

TideKeeper TIMES

Issue 14, Summer 2012

Tales from the place where time & tide meet

Bicentennial of the War of 1812 – Here, There and On-Line

So if you do the math, 1812 plus 200 equals 2012, here we are at the beginning of the bicentennial of this important and sometimes misunderstood war. Many people are not completely certain what this war was fought for although everyone knows we fought the British – again. It's true we were still recovering from our struggle for independence when this young nation found ourselves back



St. Mary's College history class presentation on the War of 1812

in our warships. Speaking of ships, we had 50 and Britain had 850, so it was an uncertain outcome. But once again we prevailed

This year the state of Maryland prevails with the celebration of the bicentennial, and Southern Maryland will not be left out. We have many programs and new interpretative signs coming in so that we can tell the story of this time period. And what a time it was – we were occupied and savaged by the British troops, the same troops who made their way to our nation's capital where they burned and sacked the proud new buildings.

All was not lost, and if this has served to pique your interest at all, please go directly to our web site, www.DestinationSouthernMaryland.com, and page through the terrific new 1812 information we have there. The pages were created for us by a history class at St. Mary's College. The class, taught by Professor Kenneth Cohen, undertook

The Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium

PO Box 745, Hughesville, MD 20637
Phone: 301-274-4083
Fax: 301-274-1924
Email: SoMdHeritage@tccsmd.org
Web site: www.DestinationSouthernMaryland.com



Executive Director: *Roz Racanello*

Board of Directors:

Doug Alves, Southern Maryland Museum Association, Chairman
Billy Price, Ducks Unlimited, Vice Chair
Jenny Plummer-Welker, Calvert County Planning, Secretary
Wayne Clark, Exec. Dir. Tri-County Council, Treasurer
Michael Bojokles, 1812 Committee Liaison, Member-At-Large
Hon. Dennis Scheessele, Mayor of the town of Indian Head
Phil Rollins, St. Mary's County Parks
Kim Cullins, St. Mary's Museum Division
Martha Battaglia, Charles County Parks Department
Dr. Brad Gottfried, College of Southern Maryland
Sherry Santana, Chaney Enterprises
Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper
Jennifer Pitts, Byway Manager

Marketing & Technical Advisory Committee:

Carolyn Laray, St. Mary's County Tourism
Catherine Carroll, Charles County Tourism
Joyce Baki, Calvert County Tourism



Star Spangled Banner Trail interpretive sign

(Continued on page 2)



Printed with soy ink on recycled paper.

Where
TIME & TIDE
SOUTHERN
MARYLAND Meet



Crowds outside our tent at the Sailabration.



Helicopter landing on the USS San Antonio

(War of 1812, Continued from page 1)

as its project the research and writing of the history and effect of this war in our area. Their final presentation was in the form of web pages and we received them with gratitude and they are up on our web site. Access them via the pull down menu or the "1812" logo on the left of the screen.



One of many tall ships from foreign ports.

Up the road in Baltimore there's been much ado around the launch of the War of 1812/Star Spangled Banner Sailabration and the Tall Ships event was one of the most successful -- followed closely by the Air Show/Blue Angels events. But the SMHAC had our day too -- we were honored guests on board the USS San Antonio, one of the Navy "gray hulls" that came to town. The director and a board member, Michael Bojokles who

both serve on the 1812 committee, flew on helicopters and landed on the deck of the USS San Antonio. We toured the boat, met with the Captain and the Admiral then went on deck for the sail into Baltimore along with the tall ships. What a beautiful sight, and an unforgettable experience. But then, with the air show on Saturday and an invitation from Governor O'Malley to the Captain's Ball, the weekend had plenty to offer as well. Five long days of perfect weather, about one million people at the harbor



Hangman's Fair performing

(Continued on page 3)

News From Along the Byway

One of the projects I've got bubbling away on the front burner is about windows; stained glass windows in churches along the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway to be exact. As a long time aficionado of Tidewater architecture I have a soft spot for these stunningly beautiful expressions of community history, personal faith, and artistry.

Part of my job as Byway Manager is to work with our partners to collect and share those unique stories that make the Byway such an engaging place to live and visit. This project is intended to be a way to connect a church's history to the larger community through research and photo documentation of its stained glass windows.

A short biography of these windows, the people associated with them, and interesting sidelights will be shared through photographs and archival documentation. These stories and updates on the project will be shared on the Byway's web page and social media sites Tumblr, Flickr, and Facebook.

There are over thirteen churches on the Byway, though not all of them have or ever have had stained glass windows. I



Stained glass window honoring Richard and Mary Edelen)

selected St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Chapel Point in Charles County, Maryland as the starting point for the project. St. Ignatius is one of the oldest continuously active Catholic Parishes in American. So far eight of the thirteen stained glass windows in the church have been photographed. Research into the

people associated with the windows is well underway.

One example I'll share is the window presented by Richard and Mary Edelen. Mary was the daughter of John Hamilton who was active in the movement to improve agricultural practices in the County after the Civil War. John also has a stained glass window in the St. Ignatius located across from the Edelens'. Richard (1829-1898) was selected by the church to be the modern day equivalent of a project manager, responsible for organizing the swift rebuilding of St. Ignatius within a year following an intense fire that gutted the church and the attached manor house in 1869. Rebuilding needed to be done quickly.

The priest at the time was concerned that some members of the congregation would push for the church to be moved to the town of Port Tobacco. Fortunately, that did not happen. Visitors today can still enjoy one of the most spectacular views along the Byway and visit the impressive graves of two dedicated members of St. Ignatius buried in the graveyard.

-from Jennifer Pitts

(War of 1812, Continued from page 2)

and our exhibit tent in a prime location in the Inner Harbor – between the visitor center and two of the most glamorous tall ships – we handed out thousands of our local maps and guides to visitors.

From Wednesday through Monday our volunteers kept everyone coming to our table with costumed interpreters, demonstrations of doll-making and tying sailors' knots, then the unforgettable sounds of Colonial period music from Hangman's Fair.

The event was a huge success and in Southern Maryland we hope to see those handouts turn into lots of continued interest in visiting our area over the next three years or so.

Mission:

The Mission of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium is to enhance the economic activity of Southern Maryland through combining quality heritage tourism and small business development with preservation, cultural & natural resource conservation and education.



Roz Racanello, Sue Dupont and Elizabeth Hughes at the Captains Ball

Heritage Areas Program Funded for Fiscal 2013

It's a tough time to get a program funded, and the heritage tourism program that supports us is no exception. At first, the state budget took nearly half the program's dollars away and this would have resulted in the program having no money for project grants.

Grants that build new heritage tourism resources – museum exhibits and programs, parks and trails, nature walks, kayak launches, historical signs, guides and more – are the most important thing the program does, the directors of the dozen heritage areas took action. We all went to Annapolis where we met with our legislators and attended budget hearings to stress the importance of this program.

In the end it all worked and the legislature restored our funding. So for now we continue to save the best of Maryland for future generations and at the same time we provide income and economic stability across the state.

Join us if you can, use the form below. Your contribution helps us to do so much more right here in Southern Maryland!

Roz Racanello, Executive Director



Tee shirt worn by all to budget hearings, Heritage Tourism = Jobs

Support Southern Maryland's Heritage... Become a **Tidekeeper** now!

The people of Southern Maryland are interested in the history and culture of our region. These people make up our Friends group, called *Tidekeepers*.

With your help, we will preserve, enhance and promote all that is special about our heritage area. By doing that we will demonstrate what a terrific place Southern Maryland is to work and play, for all the residents and also for the visitors and businesses in the region. Joining this elite circle of pride can cost as little as twenty dollars, so complete the Membership Form today and send it in with your donation – become a Tidekeeper of Southern Maryland.

YES, I want to join the Tidekeepers and demonstrate my pride in the unique Heritage of Southern Maryland! Enclosed is my donation for the Membership Level:

(please check one:)

Associate Member \$20 Supporting Member \$100 Sustaining Member \$500

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E Mail: _____

Address: City/State/Zip _____

Special interests/concerns/talents: _____

I want to make an additional contribution in this amount: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **Friends of Southern Maryland Heritage**, a non-profit organization, organized under the 501-c(3) of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland. Your dues are tax deductible.

Mail completed form and check to: **Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, PO Box 745, Hughesville, MD 20637.**

The Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium is funded in part by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, by Calvert County, Charles County and St. Mary's County, and supported by the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland.

Membership Levels and Benefits

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: \$20. Open to individuals and non-profit associations. All Associate Members will be on our mailing list to receive our newsletters and other information.

SUPPORTING MEMBER: \$100. Open to all who have a special pride in our region. All Supporting Members will receive a copy of our "Barns of Southern Maryland" poster.

SUSTAINING MEMBER: \$500. Open to businesses and individuals in Southern Maryland that wish to make a substantial and positive contribution in support of the Heritage of Southern Maryland. All Corporate Members will receive a plaque of appreciation for their contribution.