Baseball in Howard County

The Rock Hill Victors, the Hoplites, The Kiwanis Club, CYBA, AYRA, EYO, Savage Baseball Club, the Columbia Reds, HCYP; Howard County has seen its share of instructional, developmental, industrial, and semi-pro baseball leagues. The tradition of baseball here in the county goes back to the days of the Babe and continues today as more Howard County ballplayers are making their way to “the show”.

Baseball had been a popular past time throughout the state of Maryland long before the names Brooks, Boog, Eddie and Cal were delighting fans in Charm City. As early as the 1910’s, many towns and social clubs formed athletic clubs and fielded baseball teams; Rock Hill College in Ellicott City was the site of many games as was Druid Hill Park in Baltimore. Minor league teams were formed like the Salisbury Indians, the Centreville Orioles, the Easton Farmers (managed by Frank “Home Run” Baker with 16 year old future Hall of Famer Jimmie Foxx), the Cambridge Canners, the Baltimore Terrapins, and the Negro Leagues Baltimore Black Sox.

Howard County has a storied baseball history dating back to the early 20th century. Rock Hill College was a boy’s boarding school in Ellicott City from 1824 that fielded teams up until a fire destroyed the building in 1922. What was left of the school merged with Calvert Hall soon after.

In 1937, a team fielded by the Hoplites, an Ellicott City social club was the Maryland champion of amateur baseball. The team competed in the national championship in Dayton, Ohio; although no record of their success in Dayton could be located.

Rural towns in Howard fielded baseball teams including Ellicott City, Savage, Dayton, Elkridge and others. In 1912 a team composed of Ellicott City merchants played a game at Rock Hill College against a team composed of court house workers. It was won by the merchants by a score of 10-7.

The Kiwanis Club of Ellicott City has been in existence for over 60 years. The club started a youth baseball program in the County when the members served as coaches for the teams their children played with. They used the property owned by the club which had the original name of Wallas Park. Mr. Wallas donated several acres of ground to the club with the express condition that it be used for the youth of the County. The Kiwanis club purchased additional acreage until they owned about 25 acres. This provided space for many ball fields. The park was renamed Kiwanis-Wallas Park and today is the home of Howard County Youth Programs.

Howard County has developed a few players with major league careers:
• Walt Smallwood of Dayton pitched for the New York
President’s Message
Leonora Hoenes

These past few months have been productive ones for the Society. The ranks of our volunteers has grown by leaps and bounds and consequently we will be able to expand our hours at our Archives and Research Library at the Historical Center at the Miller Branch Library to 1 pm to 5 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday as well as keeping our 1 pm to 8 pm hours on Tuesdays. We’ve also been fortunate to host a number of successful and very well attended events.

More good news is that the Society rented the second floor of the Weir Building to Historic Ellicott City, Inc. between now and sometime in November. The ranks of our volunteers has grown by leaps and bounds and consequently we will be able to expand our hours at our Archives and Research Library at the Historical Center at the Miller Branch Library to 1 pm to 5 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday as well as keeping our 1 pm to 8 pm hours on Tuesdays. We’ve also been fortunate to host a number of successful and very well attended events.

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Finally we want to congratulate the Howard County Library System for being named 2013 Library of the Year by the Library Journal. Our partnership with the library system, Miller Branch Library and its branch manager Susan Stonesifer has greatly strengthened the Society during the past two years and will continue to help us grow in the future.

Editor’s Note
Janet Kusterer

Isn’t the summer going fast? The Howard County Fair is just around the corner, and as always the Historical Society will have an area in the Exhibition Hall you will need to visit while you are there. Our new executive director, Shawn Gladden, has been working hard with the volunteers to make this exhibit a very special one. Don’t miss it. Also, time is running out to get your recipe in for the 50th anniversary cookbook as well. A form is attached to this newsletter, or you can easily fill one out on our website. As always, we are happy to accept volunteer submissions of articles or old photographs for inclusion in the newsletter. Send them to me at janetkusterer@verizon.net.

Upcoming Events

Scott Paynter  Trio Gallilee

Genealogical Society Help Desk
Saturday, August 17th

Museum Concert Series: Scott Paynter
Thursday, August 22nd

Museum Concert Series: Trio Gallilee
Friday, September 6th

Antique Appraisal Fair
Saturday, October 12th

Holiday House Tour
Sunday, December 15th

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Send Us Your Articles

Anyone interested in contributing articles or photographs or anything of interest to the Society, please call the Library at 410-480-3250 or email Janet Kusterer at janetkusterer@verizon.net.
Letter from the Executive Director  
Shawn Gladden

As we move into the “Dog Days” of summer, everyone here at the Society is hard at work getting ready for our exciting upcoming events, exhibits, and programs. By the time this issue of the Legacy has arrived in your mailbox, we would have already had our co-sponsored baseball history event at the Miller Branch Library, **Babe Ruth’s Bat Comes to Ellicott City**. The Babe Ruth Birthplace and Sports Legends Museum at Camden Yards was gracious enough to bring one of the Babe’s 1927 World Series bats to Howard County on July 12th for attendees to hold and get a picture with. In addition to holding a piece of baseball history, the 128 guests who attended were treated to a talk by Dr. Jerry Casway from Howard Community College on the early Baltimore Orioles. Dr. Casway in addition to being the Social Sciences chair at the college is a noted baseball Historian who has given lectures on 19th century baseball at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. In the spirit of our national past time, this issue of the Legacy features two baseball articles, one from one of our dedicated volunteers and one from the executive Director of the Babe Ruth Birthplace.

This year at the Howard County Fair, August 3-10, the Howard County Historical Society will exhibit stories and news headlines from Ellicott City during the Roaring Twenties. Certainly a turbulent time in national history as the country was divided between those who supported prohibition (“drys”) and those who would continue to drink regardless of the 18th Amendment (wets). Howard County was a microcosm of this conflict as farmers of the more rural parts of the county battled with those from Ellicott City who overtly disobeyed the law against the production, transport and sale of alcohol. Make sure that you stop by our booth this year to see this exciting exhibit!

The Historical Society Museum has hosted some great musical shows this past Spring and that will continue into the Summer and Fall as we have booked two shows for August and September. Scott Paynter has been the lead vocalist for the Baltimore based Reggae band Jah Works since its inception in 1993. This year the band celebrated its 20th year of performing, during which time they have opened for legendary acts like the Marley Brothers, Steel Pulse, and Jimmy Cliff. We are excited to host a special evening. On Thursday August 29th as Scott will perform an acoustic set at the Museum. Two weeks later on September 6th, the museum will host another special night of music as we welcome Trio Gallilee. Their repertoire ranges from Bach and Pachelbel to traditional Scottish and Irish music. They are equally at home with Renaissance and Baroque music, and lively traditional jigs and reels. Together they are a remarkable trio, as well as three critically acclaimed soloists.

As we head into Fall and Winter of 2013, we have two more exciting events to close out the year. The Antique Appraisal Fair will be held on Saturday October 12th at Howard Community College’s Kittleman room. Attendees will have the opportunity to have their “treasures” appraised by Howard County’s own Caplans Auction Company. Finally, we are happy to announce the return of a Holiday favorite, the Holiday Historic House Tour on Sunday December 15th. This bus led tour to a handful of the County’s most beautiful and historic homes has been a hit with the public the last few years.

Tickets for all of these great events can be purchased online at www.hchsmd.org or by phone 410-480-3250. Of course none of these events are possible without the generous support of our members and business sponsors. The Society is poised to make great strides forward in 2013 and 2014 with exciting new events, public programs, educational programs, as well as continued outreach and access to our wonderful archival and museum collection. On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the volunteers we would like to congratulate the Howard County Library System for its most recent award as the Gale/Library Journal Library of the Year Award. We are happy to be a part of this amazing facility and look forward to building our continued success alongside that of the wonderful staff here at the Miller Branch.

In closing, I would like to say that the backbone of any good non-profit institution is its volunteers. I have said this before here in the Legacy and to anyone who is willing to listen to me gloat about my staff, I have an absolutely amazing group of volunteers. In this issue, I would like to bring attention to Karen Chappelear. Karen has been tirelessly working on our book collection for the past few years, transferring the card catalog records into our museum database known as Past Perfect. This past month, June 2013, Karen completed her work and now we are happy to announce that our entire collection of over 3,500 books on Howard County History have been catalogued in our main database. This was a monumental task and was undertaken with great diligence and detail. Karen’s work is invaluable to the Society as well as to our researchers now and in the future who will have access to our collections because of her hard work.

Shawn Gladden  
Executive Director  
Howard County Historical Society
One of the constant challenges that the Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum faces is luring Baltimoreans to the Birthplace. Ask them why they haven’t visited the attraction at 216 Emory Street, just a long fly ball from Oriole Park, and they simply respond: Babe Ruth was a Yankee! And, indeed, for most baseball fans, local, national and international, Ruth was and remains the iconic pin-striper.

But that should not stop hometown visitors from flocking to his Birthplace, and here’s why.

- George Herman ‘Babe’ Ruth was born in southwest Baltimore, on the verge dividing Pigtown and Camden Yards, in 1895. He was raised on hardscrabble streets by hardworking parents who were so busy running their working class saloon that they were forced to send their son to St. Mary’s Industrial School, where he was exposed to a heavy does of discipline, religion…and baseball.

- Babe Ruth’s rags to riches story was emblematic of the turn-of-the-century Baltimore environment from which he sprouted. He was a tough kid from a tough town, but also the product of a community that cared enough to raise him right and let his extraordinary skills develop.

- And keep this in mind. Babe Ruth, the Yankee, was discovered by Jack Dunn, owner and manager of the International League Baltimore Orioles, in 1913. Dunn signed Ruth to his first pro contract in 1914, and agreed to serve as the boy’s legal guardian to boot! That led to the Pigtown phenom being referred to in The Baltimore Sun as “Jack Dunn’s Baby” in spring training that year, which a couple of months later, had shortened to “Babe.”

- Babe met Helen Woodford a waitress in a Boston coffee shop and married her later that year, October 17, 1914 after his first season with the Boston Red Sox. They were married at St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Ellicott City at a time when the town was a destination spot for weddings since there was no waiting period for those looking for “quick nuptials”. (The Babe’s Marriage Certificate is a part of the Howard County Historical Society’s Marriage License Collection and will be on loan to Babe Ruth’s Birthplace).

So please, Baltimore, be proud that the greatest ballplayer of all time and baseball’s greatest star is one of your own, and an Oriole to boot! Without his Baltimore beginnings, there would have been no New York conclusion. Visit the Babe Ruth Birthplace, and discover what makes Babe Ruth our most famous native son.

Mike Gibbons
Mike is the Executive Director of the Babe Ruth Birthplace Foundation and Sports Legends Museum at Camden Yards. The Babe Ruth Birthplace and Sports Legends Museum proudly partnered with the Howard County Historical Society for its July 12th Event, “Babe Ruth’s Bat Comes to Ellicott City.”
Continuing the Great Education Tradition of Howard County

By Paulette Lutz

One of the major considerations for families moving to Howard County is the outstanding education system that flourishes in public and private schools throughout the county. Our schools have always been ranked “exceptional” scholastically and in extracurricular activities.

This has always been the case for Howard County and Ellicott City. According to the Baltimore American newspaper dated September 28, 1919, “Ellicott City was the center of education for the whole country. More young men and young women were trained within its bound than within any similar area in the nation’s bounds.”

This tradition began with the founding of Ellicott Mills by the Ellicott brothers. One of the first concerns of the Ellicotts was the intellectual and moral education of the younger generations around them. In 1790 they constructed the granite Quaker school house (currently the Weir Building and former home of the Historical Society Library and Archives) on Court Avenue.

Being forward thinkers of their time, the Quakers welcomed all children to their school including Native Americans, African Americans and children of all religious denominations. These creative, intellectual, brilliant benefactors knew that for the town to flourish, the younger generations must be educated to carry on the development and growth of the town.

The Ellicotts granted land for the construction of buildings for all denominations where the population was great enough to require places for education and worship. One of the first grants was for the parish of St. Paul’s Church in Ellicott City. St. Paul’s Church developed their own education system including St. Augustine’s School for African American children.

In 1837 The Patapsco Female Institute, situated on land given primarily by the Ellicotts, opened for girls aged 12 to 18 years. This school was lifted to a national status in 1841 by Almira Hart Lincoln Phelps, Headmistress. Almira believed that young women should not obtain just an ordinary finishing school education, but also be prepared to earn a living. She wrote some of the textbooks used in the Institute which included botany, chemistry, geology and natural philosophy. Students came from all over the United States and Europe to obtain the best education available at the time. The graduates were expected to seek employment as school teachers or in the business world. It is easy to understand how the advanced attitude of education of Mrs. Phelps blended with the education ideals of the Ellicott Brothers.

The young men of the county also had numerous opportunities of education. In 1822 Isaac Sams arrived from England and rented a house outside of Ellicott Mills and operated Sams Academy for Boys. In 1824 he purchased land from the Ellicotts and built Rock Hill Academy. The Christian Brothers purchased the property in 1857 and elevated it to an institute. After the Civil War, it became Rock Hill College. The young men received a well-rounded education including Latin, Greek, French and German.

In one student’s letter to home, he noted that he must have a Dancing Master to break him of his clumsy walk. He also mentioned that two boys had come from Spain and three boys had come from Mexico and Cuba to attend Rock Hill College.

Smaller schools were also flourishing at this time. After the Civil War, Reverend J. Avery Shepherd built St. Clement’s Hall on Columbia Pike as a school for boys. During the 1870s and 1880s it was known as Professor Maupin’s University School for young men. The school was later purchased by Richard Talbot, President of the Patapsco National Bank, and used as a private residence known as Dundee.

Howard County was also known for its religious education. More Catholic priests received their education within

continued on page 6
Mayhem on Main Street!
By Paulette Lutz

August 15, 1917

 Lieutenant C. Newton Mathews of the Fourth Regiment raced to Ellicott City from Baltimore in a machine gun truck speeding at 45 miles an hour. Rumors were rampant that Chief of Police Wosche of Ellicott City had shot and killed a Fourth Regiment soldier and was being held in jail. Rumors flowed that squads of armed guardsmen watched all of the roads leading out of town to shoot Wosche down if he tried to break out of jail and escape.

It seems that a shot rang out Saturday night and Ellicott City mothers held their children tight while fathers grimly bolted the shutters. Then, as reported by the excited citizens, Chief Wosche’s car came rolling through town and the Chief was not in it! Instead, sitting next to the chauffeur, was a man in an olive-drab shirt and a peaked campaign hat with a rifle across his knees looking keenly ahead into the darkness. Could he possibly be looking for the Chief?

Then a hearse was following the Chief’s car! The frazzled citizens knew then that the Chief must in the hearse and the soldier had done it. Of course the panicked citizens knew that murder had been done; beyond a doubt. The Main Street soothsayers nodded sagely and went out to spread the word.

Lieutenant Mathews arrived in Ellicott City, bedraggled with a layer of dust over his uniform looking for a soldier who was shot or had been shot or wanted to be shot. He found a highly excited populace, the grave of a late lamented dog and a jail full of crapshooters.

Much to Mathew’s surprise, he found Chief Wosche at home in bed! The Chief had worked a long day rounding up a group of sport-inclined crapshooters, fortuitously arriving as “baby was about to gain or lose a new pair of shoes.” He was just in time to confiscate $2.00 in nickels.

The Lieutenant soon discovered that Chief Wosche had a dog to shoot Saturday night. Wosche was not feeling well and he asked a retired soldier to do it – an old fellow that still clings to his olive-drab shirt and campaign hat of his active service days. The retired soldier used the Chief’s automobile to locate the dog and do the job – the gun shot echoing through town.

On the old soldier’s return to Main Street, the hearse just happened to fall in behind the Chief’s automobile. The cracker box oracles in town did the rest. With all questions answered, Lieutenant Mathews jumped in his machine gun truck and headed back to Baltimore.

If you would like to learn more about Chief Wosche and his career as the Police Chief of Ellicott City, please stop by our exhibit at the Howard County Fair, August 3rd through August 10th. Our theme this year is “The Roaring Twenties in Howard County” which will portray the changing lifestyle in Howard County with photos and headlines.

Continuing the Great Education Tradition of Howard County
continued from page 5

10 miles of Ellicott City than any other area in the country. Most noted was St. Charles College built on 253 acres of Doughoregan Manor donated by Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Charles Carroll also funded the construction of the college and by 1898, 900 students had been ordained into the priesthood.

In addition to St. Charles College, Howard County also offered St. Mary’s in Ilchester, College of the Sacred Heart at Woodstock and St. Timothy’s in Catonsville (within 10 miles).

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Howard County Historical Society's 1st Annual Antique Appraisal Fair and Rare Book Sale

Sponsored by Clark's ACE Hardware

On Saturday, May 21, 2011, the Howard County Historical Society held its brand-new fundraiser, an Antique Appraisal Fair and Rare Book Sale, at All Saints' Hall, St. John's Parish Day School, in Ellicott City. This event raised funds for the relocation of the Society's Library, Archive, and offices to the new Charles E. Miller Branch and Historical Center of the Howard County Public Library System in Ellicott City in late 2011.

Professional antique appraisers, Todd Peenstra of Peenstra Antique Appraisals and Lyndi McNulty of Gizmos Art were available to provide verbal estimates for antiques and collectibles, including artwork, silver, jewelry, furniture, decorative arts, tools, ceramics and books.

There were also hundreds of rare and used books for sale on various topics, including Maryland History, local histories, gardening, fiction, Civil War, genealogy and architecture.

In addition, visitors had the opportunity to purchase fine antiques donated from the personal collections of the Howard County Historical Society's Board of Directors and members.

We thank all who participated and look forward to this event becoming an annual affair.

THE LEGACY
Summer 2011, Page 6

Howard County Historical Society Membership Application

YES, I would like to join the Howard County Historical Society and enjoy membership benefits that include a subscription to The Legacy, invitations to exclusive events, a 10% discount on publications.

My check, made payable to the Howard County Historical Society, is for the following category:

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