



# Letters From Linden & Postscripts

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## CALVERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

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### A Note from the Director

Out of an abundance of caution, the Calvert County Historical Society will be closed to members and visitors until the Maryland and Calvert County governments issue guidance that events and public gatherings are safe.

The staff of CCHS will be at Linden to answer the phones, questions or concerns of our membership.

We have exciting events in the works for the months ahead. Unfortunately, some were postponed. I encourage you to visit our web site [www.CalvertHistory.org](http://www.CalvertHistory.org) for frequent updates to our event schedule.

Thanks for your understanding during this difficult time.

John Johnson, Director - (410) 535-2452

## Christine “Chris” Parran Banks, CCHS 2020 Women of the World Honoree



The **Calvert County Historical Society** is delighted to recognize Andrea Christine Parran Banks as our 2020 Women of the World honoree.

Chris has always loved history and her original interest in joining CCHS was to learn more about her Calvert County roots, including her great-grandmother. The illustrious **Christiana Parran**, was an early 20<sup>th</sup> century African American business woman for whom a road is named south of Chesapeake Beach. Chris began familiarizing herself with our Archive’s extensive local and family history research materials and soon she was participating in outreach activities where she could share that knowledge with the public.

In 2014 she was elected to the Historical Society’s Board of Directors. Her willingness to volunteer made her a welcome presence on the Board, and she became involved in organizing and carrying out events hosted by CCHS and serving on committees that determined CCHS policies and procedures.

In 2016 Chris was elected President of the Board, overseeing all aspects of CCHS board activity, representing CCHS as an advocate for preservation at county government functions all the while continuing to be involved in the many events put on by CCHS during the year. Chris has worked diligently on our Spring Tea, the Annual Dinner,

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# You just never know where a good idea will begin, grow and go.

Such is the case of establishing Calvert County's Asbury-Solomons Island.



Rev. Loren Gisselbeck

The idea and beginning of Asbury-Solomons began very simply - a possible solution to a vexing problem. Rev. Loren Gisselbeck, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church in Prince Frederick, Maryland, (our great next-door neighbor to Calvert County Historical Society) was concerned about the elderly members of the church's ability to handle the upkeep and

maintenance on their homes. Then he put together a committee to work on the issue to study the feasibility of a Southern Maryland residential community to meet the needs of retired persons.

After time and work, Rev Gisselbeck realized this project was much larger than his church could handle and thus he reached out to other local ministers, churches and regional senior organizations. He contacted another group that was working on a concept to serve a large region reaching from Richmond, Virginia to the panhandle of West Virginia, Washington, DC and Maryland's Western Shore. This concept was called Ashbury Methodist Village (AMV). After much work and time, on May 23, 1991, Asbury Methodist Home Board applied to the Calvert County Commission for tax exempt bonds. This first official board action led to the construction and opening of Asbury-Solomons Island. Additionally, it was Louis L. Goldstein who suggested a 42-acre piece of land on the Patuxent River in Solomons might be a good location for this project.

This is a much-abbreviated summary and overview of facts and circumstances in the establishment of Asbury-Solomons Island - [www.asbury.org](http://www.asbury.org). A more complete and detailed discussion of the entire work is available in book, *The People's History of Asbury-Solomons Island 1996 – 2006*, by Bobbie Patterson.



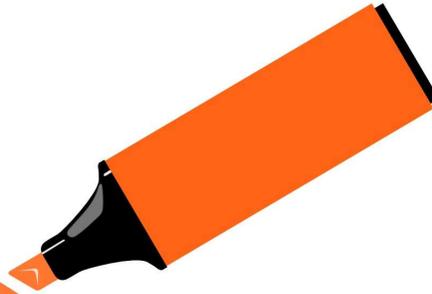
**Calvert County**, located in the U.S. state of Maryland, was once made up primarily of farms and tobacco fields.

As of the 2010 census, the population was **88,737**.

The County has become a fast-growing exurban neighbor of Washington, D.C. Many home prices have nearly quadrupled in the past decade, with many four-bedroom homes in the northern half of the county averaging over \$1,000,000.

**“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.” — Muhammad Ali**

# CCHS highlights



## Past Events & Happenings of the Calvert County Historical Society

Oct. 2019 – Feb. 2020

### September

- CCHS an informational booth for Senior Day at the Calvert County Fair

### October

- CCHS participated in the Lower Marlborough Freedom Day
- The Director gave presentations about values of CCHS at Southern Pines and Calvert Pines Senior Centers
- Inclement weather on October 20<sup>th</sup> and unfortunately caused the cancellation of our inaugural Front Porch Concert

### November

- The Director gave a presentation to North Beach Senior Center on the value and membership of CCHS
- CCHS Annual Book Sale was held November 24<sup>th</sup>. at Linden.

### December

- Annual Volunteer Lunch at Linden
- Light Up Linden/Vespers Event (Community shared event with Trinity and St. Paul's Churches and DAR)
- Winter Solstice Event at Linden

### January

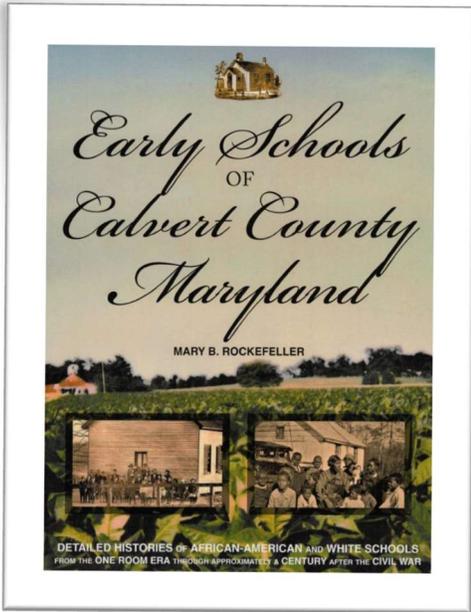
- CCHS donated 1,700 books to Calvert/Annapolis Rotary program: Books for International Good. Books go overseas to "third-world" schools & libraries to help children learn English. CCHS staff attended Martin Luther King Breakfast

### February

- First Brown Bag Lunch of the year featured Mary Rockefeller, author of *Early Schools of Calvert County*



CCHS supports Books for International Goodwill (BIG)



CCHS is proud to present:

***Early Schools of Calvert County Maryland***

by Mary B. Rockefeller

Mary is our dedicated archive volunteer. This volume represents four years of research and details the establishment and development of schools from Colonial times to approximately the 1970's.

***Copies available for purchase in the CCHS bookstore today!***

***Have you ever wondered,***

as you entered the vestibule of the Calvert County Historical Association (CCHS), who were the adorable couple in the side by side oil portraits and how did CCHS come to acquire them? Well, here is their history and the background story of the artist.



*Ann Blake & William Marshall Edelin*

The two portraits are of Ann Blake (1806 – 1848) and her husband William Marshall Edelin (1810 – 1874), by John Beale Bordley, (1800 – 1882). The portraits are oil on board, 27 X 36 and circa 1840. Both portraits are framed in a simple style suggesting that they are early Bordley works, as subsequent works after 1840 were framed in a more elaborate rococo style.<sup>1</sup> Both portraits were a gift of Mrs. Mary Ross McMillian and Mrs. Frances M.R. Chase Smith in 1996 and acquired through the gracious support and concern of Mrs. Peggy Hildebrant, a long-time member of the Calvert County Historical Society.

Ann Blake and William Edelin made their home at Upper Bennett and His Lordship's Favor, both in upper part of the county. His Lordship's Favor (site 18CH793) is an enigmatic colonial site that was occupied by 1705 and possibly earlier and – *continued on page 5*

## ***Have You Ever Wondered***

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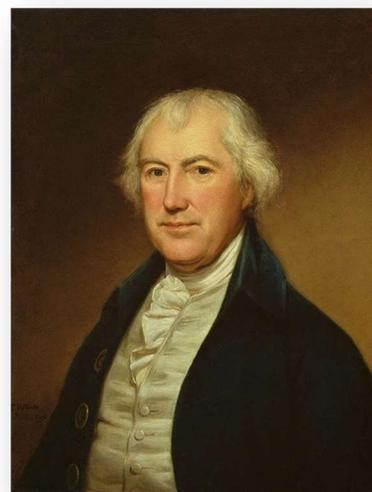
abandoned circa 1740.

Like Maidstone and His Lordship's Favor, Upper Bennet is associated with the families Chew and Blake. Richard Bennet is said to have been a Puritan who came from Virginia and acquired 1,150 acres along the Chesapeake Bay. The first house he built is supposed to have been circa 1658. Samuel Chew, whose family built Maidstone, acquired Upper Bennet in 1725 from Benjamin Brasher. He was also related to the Blakes who owned neighboring His Lordship's Favor. Upper Bennett no longer exists.

Ann Blake is buried in the cemetery on the grounds of the Naval Research Laboratory. Mr. Edelin's place of burial is not known, although Prince Georges County is a strong possibility. There were a great many Edelin's living in Southern Prince Georges during the period 1810 – 1874.

Family tradition holds Mr. Bordley came to Calvert County where he remained for a year painting various member of the Blake Family. It has been documented that Charles Wilson Peale and young Bordley's grandfather, a famous jurist and painter of Philadelphia and Wye Island were lifelong associates. Peale was supported by Judge Bordley to the extent that Peale gave two of his children the middle name of Bordley. John Beale Bordley the artist was born in Wye Island, Maryland and studied art in Philadelphia. He worked in Baltimore, circa 1834 – 1851. He retired to a farm in Harford County, Maryland and in 1851 he then moved to Bel Air and finally Baltimore where he died in 1882.

*1 Enoch Pratt Free Library, Vertical Files*



*John Beale Bordley, Artist*

## ***Be on the lookout!***



The Calvert County Historical Society is looking for past copies of the **Historical Society News**, or what is now known as *The Historian*. The first issues, we believe, were printed in the late 1950's to early 1960's.

**We are looking for copies of Volume 1, Issues 1 – 4.** We're hoping that if you happen to have these you would let us have them for our archives - please let us know! Call (410) 535-2452 or email us at [cchadmin@calverthistory.org](mailto:cchadmin@calverthistory.org).  
*Thanks!*

## Christine “Chris” Parran Banks

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the Kids' History Camp, and outreach activities, such as Lower Marlboro Freedom Day, and African American Family Community Day. If you're thinking CCHS has taken up every second of Chris's life, you'd be mistaken. After retiring from a distinguished 41-year teaching career in 2013 that included a seat on the Board of Directors of the National Education Association, Chris is now a licensed real estate agent and an active member of her church community, the NAACP, the LWV, the Calvert County Minority Business Alliance, while still substitute teaching. Last year she gave a talk at CCHS on her ancestor Christiana Parran, whose legacy, without a doubt, she carries on and continues to shine.

Chris will be honored at the upcoming **18<sup>th</sup> annual Women of the World Celebration Awards & Dinner** in September, paying tribute to some of the most inspiring women of Calvert County. The event is open to the public. Information on the event and securing a reservation is noted below. *See you there!*



## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of the World Celebration & Awards Dinner, Honoring Women & Girls of Calvert County “Women Breaking Barriers”

Join the Calvert County Commission for Women and the League of Women Voters of Calvert County for a memorable event and an opportunity to hear our Keynote Speaker, Yun Jung Yang, Esq.

- When: Moved to Thursday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 9:00p.m.
- Where: Rod ‘N’ Reel Resort, 4165 Mears Ave.  
Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732
- Cost: \$35/adult; \$20/student
- Register: online at: <http://www.lwvcalvert.org/events>

## Calvert County Historical Society

### Officers

Interim President:  
Mike King

Secretary:  
Carolyn Mohler

Treasurer:  
Margie Moore

### Members

Greg Bowen  
Greg Stottlemeyer  
Randi Vogt  
Nancy Thompson  
Diane Harrison  
Thom Latimer  
Margie Moore  
Russell Stewart  
Carl Fleischhauer  
Malcolm Funn  
Carolyn Hobbs  
Michael Phipps  
Kirsti Uunila



# UPCOMING Events

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## Join us every 3rd Thursday of the month!

Enjoy guest speakers & field trips delving into the history of Calvert County

**Time:** 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Linden – 70 Church Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

**Bring your Lunch, Bring your Questions and Bring Your Friends!**

Free and open to all

Visit [www.CalvertHistory.org](http://www.CalvertHistory.org) Events for details

**BROWN  
BAG**   
**Lunch**  
at Linden



**Location:** Linden **Date:** **Postponed – date to be announced** **Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Reservations Required! ~ \$25 per person**

The **Annual Spring High Tea** is for members of CCHS and their personal guests. As many of you know this event is a real hit, seating is limited and reservations must be made to attend.

If you wish to attend the Annual Spring High Tea please call (410) 535-2452 and make your reservations. Questions... email [cchsadmin@calverthistory.org](mailto:cchsadmin@calverthistory.org).



# CCHS Membership Dinner Raffle Prizes!

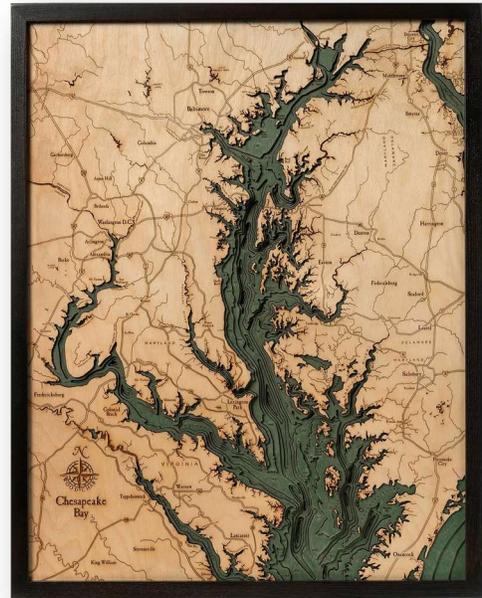


**Tickets: 3 chances to win for \$5**

Stop by Linden to buy your tickets early or buy the night of the dinner

You do not have to be present to win!

Prizes: Blue Crab Stained Glass Window - \$250 value  
& 3D carved wood relief Map of the Chesapeake Bay - \$300 value



## Silent Auction items! 🖱️

Bid live at the dinner



[www.BestPetArt.com](http://www.BestPetArt.com) is donating a custom portrait of your special pet to benefit CCHS. Artist, Deanna Lewis, our volunteer web page designer, has raised over \$16,750 by donating her art work to benefit charities around the country. Retail value \$375.

and...

- Rockwell House Collection, (twelve buildings of Stockbridge, MA., home of Norman Rockwell)
- Circa 1900, eight rare post cards from France & Spain
- Harper's Weekly Newspaper collection from November 10 May 4, 1861.
- Framed picture of Cove Point Lighthouse (1900) by Stephan Harrington
- Rare Early Manor and Plantation House of Maryland book

*And LOTS more!*



# "Music on the Porch"

at Linden!

## Free Summer Front Porch Concert Series on Linden's front porch!

These events are free, family friendly and open to all. Refreshments can be purchased at these events.

Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets & coolers.

**Location:** Linden's front porch

**Time:** 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Dates:**

- June 18<sup>th</sup> – featuring the **Calvert Dance Band**
- July 16<sup>th</sup> – **Zachary Smith and Dixie Power Trio**
- August 20<sup>th</sup> – **County Memories Band**
- October 11<sup>th</sup> – featuring the **Riverside South Band (3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**

**Overflow parking at Trinity United Methodist Church parking lot.**

**If inclement weather, concert will be cancelled.** Questions? Call CCHS (410) 535-2452

## "The Barns of Calvert County"

The Calvert County Historical Society

Celebrates our Farming Heritage with an Art Show and Sale



Brittany Johnson

**Location:** Linden

**Date:** *Postponed - To be announced*

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Free and open to all!

Original art from as many as 17 local artists. Oils, watercolor, prints, and photographs of the Barns of Calvert County will be for sale as well as prints, photographs, calendars, and other items in our gift shop.

On display in our newly designated "Tobacco Room" is a museum-quality miniature ( 3/4" scale ) replica of a c. 1900 Calvert County tobacco barn.

**Members receive a 10% discount. Refreshments will be available for purchase.**

For dates check our website at [www.CalvertHistory.org](http://www.CalvertHistory.org), call (410) 535-2452 or email us at [cchadmin@calverthistory.org](mailto:cchadmin@calverthistory.org)



**John R. Johnson**

Director

[director@calverthistory.org](mailto:director@calverthistory.org)

(410) 535-2452



**Tassia Weems**

Administrative Assistant

[tweems@calverthistory.org](mailto:tweems@calverthistory.org)

(410) 535-2452



**Anyone joining or renewing their CCHS annual membership now will get March, April & May free!**

As you know, we've been implementing a single annual membership renewal date of June 1, to June 1 since September of last year to streamline the membership process. It's been a great success!

We have a few members left to go. As an incentive to renew now, we're happy to offer these last couple of months free to start the new membership year fresh. New and renewing members signing up before June 1<sup>st</sup> enjoy March, April and May free!

To join or renew please call us at (410) 535-2452 or stop on by Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, *(after the virus all-clear signal is given)* between 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. A CCHS staff person will be happy to help you.

[Membership form and online renewal link on the next page to start your membership fresh on June 1<sup>st</sup>!](#) →



Calvert County Historical Society

**Our mission:**

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

**Contact Us:**

Calvert County Historical Society

70 Church Street

P.O. Box 358

Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Phone: (410) 535-2452

Email: [cchsadmin@calverthistory.org](mailto:cchsadmin@calverthistory.org)

[www.CalvertHistory.org](http://www.CalvertHistory.org)



**"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."**

**~ Elizabeth Andrews ~**

Anthropologist & Volunteer Internationally  
with Habitat for Humanity

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](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

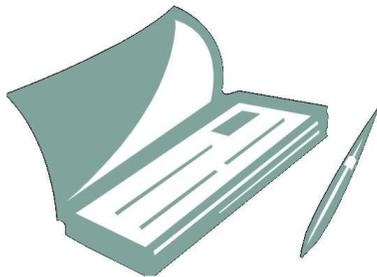
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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



Donate via our  
PayPal QR Code