



CITY OF BOWIE MUSEUMS

Musings



The Newsletter of the City of Bowie Historic Properties Division

Winter 2012

Mission: The mission of the City of Bowie Museums is to preserve, collect, interpret and celebrate for the public's appreciation the history, architecture, city plans, and people of Bowie, Maryland, through education and exhibition, archaeology and advocacy of this diverse heritage.

A Bit of Curious Local History!

For many of us, Winter is a time of hunkering down next to a fireplace—bemoaning frigid fingers and toes, early darkness, white stuff from the sky and high utility bills. If you're a skater or a skier, though...this is YOUR season.

Our local area boasts a number of ski resorts for snow lovers within a short drive of Bowie. It would seem, however, that back in the 60's, it was an even shorter drive! Newspaper advertisements in local papers tout the amenities of the Mattaponi Slopes in Croom, which borders Bowie to the south on Rte. 301. Among other amenities, the "resort" featured floodlights for night skiing, two tractor operated tow ropes, and a small skating pond. For the first two years of operation, Mattaponi Slopes relied mainly on natural snow, but later purchased "snow guns" to augment natural snow.

During the summer, Mattaponi offered fishing, boating, horseback riding, tennis and golf.

Mattaponi was originally a plantation owned by members of the Bowie Family—some of whom are buried on the grounds; the present house (altered in the 1950's) was built around 1820. It was the home of Priscilla Mackall Bowie Ogle, wife of Richard Lowndes Ogle of Belair/Bladen (which stood in today's "K" section.) She is buried in our cemetery at Belair Mansion.

If you visited the "over 30 acres of broad, gentle slopes" (are there any other kind in Croom?) please call us at the museum office...we'd LOVE to talk to you about this piece of local history!



Mattaponi, originally constructed ca. 1820, was later rebuilt. A Bowie family cemetery remains on the grounds. Today, the property is owned by the Archdiocese of Washington, and functions as a retreat center for young people.

On The Topic of Keeping Warm

Things will be kept warm at the Mansion in the future. The City of Bowie is about to embark on a project to install a new heating system (HVAC) at the Mansion.

The new system will give us more ability to control the building's environment "in house," and will offer more energy efficient heating and cooling—a goal the City has set for all buildings. This will be a better, safer situation for our growing museum collection, and for the house itself.

Installation of the new system will be followed by replacement of windows. Replacements will be historically appropriate (approval by the Md. Historical Trust is required) and will, like the HVAC, offer better efficiency and controls. Due to begin very soon, the HVAC project will take several months to complete.

Teddys Return in Fall!

Don't despair...teddy bears will still be here! Due to the previously noted HVAC project at the Mansion, we've moved our annual springtime Teddy Bear Tea to the Fall.



Keeping Up With the Times

For the tech-savvy amongst us, you may have noted that the City of Bowie is now on Facebook. We've been busily supplying the City Public Information office with pictures from the past. Please check them out...and feel free to add comments as they appear.

In the Museums Division, we are in charge of the care and nurturing of "old stuff" - buildings, objects, paper ephemera...all kinds of goodies. But—the time has come for US in charge of OLD stuff to move toward something new. We're contemplating the use of an email list to keep folks apprised of our activities and programs—much like (for those who live in Bowie) the Newsflash. That email list would NOT replace this newsletter. If you're interested in being part of this notification system, please send an email to: museums@cityofbowie.org

We can then begin to compile a list of "interested parties."

Civil War Brochure Partnership

The City Museums are proud to be a partner with the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Surratt House, Laurel Historical Society, MNCPPC, and the Prince George's County History Consortium in a new brochure, "Battle Lines: Prince George's County in the Civil War."

For many years, the County—and Bowie—have been deemed to be a "nothing happened here" area. Not so! While there were no battles, there is plenty of Civil War history to be studied. Those here on the homefront suffered deprivation, worry and "behind the scenes" activities. One of the South's best secret agents was Walter "Wat" Bowie, who was nearly successful in leading a plot to kidnap the Governor of Maryland. Bowie rests today at Holy Trinity Cemetery. Stop by the Mansion and get a copy of the brochure—enjoy some really interesting reading.

Like Today's Political Ads?

As 2012 Election Day speeds toward us, so will the proliferation of campaign ads and political ceremony at the election's conclusion. By the 1920's, broadcast media was beginning to play an important part in "getting the <political> word out."

In 1922, radio was hot news—a rapidly expanding technology that delivered the latest happenings to living rooms and dining tables across the country. Nearly instant information was on the way. In February, 1922, President Harding had a radio installed in the White House.

Two years later, in the 1924 presidential election, Calvin Coolidge made radio history. The largest radio audience ever set their dials to hear Coolidge's final campaign speech. He won the election easily. The following March, the American public listened, for the first time, to an American president taking the Oath of Office—via radio.

(And thanks to Paul Courson, of the Radio History Society for sending this interesting bit of broadcast history our way!)

Got Stories?

Members of the Huntington Heritage Society are hard at work on a history saving project. "Stories of Bowie" will include oral history vignettes offered by residents from ALL parts of Bowie and will, in the coming years, be published by the Society. If you've got a story you'd like to share—regardless of zip code—please call the Museum Office at 301-809-3089 and we'll be happy to put you in touch with the story collecting "team."

Guess Who's Turning 60?

On April 14, 1952, a handsome bay colt was born at Claiborne Farm in Paris, Ky. Owner William Woodward named him Nashua. His sire was the famous Nasrullah, his dam Segula—a Woodward mare whose sire was the famous Johnstown. Nashua was a stellar performer on the track, and was the first Thoroughbred to ever be sold (after Wm. Woodward, Jr.'s death) for over \$1,000,000. In retirement, he sired 636 foals. His descendants continue to rule racetracks today, among them the magnificent mare, Rachel Alexandra. Rachel recently became a mom—adding another generation of Woodward bloodlines with a fine colt. Birthday cake for Nashua on Heritage Day!

OUR MESSENGER

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT BOWIE, MD BY AARON'S STORE JUNE 3, 1930

RITTERS TOMATO SOUP 12c size 2 for 15	KELLOGG'S CORN FLAKES APPLE SAUCE POST CORN FLAKES 3 for 25c 2 Cans 25c 3 for 25c	MEAT DEPT. SMOKED HAM WHOLE ONLY 28c lb.
10 lbs SUGAR 49c	VAN CAMP'S MILK Large Cans 3 for 25c	Ground Beef LEAN 25c lb.
DO YOU PLAY SAFE OR DO YOU GAMBLE WITH YOUR HEALTH? USE PASTEURIZED MILK. IT WILL PAY IN THE END.	1 lb. Cakes FRESH DAILY PLAIN POUND BARNEN MARBLE CHOCOLATE COCONUT 29c	CHICKEN ROAST OR BEEF 27 lb.
MILK, Quarts 15c MILK, Pints 9c SWEET CREAM 15c SOUR CREAM 15c BUTTERMILK	WINELAND GRAPEJUICE Pint 49c VINELAND GRAPEJUICE Quart ADULT JEMMA PANCAKE FLOUR GOLDEN MEL L. PANCAKE FLOUR 2 for 25c	Porter House Sirloin Steaks STEER BEEF 42c lb.
LONG HORN CHEESE American 35c lb.	CREAMERY BUTTER 49c	STRIP BACON WHOLE 25 lb.
Washington Scratch Feed The Very Best of Feed \$2.85 100 lbs	WILKINS COFFEE 36c lb. AARON'S COFFEE 35c lb. LIPTON'S TEA Quarter Pound 25c SAUER'S TEA Quarter Pound 25c	Bologna 30c lb. SMOKED SAUSAGE 30c lb. BIB STEAKS 10.39 CHOPED MEATS 10.39 Sliced Bacon 10.39 BIB STEAKS 10.39
WASHINGTON BABY CHICK STARTER 7c lb.	LEMON CHOCOLATE STRAWBERRY AND OTHER FLAVORS Deposit on Bottles	10c BOTTLE
Silver Skin Onions 4 lbs 25c	SPECIALS IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS:	
BEETS CARROTS POTATONS ONIONS CABBAGE LETTUCE CELERY	CANTALOUPE A TREAT 2 for 25c	SCREEN DOOR Unvarnished \$1.98 SCREEN DOOR Varnished 2.50
Ice Berg Lettuce 2 for 25	PINEAPPLE 2 for 49c	SCREEN DOOR Varnished 2.50
CALIFORNIA LEMONS 39c Dozen	TOMATOES 2 lbs. 29c	SCREEN DOOR Varnished 2.50
		SCREEN DOOR Varnished 2.50

Shop Bowie First!

Early Bowie residents didn't have malls, or marketplaces, or big box stores to fill their grocery or clothing needs—but, the area did have plenty of local shopping options.

The advertisement above is from Aaron's Store in Huntington, June 1930. The store, which later burned, stood at the corner of 9th and Railroad Ave., the site of today's "Antique Depot." In addition to good prices (by today's standards!) the store even had a small café.

Joffe's Store occupied the house that contains today's Fabian House—a structure begun about 1896. Simon Joffe operated his general store in the front of the building; his family lived in the back. At the time of Joffe's death in 1917, the store inventory included 150 lbs of coffee at 10¢ a lb., 37 boxes of ladies' underwear at 75¢ per box, and 1000 pairs of shoes, priced from 75¢ to \$1.60 a pair.

In Mitchellville, the Edlavitch family, Russian Jewish immigrants, operated a store at Mitchellville and Mt. Oak Roads. That space was later occupied by the Harmel family, who also kept store there until 1985. Many will recall the gas pump in front of the building—now on exhibit at the Belair Stable Museum.

A New Acquisition

Drafty windows presented a logistical challenge to light-starved night owls in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Candle shades, now known as hurricane glasses, protected an open flame from expiring or igniting nearby textiles, especially in the volatile climates of the Asian and West Indian markets where their form and use originated.



Candle Shades

Possibly made: England or United States 1820-1840

Purchased by the Friends of Belair Estate Fund and gift of Albert Lozar

Purchased from Christopher Jones Antiques of Alexandria, Va., this fine pair is representative of three listed in Henrietta Hill Ogle's 1815 Probate Inventory. "3 Glass Shades for Candles" were valued at \$15 and later sold for over \$35 - indicating their high quality and elegant, engraved decoration.

Mrs. Ogle's candle shades were purchased by John Gibson—the husband of her niece, Anne Ogle Ridout. Gibson probably placed them in his new home—Sandy Point Farm (1815), which still stands today at Sandy Point Park near the Bay Bridge.

What's in a Name?

A change! The Radio and Television Museum has officially become "The National Capital Radio and Television Museum." Only the name has changed—same hours, same great exhibits!

Winter Musings



CALENDAR



Belair Mansion
Saturday, March 10
9:00 am-4:00 pm
18th Century Ladies Day
301-809-3089 Free Reservations



Belair Mansion
Monday, March 12 Noon
Brown Bag Lunch Lecture
Eat, Drink...and Drink! 18th Century
"Libations"
301-809-3089 Free No Reservations



Belair Mansion
Tuesday, March 13 7:30 pm
Second Tuesday Lecture
"Maryland's Civil War"
301-809-3089 Free No Reservations



Bowie Railroad Museum
Kids Kaboose
Tuesday, March 20 & April 17
10:30-Noon
Railroad Fun for ages 1-10
301-575-2488 Free No Reservations



Belair Mansion
Radio History Society Lecture
Saturday, March 17 2:00 pm.
"Women in Early Radio"
301-390-1020 Free No Reservations



Belair Mansion
Sunday, March 25 3:00 pm
Researching Civil War Pension Records
Patricia Shawker, PGCG Society
301-809-3089 Free No Reservations



Belair Mansion
Monday, April 9 Noon
Brown Bag Lunch Lecture
"Tiptoe through the Tulips— 18th
Century Gardens"
301-809-3089 Free No reservations



Belair Mansion
Tuesday, April 10 7:30 pm
Second Tuesday Lecture
"Secrets of the American Flag"
301-809-3089 Free No Reservations

March is Women's History Month!
Get ready for your next ball! Join us on March 10 (space limited!) for a day of 18th century make-up, hair, sewing and hands on fun. Attendees will begin a sewing project to complete at home. Cost is \$25; reservations required...and again, space is limited, so sign up today! Bring your lunch-snacks provided!

Hours: All Free Admission

Belair Mansion, 301-809-3089
12207 Tulip Grove Drive
Tuesday - Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.



Belair Stable, 301-809-3089
2835 Belair Drive
Tuesday - Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.



Bowie Welcome Center, 301-575-2488
8606 Chestnut Avenue
Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bowie RR Station, 301-809-3089
8614 Chestnut Avenue
Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Nat'l. Capital Radio & TV Museum
www.radiohistory.org 301-390-1020
2608 Mitchellville Road
Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday &
Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Prince George's Co. Genealogical Society Library, 301-262-2063
www.rootsweb.com/~mdpgcgs
12219 Tulip Grove Drive
Please call 301-262-2063 for open hours or appointments for research.



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City of Bowie Museums
12207 Tulip Grove Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20715
301-809-3089 fax 301-809-2308

email: museumevents@cityofbowie.org
www.cityofbowie.org/museum

TTY/TDD 301-262-5013 or MD Relay System 800-735-2258
This material is available in alternate formats. Call 301-809-3089

 The City of Bowie welcomes the participation in City sponsored activities and programs of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the City at least two weeks in advance of the date on which the activity will either begin or be held to request an accommodation.

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