



The Linden Times

A bi-weekly newsletter for the members & friends of the Calvert County Historical Society – April 9, 2020

Due to the overwhelming positive feedback from Calvert County Historical Society's membership and friends and to provide something other than the abundance of news about the Coronavirus, we are going to increase *The Linden Times* to a weekly offering. Calvert County has seen some hard times in its 366 year history. As always, we will get through these challenging days together.



The Ægis and Intelligencer.

FREDERICK W. BAKER, Editor.

THE ÆGIS has a more extended circulation among the intelligent farmers and business men of Harford than any other paper in the county. The attention of advertisers is directed to this fact.

BEL AIR, Md.

Friday Morning, - - - - March 10, 1882.

Prince Frederick Destroyed by Fire.

The town of Prince Frederick, the county-seat of Calvert county, Md., was almost entirely destroyed by fire, last Friday evening. Fourteen buildings in all were destroyed, including the new Methodist Episcopal church and parsonage, the printing-office of the *Calvert Journal*, the court house and office of the register of wills, and the Brentford Hotel, one of the largest country hotels in Southern Maryland. Every book and paper in the commissioners' office and in the office of the register of wills were burned up. In the clerk's office all the original papers were lost, and a great many records, running as far back as 1650. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

The fire started at the Methodist church, Rev. J. P. Wilson, pastor. The workmen were putting the finishing touches on the interior, the pastor being present. It is said that a little son of the minister, playing outside, threw a lighted match among some shavings underneath the building. A blaze started in a second and before water could be procured the church was on fire. The jail narrowly escaped destruction. The only prisoner was liberated and assisted the persons at the fire.

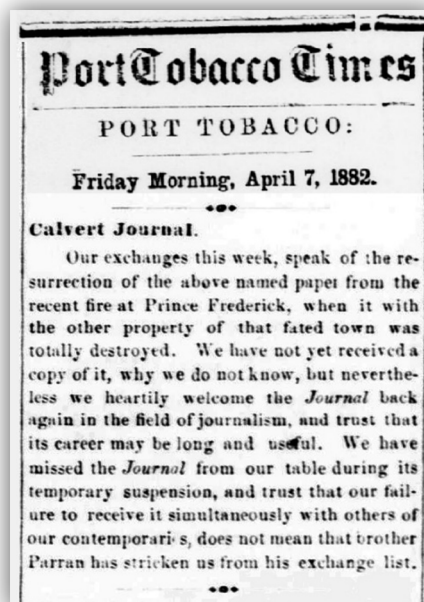
"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life. It goes on."

Robert Frost

The Court House Fire

On the 3rd day of March 1882, at the hour of 3:30 o'clock p.m., the village of Prince Frederick, consisting of a Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage, Court House, Shoe Shop, Journal Office, a large store, the property of J. W. Shemwell & Bro., a large and fine hotel, the property of D.R. Magruder, a dwelling house occupied by Silas R. King, and the law offices of Joseph A. Wilson, John P. Briscoe, C.S. Parran, and John B. Gray, were completely destroyed by fire. Fourteen buildings in all were destroyed and about ten were left unharmed. The Records of every kind and description in the Register's Office and in the Office of the County Commissioners were destroyed. A few of the more recent Records from the Clerk's Office were saved; the older one running back to 1658 were all lost. Not a single original paper was saved.

V.C. Cox, Register of Wills (March 14, 1882)



The CCHS

will be postponing all of our events through the month June. We will reschedule the annual CCHS Dinner & Silent Auction and our other events to dates that will be both safe and appropriate for everyone.

As always, the staff of CCHS is available to answer the questions or concerns of our membership. In the interim, send us an email or leave a voicemail.



Calvert County Historical Society

70 Church Street, P.O. Box 358, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 - Phone: (410) 535-2452 Email: cchsadmin@calverthistory.org