the Rev. James Finley” peruse his will and accept as compensation a “universal map of the world as a token of our common Lord and most dear, dear, thrice dear and lovely Christ Jesus.” Furthermore, he offered part of his real estate to the Presbytery of Lancaster, either for construction of a meeting house or “for the encouragement of the young seminary of learning in Newark in New Castle County.”

Hutchinson also provided for his own household. His son Samuel received the remainder of his property along the Elk River with plows and plow horses. Hutchinson left most of his library to his son “if he is inclined to the ministry.” Hutchinson’s two daughters, Mary and Rebecca, received land in Kent County, Maryland, along with Matthew Henry’s six-volume commentary on the Scriptures, Leigh’s *Body of Divinity*, a *Dictionary of the Arts and Sciences*, and a concordance of the Bible. A codicil to the will removed the stipulation on the bequest to Samuel.

Alexander Hutchinson owned four slaves: an “old Negro man” named Will, a woman named Mag, and two boys named Ned and James. Hutchinson set forth concern for both the spiritual and material wellbeing of those slaves. He left a New Testament and a catechism to the boys, along with provision for up to one half year for schooling. He also provided that Mag could rent fifty acres, with Will, “as at quarters.” The codicil to the will mandated that Mag

and Will “be allowed one of their own children” to serve them in their old age.

Though the Bohemia-Broad Creek Presbyterian Church did not endure as many other congregations established in colonial times have, its brief history left a mark. It provided a spiritual home for folks in southern Cecil County for at least a generation. Its more enduring legacy was its role in the establishment of Forest Presbyterian Church in Middletown. And Alexander Hutchinson left a legacy of his own, a legacy of dedication and commitment that went beyond his years in the ministry.

Endnotes:

1. Cecil County Deeds 4:26, Clerk of Circuit Court’s Office, Elkton, Maryland.
2. There are many variant spellings: Hutchison, Hutcheson, Hucheson among others. This paper employs the spelling Hutchison, although that spelling occurs with little more frequency than some of the variants.
3. Charles Hodge, *The Constitutional History of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.* (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publications), 82.
4. “Records of the Presbytery of New Castle” in *Journal of the Department of History of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.* XV 2 (June 1932), 93-120.
5. Ibid., 80-1.
6. Ibid., 82.
7. Ibid., 83.
8. Ibid., 85-6.
9. Ibid., 87-96.
10. Charles Augustus Briggs, *American Presbyterianism: Its Origin and Early History Together with an Appendix of Letters and Documents* (New York: Charles Scribner, 1885), lxxxvi.
11. “Records of the Presbytery of New Castle,” 97-115.
12. George Johnston, *History of Cecil County, Maryland, and the Early Settlements around the Head of the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River* ((Elkton, Maryland: by the author, 1881), 275-6.
13. *George Whitefield’s Journals* (Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1978), 498.
14. Johnston 275-6.
15. Charles Hartshorn Mason, *The Great Awakening in the Middle Colonies* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1920), 66.

16. Cecil County Deeds 5:537.

17. New Castle County Deeds Y:586, Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware.

18. Webster 375.

19. Hutchinson referred to the academy founded by Francis Allison in 1743, the forerunner of the University of Delaware. More commonly known as the Presbytery of Donegal, it was known as the Presbytery of Lancaster only from 1765 to 1766.

20. Wills, 35:25, Prerogative Court, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.



Volunteer Opportunities

The Historical Society of Cecil County is looking for volunteers who are willing to help us fulfill our mission of preserving and interpreting our Cecil County History. The following are volunteer positions we need to fill:

- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
 - EVENT COORDINATOR
 - VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
 - EDITOR OF THE INKWELL
 - WEBSITE MANAGER
 - RESEARCH ASSISTANT
 - LIBRARY ASSISTANT
 - GARDENER
- PUBLICITY/SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR
 - CURATOR’S ASSISTANT

If any of these positions are of interest to you, please contact us at

(410) 398-1790 or cecilhistory@gmail.com

HSCC Awarded \$10,000 Grant

The Historical Society of Cecil County has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Maryland Humanities' SHARP Recovery Fund Grant. The Society was one of 91 organizations chosen from many worthwhile applicants based on significant humanities focus and demonstration of need. Funding for these grants has been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Maryland Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the NEH sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) initiative. This grant is specifically to be used for the refurbishment of the John F. DeWitt Military Museum to create an educational tool and a more interactive experience for patrons with children specifically in mind.

#MDHumanitiesSHARP, #MDHHumanities, #SHARP,
#AmericanRescuePlan, @MDHumanities, and @NEHgov



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



After a recent lecture given by Dan Coates from the Archaeological Society about the Lindsay Price collection that was recently donated to the Historical Society. From Left to Right: Dan is dressed as Lindsay Price. Josie Otwell and Lindsey Donovan are relatives of Mr. Price and Barry Sawyer is the gentleman who donated the collection.

Decades **DANCE PARTY**

50'S, 60'S, 70'S 80'S

Saturday, October 8th - 7-10pm

✦ Costume Party ✦

✦ Food & Prizes ✦

✦ Raffle & Cash Bar ✦

✦ Tickets \$25 ✦

Per Person

Elkton VFW Post #8175
208 W. High St.

All Proceeds benefit the
Historical Society of Cecil County

For Tickets & Info: (410) 398-1790
or visit: www.cecilhistory.org



The following Items were generously donated by:

Pam Howard – Portrait of Mary Wallace Veazey of Elkton; black and white photograph of house of Annie Fields Simpser on Theodore Road.



Jane Schaefer – Cecil County Public Health Department. photos and negatives.

Jeffrey Ricketts – Cecil Farmers Telephone Company stock certificate.

Emily Kilby – Manuscript written by the donor: On a High Hill East of the River.

Barbara MacKenzie – Family photos, school memorabilia, 1956 Cecil County book.

Hostetter Family – Autobiography of E. Ralph Hostetter Sr.: Something Ventured: Portrait of an American Dreamer, E. Ralph Hostetter.

Mary Roney – Specifications for rebuilding the Conowingo bridge toll house, 5 June 1871.

Elkton Chamber and Alliance – Meeting minutes 1956-1989 & 2000; annual reports and other folders of information; cloth banner from the Tercentenary celebration; Greater Elkton Chamber of Commerce banner.

Lee Collins – State of Maryland Militia Enrollment forms, 1917.

Alexis Allen – Two original documents dated 1794 having to do with George Gillespie and typed transcripts of same.



Eileen Winer – High chair of Leon Gallaher; oral history of him; photos of he and his family; postcards from World War I.

Nancy Jodlbauer – Various ephemera having to do with Elkton businesses and organizations; items pertaining to George Reynolds Ash and Joseph Black; Cecil Federal anniversary key chains (2).

L. Harvey Kirk – Copy of Surgeon's Call: Journal of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, vol. 26 no. 1 2021, containing donor's article about Cecil Countian Pvt. Lewis K. Brown; 2021 calendar produced by the donor featuring photos of historic buildings of Cecil, Lancaster, and Chester Counties near the Mason-Dixon line, with accompanying historical data; 2022 Mason-Dixon Line Historic Calendar.

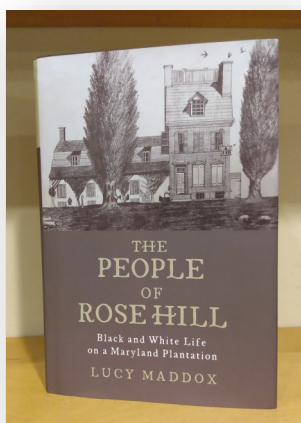
N. Richard Glover – Supplement to "History of Hollywood Beach Cecil County Maryland" authored by the donor, updated to April 2021.

Dr. Melvin Blumberg – Hardbound family history and genealogy entitled Sapience Harris: Planter, of Appoquinimink Hundred, New Castle County Delaware and His Descendants to the Eights Generation.

Thomas Ross – Aerial Products I. D. pin for E. C. (Elsie) Short; Aerial Life magazine, 14 issues from the 1950s. One issue of TNT Magazine.

Phyllis Crawford – Papers and photographs of the Crawford family of Cecilton, Warwick, Chesapeake City and Middletown, DE.

John W. Hall – 1870 diary of Charles Wesley Wilson; Book owned by Charles Wesley Wilson c1868; 23 black & white negatives of Rising Sun 1960 Centennial celebration on September 10, 1960.



Lucy Maddox – Book authored by donor: The People of Rose Hill: Black and White Life on a Maryland Plantation.

Michael Daley – New hardbound large format book: Waterfowling on the Susquehanna Flats: Decoys, Decoy Makers, and Duck Hunters of the Upper Chesapeake Bay. Donated and signed by the author.

Richard Bowers – Dean family memorabilia; wedding dress of Mary Anne Dean Bowers.

Cecil County Public Library – Water Witch Fire Company 100th Anniversary yearbook; Port Deposit Presbyterian Church 1838-1988 register

records; yearbooks of the Jacob Tome Institute, the Jactominian - 1929, 1933, 1936, 1937, 1944, 1953, 1959, 1960, 1961; yearbook of the Tome School for Boys, The Trail, 1940.

David Burcham – Papers pertaining to projects requested by the Colora Civic Association, through their Neighborhood Watch coordinator, donor David Burcham.

Anne Fazio – Cecil County Maryland Pathway of History 1000 piece puzzle.

Monica Weiser – St. Basil's Ukranian Catholic Church Centennial Celebration 1920-2020; invitation to the celebration dinner; program for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

Milford Sprecher – Pamphlet touting the benefits of alternate routes for what would become Route 40; 6th grade class photo, 1964-65 academic year, from North East Elementary. Students identified on reverse.



Remembering Hurricane Agnes

Monday, July 11 at 6pm

at the North East Branch Library

Hurricane Agnes swept up the East Coast in the Summer of 1972, leaving a widespread path of destruction across 15 states. Fifty years later, Cecil County residents remember the storm's impact on our communities. Join local historian Mike Dixon, Department of Emergency Services Director Wayne Tome, and retired ES Director Frank Muller as they share first-hand accounts of Agnes and stories of everyday heroics in the midst of one of the worst storms of our nation's history.

To register, visit www.cecilcountylibrary.org

Become a Member!

Joining the Historical Society of Cecil County is a great way to support the Society's undertakings.

All members are invited to attend meetings and functions sponsored by the HSCC, receive discounts on books and items, use the HSCC library for free and get a subscription to *The Inkwell*, our newsletter.

For over 75 years, we have connected people with Cecil's past by collecting and preserving the county's history and we count on membership dues to help fund this endeavor.

Through your membership you help connect people to the county's past through our library and its significant collection of rare books, manuscripts and photographs; our outreach services, helping others understand county history; a website that attracts hundreds of visitors monthly; our museum, which contains fascinating displays; and our widely distributed print newsletter.

Ways to Join

Become a member online or send your payment by mail (the old-fashioned way!). Membership renewal is on an annual, calendar year basis.

Members joining on or after August 1st will receive credit for the remaining months of the year of receipt as well as a full 12 months in the following period.

By Mail

Membership
Historical Society of Cecil County
135 E Main St.
Elkton, MD 21921

Online Payment with Paypal

Select the appropriate category and click on the "buy now" button. It will take you to a secure PayPal page for payment.

You will receive your membership package within about two weeks.



*Chuck & Lisa Dolor at Historic Elk Landing's
Defenders Day Celebration. For more information, visit:
<https://www.defendersfestival.com/>*



Photo Credit: JP Henry

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**Have you found
answers to your
Cecil County family
history mysteries?**

Share your Stories!

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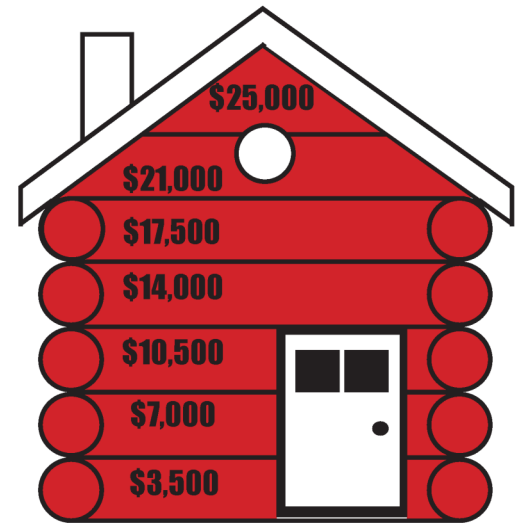
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Thank you to the following new members

August 2021—April 2022

- Lorain Alexander-Maurer, MD
 - M. Abbott Bolte, MD
 - Mary Ann Bryan, FL
 - Alice Coday, WA
- Claire Dabrowski, MD
 - Michael Daley, MA
 - Karen Delaney, MD
 - Monica Geckle, MD
 - Charles Godby, MD
 - Doris Gustafson, MD
- Brian & Rebecca Flood Hall, MD
 - Thomas Hannum, MD
 - Karen Jackson, PA
 - Melissa Kline, MD
- Christine Kowalski, PA
 - Susanna Lee, MD
- Bruce McCrodden, OH
- Stewart McLean Jr., MD
 - Kathy Phelps, DE
 - Emilie Piner, MD
 - Jennifer Podos, MD
 - Charles Smolka, DE
 - Robert Spurdle, MD
- Mickey Thompson, MD
 - Alesha Walker, MD
- Jim & Judy Wetteroth, MD
- Eloise Wiley & Alton Morgan, MD
 - Stefan Zucker, NY





We've reached our goal!

New logs delivered for the cabin.

The Historical Society is pleased to announce that we have reached our fundraising goal for the Rev. Duke Log Cabin of \$25,000 which was the required match for the Bond Bill we received from the State of Maryland. Joe Wey, the contractor, has acquired the wood for the replacement logs and has been hand hewing them. Reconstruction should be starting soon. We are shooting for a Fall re-opening celebration.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY

135 East Main Street Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 398-1790

The Historical Society is open.

Monday and Thursday 10 A.M. - 4 P.M., 1st Saturday of the Month - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Since 1932, the Historical Society of Cecil County Maryland has been the go-to resource for researchers, students and history buffs looking for answers about the culture and materials that defined (and continue to define) our county. We are a 100% volunteer-based organization.