

## P.G. Hall of Fame



**Gabriel Duvall**  
*Supreme Court Justice*

**By Phil Jacobs**  
Journal Staff Writer

A delegate, a congressman, a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court — now, more than 100 years after his death, Gabriel Duvall adds another honor to his name: Election to the Prince George's County Hall of Fame.

A special portrait unveiling will honor the induction of Gabriel Duvall (1752-1844), a former resident of Prince George's, as the fifth member of the county's Hall of Fame.

The unveiling will take place amid ceremonies, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, in the County Council hearing room in the County Administration Building.

The Hall of Fame is a non-profit incorporated organization that meets yearly to induct one distinguished county citizen, according to Kate Hedberg, the county's special assistant for cultural affairs.

Other Hall of Fame inductees include Thomas John Claggett, the first Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in America; John Rogers, a lawyer and patriot who represented Prince George's at the Continental Congress; and Dr. William Beanes of Marlborough, whose safe release Francis Scott Key sought while writing the Star Spangled Banner aboard a British war ship in 1814.

Duvall's portrait will join the four others in the County Court House.

Duvall, who lived in what is now

the Glenn Dale area, is a direct descendent of Mareen Duvall, a Huguenot refugee, who fled France and settled in Maryland in 1655. Duvall willed huge land tracts to his descendents, including a 150-acre land tract handed down to Gabriel Duvall.

Gabriel Duvall's political career started as a clerk of the first Maryland Convention in 1775. He later served as a state delegate, congressman and state supreme court justice before being appointed Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury by President Thomas Jefferson in 1802. In 1811, he became a Supreme Court Justice under the administration of President James Madison.

Duvall's former plantation, called "Marietta," has been restored and is owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. His law office, also located in Glenn Dale on the plantation grounds, is to be restored through funds raised by the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants.

This family society, founded in 1926, has more than 240 members from 32 different states. All of the members are descendants of Mareen Duvall. The society meets about four times a year for a business meeting, luncheon and historical tour. Several of its members will be present during Sunday's unveiling, according to David Duvall, president of the society.



## The Society of Maren Duvall Descendants

July 27, 1987

Dear Society Member:

I am pleased to announce that you will soon be receiving a personal invitation from "The Prince George's County Committee for the Bicentennial of the Constitution" to help celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Constitution. This event will be held at "Marietta", home of Gabriel Duvall in Glenn Dale, Md.

For the convenience of Society members who wish to attend this important affair in our family's history, the Council has acted to change the date of our 1987 Annual Meeting (which was originally planned to be held at the Montpelier Mansion in Laurel, Md. in October) to be held now on the same day as the celebration at Marietta. Consequently, the Annual Meeting has been rescheduled and will be held at Holy Trinity Church at Collington beginning at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday September 19, 1987. Following the morning meeting at Holy Trinity, the members will drive a short distance to Marietta for a catered reception/luncheon to be held on the lawn for Society members, dignitaries and other invited guests. The afternoon ceremonies will follow the luncheon.

Our family is highly honored that Marietta has been selected as the site for the county's celebration. The program will focus on the role of Gabriel Duvall in the interpretation of the Constitution of our fledgling nation as he served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from 1812 to 1835. Other events of the day will include the ceremony for the reburial of the remains of Gabriel Duvall, the dedication of his new gravestone, and the opening of the Judge's Law Office, which has been restored through the efforts of the Duvall Society.

I trust that you will have the opportunity to take part in this auspicious occasion. If you are unable to attend the morning business session but can come for the reception and afternoon ceremonies, we will be happy to see you at this memorable family event.

Sincerely,

David D. Duvall  
President

DIRECTIONS TO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH: (Rte 450, Bowie, MD.)

From Capital Beltway (I-95/495)

Take Md. Rte. 450 (Annapolis Road) EAST approximately 5½ miles to church on the left.

From U.S. Rte. 3 (U.S. 301 from South)

Take Md. Rte. 450 (Annapolis Road) WEST approximately 4½ miles to church on right.

DIRECTIONS TO "MARIETTA": (Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD.)

From Capital Beltway (I-95/495)

Take Md. Rte, 450 (Annapolis Road) EAST approximately 4 miles to intersection of Glenn Dale Blvd. Turn left at light onto Glenn Dale Blvd. and go about ½ mile. Turn left onto Bell Station Rd. and to Marietta.

From U.S. Rte 3 (U.S. 301 from South)

Take Md. Rte. 450 (Annapolis Road) WEST approximately 6 miles to intersection of Glenn Dale Blvd. Turn right at light onto Glenn Dale Blvd. and go about ½ mile. Turn left on Bell Station Road and to Marietta.

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Please complete the form below and return it no later than September 11, 1987 to:

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Mr. Orlando Ridout IV  
1021 Whitehall Cove  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

I will attend the Annual Meeting at Holy Trinity Church and the reception and afternoon events at "Marietta" on September 19

I will attend only the reception and afternoon events at "Marietta" on September 19.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING PROMISES VISIT TO MONTPELIER

So that plans can be made well in advance, the Council announces a tour of the Montpelier Mansion in Laurel, Maryland as part of the Annual Meeting activities on Saturday, October 17, 1987.

Montpelier, 18th century home of the Snowden family, is renown as one of the most beautiful examples of Georgian architecture in America. Recently restored, Montpelier is a National Register Landmark and should not be missed. Mark your calendar now. More information will follow in the September Society Newsletter.



DEATHS

The sympathy of the Council of the Society is extended to the family of Margaret Tracy Scherer (Mrs. Andrew F.), #236, who died on February 7, 1987. A resident of Beltsville, Md., Mrs. Scherer was a member of the Council at the time of her death and had served the Society for many years. Her loyalty to her family and her sage counsel will be greatly missed.

We regret to report the death of Wallace Wade Duvall, #281, of Hebo, Oregon on October 21, 1986. Mr. Duvall was born June 30, 1909 in Sheridan, Oregon. An avid hunter and outdoorsman, he will be missed by his family and wife, Margaret Armhurst Duvall.

DUVALL LAPEL PINS ORDERED —

For many years there have been requests for a Duvall family pin. The Council is now pleased to announce that an order has been placed for the 3/4 inch pins bearing the family coat-of-arms, the motto "PRO PATRIA" and "DUVALL" at the base of the pin. The handsome silver and red pins will be sold for \$5.00 each. Proceeds from this fund raising activity will be used help obtain period furnishings and other appropriate articles for the restoration law office at "Marietta".

As the pins are on order, but have not been received, please be patient after submitting your order.



TO: Mrs. M. Faucett Hopkins  
7200 Third Avenue  
C053 Fairhaven  
Sykesville, Md. 21784

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ Duvall coat-of-arms lapel pins at \$5.00 each. I am enclosing my check made payable to the "Society of Maren Duvall Descendants" in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Business

A Family Picnic is being planned for Saturday, July 25, 1987 at noon at the Patuxent River Park near Upper Marlboro, Md. The Duvall Tool Museum, nature trails, exhibits and other activities will be featured. The July Council Meeting will be held before the noon picnic. The picnic will be in addition to the usual Annual Meeting held in October.

Nominating Committee Chairman, William Baldwin, nominated B. Dent Downing, Elizabeth E. Rowe and Elizabeth W. Woodburn for the three expiring council seats. All were elected. Mrs. Woodburn was congratulated for having recruited eight members of her family into the Society.

°Announcements

°There was an article in the "Prince George's Journal" regarding the Society and the Wigwam Cemetery project.

°Another article talking about the vandalism which has occurred at the cemetery.

°The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission has produced a new brochure about "Marietta" and Justice Gabriel Duvall.

°The next Council meeting will be held at "Marietta" on Saturday, January 31, 1987 at 10:00 a.m. (This meeting was postponed until February due to snow).

°The next Annual Meeting will feature Montpelier Mansion in Laurel, Md. Luncheon arrangements have not yet been made.

°The afternoon program began at 2:00 p.m. at the Surratt House in Clinton. Maps were distributed.

°St. Thomas Church was open for touring before luncheon. There was a new memorial in the church yard for Bishop Thomas Claggett, first Episcopal Bishop of Maryland.

°Members were reminded of Margaret Fisher and Margaret Scherer who are in nursing homes. A letter was signed by all to be included in a greeting card for them.

°Grafton Duvall reminded us that this is the 60th year since the founding of the Society by Dr. Wirt Adams Duvall in December 1926 in Baltimore. Next year will be the 60th Annual Meeting. He also suggested a future meeting and the Maryland Inn in Annapolis.

The meeting was adjourned with the benediction by Mrs. Clark. The delicious luncheon was served downstairs and included escalloped Maryland oysters, old ham, kale, corn pudding, tomato aspic, biscuits and home made apple pie a-la-mode. Our compliments were given to David Wilson and the church group who prepared the memorable meal. (From minutes submitted by Barrett L. McKown).

October 18, 1987

°The meeting was called to order by President David D. Duvall followed by the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Special guests were recognized and welcomed.

°The minutes of the October 12, 1985 Annual Meeting at Holy Trinity Church were read and approved.

°The Treasurer's Report gave a current balance of \$10,239.15 with \$2,336.64 reported in expenditures and \$1,026.50 in receipts.

°The Registrar, Barrett McKown, presented three new applications for approval.

°The Membership Secretary, Elizabeth Rowe, reported 35 members had not yet paid 1986 dues. There are currently 439 members in the Society.

°The Historian's Report from Elizabeth Harman indicated that all materials had been transferred from the previous historian and that file cabinets were being purchased to store and organize a variety of material.

°The Chaplain, Eleanor Clark, reported the deaths of W. Robert Merriken who died August 14, 1986, Mrs. Allene Wilson Groves who died August 27, 1986 and Charles Pettibone, brother of Council Member Willie Hopkins, who died October 12, 1986.

#### °Special Reports

°Report on sale of Mareen Duvall of Middle Plantation indicated 162 books sold to date.

°The bookcase construction at the Law Office is in progress. The cabinetmaker is awaiting the hardware order. The cost of the bookcase will be about \$4,000.

°Copies of the Court Order granting permission to move certain graves from the Wigwam Cemetery were presented by Weems Duvall. Richard Muzzrole, the archeologist, has moved to Quincy, Mass., but has agreed to return to Maryland to complete the exhumation at the cemetery. His fee has not yet been submitted.

°Society pins will be ordered by Weems Duvall. An example of the 3/4" size was shown. The 500 pins will be sold for \$5.00 each as a fundraiser for the Society.

°The Society Cookbook is being organized by Donald Duvall and may be in production by spring.

#### Old Business

Historical marker for "Marietta": The Lake Shore, Co., in Erie, Pa. is producing the sign at a cost of \$1,100. The proposed wording was included in the September Newsletter. A deposit of \$500 has been sent. Contributions are welcome.

(continued on page 5)

# Picking up the pieces

## Bones become the clues in search for ancestor

By Michael Wentzel  
Evening Sun Staff

GLENN DALE — In the small, brick office where Gabriel Duvall practiced law, the clues to his identity seem meager and haunting.

The long shinbone hints at a tall man. The gold filling in the molar in the well-preserved skull could indicate wealth. The knob on an arm bone might mark a broken arm. The brass buttons, pieces of green velvet and chunks of mahogany suggest the casket of a respected man.

Gabriel Duvall, comptroller of the United States and justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, had wealth and respect. His descendants hope to give him a proper grave.

"We're not sure how tall a man he was," said David Duvall, who has organized the search for his ancestor. "But we have other clues that lead us to believe this is Gabriel Duvall."

David Duvall is president of the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants, the group that has decided to bury Gabriel Duvall, the great-grandson of Mareen Duvall, at Gabriel's estate, Marietta.

Construction of Glenn Dale Boulevard recently cut

See DUVALL, A6, Col. 1



By James E. Smallwood — Evening Sun Staff

off the old family graveyard in an overgrown grove of trees, from Marietta, a historic site near Bowie owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

"The society has wanted to find Gabriel for more than 30 years," said Duvall. "Construction of the highway clinched it."

Born in 1752, Gabriel Duvall became clerk of the General Court in Annapolis at age 20. He served as clerk to the first session of the Maryland House of Delegates. He held many offices in the state after the Revolutionary War.

Duvall served briefly in the U.S. Congress before being named judge of the Maryland Supreme Court. A longtime supporter of Thomas Jefferson, Duvall was named comptroller of the United States in 1802 by Jefferson. James Madison appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1812.

He resigned from the court in 1835. He spent the last decade of his life at Marietta, where he enjoyed thoroughbred horse racing and often rode the dozen miles to Washington on horseback. He died in 1844 at the age of 91.

Sassafras, cherry, walnut and locust trees surround the Duvall family cemetery, called The Wigwam. Through the years, farmers have plowed through parts of it to plant tobacco. Vines and shrubs obscure the few gravestones from the new boulevard that runs just a few feet away.

Richard Muzzrole, an archaeologist hired by the Duvall society, began mapping the graveyard more than two years ago. He has found evidence of at least 23 graves. He believes he has found Gabriel Duvall's grave. ~~What a great discovery by the graves of Duvall's mother-in-law and wife.~~

After careful excavation last week, Muzzrole allowed David Duvall to make the initial probe of the grave.

"I used a trowel to take off the final layers of earth," he said. "I thought I had discovered a piece of the casket but it was a shinbone."

When the wet clay was scraped away, the skull of a man was seen behind a cracked glass panel from the lid of the casket.

"When I first looked at the skull, I reacted with awe," Duvall said. "This is a relative of mine who talked to George Washington. He was friend of Jefferson who often visited at his home. They were his colleagues. It was an awesome experience to meet up with him."

Muzzrole said the dampness of the clay had accelerated the decay of both the man and the casket. In the graveyard, the archaeologist measured backwards from the shinbone, finding more bones. He later sifted the earth for bits of the body.

He spread the bones — pieces of arm, leg and spine — on a table in the office where Gabriel Duvall once worked as a lawyer. He cleans the bones and waits for them to dry.

"I am 99 percent sure this is Gabriel," Muzzrole said. "But leave open that little bit of doubt."

Duvall hopes an arm bone provides the best clue to the identity of the man exhumed from The Wigwam.

In 1824, Gabriel Duvall broke an arm in a carriage accident on Capitol Hill that was documented in newspapers of the day. The society hopes a forensic specialist can examine the arm bones for evidence of a break.

"Our only problem is that we only found the bones one arm," Duvall said.

If a positive identification is made, Gabriel Duvall will be buried at Marietta in a new graveyard. The society hopes to identify the remains of a few other family members in The Wigwam and move them to Marietta. "Gabriel had a very sad private life," Duvall said.

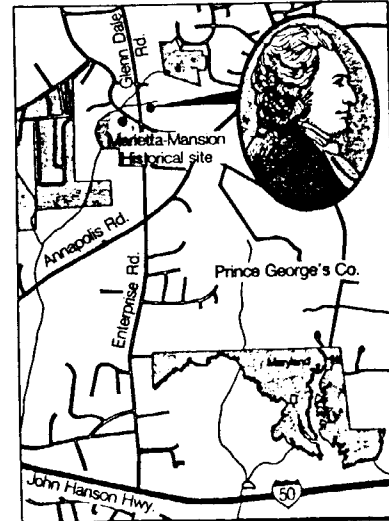
"Two brothers were killed in the Revolutionary War. My first wife died shortly after the birth of his only son. His son died almost 15 years before him. His second wife so died before him. He never had a proper gravestone, probably because most of his immediate family died before him."

"We want to do what is proper. We want to give Gabriel a fitting reburial," he said.



By Walter McCardell — Evening Sun Staff

David Duvall, left, and Richard Muzzrole with items found during the search for Duvall's ancestor.



The Evening Sun

### DUVALL REUNION PICNIC PLANNED FOR JULY

For the first time in many years, tentative plans are underway for an old time Duvall Reunion Picnic. The good-time gathering is slated for Jug Bay at the Patuxent River Park near Upper Marlboro, Md. on Saturday, July 25, 1987.

A committee appointed at the Winter Council Meeting will present plans for the picnic at the April Council Meeting for final approval. Society members will then be notified with the details by special mailing.

Mark your calendar now for a day of family fun. Make your plans now to attend the Duvall Reunion Picnic on the banks of the Patuxent in July.

With an amazing - ehouse of personal knowledge regarding his Maryland forebearers and his genealogical bearing which he claims he can trace back to biblical days, Society member Carroll A. Brice (#518) of Baltimore, Maryland is an especially interesting descendant. Among his many historical research accomplishments, Carroll has produced a roster of Duvalls who served in the Confederate Army from Maryland in the Civil War. He asserts that the Duvall family with 22 members were second in number only to the Dorsey family with 43 members to join the Confederacy from the state of Maryland. His roster follows:

1. Basil Washington Duvall  
Montgomery Co., Killed at  
Gettysburg 1863
2. Pvt. Charles Duvall  
3rd Md. Artillery
3. Pvt. Daniel Duvall  
1839-1915 Anne Arundel Co.; at  
Appomattox Court House  
Wounded Gettysburg July 3, 1863  
Co. C 2nd Md. Infantry
4. Elie Duvall  
Confederate Signal Corps
5. Pvt. Evans Duvall, 1839-1911  
At Appomattox Court House  
Anne Arundel Co.  
Co. C 2nd Md. Infantry
6. Capt. Ferdinand C. Duvall  
1835-1878  
Wounded Peebler Farm, Va.  
Anne Arundel Co.  
Co. C 2nd Md. Infantry
7. F.L. Duvall (killed 1864)  
Co. F 13th Regiment
8. Pvt. Franklin Duvall  
at Appomattox Court House  
Co. C 2nd Md. Infantry
9. Pvt. Frank M. Duvall  
Co. F 17th Va. Infantry
10. Grafton Duvall, 1831-1909  
Anne Arundel Co.
11. Henry R. Duvall  
Baltimore City
12. Pvt. James E. Duvall  
Co. E 1st Md. Cavalry
13. Pvt. John H. Duvall  
Co. G 2nd Md. Infantry
14. Pvt. Joseph Duvall  
Anne Arundel Co.  
Killed at Fredericksburg
15. Pvt. Leonidas Duvall, b. 1829  
Baltimore City  
Co. B Md. Guard
16. Lt. Lewis Duvall  
33rd Texas Cavalry



(continued on page 8)



- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 17. Pt. P.B. Duvall   | 1st Md. Artillery      |
| 18. Dr. Philip Barton Duvall<br>Anne Arundel Co.<br>Killed Chancellorsville                                     |                        |
| 19. Pvt. Perry Duvall<br>Died Point Lookout Prison 1864<br>Born 1837 Montgomery Co.<br>Captured Gettysburg 1863 | Co. C 18th Miss.       |
| 20. Pvt. Samuel C. Duvall<br>1841-1863<br>Anne Arundel Co.<br>Killed Gettysburg July 3, 1863                    | Co. C 2nd Md. Infantry |
| 21. Pvt. Tobias Duvall<br>Prince George's Co.<br>Wounded Gettysburg at Appomattox<br>Court House                | Co. C 2nd Md. Infantry |
| 22. Pvt. W.R. Duvall  | 2nd Md. Artillery      |



MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Society membership certificates can be obtained from our Society Registrar. These handsome certificates, designed for framing, are printed in black and red, measure 11"x13", and display a large representation of the alleged Duvall family crest.

Finished certificates will include the member's name, date of admission into the Society, National number and appropriate President's signature affixed (reproduced if deceased) in calligraphic style print. The cost is \$6.00, including postage.

Our current supply of certificates is limited. Send your request to Barrett L. McKown, 3580 South River Terrace, Edgewater, Maryland 21037. Checks are to be made payable to the Society.



The Society  
of  
Mareen Duvall  
Descendants

*Be it known that*

\_\_\_\_\_

*a lawful descendant of Mareen Duvall 16—1698 of Middle Plantation, nation of France, citizen of Maryland, having been found to be a worthy representative of an illustrious ancestor, and having taken the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America, has been duly elected a member of this Society.*

this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_

## Gabriel Duvall's Estimable Washington Homes

Although it may be assumed that Gabriel Duvall maintained homes in the Capital City during the period from 1802 following appointment as Comptroller of the United States until 1835, when he retired as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, little is known of any houses in which he established a long term residency. A great deal, however, has been recorded about two estimable houses which history records as having once belonged to Judge Duvall for brief periods during his long tenure as a prominent public servant.

George Brick Smith reported in 1938 that Judge Duvall bought the estate "Bellvue" (which was later called "Dumbarton House") in Georgetown, D.C. in 1804 after having been appointed by President Jefferson as "first Comptroller of the Currency on December 15, 1802." It has not been determined that the Judge ever lived in the house during his brief period of ownership.

"Dumbarton House" was built in 1799 and "belongs to an exceptional group of houses that are to be found in Washington, Alexandria and Northern Virginia," according to William V. Elder III, Curator of Decorative Arts at the Baltimore Museum of Arts. "Gabriel Duvall, then Comptroller of the Currency of the United States, sold the house and lot to Joseph Nourse, Register of the United States Treasury in 1805."

This famous federal style home survives today as a Washington landmark and is the Headquarters of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America.

A second property which was no doubt occupied by Duvall is revealed by investigations pursued by former Society President William Mitchell Duvall. Records reveal this residence was taken over by the State Department following the burning of public buildings by the British in 1814.

The Washington Daily National Intelligencer reported on September 9, 1814:

"The Public Buildings having been destroyed, the various offices are locating themselves in the private houses which are most commodious and conveniently situated for the purpose. The President will occupy Col. Tayloe's large house which was recently occupied by the French Minister. (Editor's note: The Tayloe's house is currently known as the architecturally distinctive "Octagon House"). The Department of State occupies the house lately inhabited by Judge Duvall."

Therefore, sometime in early September 1814, the Department of State moved into the large three story brick house located on the south side of G Street between 17th and 18th Streets, N.W. and continued to occupy the house until April, 1816. During this time James Monroe was Secretary of State. Gabriel Duvall had been appointed to the Supreme Court some two years earlier by President Madison. "Marietta", Duvall's new home in nearby Prince George's County, Maryland, had been completed about 1813. If Gabriel and his wife Jenny continued to reside in Washington after his moving from the house on G Street, his subsequent residence is unknown to this author. Yet, he was to serve on the high court for another 22 years before retiring permanently to Marietta in 1835.

The Judge's home on G Street changed hands a number of times after 1816 and at one time belonged to Attorney General William Wirt. In the 1890's the old house was razed and replaced with an ornate brownstone building which was to become the Young Men's Christian Association.

Any Society member having further knowledge of Judge Duvall's Washington residences is encouraged to contact the Society's President.

