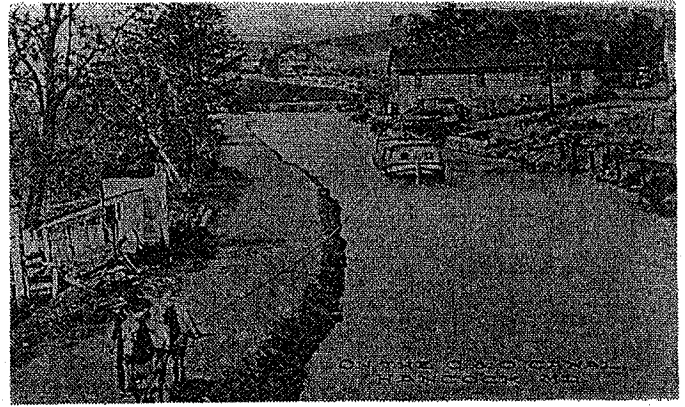


Hancock Historical Society

HANCOCK, MD 21750



1/30/14

Dear members of the Hancock Historical Society:

We reinstated our winter meeting this year on January 26th, for the first time in several years. We had done away with this meeting because of the uncertainty with the weather in Hancock. Low and behold, it started snowing one hour prior to our meeting! Oh well, the show did go on and it was great.

As we acknowledged the day to be the 100th meeting of the Hancock Historical Society, we presented our Historian of the Year Award to Wayne Keefer. Wayne serves as our Secretary/Treasurer and brings much enthusiasm to our board. He has been instrumental in our ongoing progress at the Toll House; he has chaired the Holiday Historical House Tour; he has worked on all aspects of developing the downtown museum and visitors center; he developed our website; and he works on fundraisers of all kinds. Wayne has helped make our move into the second generation (25years) a smooth transition. Congratulations, Wayne, and thank you for all you do.

Our program was a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Hancock News. The owners, editors, current and former reporters shared in a round table discussion. Favorite stories were remembered along with the history and workings of our local paper. We wish the Hancock News our best for the future.

Spring will come and with it more opportunities to share the stories of our town heritage. Our group will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 27th. An event centered around General McCausland's 1864 raid on Hancock will occur on July 26. Don't forget to visit our website at www.hancockmuseum.org.

All for now...

Dan Murphy, President
Hancock Historical Society

Hancock Historical Society

100th Regular Membership Meeting Town Hall

The 100th regular meeting of the Hancock Historical Society was held Sunday, January 26, 2014 at the Town Hall Meeting Room. A sign-up sheet was not passed around, but there were 37 members and friends in attendance that were counted.

The minutes of the previous meeting were made available and approved as written

Business Meeting

President Dan Murphy opened the meeting. He first spoke about the rehabilitation currently under way on the historic Toll House. He reminded the audience that the building is owned by the Town of Hancock, but managed by the Hancock Historical Society. He reported that there was extensive water and termite damage to the floorboards, among other destruction.

President Murphy then reported that at the last board meeting held on Thursday 1/16/14, the current slate of officers and trustees remained the same for 2014. They are: Dan Murphy (President), Marian Golden (Vice-President), Wayne Keefer (Secretary/Treasurer), Don Corbett (President Emeritus), Jeanie Corbett, Marilyn Bowers, Mac Elser, Leo Murray, Theresa VanDerBos, and Jackie Flowers.

President Murphy announced that a group of citizens, including members of the historical society, are working on a commemoration event to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of McCausland's ransom of Hancock to take place around July 26th. Events are in the works and more information is forthcoming.

President Murphy then presented Wayne Keefer, who is the historical society's Secretary-Treasurer, with the 2013 Historian of the Year Award. Keefer was thanked for his initiatives with the museum's new website and helping with many recent events of the Hancock Historical Society.

Guest Speaker Panel – 100 Years of *The Hancock News*

Several current and former reporters, editors, and owners of *The Hancock News* provided the audience with a roundtable discussion on their time working for the newspaper. The group was led in discussion by recently retired editor, John Douglas. Douglas explained how the newspaper was purchased from Mrs. Susan Bohler, who worked for and operated on the newspaper for nearly half a century. Upon her retirement, she sold *The News* to the Buzzerd Family of Morgan County, West Virginia in 1966.

Betty Wertz was the only attendee to work for both Bohler and the Buzzerd Family. She began working for *The News* in the 1950s and 1960s for Mrs. Bohler, and has also contributed articles during the Buzzerd's tenure and still writes to this day. Wertz recalled that Bohler was a hard worker, but wasn't the easiest to get along with outside of the business.

Sally Fost was one of the first reporters hired by Warren Buzzerd in 1971. She recalled working in a very small and cramped office, which was formerly a cloak closet, when the office was then on Main Street. Fost recalled that the readership was then less than 1,000. Fost spoke of one time an article she wrote made one man extremely angry, so angry that he threatened her and then went to the office of *The Morgan Messenger*, the sister publication to *The News*, also owned by the Buzzerd Family to complain.

Fost laughed when she remembered asking Warren Buzzerd permission to cover a party to take place west of Hancock of which she was invited, only to find out from Mr. Buzzerd that the event she was speaking of was of a nudist colony. She decided not to go.

Sondra Bishop was another long time reporter present. She began working for the paper on October 1, 1986 and recalled covering many events, such as floods. Bishop laughed when she spoke of an interview with Arthur White and subsequent article in which he, probably because of declining memory, mentioned that his son had passed away. She reported exactly what he said, only to find out that White's son was in fact still living, but only after the paper had gone to press.

Greg Yost also worked on the paper for several years and worked with Sondra on many stories. He covered Town Council meetings, school events, and fire and rescue events. Yost joked that both he and Sally Fost covered Town Council meetings, only to later serve on the Town Council themselves.

Geoff Fox, current reporter, spoke of his recollection as a child in daycare in Hancock being interviewed by *The Hancock News* and appearing on the front page, to later becoming a reporter and writing articles for the same paper himself. He also enjoys covering the new Evolve facility.

John Douglas spoke about doing double duty, first reporting for *The Hancock News* and *The Morgan Messenger*, then becoming editor for both papers. He commented that it was the paper's responsibility to report all events happening in the community, no matter how unpopular, such as Klan rallies or when people get in trouble, or when public officials say something they wish they hadn't.

Kate Shunney, current editor, spoke about joining both papers and covering events on both sides of the Potomac. She remembered that her first Hancock story was a feature piece on Clarence Dorrier. Dorrier owned the farm on Creek Road that was divided when I-68 was constructed.

Sandy Buzzerd was present to represent the Buzzerd Family. She is responsible for selling ads for the newspaper. She mentioned that ad volume determines newspaper length, and that when business in Hancock declined, this resulted in a smaller paper. Today's paper is printed by *The Cumberland Times*, and is generally delivered to Hancock on Tuesday night. The only paper she recalls with a second print was the paper covering the 1985 flood. *The News* is the smallest weekly paper in Maryland.

Buzzerd said that she tries to have feature stories of Hancock to only run in *The News*, and feature stories of Berkeley Springs (Morgan County) to only run in *The Messenger*, so each paper keeps its own identity.

Suggestions and/or ideas for guest speakers are needed and would be appreciated. Please call the museum at 301-678-7377 (leave message) or email: info@HancockMuseum.org if you have any proposals.

Check out our new website: www.HancockMuseum.org.

Membership Application / Dues Renewal
Hancock Historical Society

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

Membership Type and Number of Years

Individual:

_____ Single (\$10/ year) _____ Family (\$15/year) _____ Lifetime (\$150)

Business:

_____ \$50 Bronze _____ \$100 Silver _____ \$250+ Gold

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Total Amount Remitted \$ _____

Please mail and make checks payable to: **Hancock Historical Society**
PO Box 164
Hancock, MD 21750

Thanks for your support!

Hancock Historical Society

Merchandise Order Form

| Qty. | Item Description | Price | Extended |
|--|--|---|----------|
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| | <i>Hancock: 1776-1976</i> By: Emily Leatherman | 25.00 | |
| | <i>Hancock: Home of the Brave Volume 1</i> By: Donald F. Corbett | 8.00 | |
| | <i>Hancock: Home of the Brave Volume 2</i> By: Donald F. Corbett | <i>Sold Out More Coming</i> | |
| | <i>Hancock: Home of the Brave Volume 3</i> By: Donald F. Corbett | 8.00 | |
| | <i>Bombard And Be Damned: The Effects of Jackson's Campaign on Hancock, Maryland and Fulton County, Pennsylvania</i> By: John H. Nelson | 5.00 | |
| | <i>Round Top Hydraulic Cement Company Second Edition</i> By: Donald F. Corbett | 5.00 | |
| | <i>Christmases Past</i> By: Donald F. Corbett | 8.00 | |
| | Hancock Historical Society Cookbook | 5.00 | |
| | Medallion – Hancock Vol. Fire Company | 8.00 | |
| | Medallion – St. Thomas Episcopal Church | 8.00 | |
| | Medallion – Hancock Elementary School | 8.00 | |
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| | Medallion – Old Monterey Hotel | 8.00 | |
| | Misc. Museum calendar with pictures <i>Dates vary</i> | 1.00 | |
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Hancock Historical Society
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