



PGCGS Bulletin

Celebrating Our 40th Year

Volume 40, Issue 3

SPRING 2009

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PGCGS MEETING SCHEDULE

June 3, 2009
Angela McGhie
"Finding Original Records on the Internet"

PGCGS Monthly Meetings are held at 7 PM at the Greenbelt Public Library, 11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD.

CHANGES OF MONTHLY MEETING VENUE:

Starting SEPTEMBER 2, 2009, The PGCGS Monthly meeting will convene at the New Carrollton Community Center. Cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced on **WTOP RADIO** AT 103.5 FM & 103.9 FM or at **WTOPNEWS.COM**, or at *our* website at: www.rootsweb.com/mdpgcgs

From The President *by Heather Olsen*

My term ends this June, so this will be my final message to you as president. I've enjoyed leading the society the past two years.

Ideas for speakers are always welcome. If you know someone who would be a good speaker at our society meetings, if you would like to speak yourself, or if there is a topic you'd like to learn about, please let me know.

If you have experience doing research in a particular country, and would like to write a short "how to" for that country, please let me know.

I want to thank my fellow officers for all their hard work these past two years. I know many of you, like me, have been coping with family illness and loss, and I really appreciate the way you have pitched in to help me and each other when the need arose.

I also want to thank our wonderful volunteers for their assistance. Volunteers work in our library, represent the society at events, and do many other tasks. If you aren't already volunteering please consider doing so!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ISSUE

It's time once more to renew your PGCGS membership!
See form page 166

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Important Changes to PGCGS Library
See page 146

2009 ELECTION OF NEW PGCGS OFFICERS CANDIDATE SLATE OF OFFICER NONINEES

See page 146

PGCGS COUNCIL MEETS

Minutes page 156

New Monthly Meeting Venue *Decided!*

See page 146
Final Meeting In Greenbelt - June 3, 2009!

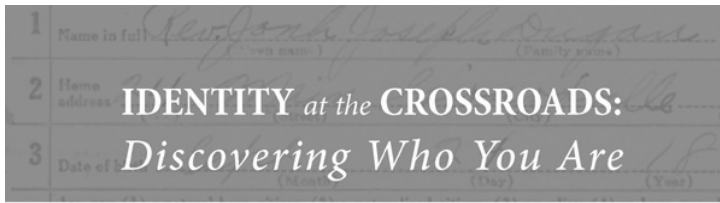
Monthly Meetings In Review *Page 154*



PGCGS CELEBRATES 40th

Picnic Celebration Planned
Sept 26th, 1 - 4 PM
Details Page 150





FIFTH ANNUAL GENEALOGY FAIR

TWO DAYS: APRIL 22 & 23, 2009, 9:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING, RESEARCH CENTER LOBBY AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, FREE
www.archives.gov/dc-metro/known-your-records/genealogy-fair

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND ANCESTRY.COM



Photo by Bill Wood

PGCGS Volunteers Kent Kwiatkowski, (above) and Bill Wood (below), along with Heather Olsen and Pat Shawker pitched-in to represent our society at this very well attended event.



Photo by Bill

The National Archives hosted its fifth annual Genealogy Fair. This year's two-day program showcased Federal records located at the National Archives and professional genealogy organizations' resources for family history research. Sessions included introductions to genealogy research, census records, Freedman's Bureau records, immigration records, Congressional records, Native American records, and much more. National Archives staff demonstrated how to use databases including the Archival Research Catalog (ARC) and Access to Archival Databases (AAD).

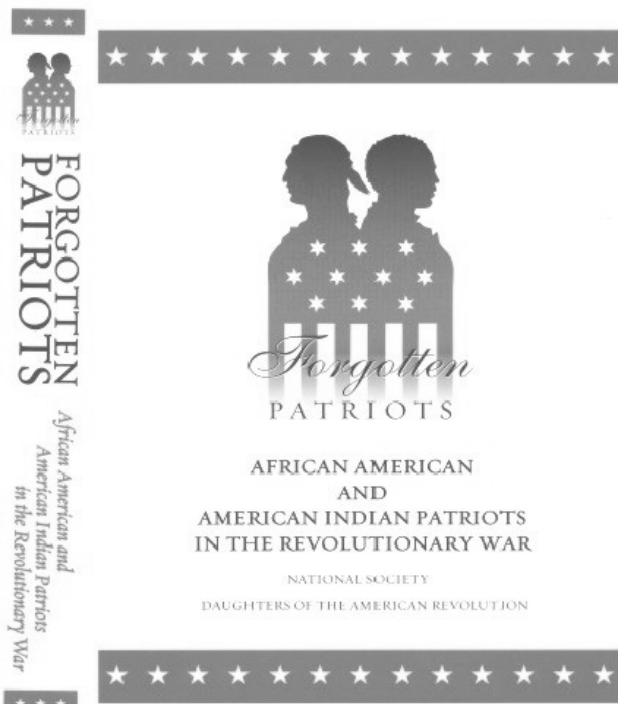
The fair will provided information and guidance for experienced genealogy professionals and novices alike. Winners of the National Archives Awards for Excellence in Genealogy were announced at a ceremony during the fair. The fair was presented in partnership with the Foundation for the National Archives and The Generations Network.*

Speakers included historian at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Marian Smith; professional genealogists and National Archives volunteers Claire Bettag and Susannah Brooks; and National Archives experts Juliette Arai, Rebecca Crawford, Damani Davis, John Deeben, Tom Eisinger, Lynn Goodsell, Jeffery Hartley, Jill James, Claire Prechtel Kluskens, Daniel Law, Trevor Plante, Constance Potter, Rebecca Sharp, Katherine Vollen, and Reginald Washington.*

* SOURCE National Archives

MEETING NOTES

MARCH 2009



MS. HOLLIS GENTRY
Presents:
“Forgotten Patriots”



Photo by Bill Wood

Forgotten Patriots – African American and American Indian Patriots of the Revolutionary War: A Guide to Service, Sources, and Studies

The publications staff of the DAR Library will continue to work on the Forgotten Patriots project after the publication of this book. They welcome questions, additions, or corrections to the content of the book and would appreciate documentation to support or to clarify the correspondence.

For more information,
or to ask questions about the
Forgotten Patriots project,
Email forgottenpatriots@dar.org
or call the DAR Library at
(202) 879-3229



MEETING NOTES

APRIL 2009

Mrs. Patricia Shawker, C.G.

“Gathering Your Materials”

Ms. Shawker stressed the importance of differentiating between ‘primary’ or ‘secondary’ documents, as they (potentially) offer a level of authenticity to the information recorded within the document.



Several exhibits displayed by Ms. Shawker presented traditional genealogical icons. Among the examples presented, was; birth certificate, headstone, bible record. Asking the audience: “Here’s a Marriage Certificate from a Catholic Church. Is this primary or secondary data?” “It’s primary! It was recorded at the church *at the time* of the event.”



Photo by Bill Wood

Continued on page 155

MEETING NOTES

MAY 2009



Vernon Skinner provided select methods for researching your German ancestors. Methods included: Observing nuances in written documents, and understanding their correct interpretation.

Mr. Skinner also quizzed the attendees on different church records. One example referred to being able to correctly cite and differentiate records between Catholic and Lutheran

Vernon Skinner:

"Introductory Research in Germany"

Available Records

- Parish Registers
- Burgher Rolls
- City Directories
- Tax Lists
- Immigration Records



Language

- Grammar is very structured
- ALL nouns are capitalized
- High German vs. Low German
- Fraktur & Old German Script until 1930s
- For genealogy, need about 100 words excluding occupations

On the usage of sentence formulation, Skinner stressed: "All nouns (in all sentences) are capitalized all of the time!

"Regardless of where it appears in the sentence. If you see a word with a capitalization, it is a noun! If you're reading German, it helps along the way."



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 29

By Karen Riekert - Recording Secretary

Present were: Heather Olsen, Tom Shawker, Patty Shawker, Kent Kwiatkowski, Jim Bowie, Bill Wood, Karen Miles, Diane Stultz, Josie Beagle, & Karen Riekert

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 pm.

Minutes from the previous Council Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Sales Tax Return and Personal Property Tax Return have been filed.

Recording Secretary/Constitution: No Secretary's report. Copies of the Constitution were passed out to be studied for possible changes in the future.

Membership: Tom detailed the number of memberships and the amount of dues collected from 2000 to 2009. Like most other societies, our membership is declining, from 426 in 2001 to 212 at present.

Registrar: Most correspondence has been done by email. Those contacting Patty by regular mail have omitted SASEs.

Webmaster: No report. Jim was asked about the possibility of adding audio or video files to our web site. Due to the amount of bandwidth available, he advised using links to any audio or video files instead.

Program: The speaker for the June meeting has not been finalized yet. The information will be placed on the Web page as soon as possible.

Publications: 53 books have been sold since last June. Diane is working on the next "special."

Archivist: The Library has received a collection from the Charles Matson Estate, including research papers and several books.

Due to declining patronage when the library is open the last Saturday of the month, the Council decided that beginning in July the Library will open the last Saturday by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the Library (301-262-2063) or by email (pgcgs@juno.com).

Editorial: Printing & mailing costs are continuing to rise. Adjustments will be made to the number of copies of each Bulletin printed in hopes of reducing some of our costs.



Publicity: Kent has been placing notices in several area newspapers advertising the Society and the monthly meetings.

Old & New Business

Monthly Meeting Location: Because of rising costs the Council voted to move the Monthly Meeting to the New Carrollton City Hall at 6016 Princess Garden Pkwy. There will be no charge to use the facility which is large and handicapped accessible. This will save PGCGS \$540/year in room rental costs. After 1 year, the Council will revisit the issue. Bill Wood voted in opposition.

40th Anniversary Celebration: To celebrate the 40th anniversary of PGCGS a covered-dish picnic will be held Saturday Sept 26th, 1 – 4 PM at the Society Library. Heather Olsen will coordinate the event.

Budget: The 2009/2010 budget was proposed, discussed, and approved with a few minor changes.

Election of PGCGS Officers

Nominating Committee: Karen Lowman will chair the committee to prepare a slate of candidates for Council Officers. The slate will appear in the Bulletin and voting will take place at the June Meeting.

Awards: Karen Miles & Karen Riekert agreed to serve on the committee to award the Irma Mae Prosser Award for Community Service.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM



Spring Special

Records of the Almshouse of Prince George's County, Maryland

The information in this book is a verbatim transcript of existing records consisting of: Commitment Journal 1927 to 1942; Letters of Commitment 1890 to 1940; Burial Permits 1909 to 1940 and Trustees Ledger 1866 to 1884. Records have been augmented with a sampling of Out Pensioners from the Maryland State Archives and a listing of the inmates housed at the Prince George's County Almshouse that appeared in the U.S. Federal Census 1850 to 1930. A by-product of the compilation is the almshouse cemetery with 114 burials. There is an every name index.

The contents of this book concerns only the Prince George's County Almshouse that was located in Forestville, Maryland and closed in 1965.

Voluminous records of the poor can be found in Proceedings of the Levy Court, Register of Wills (Orphans Court Proceedings), and the Records of the Prince George's County Board of County Commissioners, all of which can be found at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis.

For further research into the history of the poor in the County, we recommend an article that appeared in the **Maryland Historical Magazine**, Volume 96, Number 2, and Summer 2001 entitled :

"Objects of Distress": Inequality and Poverty in Early Nineteenth-Century Prince George's County"

by Steven Sarson. Another source would be the 1974 history of the Almshouse by John M. Walton, Jr. that he prepared for the Prince George's County government, i.e., the County Executive and County Council. Copies of his work:

"Final Report on the History of the Prince George's County Almshouse"

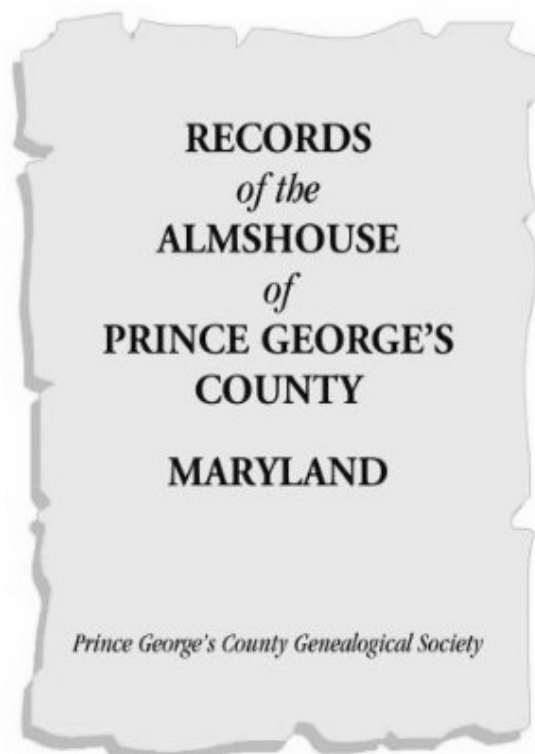
are available in several places including the Society Library.

Price \$23.00 non-members \$20.70 members.

Discounted for the Spring Edition of the Bulletin to \$19.75

(Maryland resident add 6% sales tax \$1.18) plus shipping \$2.85.

Order now. Offer expires July 31, 2009



It is Time to Renew Your Membership in PGC GS

If you can, add an additional contribution to the Society so that we can continue our activity. **This is the Time to Show Your Support for PGC GS**

Any Contribution is Welcome

but in any case:

Please Renew Your Membership in PGC GS



Prince George's County Genealogical Society, Inc.
Membership Renewal

Surname _____ First Name _____ Middle _____ Sr., Jr., Degree _____

If Family Membership, 2nd Name at Same Address: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ 9 Digit Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Check Here If Any Changes

Email: _____

Check One:	Full Year	2 Years	
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$22	<input type="checkbox"/> \$44	
Institution	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	

Please Make Checks
Payable to :
PGCGS

Support PGC GS: Additional Donation to PGC GS's General Fund: \$ _____

Total Submitted: \$ _____ Date: _____

Send with Check
Made out to PGC GS

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Attention: Membership Chairman
P. O. Box 819
Bowie, MD 20718-0819