



The Linden Times

A bi-weekly newsletter for the members & friends of the Calvert County Historical Society – September 2, 2020



The CCHS staff has returned to Linden!

We have resumed our normal work days of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays, from 10:00a.m to 3:00p.m. We'll be on site to assist our members answering telephone and email inquiries and researching requests

for information. Linden will not open to the public until the State of Maryland and our County government deems it's safe to do so.

When England's favorite pirate, sea captain, privateer, naval officer and explorer, Sir Francis Drake, returned home from the West Indies in 1586, after years of antagonizing and plundering Spanish galleons, he brought back a shipload of captured tobacco. Smoking suddenly became the rage of England. Sir Walter Raleigh, the flamboyant and colorful rogue of Queen Elizabeth's court,



made smoking fashionable among the nobility in the late 1500's. Spain's New World colonies filled the orders for tobacco to appease England's newly-acquired habit. Upon Queen Elizabeth's death in 1603, James I came to the throne. James found Sir Walter Raleigh's tobacco smoking as disgusting as his politics, and had him beheaded. Raleigh could be considered the first martyr for smokers. James I launched a passionate anti-smoking

campaign, declaring tobacco unhealthy, unholy, and a totally unsuitable habit for a civilized society. The general public did not heed King James' declarations, and [cont. on page 2](#)

The Democratic Advocate.

WESTMINSTER, MD.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1899.

Maryland Affairs.

M. Reed, near Funkstown, Washington county, while making hay destroyed the nest of a turkey hen sitting in the field. The hen, robbed of her nest, found a part-ridge nest containing 17 eggs. She sat upon them and hatched them all out. She still has her brood, 17 partridges, trooping after her.

The Colored House of Reformation at Cheltenham, Prince George's county, was damaged by the storm on Wednesday of last week to the amount of \$6,000, besides great damage to growing crops and shrubbery. St. Mary's county lost about \$300,000 by the same storm. In Calvert county the loss is very heavy, as much of last year's crop of tobacco was still in the barns and was either blown away or ruined, together with the growing crop, which gave promise of a fine yield.

Dr. John F. Ireland, a prominent physician of Calvert county, died suddenly in Lower Marlborough Saturday afternoon. He was 68 years of age, and the oldest practicing physician in the county. He had driven to Marlboro to get his mail, and after talking a short time to a resident about the damage done in the village by the storm started home, apparently perfectly well. He drove about 200 yards and got out of his buggy and called for assistance. A profuse hemorrhage from the lungs came on, causing death in 15 minutes. Dr. Ireland had been practicing medicine for 40 years, and was well-known and highly esteemed in that and the adjoining counties. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Maggie Kent Ireland, six daughters and two sons.

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smoking became even more extensive.

Maryland's tobacco growing farms date back to the 17th century. Upon their arrival in 1634, Maryland settlers quickly hopped onto the tobacco bandwagon which the Virginians had started at the beginning of the century in Jamestown, Virginia. Soon after the settlement of Maryland British ships with Africans for sale as slaves began to appear in the Chesapeake. The Atlantic Ocean route between Africa and the Americas was called the Middle Passage. Planters looking for a cheap labor force were interested in using Africans as forced laborers on their tobacco plantations. Africans were in rising demand by the colonists and British merchants continued to bring them in large numbers. Between 1675 and 1695 approximately 3,000 Africans entered the Chesapeake region to be put to work mostly on the tobacco plantations of Maryland and Virginia.



Tobacco - Stringing the Primings. - 19th Century Newspaper image

The tobacco market maintained and stimulated the growth of Maryland and other states throughout the colonial period. Tobacco farming became Calvert County's main cash crop and the family farms grew rich through the generations. In 1999, the Maryland government began a tobacco buyout program, using \$78 million of its \$4 billion share of the national tobacco settlement with cigarette manufacturers to pay tobacco farmers to stop growing their crop. The program allocated the funds over 10 years, each year paying tobacco farmers \$1 per pound based on the average amount of tobacco they produced between 1996 and 1998. To qualify for the program, a farmer (1) had to have grown tobacco in 1998, (2) must permanently quit tobacco cultivation, and (3) convert his land to other agricultural uses for at least 10 years. Now you rarely see a field of tobacco in Calvert County. Today, farms are being replaced by subdivisions and what farmland remains is being used for other purposes.

Sources: in part, "Snuffing Out" Tobacco in Southern Maryland by Joanne Dickinson, & Calvert County Life



Did you know the flag of Calvert County was designed by Mrs. Robert M. Coffin, a member of a flag committee set up by the Calvert County Historical Society at the request of the county commissioners. It was first hoisted on May 21, 1966 in St. Leonard, Maryland. The colors represent the Calvert family Coat of Arms and a green tobacco leaf that represents the county's growth (note: tobacco was considered the currency in Maryland during the colonial era).

If you know more about the history of this story or you'd like to share any stories or anecdotes relating to Calvert County with CCHS readers please email Director, John Johnson at Director@calverthistory.org.

"All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better." - Ralph Waldo Emerson