



Poolesville Seniors took a guided tour of the C&O Canal given by Jon Wolz. See more pictures in Family Album on page 2.



Read the forgotten story of a local resident who fought for the Union at the Battle of Gettysburg on page 8.



The Poolesville Band was a thriving form of local entertainment. Perhaps it was misnamed. Find out why in Tidbits of the Past on page 11.



There was much excitement over the local sighting of this bird. The bird and details on page 12.

Discussion of Reopening White's Ferry Stalled

By Rande Davis

Although discussions regarding the closed status of White's Ferry have continued, the *Monocle* has not been able to confirm any substantive progress. Since the last report on January 8, the Brown family raised their offer to pay Rockland Farm, LLC for the perpetual right to use the landing on the Virginia side from \$250,000 to \$400,000.

There has been some dialogue between the two parties about Rockland Farm purchasing the ferry operation, but no acceptable offer has been presented by Rockland. Herb Brown offered to reopen the ferry for thirty days so that principals of Rockland Farm could better review and understand the operation to determine the viability of their purchasing White's Ferry. In return, Mr. Brown required that after the thirty-day

Continued on page 7.



Prospects for White's Ferry to reopen are diminishing.

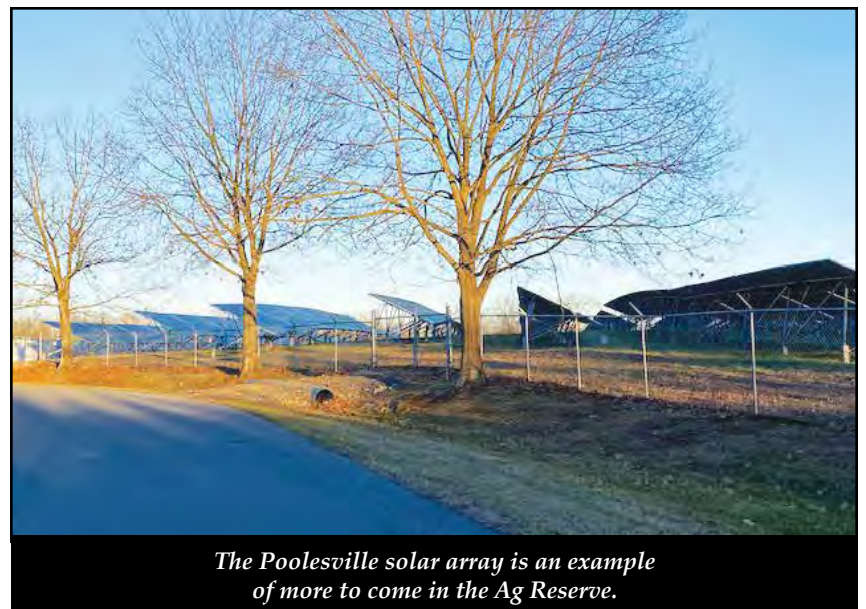
Stakeholders Group Agrees on Compromise for Ag Reserve Solar

By Doug Boucher

The group of stakeholders chosen by the Montgomery County Council to find compromises on the contentious issue of allowing community solar projects in the Agricultural Reserve (*Monocle*, August 28, 2020) successfully completed its work in early January. The eight-member group, evenly divided between those in favor and those opposed to the zoning amendment to allow solar (ZTA 20-01), agreed on six compromise recommendations.

The committee considering the legislation adopted five of the six recommendations on January 14 and was favorable to the sixth, which will require a separate bill. The committee then unanimously supported the compromise version of the ZTA

Continued on page 13.



The Poolesville solar array is an example of more to come in the Ag Reserve.

Family Album

Pop-Up Walks with Jon Wolz
For more information about this
and how to join the next walk, see
Senior News on page 6.



Town Government

Concerns about Bullying and Harassment At Parks Raised at Town Meeting

By Link Hoewing

A significant portion of the discussion at the January 19 Town of Poolesville Commissioners' meeting focused on concerns raised by some parents about incidents of harassment and bullying by some youth at local parks. President Kerri Cook noted that these concerns led to a meeting recently with Community Police Officer Tara Bond and School Resource Officer (SRO) Roberts. The discussion led Cook to invite Roberts and Bonds to the commission meeting.

Officer Bond said that one outcome of the meeting was to institute "check on patrols" where officers would visit areas more often where there have been concerns about threatening behavior. The idea is to try and identify incidents as soon as possible so that actions can be taken to counter them.

Roberts, as an SRO, is actually a police officer assigned to the high school. His job involves continuing contact with students, and he said that a few possibly offending students have already been identified. He may try to directly speak to these students and their parents about the matter.

Cook asked what the citizens of the town could do to help reduce the incidence of threatening behavior.

Bond replied that remaining vigilant is key. Citizens can call the non-emergency number, 301-279-8000, to report incidents that do not involve a serious threat and, of course, can call 911 in emergencies. The adage "see something, say something" applies in these situations because immediate reporting can help lead to identifying those who might be causing the disturbances.

Installing cameras at various locations was also discussed. Bond said cameras "might help," but there is a lot more involved in managing camera systems than simply installing them. Town Attorney Jay Gullo added that in order for such a system to be useful, it would have to be monitored on a 24/7 basis, and issues around liability are also a concern. Unlike private camera systems, video feeds on a public system can be requested by a simple public information request.

Commissioner Jim Brown mentioned that in his fourteen years of service, there have been periodic instances when vandalism or bad behavior by youth at parks has been an issue. The town has usually taken some actions—such as requesting increased police patrolling and requesting the help of citizens—and often the problems had subsided. He expressed special concern about installing cameras, including the liability issues.

Commissioner Ed Reed said that the youth behavior had to be looked at in a bigger context that includes how we better engage young people and include them in activities so that they are less likely to become active in bad behavior. He pointed out a proposal he has made to create a youth advisory council for the commission that he said might be a part of helping engage youth and youth mentoring programs.

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Rande(m) Thoughts The Window of Opportunity to Reopen the Ferry Is Fast Closing

By Rande Davis

It's more than three weeks into the closing of White's Ferry, and there is still no solution in sight. That's the bad news. The good news is that there has been communication between White's Ferry and Rockland Farm, LLC with an offer of a one-time payment of \$400,000 now on the table by the Browns for the use of a small piece of land that has no real value other than its importance to the ferry service. This is an increase from the original \$250,000 offer. The land along the river shoreline is so prone to flooding that no farming or building is possible.

Offers for settlement by Rockland Farm have proven to be non-starters for being so far out of line economically. A clean settlement or sale of the operation are the only two options acceptable to the Brown family as they will not partner with Rockland on the service.

The Browns have worked very hard in the past few weeks to try to come up with a solution. With no income currently from commuters, the ferry operation is spending an unacceptable amount of money and will not continue to do so much longer. Time is running out.

In the early 1950s, the agreed upon fee to use part of the Rockland land (when the land had a different owner) to place a cable pole to hold the line up high enough to work the cable-line was \$5.00 a year. The only reason for

that fee was to make the agreement legal, as contract law requires that both parties give something to establish a legal agreement. Ironically, it was that simple contract that established a "rental" of the landing that decades later was used by Rockland to sue White's Ferry and that the court used to designate the Browns as trespassers on the Virginia side.

We cannot determine if any role in trying to settle the dispute is being played by elected or governmental authorities in Virginia. In fact, we have every reason to believe they don't want the issue settled and prefer the ferry to stay closed. Traffic on Route 15, already a mess in Leesburg, will be an even greater nightmare to commuters in Virginia going forward, and we would think that Virginia resident dissatisfaction with the ferry closure would be enough to urge the authorities to take action. While the closure of the ferry may seem advantageous to Virginians preferring a bridge, the fruition of that hope is still twenty years down the road at best, and the short-term pain of gridlock on Route 15 will be heavily felt by Virginians.

The county could still officially designate the current site a public landing and pay Rockland the fair value of the land, which would almost certainly be far below the offers the Browns have made to date. For the sake of their own residents and constituents, Virginia officials should urge Rockland Farm, LLC to either settle with the Browns or face the possibility of the state initiating eminent domain. If the state or county did, both the residents and commercial enterprises in Leesburg would profit with the ferry once again open and everyone on both sides of the river benefitting rather than being held hostage in total disregard to the best interests of the public and commercial enterprises.

Local News

Bridge at Edwards Ferry Condemned

By Jack Toomey

If the closure of White's Ferry and its boat ramp were not enough, sportsmen from the area were dealt another blow when a bridge at Edwards Ferry was closed.

The small, one-lane bridge over the C&O Canal at Edwards Ferry was inspected by government inspectors

on January 6, and they found it to be in such dangerous shape that it was ordered closed. Engineers found that the steel support beams had rotted completely through. The bridge was built in 1950 and was refurbished in 1984.

Bikers, hikers, boaters, and fishermen routinely traverse the bridge to access the parking lot between the canal and the Potomac River.

Christina Hanson, a spokesperson for the C&O Historical Park system, said that engineers are trying to determine the best way to temporarily

Continued on page 7.



Edwards Ferry boat ramp is now inaccessible due to the closing of the bridge.

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Keeping an Eye on Local News

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Monocacy Health Update COVID-19 Update As of January 19

By Sam Hardwick

Wear masks, keep social distance of six feet, wash hands often, and avoid group gatherings as much as possible.

COVID-19 testing is now available at CVS and doctors' offices.

In Poolesville, Poolesville Family Practice (301-972-7600) also has the rapid fifteen-minute test available.

Cases of reported positive tests for COVID-19 by zip code:

	Cases	Deaths
20837	175	2
20839	53	3
20841	263	6
20842	<15*	1

Montgomery County

Total of all Cases Reported Positive: 53,304

Total deaths: 1,173

Percent of deaths per cases: 2.1%

Recovery Rate: 97.9%

Vaccines: Moderna

Doses Received: 19,700

Doses Administered: 18,198 (92%)

Status of Vaccination in County (montgomerycountymd.gov)

Phase 1A: Frontline healthcare workers, staff and residents of nursing homes, and first responders.

Schedule of Vaccination Schedule of implementation

Current

Phase 1B: 75+ must pre-register to schedule an appointment. Once additional doses of vaccine from MDH received, those registered will be contacted.

Phase 2B: Residents over 75, frontline essential workers.

Upcoming Vaccinations: Begins January 25, 2021

Phase 1C: Priority Group: Residents over 65, those with specific medical conditions.

Phase 2: People with critical infrastructure roles

Phase 3: General population



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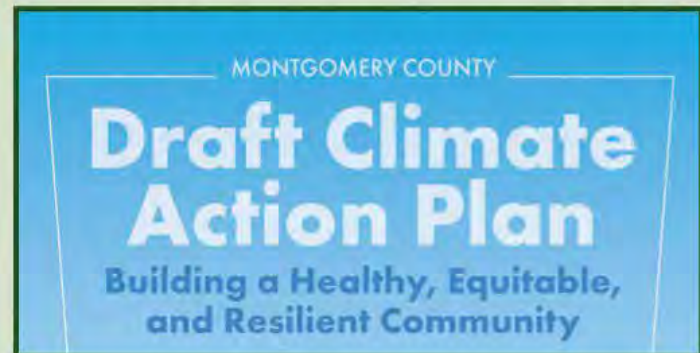
A Monocacy Moment



Poolesville High School 1961 Maryland State Boys' Basketball Champs:

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Offers Virtual Programs for the Community

For the months of January and February, Poolesville Seniors is offering a variety of virtual programs that will meet community needs for exercise, information, and socialization. Visit their website, poolesvilleseniors.org, for more information and to register for the Zoom link for each program. All virtual events are open to the entire community.

Mondays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic, 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesdays

Trivia Game Night

One team plays on Tuesday, and another team might be formed. If you're interested in joining a Trivia Team, email Poolesville Seniors at info@poolesvilleseniors.org. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Chair Yoga with Twyla Insalaco. 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Zumba Gold with Karen McPhatter. 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Pop-Up Walks with Jon Wolz

Back by popular demand, Jon will be narrating and leading more walks in the coming months. These will be planned and based on the three to five day forecast. Be prepared to join his walks by completing the Poolesville Seniors Liability Release Form on their webpage and emailing them to

indicate your interest. Watch your email, the Poolesville Seniors calendar, and their facebook page for dates and times as the walks are scheduled.

January 25

Monthly Book Club

Hosted by Michelle Roche, the first book for discussion is *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett. Join in for this fun, social, and intellectual event. 7:00 p.m.

January 26

Craft Event: Make a No-Knit Scarf

Chris Rickert and Annette Rosanelli of Needlepointers.com return with a winter craft. Attendees will follow along the demonstrated steps to make the no-knit scarf. A small fee is charged for this class. Materials will be delivered contact-free to each participant's door the day before. 1:00 p.m.

January 28

Spring Landscape Ideas from Outstanding Gardens

Welcome back Bernie Mihm of Fine Earth Landscape as he presents garden ideas from some of his favorite gardens, including the one he designed for then-Vice President and Dr. Jill Biden at the official vice president's residence. Bernie will also answer general gardening questions. 7:00 p.m.

February 4

Chocolate, a Gift of Love

Have you ever wondered what's in a chocolate bar, how it's made, and why it matters? Then join Maureen Ivusic as she demonstrates chocolate making. Attendees can watch or participate. Consult the Poolesville Seniors website for more information, including how to purchase a chocolate making kit if you wish to make chocolate along with Maureen. 7:00 p.m.

Continued on page 15.

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Continued from page 1.

Discussion of Reopening White's Ferry Stalled

period, should Rockland decide not to buy it, they would have to accept the \$400,000 payment for landing rights.

As the process and discussions appear stalled, Mr. Brown informed the *Monocle* that he has extended the pay to his employees from the end of January to the middle of February. As time goes by, the situation regarding employees becomes tenuous as, at some point, they may choose to leave on their own to pursue other opportunities. With their departure, the difficulties of reopening the ferry become even more challenging.

Although Mr. Brown has communicated with Montgomery County Councilman Andrew Friedson and Montgomery County acting director of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation Charles Conklin, the *Monocle* has not received any report about Montgomery County officials contacting their counterparts in Virginia to solicit assistance.

White's Ferry reported they would keep discussions of all possibilities open until January 22; however, after that, further discussions may come to an end. It appears that unless Rockland moves in a positive, promising way on offers made to them thus far or Montgomery County officials bring news of supportive steps to be taken by them or Virginia officials, the possibility of the ferry reopening becomes very bleak.

Continued from page 4.

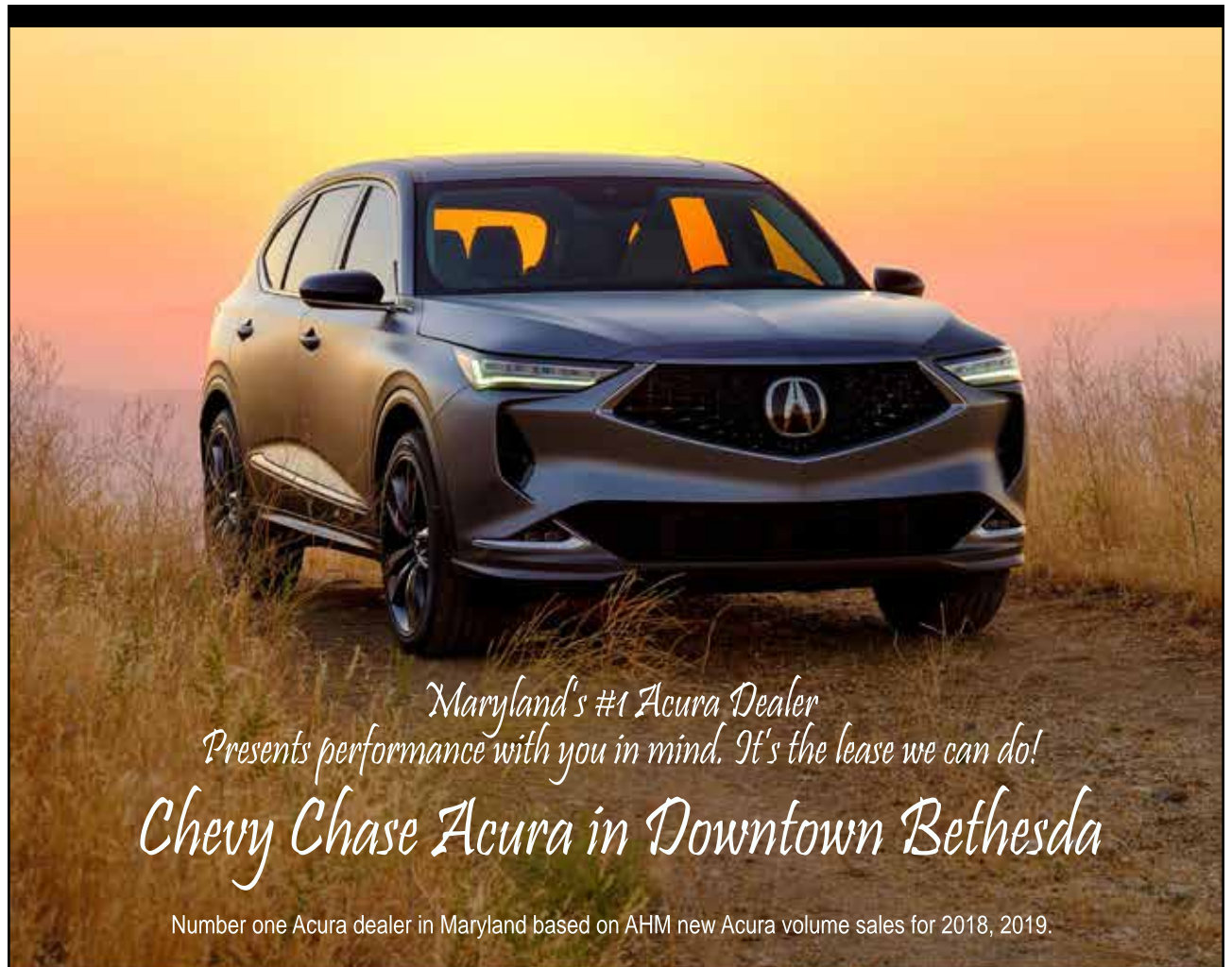
Bridge at Edwards Ferry Condemned

repair the bridge to allow access to the river. One alternative would be to place support beams under the bridge and, if that is feasible, park users with vehicles could access the park by the summer. After that, major repairs to the bridge would begin.

The nearest access points to the Potomac River is at Seneca, fifteen miles to the south, and Point of Rocks, fifteen miles to the north. Pedestrians are still allowed to cross the bridge and the towpath, and toilets are still available to the public.

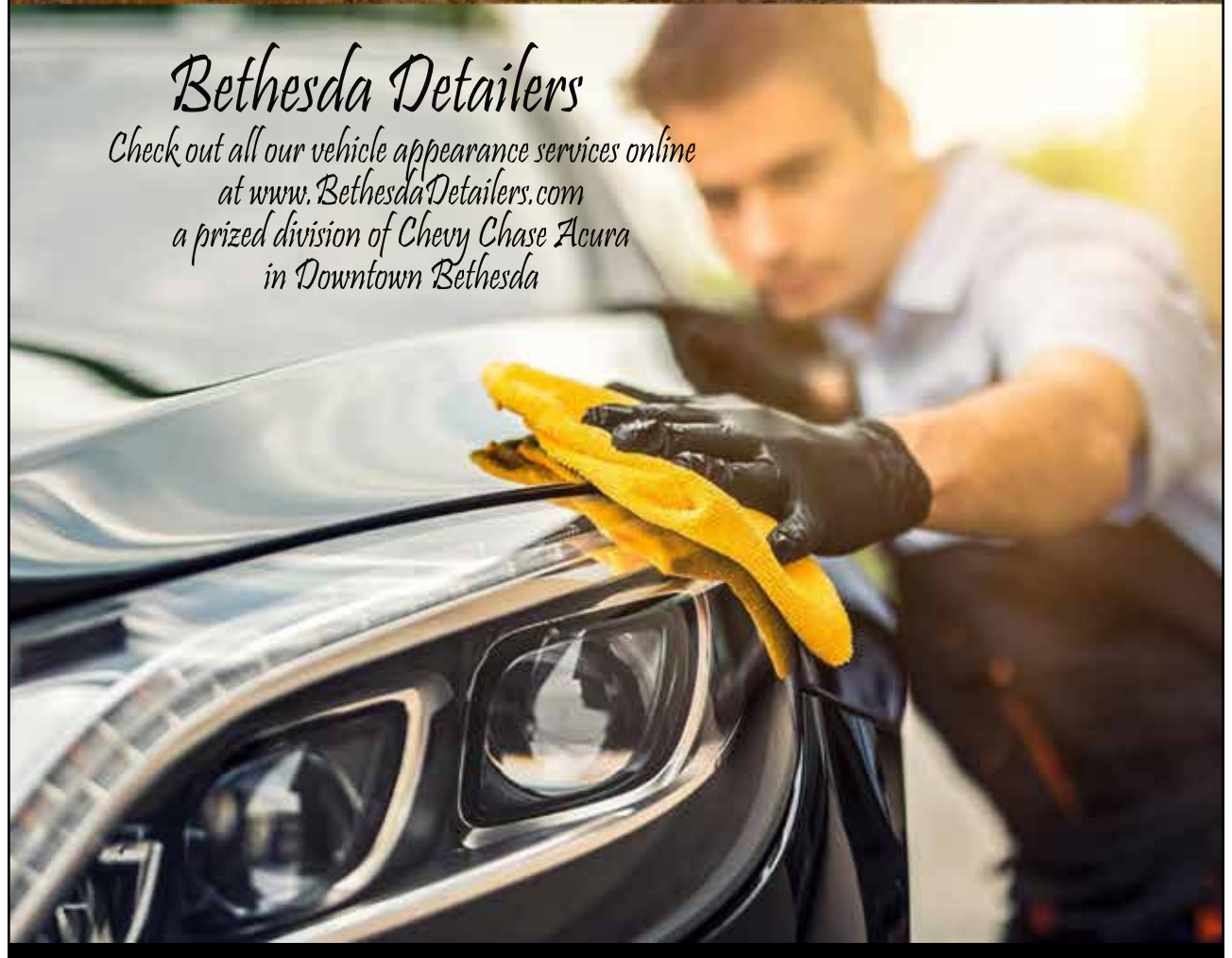
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In Your Own Backyard

The Forgotten Story of William Henry Rollison, Civil War Veteran and Ferryman

By Jon Wolz

As I walk along the C&O Canal, sometimes I wonder about people who once worked and lived along the towpath. I have compiled stories about people who lived in Lockhouses 26 and 27. I now have begun researching people who once lived in the lockhouse at Lock 25, Edwards Ferry. My research focused on the lockkeepers and their families. Sometimes, I further explore a family member, as I did in this case. In 1860, the lockkeeper for Lock 25 was William Henry Rollison. He was born May 13, 1812 and died November 1, 1893 and is buried in Union Cemetery in Lovettsville, Virginia. His second wife is buried there, too, and her name was Sarah Rebecca (Chiswell) Rollison.



White's Ferry crossing around 1900.

Living with William at the lockhouse was his son William, age 24, whose occupation was "boatman." In my research, son William had the same name as his father William, but the son was never identified as "junior," and the father was never identified as "senior." For the purpose of clarity in this story, I refer to the father as William Sr. and the son as William Jr. I did further research on William Jr. and found that he had a remarkably interesting life. He was born on June 6, 1836 in Leesburg, Virginia, fought in the Civil War for the Union, and was the ferryman at White's Ferry for twenty-eight years. In 1860, also living at the lockhouse was William Sr.'s daughter, Frances, age 20, and his son, John C. All three of the lockkeeper's children could read and write, unlike the lockkeeper who could not. Also living as a boarder at the lockhouse was John H. France, age 20, who was a laborer. William Sr. was married to Henrietta D. Solomon on August 31, 1834 in Loudoun County, Virginia. Henrietta was the mother of William Jr. and his two siblings. She appeared in the 1850 census; however, she was not in the 1860 census and is presumed to have died before 1860. There is no record of her death or burial. She was forty-five years old in 1850, so she was born about 1805.

In 1861, the Civil War began, and Edwards Ferry was at the war's front line. Union troops camped on the hillsides above Edwards Ferry, and in October 1861, the sounds of the Battle of Balls Bluff could be heard at Edwards Ferry.

On August 1, 1862, William Jr. enlisted in the Union Army as a private at Edwards Ferry. Also, on that day, an eighteen-year-old farmer from Loudoun County, George Clarkson, enlisted as a private with William at Edwards Ferry. George's father and older brother were both boatmen on the C&O Canal but lived on a farm in Loudoun County. The Clarksons were Quakers which may explain why George traveled north, crossing the Potomac River, to enlist in the Union Army. The two new enlistees signed up with the Maryland First Potomac Home Brigade. They immediately saw action at the Monocacy Aqueduct on September 4 and in Poolesville on September 5. From Poolesville, they camped at Sandy Hook near Harper's Ferry and were involved in the Siege of Harper's Ferry with other Union regiments from September 12 to 15. On September 15,

Continued on page 17.

Fun Fact...

Orchard Trees, January
By Richard Wilbur

It's not the case, though some
might wish it so
Who from a window watch
the blizzard blow

White riot through their
branches vague and stark,
That they keep snug beneath
their pelted bark.

They take affliction in until it jells
To crystal ice between their
frozen cells,

And each of them is inwardly
a vault
Of jewels rigorous and free
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Focus On: Poolesville, Dickerson, and Northwestern Montgomery County Housing Market December 2020



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Tidbits

Dead Bald Eagle at the C&O Canal

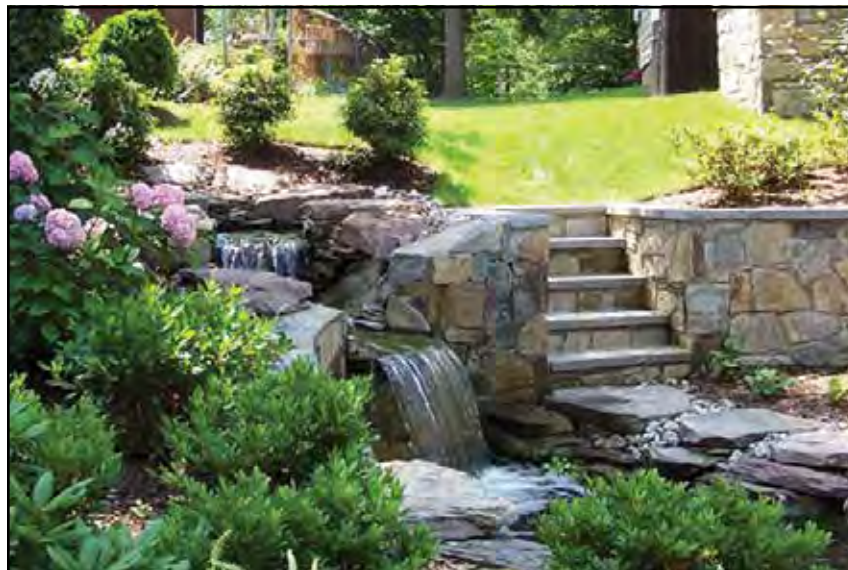
On a recent sunny and mild Sunday, members of the C&O Canal Association hiked to Latrobe's marble quarry where they heard historian Paul Kreingold tell the history of the quarry and its connection to the United States Capitol building. Walking back up the towpath, some of the participants noticed a dead bald eagle lying on the canal bank. Two of the hikers notified the C&O Canal National Historical Park about the dead bird. The park's Biological Science Technician, Layne Strickler, wrote Bonnie Bell, one of the individuals who reported the bald eagle, "After I retrieve the eagle, NPS will send it to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado for analysis and use for Native American religious and cultural purposes." Bonnie also spoke with a gentleman with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service who told her that this time of year they get several calls about dead eagles and found the cause of death was usually the result of territory fights over nesting sites and/or mates. He told Bonnie that this was probably the case since there is an occupied nest nearby. If you come across a dead bald eagle in the C&O Canal Historical Park, please contact Layne_Strickler@nps.gov and give him the location of the bird.

DAR Welcomes New Local Members

Hungerford's Tavern Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, welcomed six new members in 2020. From Poolesville are Leigh and Ann Peper who became members in October. The other four are from the Darnestown-Potomac area and include Leslie Gruis, Kathy Herrmann, Kelly McGannon, and Meg Freeburn, bringing the chapter membership to thirty-nine.

DAR members volunteer in support of education, patriotism, and historic preservation. Locally, the chapter is involved in supporting the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, Wreaths Across America and Veterans support groups, and in greeting new citizens during naturalization ceremonies.

Local Landscaper Does It Again



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Fine Earth Landscape has again won the landscaper category in *Bethesda Magazine's* annual Best of Bethesda survey. They have won this award every year since the award's inception. Fine Earth was founded in 1977, and they have been proud Poolesville residents since 1984.

Do you have a garden-related topic you would like to read about?

The *Monocle* welcomes your suggestions. Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Commemoration

1/15/2021: In honor of Maryland Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. Mike Miller, who died Friday, January 15, 2021. Senate President Emeritus Miller represented Legislative District 27.

1/14/2021: In honor of Master Police Officer Christine Peters of the Greenbelt Police Department who passed away January 14, 2021 from injuries sustained while on duty on January 2, 2021.

1/10/2021: In honor of United States Capitol Police Officers Brian D. Sicknick and Howard Liebengood, and all Capitol Police Officers and law enforcement.

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Tidbits of the Past

Music Festivals in Dickerson

By Rande Davis

Last fall, the *Monocle* published a picture of the Poolesville Marching Band which had its heyday in the 1940s and '50s. The photo was run as a mystery photo as we requested longtime residents to help us identify the participants in the band and provide a bit of history, too.

We heard from Judy Hockenbury and Ellen Zimmerman, who were members as the grand days of the Poolesville band came to a close. Both women are now retired and living in Frederick. In a way, the band was misnamed as a more appropriate name might have been the Dickerson Band or perhaps even the Matthews Family Band. Not only were many members from the Matthews family, but the band was located on the site of their family farm where Linden Farms on Martinsburg Road is located now. Many readers will recognize this site where the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association gathers for meetings in the restored dairy barn.



*First Row: Mr. Holland and 2nd Band Director Roy Swank.
Second row: Charles Knill, Earl Stottlemeyer, and Doris Lewis Matthews.
Third row: Harold Thompson, unidentified, Edith Thompson, Frank Knill,
Vivian Matthews, Elmer Orme, unidentified, Walter K. Matthews,
Roger Bodmer, Herbert Matthews, and Mr. Smoot.*

In the earlier days of the band's history, there was a park at the farm site called Linden Park which was the venue for many music events and festivals which featured performances by the band. In past days, other bands from Frederick would often perform there as well while these special entertainment events would have been advertised on WFMD radio. The Poolesville Band also performed offsite at church events and other carnivals and would often participate in area parades.

In time, electricity was added to the dairy barn which was run to the park. The park had a bandstand and other outdoor facilities for the convenience of the public. As family members moved away from Dickerson, the band began to drift away, although there were some elements still active as recently as the early 1980s.

Do you have any interesting local history or fun facts to share with our readers?

The *Monocle* welcomes your contribution.

Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com



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Monocacy Nature and Wildlife

Colorful Wayward Visitor Delights Park Visitors

By Susan Petro

Silver Spring resident Chris Coleman had no idea that an afternoon hike at Great Falls National Park on December 30 would lead to the discovery of a colorful wayward visitor that would delight scores of visitors, birders, and local photographers for weeks to come. The sighting of a rare painted bunting (*Passerina ciris*) even made the local and national news.

Coleman and his wife were just finishing up a hike at the park and were walking back towards the parking lot when he spotted a flash of red out of the corner of his eye across the canal from the towpath. At first, he thought the bright red coloring belonged to a cardinal, but when the bird landed, he realized the little bird didn't have enough red to match up with his initial guess.

Instead, the brightly-colored bird had hues of reds, blues, yellows, and green. Luckily, Coleman had his camera with him and, as he got a closer look through his viewfinder, he realized he had found a painted bunting. He snapped a few photos and posted his find to a variety of social media sites.



The local sighting of the colorful painted bunting was very rare.

Within hours, news of his find spread, and the little painted bunting became a viral sensation. Visitors from near and far flocked to the park in hopes of catching a glimpse.

After a little research, Coleman discovered just how rare a painted bunting sighting in Maryland is. Their normal territory is much further south in Georgia, Florida, and points south. In the winter, their range is usually the southern tip of Florida, parts of Mexico, and the Caribbean. How the bunting ended up so far off course is a mystery. There have been only a few other documented sightings in Maryland over the years. He was indeed a very rare find.

Weeks later, the bunting is still hanging out near the same area in which he was originally sighted. On most days, dozens or more photographers and fans line up to see the bunting foraging near the canal and towpath. He doesn't seem to realize what a celebrity he has become.

The bunting is often well-hidden and challenging to find, but other enthusiasts are usually willing to point out the location to others hoping for a sighting. He typically hangs out near Lock 17 or off a trail just below the lock. As of this writing, the little bunting is thriving and still delighting visitors, but it's anyone's guess how long he'll stay.

Great Falls is a beautiful place to visit, hike, and explore even if the bunting doesn't make an appearance. To learn more, visit www.nps.gov.



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Monocacy Critters

Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures*



Susan Petro took this picture of a beautiful leucistic (similar to albino) red-tailed hawk. She observed, "It's like watching an angel in flight."

*Do you have an unusual or funny picture of an pet or animal?
Mail or email the picture to editor@monocacymonocle.com
or P.O. Box 372, Barnesville, MD 20838

Continued from page 1.

Stakeholders Group Agrees on Compromise for Ag Reserve Solar

and forwarded it to the council which is expected to pass it by the end of January.

The Stakeholders Workgroup was appointed in November by Councilmembers Riemer and Katz and had two members each representing environmentalist groups (Sierra Club and Poolesville Green), preservationist groups (Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, Montgomery Countryside Alliance), farmers, and the solar industry.

The compromise amendments supported by the group after five Zoom meetings included strongly opposing solar projects larger than two megawatts (between eight and fourteen acres). All area associated with a project would be counted towards the legislation's cap of 1,800 acres (two percent of the Reserve), and the county's Office of Agriculture would be involved in reviewing projects. The increased tax revenue from solar would be used to promote agriculture in the Reserve.

The tax revenue recommendation would give preference to Black and Hispanic farmers, who are only one to two percent of the county's farmers despite being almost half of the county's population. It would also favor young farmers, agricultural preservation, and producing more "table crops" — those for human consumption rather than livestock feed or landscaping. Separate legislation, expected to be introduced soon, will be required for this proposal since it involves taxes and spending rather than zoning.

The two sides did not agree on several other ideas. These included a proposal from the farmer/preservationist side to approve solar-only as a "conditional use" (formerly called a "Special Exception") and a proposal from the environmentalist/solar side to restrict pesticide use on pollinator-friendly vegetation under solar panels.

Despite the lack of total agreement, the successful outcome of the Stakeholder Workgroup's search for consensus was praised by several councilmembers at the January 14 committee meeting. Leslie Elder, co-chair of the Workgroup, described the group's ability to find common ground despite strongly-held positions as "a celebration of democracy."

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Remembrances

Mary Ellen Burdette

Mary Ellen Burdette, 84, of Dickerson, went to see Jesus on January 7, 2021. Born on April 9, 1936 in Seneca, Maryland, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Gladys Barton. She was survived by and was the loving wife of William C. Burdette, Jr. Mary Ellen is survived by her brother, Aubrey Barton (Betty); her daughter, Sue Vasquez (Leo), son Jeff Burdette (Sandra), and daughter Cindi Hawfield (Robert); six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; as well as several cousins, nieces, and nephews. She was predeceased by four brothers and four sisters. Bill and Mary Ellen were married on May 12, 1956 and celebrated sixty-four years of marriage.

Mary Ellen was a graduate of Gaithersburg High School. She worked in the Montgomery County School system from 1965 to 1994 as a nursing tech, teacher's assistant, and for the last twenty-seven years was the cafeteria manager of Monocacy Elementary School. She was well known for her homemade rolls and peanut butter fudge. Well loved by the students and staff, no one ever went hungry when Mary Ellen was in charge. She always enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and their activities, attending all their events and cheering them on in their successes. Mary Ellen organized many great family reunion celebrations over the years, bringing folks together from miles away to enjoy great food and fellowship.

She was a devoted member of the Dickerson United Methodist Church for fifty-seven years. Mary Ellen was the president of the United Methodist Women for many years and worked on the committees that sponsored events for the church members and community. She and Bill enjoyed square dancing and camping with their friends and family. Mary Ellen knew no strangers and actively supported anyone in need.

She will always be remembered for her big heart, friendly smile, and for her faith and service to God.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be sent to Wounded Warriors, Shriners Hospital, or Hospice of Frederick County.



Mary Ellen Burdette

Joe Parr

Joe Parr passed away quietly with his wife of fifty-seven years, Ann, by his side. He was born in San Antonio, Texas, on July 10, 1939, to Josephus Overton Parr, Jr. and Katherine Leigh Parr. He graduated from Rice University in 1961 and received his PhD in Economics from Tulane University in 1964. He met Ann at a Mardi Gras party and was married in her hometown of Edison, Georgia. He was excited to join the new field of data systems management and his employment took the family from coast to coast until settling in Potomac in 1976.

When not working, Joe enjoyed golf, puzzles, and using paper napkins at the dinner table to work out mechanical designs, math, and other problems. In retirement, he participated in the lively fellowship of the nearby Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. In 2016, Joe and Ann moved to Ingleside at King Farm in Rockville.

Joe is survived by his wife Ann; his daughters Katry Harris and Josie Welling; son-in-law David Welling; and grandchildren, Kendall Welling and Carter Welling. He was considered a second father to several of his nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Katherine Reams.

Joe will be interred at Boyds Presbyterian Church, family only. In lieu of flowers, consider a contribution to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (mail to: Osher JHU, Attn: Susan Howard, 9601 Medical Center Dr., Rockville, MD 20850) or the National Ataxia Foundation.



Joe Parr

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Remembrance

Geraldine Claire Johnson

Geraldine Claire Johnson, 71, of Poolesville, passed away on January 6, 2021. She was the loving wife of Clarence M. Johnson for fifty years. Born on May 8, 1949 in Reading, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Paul Daniel and Hope Cheney (Warren) Davis.



Geraldine Claire Johnson

In addition to her husband, Geraldine is survived by her two sons, Derek Van Johnson and Ryan Welden Johnson; her mother-in-law, Nell Gates; sister, Phyllis Anne Graves; two brothers, Byron Winfield Davis and Cornell Warren Davis; her stepmother, Pearl Williams Davis; a niece, Nicole Graves; a nephew, Cornell Garrett; and an aunt, Bernice McRae. Preceding Geraldine in death were an aunt, Marion Toler; and five uncles, Charles Warren, Raymond Davis, Larry Davis, Bobby Davis, and Freddy Davis.

Geraldine Claire Johnson (professionally known as Geraldine Claire) was an author, playwright, and songwriter. She wrote a four-book Harbingers series (*Harbingers of Spring*, *Harbingers of Summer*, *Harbingers of Autumn*, and *Harbingers of Winter*), detailing the trials and tribulations of a well-to-do family living in upper-crust Potomac, Maryland. She also authored a children's book of poems and music, *A Family Still*, *United Nations*, extolling the bravery and resilience of children around the world confronted with natural tragedies, such as Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Haiti, and man-made destruction, such as the 9/11 terrorist attack. She also wrote a musical play, *Greener Grass*, whose setting was a golf course; a screenplay, *Shields of Honor*; and a musical, *One Last Go Round*. These and other projects were set for production at the DeRyan Theatre Workshop which she founded and for which she served as its artistic director until illness forced her to cease activities.

The Davis family moved from Reading, Pennsylvania to the Germantown section of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1955, when Geraldine was six years old. A self-proclaimed tomboy, she played mostly with her brothers and their friends and, to her enjoyment and their chagrin, often beat them in bicycle racing around the neighborhood, but her pure enjoyment came in listening to her father sing opera. A graduate of the Julliard School of Music, he was a local celebrity and had performed abroad, including at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Geraldine had inherited his talent and spent hours singing while listening to LP (long-playing) albums on a stereo system that her father had installed throughout the house. Although she liked opera, she loved show tunes and theatre music, so while her friends were listening to the Temptations' "My Girl," she cuddled up with Barbara Streisand's "Funny Girl."

Geraldine attended Germantown High School where she excelled in English and writing classes and she sang in the choir. At seventeen, she met a nineteen-year-old Temple University sophomore named Clarence Johnson. Clarence had asked Byron, Geraldine's brother, for her phone number after he had heard that she was a "fox." Initially, she didn't like Clarence, especially his corny jokes, but he persisted, and one day, when he rolled up in a 1963 red and white Ford Thunderbird to pick her up from school, the handwriting—"eventual marriage"—was on the wall.

In 1969, Clarence was drafted into the army and stationed at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C. They married in 1970 and moved to Arlington, Virginia across the river from Fort McNair. Within two years, Clarence had been honorably discharged, Geraldine had given birth to her first son, Derek, and the family had moved to a small house with a swimming pool in Chillum, Maryland. Geraldine, not much of a swimmer, often sunbathed while writing songs and singing to her toddler. In 1979, a second son, Ryan, was born, and, two years later, the family moved to a bigger home in Calverton, Maryland. By then, she had become a physical fitness devotee, determined to keep her lifelong petite size, so while the kids were at school, she would jog in the park, play tennis, and work out at a local gym several times a week. At home, she would often exercise with weights and jog on the treadmill.

As the years passed, Geraldine yearned to get back into writing and music. She put her work in sales and in real estate on hold and took writing courses at Strayer College and music courses at the University of Maryland. Soon, she

began writing songs again and, after a prolonged period of false starts, teamed with a musician and arranger to produce the body of work that would eventually become the content for her musicals.

By the time the family moved to Poolesville in 2006, she was hard at work on the Harbingers series. Thus, *Harbingers of Spring* was published in 2008, *Harbingers of Summer* in 2011, *Harbingers of Autumn* in 2012, and *Harbingers of Winter* in 2014. The children's storybook, *A Family Still*, *United Nations*, was published in 2015.

A memorial service will be held after pandemic restrictions on large gatherings are lifted.

Continued from page 6.

Senior News

February 11

Mystery History: Abe Lincoln's Attachment to Poolesville

Rande Davis of the *Monocacy Monocle* will share a few stories about President Abraham Lincoln's connections with Poolesville, including how Poolesville became internationally known during the Civil War. 7:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and to receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors' website: poolesvilleseniors.org. Did you know that you don't need a computer to participate? You can join our Zoom presentations using your smartphone or listen in using the local telephone number from Zoom and the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and password. Call or text us at 301-875-7701 to find out how.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 22700 block of Clarksburg Road.

Theft: 17100 block of Old Baltimore Road, 25500 block of Old Hundred Road.

Past Crime: 1910 to 1915

Sheriff Whalen kept up his efforts to apprehend the attacker of Miss Ana Bell. Whalen stated that all clues in his possession had been investigated and exhausted. Whalen spent a day mingling with the crowds at the Rockville Fair on the hunch that the culprit might be mingling among the crowds in hopes of slipping out of town. Miss Bell said that she was certain that her assailant was blind in one eye. She was said to be recovering from the shock of her encounter but was still bedridden.

Sheriff Howard spent a Sunday afternoon touring the county looking for violations of the Blue Laws. For a time, the laws had been enforced, but there had been a lag in this effort. Howard was accompanied by a deputy and a magistrate. They visited the resorts on Conduit Road, Cabin John, and Chevy Chase Lake. Howard reminded shopkeepers that the sale of

ice cream, soda water, and cigars was illegal on Sundays. At the time, the laws also prohibited a man from kissing his wife on Sunday, but the law had not been enforced for almost a hundred years.

Deputy Sheriff Brooke was seriously injured when a car turned sharply in front of him while he was chasing a fast car up the Rockville Pike. Brooke later said that a powerful touring car was speeding up the road and, while he was trying to catch up with it, another car containing two Washington men turned in front of him, causing him to crash into a tree on Main Street in Rockville. Brooke estimated that the car that he was chasing was going forty-eight miles per hour. The two men in the wrecked car were arrested. The driver was found to be the owner of an automobile sales company in Washington. He did not have the necessary collateral, so the magistrate allowed him to return to his home in Washington with the promise that he return to Rockville court the next morning.

Bernard Sherwood and a companion were riding their motorcycles on the Rockville Pike when they suddenly came upon a buggy. Sherwood crashed into the rear of the buggy and was impaled by the shaft; he suffered fatal injuries. A companion took off in pursuit of the buggy and was able to flag down the driver. The companion told spectators that

they were traveling slowly due to the darkness of the road and the prevalence of slow-moving and unlighted buggies on the roadway. Sheriff Howard was not notified until late at night and said that he would start his investigation the next morning.

William Barnsley, Jr., the son of a prominent Montgomery County farmer, disappeared from the farm that he managed for his uncle. He had been missing for two weeks when he suddenly reappeared and told a fantastic story of being kidnapped at gunpoint and taken to places such as Norfolk and Richmond. A week after he disappeared, his uncle received a letter from Barnsley asking for help. The letter was postmarked Franklin, Virginia. The states attorney and sheriff initially believed him, but when he was interviewed a second time, his story began to change, and he admitted that he had made up the entire story. He admitted that the two men did exist, but he had not been kidnapped. He said that he had gone to Washington with the men and, after a night of drinking, they all decided to go to Ocean View, Virginia. When he decided to go home, he felt embarrassed and then concocted the story.

Some of the material in this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.



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interesting story to share?
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Poolesville

By the Benztown Bard
(Folger McKinsey 1866-1910)

Not far away, old Sugar Loaf
Rears lofty to the skies,
And through Montgomery's
rolling fields
The voice of beauty flies.
Not far away Potomac flows
And the old canal's asleep —
And every garden has a rose
And here the old
dreams creep.
Old churches, gentle memories,
Schools, stores — and over all

The fragrance of the old estates
With stained and ivied wall.
Phantoms of wars long fought
and done,
The saber's gleam, the shot —
And shadows of old village folk
None ever have forgot.
Oh, village 'mid the miles of wheat,
The corn, the rye, the grass,
No longer through your ancient road
The lumbering coaches pass;
But ever looking down on you
The mountains guard your rest —
Sweet Poolesville, with a rose
to dream
Upon your quiet breast.



Photos from www.historicmedley.org.



By permission of the
Baltimore Sun papers.

Continued from page 8.

The Forgotten Story of William Henry Rollison, Civil War Veteran and Ferryman

12,700 Union troops surrendered and marched to Camp Parole near Annapolis where the men awaited to be exchanged with Confederate prisoners of war.

By June 1863, both William and George had been exchanged; however, George was sent home to recover from smallpox in January 1863. In June, they were with their regiment at Point Lookout, Maryland, and from there they marched from June 25 to July 2 to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. William was now a corporal. The regiment fought at Culp's Hill on July 2 and 3. William received a "slight wound to the cheek" during the battle. From July 5 to 24, they pursued the Confederates back into Virginia. The regiment fought at the Battle of the Monocacy on July 9, 1864 and was assigned to guard duty at Harper's Ferry and the surrounding area until April 1865. In 1865, the regiment was reformed into Company E, 13th Maryland Regiment. The regiment mustered out in Baltimore on May 29, 1865. William finished his service as a sergeant, and George remained a private throughout the war.

On January 2, 1865, William Sr. married Sarah Rebecca Chiswell in Montgomery County. She and William Sr. would have five children together. Their first son, George, was born in Poolesville on November 15, 1865 in Maryland. When William Jr. came home from the war, his father had remarried, and his father's new wife was expecting. In 1870, the family was living on a farm near Lucketts, Virginia. William Sr. was a laborer and William Jr.'s brother John's occupation was "boating." William Sr. was 58, Sarah Rebecca was 38. William Jr. was now 28 and was a laborer.

In 1871, Elijah V. White bought Conrad's Ferry and hired William Jr. to be his ferryman. In October 1872, William Jr. married Harriett Clarkson, born in 1848 in Loudoun County, the younger sister of George Clarkson who fought with William throughout the Civil War. William Jr. and Harriett moved to the Maryland side of the ferry and began a family together. Their first child Charles was born in 1874 in Poolesville. They would have five children together. In 1900, William Jr. was still a ferryman living with Harriet and four of their children. Son Charles was now 26 and was a level walker on the C&O Canal. Charles was married to Laura Rollison who was 18. Also living in the residence were the three other sons of William Jr. and Harriett, William H. 19, Thomas 15, and George 11, plus nephew Leonard Beavers 12 and Sady Beavers 16. Also, Frederick Miller who was a boarder age 45 and was a boatman on the C&O Canal.

In an old *Washington Evening Star* article, I found the following:

General and Personal News From Montgomery County's Capital. ROCKVILLE, Md. December 28, 1900. Mr. William Rollison, the well-known ferryman at White's Ferry, this county, died Sunday from injuries received in an accident the previous day. While ferrying a wagon loaded with coal and when about halfway across the river, one of the horses attached to the wagon became fractious. When Mr. Rollison went to the assistance of the teamster and was knocked down by the frightened animal. Before he could regain his feet, the front wheel of the heavy wagon passed over his body and a second later the horses began to back, the wheel again passing over him. He sustained internal injuries, and although given prompt medical attention, he died, as stated.

Charles Rollison took over his father's job and was the ferryman until 1918. William Jr. was buried in the Monocacy Cemetery. His gravestone reads, "WM. H. ROLLISON June 6, 1863 Dec 23, 1900." There is a GAR star with the dates 1861-1865 affixed to a stick standing beside the gravestone. His wife Harriett's name appears on the gravestone, too, and she died in 1911.

In 1870, George Clarkson was aged 25 and was a boatman but was living on his father's farm in Loudoun County. In 1880, George was still a boatman, and he died on December 25, 1886. He is buried in Union Cemetery in Leesburg, Virginia. On his gravestone there is a large shield of the Union Army. Carved on the stone, it says, "GEO. CLARKSON CO. E. 13 MD. INF." George never married.

Now you know the story of Sgt. William Henry Rollison and some of the people he interacted with in his lifetime. He is a local hero from our own backyard who should not be forgotten.

Remembrance

Anna Jones Robbins

Anna Jones Robbins passed away on Sunday, December 13 in Catonsville, Maryland at the age of 75.

She was born July 5, 1945 to the late Lloyd James Jones, Jr. and Louise Hersperger Jones. Anna graduated from St. John's in Frederick in 1963 and from the University of Maryland in 1967 with a BA in Interior Design.

Anna worked most of her life in Interior Design and related business. Following a lengthy employment at Leonard's Draperies in Beltsville, she worked closer to home at Potomac Valley Builders.

Her joys in life included spending time with family, her church, and crafting. She spent many hours working on art projects of all types. Anna was also a devoted member of the Living Word Bible Fellowship where she was involved in bible studies, children's summer camp, and missionary support.

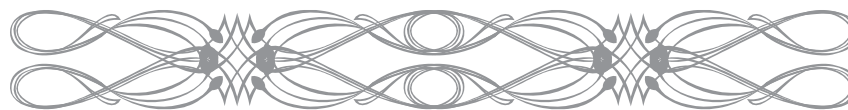
Throughout the lengthy illness that ultimately took her life, she was firmly supported by a close network of family, local, and church friends.

Anna is survived by her son Lloyd Page Robbins; sister Eleanor Bings; daughter-in-law Nancy Robbins; two granddaughters; and a number of nieces and nephews.

A memorial will be held at some point in the future. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Living Word Bible Fellowship in Boyds.



Anna Jones Robbins



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Remembrances

Thomas Musser

On January 2, 2021, Thomas William Musser, Jr. died at his home in Boyds.

Tom was born on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts on April 6, 1944.

Tom attended St. Martin's Catholic School and Gaithersburg High School. He played football for Montgomery College, receiving Little All-American Honors in both offense and defense. Tom loved to hunt and fish with fishing becoming his primary passion in more recent years. He owned the most feared boat in the fleet, "Kat Attack," which earned him Captain of the Year Honors. Tom lived his life with love and generosity. He has a large extended Musser family, many good fishing buddies, and great friends and business friends.

Tom began his business T.W. Musser, Inc. over forty years ago and worked hard to make it successful.

Tom is survived by his loving wife, Cheryl A. Musser; sons, Thomas W. Musser III (Cathi), Patrick O. Musser (Jody); stepdaughter, Michelle L. Koll (Rich); stepson, Scott R. Reeside (Amy); sisters, Barbara Musser and Theresa McCoy; and seven grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Suite 100, Rockville, MD 20850.



Thomas Musser

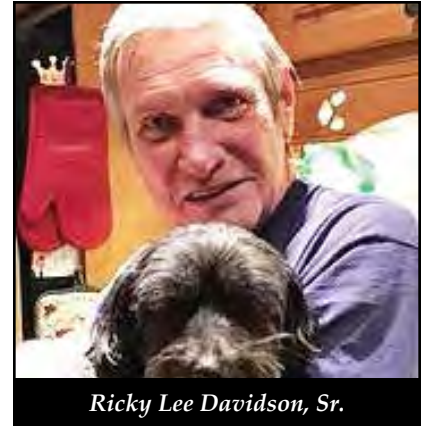
Ricky Davidson

Ricky Lee Davidson, Sr., 70, of Monrovia, passed away on January 13, 2021. He was the loving husband of Kathryn (Booth) Davidson. Born February 14, 1950 in Poolesville, he was the son of the late John E. and Dorothy E. Davidson.

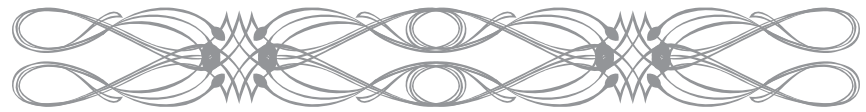
Ricky is survived by five children, Annabelle Davidson of Brunswick, Ricky Davidson, Jr. and wife Kathryn also of Brunswick, Evelyn Davidson of Hagerstown, Michael Zajdel and wife Jessi of Frederick, and Lindsay Zajdel and friend Ricky Shaw of Monrovia; nine grandchildren; several uncles, aunts, nephews, and nieces; and many longtime friends.

Besides his parents, Ricky was preceded in death by his brother John E. Davidson, sister Patricia Lenhart, and granddaughter Meghan Davidson (2020).

Ricky ("Rick") is fondly remembered by many for his quick sense of humor and extensive automotive repair skills, having been a long-time automotive mechanic in Poolesville in his early years. There wasn't anything he couldn't fix or any joke left untold.



Ricky Lee Davidson, Sr.



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Thank You One and All

Adapted by Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

As the most challenging and unique times of all our lives continue to unfold, I want everyone in every aspect of my life to know how grateful I am and that I want to say Thank You.

We have a long way to go before there is a normal-like return to our lives. A COVID vaccine begins to give us hope for the future, but a spike in the COVID case numbers makes us continue to be proactively careful in our day-to-day lives.

To my coworkers at Poolesville Veterinary Clinic, Thank You for continuing to work so hard and keep a positive attitude in the face of your own personal risks being frontline caregivers to our many patients. It is an honor to work with you and to see your tireless efforts.

To our clients who have learned to adapt and shift the way they must interact with us during this Pandemic, Thank You. Staying in your car while your best furry friend comes into our veterinary clinic for care or surgery can be hard. Please know we all treat them as if they were our own pets while they are here. We have a ways to go before the State of Maryland allows us to have clients back in the building, but a return to some normalcy will happen, and we will continue to be here for you and your four-legged family members.

To our patients who understand Thank You by getting some well-deserved spray cheese, a good hypo-allergenic treat, or a head scratch/ear scratch/back scratch, Thank You. You are our top priority, the focus of our efforts to give full service veterinary care, and the reason we do what we do here at Poolesville Veterinary Clinic.

We all here at Poolesville Veterinary Clinic love animals. We have a strong desire to care for them and want to earn your trust in our care for your furry friends. Please know we will be here every step of the way as the Pandemic resolves and we see the light at the end of the COVID tunnel.

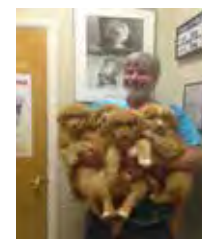
Please keep yourselves safe,

Peter H. Eeg BSc, DVM

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