



Letters From Linden & Postscripts

CALVERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020

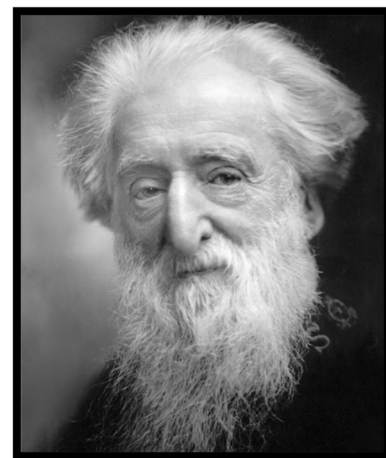


A Note from the Director

Dear Members and Supporters of the
Calvert County Historical Society,

As you are aware, all of us have been affected, in many ways, by COVID-19, including the Calvert County Historical Society. In early 2020 we had great plans, programs and partnerships in place to make 2020 a more dynamic organization for our members, supporters and the public. Unfortunately, nearly all our plans, events and programs had to be cancelled. That was very difficult for us

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William Booth

10 April 1829 – 20 August 1912

It was Christmas Eve, 1910. General William Booth, the founder of The Salvation Army, was an invalid and nearing the end of his life — it was impossible for him to attend the Army's annual convention. Someone near the General suggested that Booth send a telegram to be read at the opening of the convention to the many Salvation Army soldiers in attendance as an encouragement for their many hours of labor serving others throughout the holidays and the cold winter months. Booth agreed.

Funds were limited and telegrams charged by the word, so to ensure as much money as possible would still go to help the needy General Booth searched his mind and reviewed his years of ministry, seeking the words or a message that would summarize his life, the mission of the Army and encourage the soldiers to continue on.

When the thousands of delegates met, the moderator announced that Booth could not be present due to his failing health. Gloom and pessimism swept across the convention floor until the moderator announced that Booth had sent a telegram to be read at the start of the first session. He opened the message and read just one word:

“Others!” Signed, General Booth.



A Note from the Director continued...

as many of these events were designed to help generate more public interest, gain more membership and bring in operating revenue for CCHS. We felt it best to cancel all 15 of our scheduled events out of an abundance of caution for the health of our members and the public.

So, while all these great programs and events were cancelled we have not abandoned them for the future. Hopefully in 2021 all of these events will be able to be rescheduled. As such, I encourage you to read the *Linden Times*, our quarterly Newsletter and go to our website www.CalvertHistory.org and check for notices about these events. We are hoping to begin a couple carefully planned and safe events in the late spring of 2021.

2020 has been a challenge for many non-profits like CCHS. Nationally, 95% of nonprofits reported reduced funding in 2020, nearly 50% had to cut programs and 30% had to reduce employees. Fortunately, the Calvert County Historical Society, through some creative operations and three grant awards, has been able to continue to serve (on a modified schedule) our membership and the public.

Although the grants enabled us to partially continue our operations, we sure could use your help at this giving time of the year! Hopefully you might find time, resources and the spirit to please renew your membership and perhaps be able to donate a few tax deductible dollars to help sustain CCHS over the next few dark, cold and challenging months until such time as we can begin our exciting programs and events for you, Calvert County and Southern Maryland.

In closing, we've attached a mail-in membership renewal/donation form at the end of this newsletter. You can also join, renew or donate safely online through the QR code (using the QR app on your phone) at the bottom right of the form or via PayPal on our website at: http://www.calverthistory.org/?page_id=1334.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year ahead.

John R. Johnson, Director



Earlier this year Gov. Larry Hogan honored six Maryland farm families with the Century Farm recognition which is given to farms that have been owned and operated by the same family for more than 100 years.

This year's ceremony included five century farms and one bicentennial Farm located in Calvert County. **White Hall Farm**, the only bicentennial farm in Calvert County, has been in the family since 1801 when it was originally purchased by Thomas W.B. Smith. Mr. Smith was the founder of Smithville, Md., now known as Dunkirk. The original farm covered more than 168 acres and is currently 75 acres.

White Hall Farm hosted the first ever Calvert County Fair on its grounds in 1886. The farmhouse was built in 1801, and was awarded the Century Farm Historic Structures Award.

There is one tobacco barn on the property that is still standing in its original structure, and two more tobacco barns that were built in 1900. Throughout its 200-year history, White Hall Farm has grown tobacco and raised cows, horses, chickens, and goats. The farm currently grows poultry, corn and soybeans.

<http://whitehallfarmmarket.com/about>



*Carolyn D. Mohler, President
Calvert County Historical Society*

Greetings,

It is my honor and pleasure to serve as the president of the Calvert County Historical Society (CCHS) Board for the 2020 to 2021 year. Calvert County has always been home to me. As a child, my favorite times were spent visiting my grandparents, Arthur and Lucretia Dowell, on Main Street in Prince Frederick. In 1961, we moved to Calvert County and I have lived here ever since, except for the first year of my marriage to Philip.

My love of Calvert County history and its people came from my father, Arthur W. Dowell, Jr. I enjoyed working with him and editing his book, *"Growing up In Prince Frederick in the 1920s and 30s."* What a pleasure to share this history with the

public! My mother-in-law, Ailene Williams Hutchins, noted Calvert County historian and genealogist, increased my interest in this area.

Upon my retirement, one of my goals was to volunteer with the Calvert County Historical Society. Not knowing in what capacity this might be, I was pleased to be asked to serve as a Board member and secretary, starting my first term in 2012. I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet persons with the same love of this county and its past and to continue to expand my knowledge of this "land of pleasant living."

This year, CCHS had a number of great activities planned for you which had to be postponed because of COVID. These events would have also provided needed revenue to CCHS. I encourage you to renew your membership when notified the time is due and I challenge every one of you to bring a new member into the Historical Society. This is one easy way that all of us can help support our funding now and allow CCHS to continue to serve you and the community in our mission: "to collect, preserve, research, and share the history of Calvert County."

During this time of staying at home and social distancing, I have taken the time to itemize my mother-in-law's well documented 27,000 plus 4" x 6" file cards relating to "Calvert County people and their lands, going back to early days of settlement," as she described her work. This includes approximately 3700 topics, including families, names of properties, and topics of historical interest. Her family will be donating these cards to CCHS in 2021.

I wish all of you a blessed and peaceful New Year and hope to be able to see many of you as the year progresses.

Carolyn D. Mohler

Calvert County Historical Society

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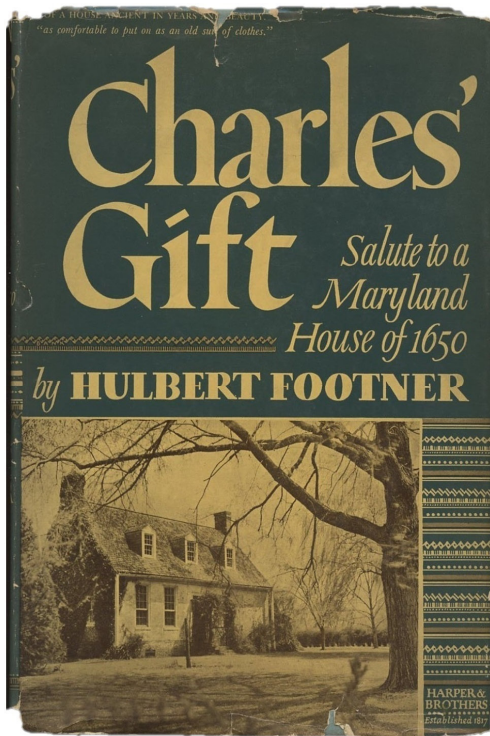
Margie Moore

Russell Stewart

Carl Fleischhauer

Malcolm Funn

Carolyn Hobbs



This is an excerpt from Hulbert Footner's 1939 book ***Charles' Gift: Salute to a Maryland House of 1650***. As many society members will know, Footner's house on the Patuxent River, about one mile north of the mouth of Hellen Creek, is more accurately referred to as Preston on the Patuxent, now on the National Register of Historic Places. The Canadian-born professional writer was based in New York City; Charles' Gift was Footner's home-away-from-home from 1915 to his death in 1944. He does not date the following Christmas story but the comment that his daughters are now "grown up" suggests that the events occurred in the late 1920s or early 1930s. *Submitted by, Carl Fleischhauer.*



[Another] recollection is of returning from the Christmas dance at Prince Frederick in a blizzard. The girls are grown up now; even Jane is provided with an evening dress. At the time there was something the matter with the last of the Franklins [motor car], and we went in an old station wagon we had acquired. Going up, the weather was all right, but upon issuing from the hall at two in the morning, we found ourselves in the middle of a regular Hudson's Bay uproar of wind and snow. My neighbor, Rudolph Coventon, got away just ahead of us and I had the advantage of his tail light down the road. So blinding were the sheets of snow, he had frequently to stop, whereupon we would run into him, but not hard, because both cars were merely crawling along.

He turned into his place with a shout and a wave of the hand and we faced the last mile on our own. Charles' Gift is approached by a long bare lane with a fence on each side. The North wind blows athwart it, and it is easy to figure what happens in a driving snowstorm; the road simply fills up level with the fence top. We bucked the drifts with increasing difficulty until we found ourselves blocked by the grandfather of all snowdrifts. I then tried to back out, but my power failed and I could not move either way. I discovered later that the carburetor sucked in so much snow through its air intake that the mixture would no longer explode.

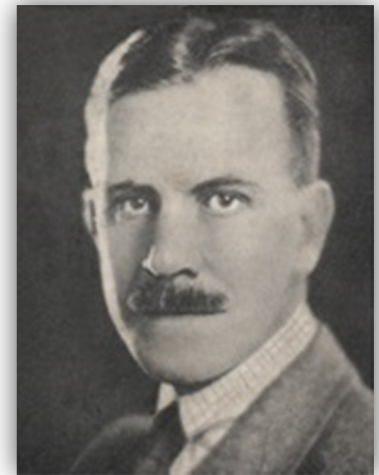
There was nothing for it but mother and the girls to unload in their party dresses and slippers and plow back to the Coventons' house through snow knee-deep. I suppose it was something under half a mile, and there was a difficult hill to climb. I brought up the rear, and the white snow provided sufficient light for me to reveal a quaint procession of high-steppers ahead. I noticed that the girls were taking no chances of getting their evening skirts wet. It seems like a hilarious adventure now, but I reckon it was a pretty bedraggled crowd that presented itself at the Coventons' door for shelter. It was wonderful the way those good people turned out, lit all the fires in the house, made up beds and produced food, hot drinks and quaintly fashioned undergarments for the shivering.

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Continued on page 5

Salute to a Maryland House of 1650 continued...

In the morning we found the station wagon lost in the middle of a four-foot drift, and a couple of days passed before we could get it dug out. The whole neighborhood assisted in opening the lane. Meanwhile, I plowed home through the fields where the snow lay lighter, and returned bowed under an enormous pack of warm clothing, rubber boots, etc., like Santa Claus. We had a young pointer at the time called Nancy, who had no sense at all. She stalled in the snow and I had to carry her in addition to my pack. (pp. 230-232)



William Hulbert Footner

William Footner - Brief Biography

William Hulbert Footner was born in Hamilton, Ontario, on 2 April 1879. (Although he wrote under the shortened name of "Hulbert Footner," his close friends called him "Bill.") The family moved to New York City where he attended high school. His first work was on a newspaper in New York — the *New York Herald* — then on several newspapers in Alberta, Canada, including the *Morning Albertan*.

His early writing efforts were typically adventure stories based on the Canadian Northwest, but he had a number of other stories published in magazines before 1910, notably *Century Magazine*. His *New Rivers of the North* was published in 1912, illustrated with photographs — a factual account of a canoe trip in 1911 through the Canadian Rockies and the northern part of Alberta. (There is a Footner Lake in northern Alberta named for him.) During this period, most stories appeared first in magazines (many listed here).

He traveled between Canada and the United States where he first visited Solomons, Maryland, in 1908. On subsequent visits to Solomons he became increasingly interested in the area, finally buying an old house and property on the Patuxent River, to which he gave the name "Charles' Gift." His experiences in the area of Solomons and his work on the house were described in the book of that title published in 1939. In March 1916 he married Gladys Marsh, the daughter of a doctor on Solomons Island. They had three daughters and one son.

From his marriage until his death, he supported his family by writing. Several of his early adventure books were made into silent motion pictures, as was his Broadway play *Shirley Kaye*. During the winters the family would live in New York, Charleston, or Baltimore where the children went to school. Some years the family would spend the winter in England or Europe, but most summers were spent at "Charles' Gift." By the late 1930s the family was staying year-round in Calvert County, but ill health took Footner to Baltimore where he died of a heart attack on 25 November 1944. He is buried at Middleham Chapel, Lusby, Maryland. The house was subsequently sold, and Mrs. Footner moved to Baltimore where she died in 1974. She is also buried at Middleham Chapel.

Note: Thanks to Carl Fleischhauer for contributing this piece. CCHS is always looking for interesting regional historic topics and stories to share with our membership. If you have any local folklore or other subjects you would like to see in our Linden Times/Newsletters, please feel free to let us know.

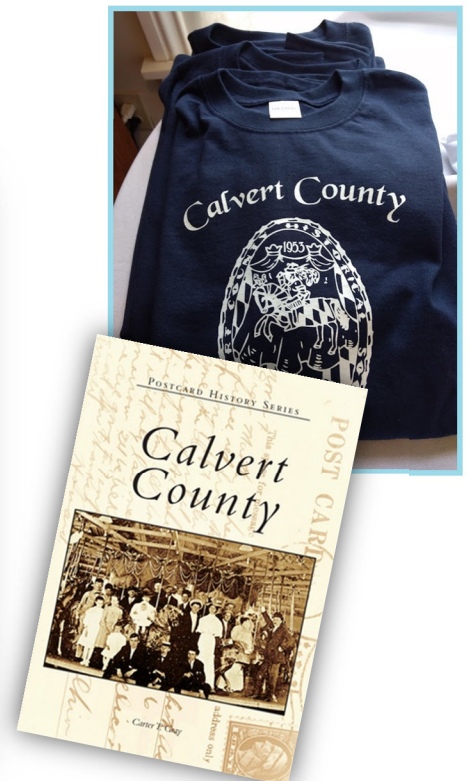
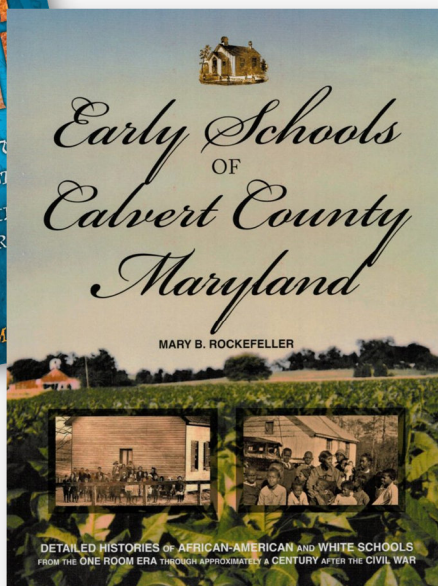
CCHS Offering a Contactless Solution to Coronavirus Shopping

Gift shop browsing and Porch Side Pickup



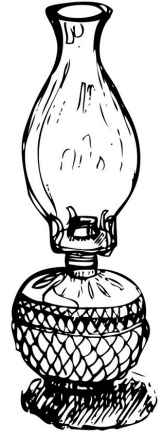
Want to give the gift of a CCHS fashion Tee or sweatshirt?
Interested in one of our vintage books by Hulbert Footner?
Browse our featured books on our website at
http://www.calverthistory.org/?page_id=1698 or click on the
"download" button there to see our full inventory of 80+ new books
for sale. See something you like? Call us at (410) 535-2452 to have
the item shipped to you or, schedule a time for a Porch Side Pick Up.

Want to browse our gift shop? Call ahead to reserve a time to
browse. Face masks required. We're open, Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursdays, from 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. till December 17th.



Keeping the Lights On...

Sadly, many nonprofits have had to close due to COVID-19. CCHS has worked very hard to stay open and available for its members and the public. To make up for the revenue generating events we had to cancel, CCHS staff submitted four applications for grants. The good news on three of those submissions is noted below. CCHS has been awarded \$19,150 in grant money to date. These grants have allowed us to 'not go dark', to start/continue publishing *The Linden Times* to keep in touch, to publish this *Winter Newsletter*, and be responsive to our members and the public's telephone and email inquiries. We are very hopeful that our fourth submission, the **MCHC Pathways Grant**, will be approved for (2021-2023), to fund the preservation and sharing of Calvert County's collection of oral interviews.



On June 1st **The Maryland Humanities** and **The National Endowment for the Humanities** made a generous donation of \$5,150. Their thoughtful donation helped the CCHS remain open through August 31st. [#MDHumanitiesCARES](#)
[#MDHumanities](#) [@NEHgov](#)

On July 17th the **Calvert County COVID-19 Small Business and Non-Profit Relief Fund Grant** awarded the CCHS \$10,000. More than 280 Calvert County businesses and nonprofits have received much needed financial assistance to cover expenses incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/COVID19ReliefFundFAQ>



On November 24, 2020, CCHS was selected to receive a grant of \$4,000 from the **Southern Maryland Heritage Area (Destination Southern Maryland)** Seed Grants program which awarded \$40,000 to significant heritage tourism projects in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's County. This \$4,000 is earmarked for our "Barns of Calvert County Video and Art Show – 2021".

<https://destinationsouthernmaryland.com/southern-maryland-heritage-area-awards-40000-in-seed-grants-to-the-region/>

In the works...

A grant money request is currently being written for the **MCHC Pathways Grant Program** on behalf of **Maryland Center for History and Culture**.

CCHS currently applying for grant money for the restoration, preservation and publication of oral interviews of Calvert County residents conducted from 1987 – 2015. Their deadline is December 11, 2020.

<https://www.mdhistory.org/pathways-grant-program-launches-second-year-of-funding-awards/>



MARYLAND CENTER
FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE



The Board and members of Calvert County Historical Society

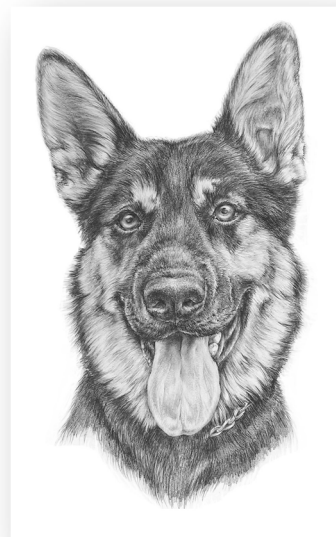
want to express our appreciation and gratitude to Mike King for being President of the CCHS Board. Mike King assumed the role of interim President in 2018 and his term should have ended at the Annual Dinner in 2020. Then came COVID-19 which changed everything. As we did not have an Annual Dinner for the membership, we could not approve a new slate of officers, so Mike graciously remained President until we were able to hold an

outdoor meeting at Linden in September. At that September meeting, Carolyn Mohler was voted to be replace Mike and became the President of the Board of CCHS.

Mike King did a fantastic job as interim President, President and extended President of the CCHS Board and through the difficulties and troubling effects of COVID-19, on CCHS. Thanks Mike, we greatly appreciate everything you did to keep our organization viable, stable and operating to serve our membership and citizens of Calvert County.

CCHS would like to thank Deanna Lewis of www.BestPetArt.com for donating her time and talents to maintaining and updating our web site, www.Calverthistory.org.

Deanna has also been instrumental this year in the design and launch of our new publication, *The Linden Times* and the continued production of our newsletter. Archived copies of all CCHS publications can be found on our website.



In addition to ALL of our volunteer CCHS board members, we'd like to thank the following folks for their continued support and efforts in preserving the history of Calvert County and serving our membership this past year. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Norma Coffren – Calvert Obituaries

Sylvia Freeland – Scanning

Dan Jones – Scanning

Laurer Kirkman – Scanner

Crystal Dowd – IT Media

Tom Latimer – All Around Support

Greg Stottlemeyer – All Around Support

Mary Rockefeller – Archives

Chloe Ewalt – Decorations

Nancy Thompson – CCHS Garden

Rosemary Dawley – Archives and Library Inventory

Leila Boyer – Research

Lauren Sampson – Research

Jane Khaiyer – Membership and Archives

Samantha Pfeiffer – Transcriptions

“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace.

A soul generated by love.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.



John R. Johnson

Director

director@calverthistory.org

(410) 535-2452



Tassia Weems

Administrative Assistant

admin@calverthistory.org

(410) 535-2452



**Linden will be closed for the holidays
beginning December 22nd through
January 5th this season.**

Until then, the CCHS staff is on hand during our normal work days of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays, from 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. to assist our members with answering telephone and email inquiries and researching requests for information.

*"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple:
loving others." - Bob Hope.*



Calverth County Historical Society

Our mission:

**To collect, preserve, research
and share the history of Calverth
County.**

Contact Us:

Calverth County Historical Society

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P.O. Box 358

Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Phone: (410) 535-2452

Email: cchsadmin@calverthistory.org

www.CalverthHistory.org



A Calvert County Historical Society membership helps support Linden, the Archives, and the numerous educational programs and workshops we offer. CCHS offers yearly student, individual, institutional, couple, individual sustaining and Partner in Preservation memberships.



Join or
**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

We're happy to offer an online option link http://www.calverthistory.org/?page_id=1330 ← click here, to join and pay your membership dues securely via **PayPal** on our website. Or, fill out the form below and return with a check for your membership dues. *Thank you for your support!*

\$15

Student

\$40

Institution

\$40

Individual

\$60

Couple

\$125

Individual
Sustaining

\$1500

Partner in
Preservation

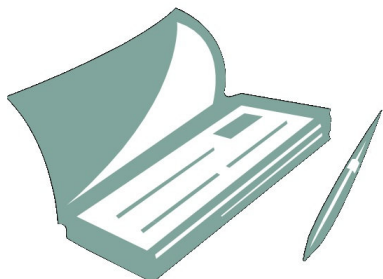
Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Membership Type: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

The Calvert County Historical Society is recognized as a 501(c) (3) tax exempt entity. **Any donations made to benefit the CCHS are tax deductible.** CCHS will gladly provide a written receipt to accompany any cancelled check, an online PayPal donation receipt donation or cash donation made for your tax preparation purposes.



If you wish to join, pay your dues or make a donation by check, please complete this membership form above, and make your check payable to: **Calvert County Historical Society.**

Mail to, or drop it off at:

Calvert County Historical Society
70 Church Street
P.O. Box 358
Prince Frederick, MD 20678



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