

Hancock Historical Society

99th Regular Membership Meeting Town Hall

The 99th regular meeting of the Hancock Historical Society was held Sunday, October 27, 2013 at the Town Hall Meeting Room. Those in attendance were John & Gretchen True, Buddy & Della Wachter, Ina Livingston, Emily Maghin, William & Rita Bauman, Mac Elser, Frank & Sondra Bishop, Sam Judge, Nancy & Tom Ayers, Susan Webster, Nancy Douglas, Dan & Debbie Murphy, Theresa & Jason Van Der Bos, Carol McCarty, Bill Minnick, Vickie Vann, Aura McCusker, Linda Hixon, Evelyn Roman, Don & Jeanie Corbett, Tim & Daniel Corbett, Mary Ann Golden, Laurie Widmer (Hendershot), Brian & Claudia Ring, Darlene Smith, Steve Liggett, Joe Walters, *unknown name*, Ron & Carol Barkdoll, Frank Davison, and Marian Golden.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Business Meeting

President Dan Murphy reported that the Toll House is still closed as work is ongoing to repair termite damage.

A thank you was extended to all who have helped in any way to keep our two museums running this past season.

Vice-President Marian Golden reported on behalf of the 2013 Holiday Homes Tour committee, an event scheduled for Saturday and Sunday November 23rd and 24th. Tickets are now available and more information will appear in *The Hancock News* as the event nears. Ticket prices are \$10 adult and \$5 for children of any school age.

We will return to having our January meeting this year. It will be on January 26, 2014 at which time we celebrate the 100th anniversary of *The Hancock News* newspaper. Former editors and reporters as well as some members of the Buzzerd family will be our guest speakers. A brief history of the newspaper, along with our panelists most memorable stories, will be shared. President Murphy reminded all that we have digital scans of The News on CD rom back to the 1970s and is available for research.

A request was made for cookies during the 2013 Holiday Open House to be served at the Main Street Visitor's Center and for our January meeting.

An announcement was made of a Civil War music concert to be held January 18th in Town Hall by the Hancock Arts Council String Band along with a lecture by *Herald Mail* columnist Tim Rowland. There may also be another commemorative event in July 2014 marking the 150th anniversary of the ransom of Hancock by John McClauslin in 1864 to be chaired by Town of Hancock councilman Dr. Ralph Salvagno.

A report was given on the Dr. Breathed event held at St. Thomas church where our member, David Bridges, did a book signing on his latest publication. Major James Breathed received a medal, posthumously, for his bravery during the Civil War.

We had a special guest, Mayor Susan Webster of Berkeley Springs, WV, who displayed a photo of “Fruit Hill Farm” where Dr. Breathed was born. She will allow us to copy the photo. She extended an invitation to show the form to interested members. She and her husband are the current owners of the property.

A check was presented from the Community Foundation of Washington County fund which was started for the Historical Society’s benefit by Robert McCusker before his passing.

The meeting was adjourned and our speaker, President Emeritus Don Corbett, was introduced.

Guest Speaker –Don Corbett—*Hancock, Maryland’s Fruit Industry*

Don Corbett, our president for 25 years, has authored many books and donated all the profits to the Hancock Historical Society. Some of his popular titles are “Hancock: Home of the Brave Vol. 1, 2 & 3,” “Christmas Past,” and “Round Top Hydraulic Cement Company.”

His latest book, and the subject of his discussion, chronicled our orchard history and is titled, “Hancock, Maryland’s Fruit Industry.” He previously wrote an article on the same subject for the *Maryland Cracker Barrel* magazine, and has expanded it into a full length book.

He spoke of some smaller orchard companies, such as the Ruppenthal, Sweeny, and Brooks orchards. Don also spoke of the more prominent Dillon and Cohill family orchards, one of which was the first orchard to begin in Hancock, but he cannot find evidence of which family started their orchard first.

Don remarked that much of the museum’s records on the orchards came from Hancock Historical Society member Sam Dillon, Jr., who provided data, pictures, and information Don used in his book.

Don Corbett’s book is now available for sale. Cost is \$19.95 plus \$1.20 Maryland Sales Tax. Copies are available at the Town Museum, Hancock Visitor’s Center or by calling 301-678-6308. Copies can also be mailed (see attached order form).

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.