



# MUSEUM MEMOS

Mt. Airy Museum Newsletter



VOLUME 22 NUMBER 1

Winter 2022

## Mount Airy Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner

The 2020 Class of the Mount Airy Hall of Fame will finally be officially inducted at the Historical Society of Mount Airy's annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. The ceremony and dinner will be held at the American Legion Home on Prospect Road in Mount Airy.

Tickets from 2020 will be honored. Some tickets are still available and on sale at the Mount Airy Museum.

The social hour begins at 5:00 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m. and ending with the induction ceremony.

The long-awaited inductees are Phil Dorsey, Sandy Cullison deWitt Dutterer, Evaleen Moxley Leon, Ruth Schmidt, Larry Valett.

Please join us to honor our new, well-deserving and very patient Hall of Fame Inductees, to socialize with good friends, and to enjoy a delicious dinner.

## Boxes and Bags Bingo

The Boxes and Bags Bingo has been rescheduled to June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 because of the high number of cases of COVID in our area that followed the holidays. We are hoping with better weather and the rapid drop in cases lately, this will not be a problem in June.

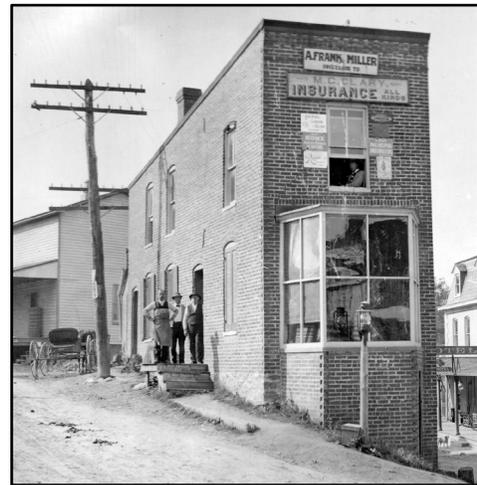
Prizes include filled "boxes" (tools, lunch, pizza, etc. And designer handbags: Coach, Kate Spade, Dooney and Bourke, Michael Kors, Vera Bradley and Spartina.

This event is a major fund raiser for the Historical Society and benefits the Historical Society, the Mount Airy Museum, Rails-to-Trails and MAC the Caboose.

For more information and for ticket purchase, visit our website [www.historicalsocietyofmountairymd.org](http://www.historicalsocietyofmountairymd.org). Please join us for this special, fun event.

## Preserving the Historic Smith Building

William E.T. Smith was a harness maker who came to Mount Airy in the summer of 1886. Originally from Urbana, his daughter was born on January 28, 1886, and the family moved to Mount Airy when she was just six months old.<sup>1</sup> Smith served Mount Airy's agricultural needs by establishing a two-story, wooden framed harness shop on the corner of Main Street and Camp Avenue (later known as Park Avenue) in 1887. Unfortunately, Smith's harness shop burned down in the great fire of February 25, 1903. The fire started in Adam Ruland's bakery on South Main Street and the flames soon spread and ignited Smith's harness shop across the street.<sup>2</sup>



But Smith successfully rebuilt, and this time in brick. The American Sentinel newspaper in Westminster, Maryland reported in October of 1903 "Mr. E.T. Smith has completed his handsome new three-story brick building which he will use as a harness shop, store, or display room, with two office

**Continued on Page 2**

<sup>1</sup> Interview of Smith's daughter by E. Normandy, History of Mount Airy, (Ref Pg. 11)

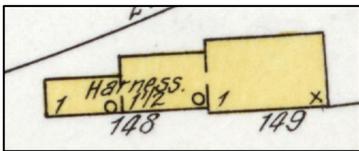
<sup>2</sup> Democratic Advocate, February 28, 1903 (et. al. 1903 Fire Articles)

## Preserving Smith Building (Continued from page 1)

rooms on the third story and a glass front store room on the ground floor. It is a great improvement over the old two-story frame structure.”<sup>3</sup>

Although it was commonly known as the Smith Building in the early days, we have since come to know this iconic building in Mount Airy as the Flat Iron Building. The name originates from the unique, triangular, architectural design commonly situated on an angular street corner and resembling an old fashioned flat iron. Smith continued to operate a harness shop in the newly erected brick building, and over the years leased the upper floors to a barber shop, a drug store, a music shop, and an insurance office.<sup>4</sup>

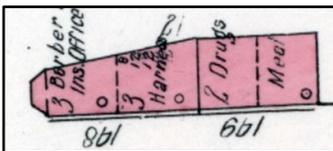
Perhaps the most prominent tenant of the Smith Building was the insurance man, A. Frank Miller. In 1902, Frank was an office boy working in the insurance business for Morgan G. Clary.<sup>5</sup> Clary had started the firm in Mt. Airy in 1891.<sup>6</sup> In 1904, Clary died leaving the business to his widow, who shortly afterwards entered into a partnership with Frank operating out of the Smith Building. They remained partners for the next two years and thereafter Frank was successful on his own.<sup>7</sup> The Smith Building prominently displayed Miller’s sign for many years, and Frank advertised in The Mount Airy Messenger, with catchy phrases such as “Insurance that Insures! A. Frank Miller, Smith Building, Mt. Airy, MD.....”<sup>8</sup>



1899



1904



1911



1921

Prior to his death on October 28, 1914,<sup>9</sup> Smith modified the building several times. Additional square footage was obtained from the late Byron Dorsey and his wife, as well as the town of Mt. Airy.<sup>10</sup> Changing details of the building can be seen in each of the Sanborn Insurance Company fire maps of Mt. Airy for the years 1899, 1904, 1911, and prior to 1921.<sup>11</sup> Additions and alterations to the building are apparent and observable in a few early photographs as well. Around 1917, the building fell into the possession of a relative, Charles A. Smith, and his wife India Smith. (Charles A. Smith owned the Ridgeville Hotel up the road in Ridgeville, and was a prominent businessman referenced in the Frederick News newspapers of 1888).<sup>12</sup>

India Smith kept the building for several years after Charles died, and later sold it in 1946 to Ralph D. Pryor, and it thereafter became commonly known as the Pryor Building. The Pryor Building housed several tenants to include Mr. J.B. Pryor who conducted a barbershop on the ground floor and a shoe cobbler by the name of Howard Hood. Contractor Truman Lowman maintained his headquarters on the second floor, while the top portion was used by the local American Legion Post as their first location after WWII.<sup>13</sup>

In October 1951, the town of Mount Airy purchased the Pryor Building for \$12,050, and it has remained in possession of the town ever since, serving a variety of functions over the years to include town hall, the local Maryland State Police office, a branch of the County Library, a military museum, and the former home to the Historical Society of Mount Airy museum.<sup>14</sup>

## HELP SAVE THE BUILDING

Unfortunately, the town is now weighing several options to tear down the building to improve “walkability” along that section of Main Street. The building is viewed by some as an impediment to pedestrian safety and stands in the way of pedestrian access to businesses located along the east side of Main Street.

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<sup>3</sup> The American Sentinel, October 1903

<sup>4</sup> Sanborn Fire Maps (detail), Courtesy Library of Congress Archives

<sup>5</sup> Mt. Airy “The Way We Were” Magazine Reproduction 1910, Miller Business Profile.

<sup>6</sup> Democratic Advocate, December 21, 1906

<sup>7</sup> Mt. Airy “The Way We Were” Magazine Reproduction 1910, Miller Business Profile,

<sup>8</sup> Mt. Airy Messenger, March 3, 1916

<sup>9</sup> Flat Iron History, by Simpson. Mt. Airy Historical Society

<sup>10</sup> Community Reporter, Article October 5, 1951

<sup>11</sup> Sanborn Fire Maps, Courtesy Library of Congress Archives

<sup>12</sup> The News, Frederick MD, March 26, 1888

<sup>13</sup> Community Reporter, Article October 5, 1951

<sup>14</sup> Fredrick News Post, Article September 29, 2003

## Preserving Smith Building (Continued from page 1)

But the Historical Society of Mount Airy stands behind another effort to preserve this building, rather than tear it down. Historic restoration with available grant funding, municipal bonds, and alternative sources other than town tax dollars is the most cost-efficient option compared to all others. Since 2005, every option proposed by the town has estimated \$900K-\$3 million in taxpayer dollars to remedy the property, but not a single option has considered restoration through preservation grants specifically designed and set aside for the restoration of historic buildings such as ours, at minimum cost to the town.

There is intrinsic and commercial value in preserving this building. For 120 years the building has stood at the heart of downtown Mt. Airy, and contributes to our town listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is recognized as one of only four remaining buildings built immediately after the great fire of 1903, and is recognized across the state of Maryland as a landmark for our town. People come to downtown Mt. Airy because it's appealing in many ways, and our historic architecture serves as an attractive feature and commercial draw which brings people into downtown to explore and spend money. Removing this building in place of a sidewalk will do more commercial harm than good. State funds and preservation grants can offset town costs to restore the functionality of the building to an open forum, pop up arts gallery, performing arts venue, needed town storage space, living history museum, community forum, or similar functions of "Adaptive Reuse Architecture" which other historic towns across America have successfully achieved. It is time to aggressively pursue those options now. You can help by signing the petition to save the building at Ben Gue Antiques & Gifts on S. Main Street, and by directly contacting the Mayor and each of your town Council Members through the town website, by phone or email, to let them know you support the restoration and preservation of this town icon. Once gone, this iconic piece of Mount Airy history will be lost forever.

**The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland Meets the first Tuesday of every month (except June, July and August) in the lower level of Mount Airy Fire Hall. The meetings begin at 7 pm. Please join us.**

## Thank You for Your Support

The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following individuals who have made donations to the Historical Society. These donations help us with the cost of printing the newsletter, cataloging and storage of new items in the collection, and the acquisition of new historical items. They will also help us pay for new, informative, and eye-catching exhibits in the Mount Airy Museum.

Doug & Bonnie Alexander	Dennis & Pat Ahalt
Pete & Carol Bowlus	Jenny Bowlus
Linda & Don Brightwell	Nellie Brown
Joe & Sylvia Cochran	Doug & Sandy Dutterer
Tom & Peggy Fleming	Tom Gorman
Eileen Hight	Diann & Jimmy Linton
Ruth Ann Lowman	Pat Norwood
Shirley Norwood	Inez Thomas
Bonnie Winkler	

## Welcome New Members

The Historical Society would like to extend a warm welcome to our following new member and invite you to all our upcoming events:

- Willie Burns, Heating & Cooling

We would also like to extend a special welcome to our newest life member:

- Justine Stull



Advertisement from the Community Reporter  
Friday, January 1, 1932

**Editor's Note:** The blizzard described in the story below occurred Sunday, March 26, 1932.

## **Worst Blizzard Since 1899 Sweeps Community Causing Heavy Damage**

### **Travel Impossible Four Hours After Snow Began**

#### **Town Without Lights 72 Hours**

#### **Motorists Abandon Cars; Seek Shelter In Private Homes**

Descending like a bolt from a clear sky, the worst blizzard which this part of the State has experienced since 1899 swept Western Maryland Sunday, leaving in its wake widespread suffering, interrupted communications and damage to telephone and telegraph systems which is expected to run hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Many tourists, prompted to take weekend trips by the unusually warm Weather Saturday, were caught on roads Sunday, and, unable to proceed through the raging blizzard and blinding snow, abandoned their machines and sought shelter and warmth in farmhouses and homes.

Although the storm damage in this immediate section was expected to reach a staggering sum, the town of Mount Airy faced a grave situation Wednesday at noon, when the second day passed during which residents were without water. When the supply of current failed Sunday afternoon, the electric pumps at the municipal wells stopped and the supply in the 75,000 gallon reservoir at the high school was entirely exhausted by Monday evening.

#### **Traffic Halted Quickly.**

Never before in the memory of the town's oldest residents, has communication and travel been interrupted so quickly as on Sunday, when in less than four hours after snow began falling, traffic on the National highway from Cooksville to Frederick, and on lateral State and county roads, was impossible. A heavy rain fell until 11 a.m. Sunday. Falling temperature caused rain to turn into snow and before three o'clock, six inches of snow covered the ground.

Despite the great weight of the heavy, wet snow, winds of great velocity whipped it in every direction and before dark it was impossible to venture far in any direction. Local motorists, stranded on roads leading from Washington to Mount Airy, were forced to

abandon their machines and seek shelter in farmhouses along the road.

#### **Electric Current Failed Sunday.**

Shortly after the storm reached its height Sunday, the great weight of the snow on wires and power lines caused poles to snap with subsequent interruption to the supply of electric current. Homes here were in darkness and without water Monday, Tuesday and all of Wednesday.

By three o'clock Sunday afternoon, travel on the National highway was impossible. Motorists caught in the raging blizzard sought shelter in private homes in the Ridgeville vicinity and the hotel there did a land-office business. Garages in the vicinity also did an enormous automobile chain business and on Monday concentrated their forces in righting ditched machines and thawing out frozen and bursted radiators. One car was still wedged in a high snow bank near Lisbon, late Wednesday afternoon.

#### **Fire at Lisbon Sunday.**

During the height of the blizzard Sunday night, a call for assistance was received by Fire Chief Beck. The call came from Lisbon, it is said, but it was impossible late in the week to check on what actually burned. Had there been current with which to turn on the siren, it would have been useless, Chief Beck pointed out, because the heavy engine would not have been able to get as far as Ridgeville. A number of local motorists, who attempted to drive to Ridgeville late Sunday afternoon, unable to negotiate the eight foot drifts, were forced to abandon their cars in the middle of the highway and return home on foot.

#### **Schools Closed Until Thursday.**

Public schools in this vicinity were closed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Not only were the buses unable to travel the roads, but lack of water prevented the making of sufficient fire in the furnaces at the local high school. Damascus high school was also closed until Wednesday. Prof. Gilbert D. Martin, and other instructors who live in Westminster, were unable to contact Mount Airy until late Wednesday afternoon when the Ridge road was finally opened to traffic.

**Editor's Note:** The previous story was from the Friday, March 31, 1932 edition of the Community Reporter.

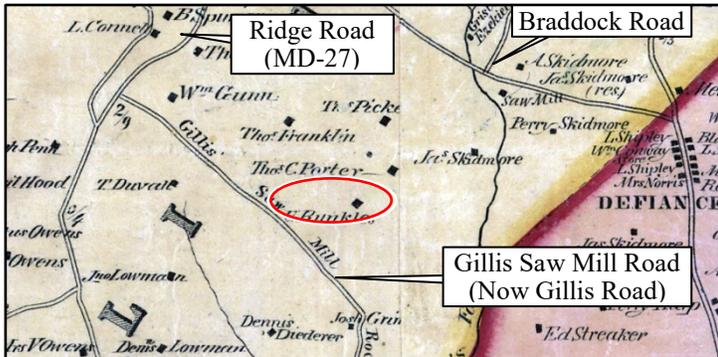
## The Civil War in Mount Airy

During America's Civil War, the area around and including Mount Airy contributed many men to both sides of the war effort. The men told about in the following stories are just a few of those who served north and south in those difficult years. These stories continue the saga begun in our Fall 2021 newsletter. We hope to include many more stories of men like these in our newsletters in this year and next. Many of these men have connections to families still living in the area.

### Upton Runkles

Upton Runkles was born March 30, 1830 on the farm of his father, Samuel, and mother, Elizabeth Clary Runkles. The farm was located along Prospect Road just outside of Mount Airy right about where there is still a farm located today. Upton was the oldest of their seven children.

Upton Dorsey married Ellen R. Dudderar in the 1850s. Ellen was born January 10, 1830, and was the daughter of David and Margaret Dudderar. Upton and Ellen lived on a farm he purchased and ran off Gillis Saw Mill Road (now Gillis Road).



Portion of the 1862 Martenet Map of Carroll County Showing the Location of the Upton Runkles Farm

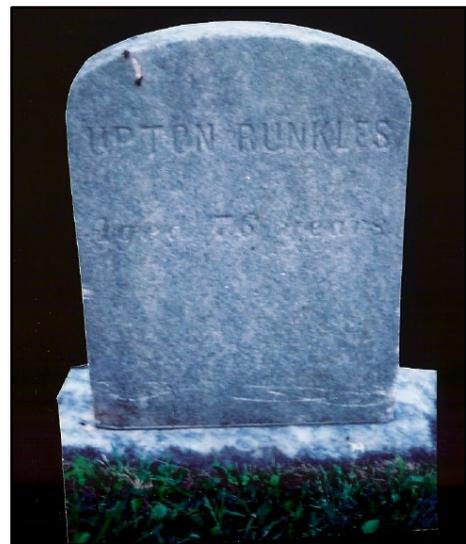
Upton Runkles enlisted as a Private in Company E, 4th Maryland Infantry Regiment on August 12, 1862 at the age of 32 just as the regiment was forming. He was enrolled in the army along with other members of the regiment on August 27 and left for Sharpsburg (Antietam) on September 18, 1862. The battle had ended the day before, so the regiment was assigned to the defenses of the Upper Potomac between Williamsport and Hagerstown until December 11 at which time they were moved to the defenses around Harper's Ferry and Frederick, Maryland. Upton Dorsey deserted during this time, beginning on December 13, and was absent from the regiment until February 13,

1863. The regiment remained in these defensive positions until the Battle of Gettysburg ended. Afterwards, he was with the regiment as they participated in the pursuit of General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. He was present with the regiment as the Army of the Potomac fought its way south to Richmond and Petersburg. He was present at the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Petersburg and was with the army at the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia by General Lee at Appomattox.

Upton Runkles was mustered out of the army on May 31, 1865 and returned to his wife, Ellen, and his home in Carroll County. On September 14, 1888, the War Department removed the charge of desertion against him and instead he was listed as absent without leave for the period from December 12, 1862 through February 13, 1863, which made an important difference in his eligibility for pension.

Upton and Ellen Runkles continued to live on their farm in Carroll County until Ellen's death on September 11, 1896. Ellen was buried at the Linganore Chapel Cemetery at the Linganore United Methodist Church in Unionville. Upton and Ellen never had children.

After Ellen's death, Upton moved from the farm but was still boarding in the area nearby. He died in 1906 and was buried in Mount Prospect Cemetery at the Prospect United Methodist Church on Woodville Road near his family's farm.



Grave of Upton Runkles at Prospect UMC Cemetery

Continued on Page 6

## The Civil War in Mount Airy (Cont'd from page 5)

### Asbury W. Savington

Asbury W. Savington was born near Ridgeville on March 4, 1840. He was the son of Abraham Savington and Eliza Sadler Savington. At the age of 9 he lived away from his parents at a hotel in Lisbon run by Nathaniel Clary.

Asbury Savington (Sappington) married a woman named Angeline sometime before he was drafted into the army. They had thirteen children during their marriage. Only 6 of them lived beyond 1900. Amongst the children were a son, John A. born in 1865, a daughter, Melvina, born in 1867, a daughter, Alice V., born in 1870, a daughter, Mary E., born in 1870, a son, William H., born in 1871, a son, Oliver E., born in 1873, a daughter, Rosa A., born in 1875, a son, Perry G., born in 1877, and daughter, Dellie, born in 1880.

Asbury was drafted on June 25, 1864 in Frederick as a Private in Company K, 28th Regiment U.S. Colored Troops. He was a 25 year-old laborer when he enlisted. He was 5' 11" tall, had black eyes, black hair and dark complexion. Shortly after he reported to the regiment, the 28th joined up with General Phil Sheridan's Cavalry and accompanied them through Chickahominy Swamp to Prince George Court House, near Petersburg fighting several skirmishes. Asbury and the regiment participated in siege operations against Petersburg through July, 1864 and on July 30 were present for the mine explosion and subsequent Battle of the Crater during which the Regiment suffered heavy casualties. Afterwards, they conducted several operations in and around Petersburg and Richmond. On September 30, 1864, Asbury Savington was wounded at Poplar Grove Church south of Petersburg. In October he was temporarily detached from the Regiment to serve on ambulance duty. From December 1864 through March he was with his Regiment as they conducted siege operations around Petersburg and Richmond. On April 3, 1865 General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia abandoned the fortifications around Richmond and Petersburg and the 28th occupied the city of Richmond. From April 6 through May, the 28th was in charge of prisoners. Then on June 10, 1865, they were sent to City Point, Virginia and transported to Brazos Santiago and Corpus Christi, Texas. The 28th was moved near the Mexican border in Texas as part of the American response to the French intervention in Mexico. Asbury Savington along with the other members of the 28th U.S. Colored Troops

were mustered out of the army on November 8, 1865 in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Asbury Savington returned to Carroll County after being released from the army. He, his wife, Angeline, and their children lived just north of Mount Airy along Ridge Road (MD 27).

Angeline died sometime after her daughter, Dellie, was born. After her death, Asbury continued to live just north of Mount Airy. At the beginning of the 1900s, he was raising a grandson, Claton Savington.

Asbury W. Savington died May 14, 1911 at the age of 71. He was buried at Fairview United Methodist Church Cemetery in Woodville.



Grave of Asbury Savington at  
Fairview UMC Cemetery

Continued on Page 7

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR NEW

## Buckwheat Flour

**3 lb. Sack Self Rising..... 22c**  
**5 lb. Sack Pure Buckwheat 22c**  
**10 lb. Sack Pure Buckwheat 40c**

Try a sack, and let your palate be your guide

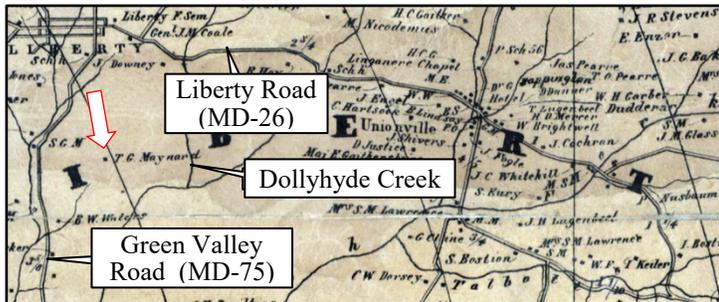
**The Mt. Airy Milling Co.**  
MT. AIRY, MD.

Advertisement from the Community Reporter  
Friday, January 1, 1932

## The Civil War in Mount Airy (Cont'd from page 6)

### Albert Maynard

Albert Maynard was born in September 1849 on the farm of his father, Thomas Grunberry Maynard, a farmer, and his mother, Arianna Dorsey Sollers, in the Liberty District of Frederick County. Albert was the youngest of their seven children. The Maynard farm was located southeast of Libertytown near what is now the Green Acres Farm. He remained at the family home until he entered the Confederate Army in June 1863.



Portion of the 1860 Bond Map of Frederick County Showing the Location of the T. G. Maynard Farm

Albert Maynard enlisted as a Private in Company D of the 1st Battalion Maryland Cavalry of the Confederate Army in Boonsboro, Maryland on June 15, 1863. He provided his own horse, as did most Confederate cavalymen, and was paid \$31.20 for his horse. He fought with his battalion at the Battle of Gettysburg July 1 through July 3, 1863. On November 8, 1863, he was captured in Woodstock, Virginia, the county seat of Shenandoah County. After his capture, he was sent to Camp Chase just outside Columbus, Ohio, where he arrived on October 15, 1863. Upon his arrival, he was recorded as being 21 years old, 6' 1" in height, having dark eyes and hair and a florid complexion. On February 29, 1864, Albert was transferred to Fort Delaware near Wilmington, Delaware, where he arrived March 4, 1864. He remained there until near the end of the war. Albert was forwarded to City Point, Virginia on February 27, 1865 for exchange with Union prisoners of war. Albert Maynard took the oath of amnesty on May 13, 1865 in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia and was paroled.

After his parole, Albert returned to the family home in Frederick County. He made his living as a merchant as his father now did.

Albert married Emma Dorsey Poole of Baltimore in 1873. Albert lived with his wife in Baltimore where he made and sold saddling and harness. They had three

children: a daughter, Emma Poole, who died in infancy, a son, Albert, who died in infancy, and a son, Thomas Poole Maynard, who was born in February 1883 and outlived his parents.

Around 1887, he moved with his family to Mount Airy. They lived in Mount Airy until Albert's death. Albert was well-known and liked in Mount Airy and was very active in the community and town and state politics. He ran for Town Council in 1894, the first year of the Council, but lost. His close friend, veteran of the 1st Cavalry, and brother-in-law, Albert Jones did win a seat.

Albert Maynard died February 14, 1925 at the age of 75. Funeral services were held at his home in Mount Airy. Afterwards, he was buried at Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore.

### Moving Pictures To be Shown Here In Near Future

#### L. E. Jones Refurbishing Masonic Hall Prior to Installation of Sound Equipment

A motion picture theater will be open in the local Masonic Hall on Friday night, January 15, according to L. E. Jones of Mount Airy, sponsor of the project. Work of remodeling the Hall to accommodate the necessary equipment was started this week and is being rushed in order that everything will be in readiness for the first showing.

In addition to a new booth and the erection of additional partitions in the rear of the Hall, approximately 300 chairs of the latest style will be installed. Other interior decorations will also be made in the near future, Mr. Jones stated.

#### Installing New Equipment.

The cinema equipment, which is of the latest Powers Sound unit is ready to be assembled while a porous screen, used in the projection of sound films, and new curtains will probably be installed next week.

According to present plans Mr. Jones will operate the theatre two nights a week – Friday and Saturday – but the definite number of days may be increased as the necessity or demand arises. Latest releases will be shown and will be announced, together with other details, in later issues of this newspaper.

**Editor's Note:** The previous story was from the Community Reporter of January 1, 1932.

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## Looking Back Fifty Years January – March 1972

*Compiled by Mary Lynn Myers Kuhn*

The information for this look back in time was compiled from articles in the January, February and March 1972 issues of the Community Reporter. The newspaper was the main source of information for Mount Airy residents and surrounding areas from November 29, 1929 until the last issue on July 1, 1983.

- Mt. Airy boys become Eagle Scouts. Raymond Carpenter, Jr., son of Dr. and Mrs. Raymond S. Carpenter of Mt. Airy and Robert (Bob) Wagner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Wagner, members of Troop 460, advanced in rank at a ceremony at Calvary Methodist Church. Joseph W. Stevens is Scoutmaster of the troop. 1/7/72
- At the meeting of the Town Council on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, R. Delaine Hobbs moved that a letter be sent to State Police Headquarters asking for a trooper to patrol the town of Mount Airy. Mr. Hobbs feels there is definitely a need for this action. 1/7/72
- L. Victor Barnes, 84, died on New Year's Day. Mr. was a graduate of Blue Ridge College in Union Bridge. He was a member of Calvary Methodist Church where he played the church organ from 1914 to 1935 and he played the organ for the Men's Bible Study Class until 1970. For years he operated a novelty store in Mount Airy. In the 1970s he conducted an early morning piano and organ show on Washington radio station WRC. Pallbearers were Walton Dawson, Les Rigler, Edward Beall, Paul Beall, Harry Bellison and Rudy Watkins. 1/7/72
- H&R Block opens an office in Mount Airy at 204 S. Main Street. Mr. John Cotingame, a Native Carroll Countian is the manager with 5 years of income tax experience. It will be open on a year round basis. 1/14/72
- The Mount Airy Branch of Maryland National Bank on Rt. 27 near Rt. 144 was the scene of a holdup January 11<sup>th</sup>. Three armed men entered the bank about 11 A.M. and ordered Mrs. Mildred Ridgely, Mrs Ruth Rippeon and Mrs. Nancy Hammond to get down on the floor. The tellers couldn't believe it was a holdup at first but the warnings from the robbers in "unprintable" language soon convinced them. The Branch Manager, Dennis Ahalt, was forced into the vault and \$46,000 was stolen from the bank. 1/14/72
- The Gold Star Post's Gala Celebration at the American Legion was attended by 232 for the New Year's Eve Party. Everyone enjoyed the good food and music of the "Countrymen". The Post gave \$100 to Pine Grove Chapel and \$100 to the Fund Drive for Retarded Children of Carroll County. Many renovations and improvements are being made to the Post. Construction on the lower boundary of the Post's land is the new sewage pumping station being built on the land the Post donated to the town. The post was chartered on May 26, 1946 and is 25 years old. 1/14/72
- The Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company held its annual banquet. The president, Delaine Hobbs, gave his report of achievements, which included new uniforms for the firemen, placing a second ambulance in service, painting the firehouse and activities building and holding a record carnival which netted \$13,085. Officers are 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Granville Albright, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Walter Smith, Secretary – Pat Holmes, Assistant Secretary – Thomas Wagner, Financial Secretary – George Marick and Treasure – Carl Smith. Florence Boone presented plaques to Jeff King for Fireman of the Year, Pat Plunkard for Junior Fireman of the Year and to Bruce Chaney for Ambulance Driver of the Year. 1/14/72
- Students in German Class at South Carroll High School prepared for the holidays by planning holiday treats for a class party. Most elaborate was a gingerbread church about 12 inches high with sugar glazed stained windows baked by German III student, senior – Roxy Harrison. 1/14/72
- New telephone rate schedules go into effect January 13<sup>th</sup>. Where the rate for a residential line was \$6.85, it will go up to \$7.55 plus tax. The new rate for a business phone line that was \$14.70 will be \$15.65 plus tax. It will still remain 10¢ for a coin telephone call. 1/21/72

## Looking Back Fifty Years Ago (Cont'd from page 8)

- V. Raymond Simpson retired in December 1971 as Assistant Principal of Damascus High School. He and his wife, Helen, were honored guests at Mealey's Restaurant for a retirement dinner. Ray came to Damascus High as a history teacher in 1946. He served as both principal and vice principal and watched the school grow from about 250 students to almost 1,100. Ray graduated from Western Maryland College in 1936 and got his Masters there in 1958. He volunteered for the army in 1940 and came back to Mount Airy in 1946. He has spent over 20 years in Boy Scout work, is a member of the Damascus Lion's Club and is an active worker in Calvary Methodist Church. 1/28/72
- Farmers and Mechanic Bank reelected the Board of Directors for another year, Vice President – Charles Keeney, Assistant Vice President – Riggs T. Webb, Jr., Assistant Vice President – Ruth A. Schmidt, Assistant Vice President – Mary Frances Gosnell, Assistant Cashier – Patricia T. Norwood. Reelected to offices in the Damascus office were Kenneth Boone and P. Joseph Richards. 1/28/72
- William Paul Walker, 72, University of Maryland Professor for more than 44 years died January 26 after a short illness. Mr. Walker authored or co-authored about 65 research papers, bulletins or books mostly on the subject of taxation and state government matters that apply to Maryland farmers and rural citizens. He received many professional awards. He was a member of the Browningsville Coronet Band that was organized by his father, William A. Walker, in 1884. 2/4/72
- Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fleming recently celebrated their golden anniversary with their family including eight children at Morgan Chapel Social Hall. 2/4/72
- The auditions have been held and the cast selected for the Mount Airy Players spring production of "Pool's Paradise." It is the sequel to "See How They Run" presented in 1967. Ginger Arnold will be directing and Ellis Leatherwood will be assistant director and producer. 2/4/72
- Among the 82 students in Virginia Tech's College of Home Economics who made the Dean's List was Susan K. Boller, who is a senior. 2/4/72
- Congressman Goodloe E. Byron on February 14<sup>th</sup> will provide a replacement for the flag damaged in a November storm at the Mount Airy Elementary School. Pat Sullivan, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student was instrumental in bringing this about by writing to the Congressman asking for a new flag. 2/11/72
- The Heart Campaign is getting underway in Mount Airy. A benefit bowling tournament will be held at Mount Airy Lanes February 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Irving Wagner is Chairman of this event under the direction of "Zeke" Watkins, the proprietor of the lanes. 2/11/72
- In a copy of the Baltimore Sun Almanac for 1905 received in the "Reporter" office by courtesy of Ottenheimer Publishers, Inc., an article appears that describes the Mount Airy fire in 1903 that wiped out the town. At the time the population of Mount Airy was less than 500, but it had gained business importance from extensive improvements then in progress on the main stem of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The stores were accustomed to doing an extensive business supplying the needs of hundreds of workmen employed on the tunnel and other works. This information was of interest to the local library which is trying to get together a history of Mount Airy. 2/11/72
- In Thursday's Mixed League Bowling results were Laura Mundy 150; Mike Wagner 155; Jones Motors 596. High set: Ann Dasch 360; Paul Spencer 395; Von Eiff Gas Co.1706. 2/11/72
- The 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of scouting was celebrated in Mount Airy with the annual banquet of Boy Scout Troop 460 on February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School. 2/18/72
- Thomas E. Fleming of Mount Airy and Peggy Rhoderick of Monrovia were recently issued a license to marry. 2/18/72

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## Looking Back Fifty Years Ago (Cont'd from page 9)

- Mrs. Alice Dennis announced the engagement of her daughter Elizabeth to Robert Dorsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan A. Dorsey, Rt. 6, Frederick, Md. She is the daughter of the late Edgar G. Dennis and is employed by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. 2/18/72
- The Board of Education of Carroll County will form a committee to reevaluate the policy on smoking in schools. 2/25/72
- A big snowstorm caused schools to close as roads and highways were blocked as howling winds whipped snow into huge drifts of 12 – 18 inches high, in some instances covering windows. However according to Potomac Edison, there was no power emergency and the telephones were working. 2/25/72
- A recreation group for Mount Airy has been organized with Dick Wilson as president. Bob Haight is vice president, Eileen Haight – secretary and Russell King – treasurer. The recreation council is compiling a community survey to learn the needs and interests of groups and citizens of Mount Airy. 2/25/72
- Ray Grimes, member of the Izaak Walton Gun Club placed 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 16 yard trapshooting according to the 1971 official amateur Trapshooting Association's Average Book, just published. This is quite a record. 3/3/72
- St. James Thrift Shop, Rt. 144, Ridgeville, is having a clearance sale to make room for spring and summer merchandise. Ladies' skirts, coats, blouses, dresses and men's suits, overcoats and jackets – everything 10¢. 3/3/72
- Walter E. Chaney has been appointed to an office with the National V.F.W. The continued success in protecting the veteran's interests and extending the institutions of American freedom, requires dedication and leadership. Mr. Chaney possesses both these qualities according to Joseph Vicites, Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. 3/10/72
- The Board of Zoning Appeals for Carroll County will hear the case by Douglas Tabler, attorney for Eugene Jackson, a conditional use request for a 50 bed nursing home to be located on the south side of Rt. 40, east of Pheasant Ridge Trailer Park. 3/10/72
- Mayor Teen Smith has announced that due to health reasons he will not be a candidate for reelection as Mayor of Mount Airy. 3/1-/72
- Mrs. Frank Fritz has been elected to the president of the newly formed Senior Citizens group in Mount Airy. The group named the organization the "Geritol Jet Set." The first meeting was on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Maude Wright is vice president, Mrs. Mary Boone – secretary, Mrs. Sadie Smith – treasurer, and Mrs. Alice Dorsey – assistant treasurer. 3/10/72
- Miss Betts Pickett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pickett and Miss Ann Pickett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Merhle Pickett, members of the Shepherd Colleen Centennial Choir will perform at the Washington Cathedral in April. 3/10/72
- Carroll County Farms total 1398 according to the 1969 Census of Agriculture. 3/10/72
- Local residents contributed \$1303 to the Heart Fund. Mrs. George Free and Mrs. Helen Simpson were co-chairmen for this area and are very pleased. 3/10/72
- The Mount Airy Lions Club collected 368 pairs of glasses and frames thanks to the generosity of local residents. After necessary repairs have been made, the glasses will help less fortunate see better. This is a yearly project of the Lions Club. 3/17/72

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## Looking Back Fifty Years Ago (Cont'd from page 10)

- Among “Thank You Notes to the Fire Company” –

To Our Fellow Members

The morning was damp  
The blaze rose high,  
We rode Engine 2  
Fireman Schmidt and I.

We went to the scene  
And grabbed the blitz line  
Everything seemed to be going  
Along just fine.

We shut it down  
And begin to move  
The line erupted,

We were out of the groove.  
Roland's helmet was gone.  
From one eye he couldn't see.  
It knocked me to the ground  
And injured my left knee.

They radioed up top  
To get some help.  
In just a few minutes  
We heard Hobbs yelp.

He fell in a drift  
At his heels came Bruce,  
They along with others  
Put us in the Goose.

They took us to the Doc.  
Wow, what a ride.  
Now we know how it feels  
From the other side.

We both were thankful  
For a job well done  
From our fellow firemen  
Of Company One.

By Jeff Kind  
Mount Airy, Maryland      3/10/72

- Data is being sought for compiling Mount Airy History by Mrs. Normandy of the Library and Mrs. Mary Brown of Western Auto. Several have already contributed artifacts: Frank Horpel – an accumulation of data, Olive Mount – clippings collected over the years, Charlie Nicholson – Information which his mother had collected, “A History of Mount Airy would be a valuable asset to the library and of great interest to many local citizens.”      3/24/72

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The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland  
P.O. Box 244  
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

**Looking Back Fifty Years Ago (Cont'd from page 11)**

- Three Carroll County youths were the recipients of the Citizenship Awards presented by the Soroptomist Club. They are David Fleming, Barbara Bowman and David White 3/31/72
- Mount Airy Lions will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Fireman's Carnival Grounds on April 1<sup>st</sup>.  
3/31/72
- Mr. and Mrs. William A. Teague announce the engagement of their daughter, Belinda Karen, to Steven Lee DeGrange. Belinda is a '71 graduate of Linganore High School – Mr. DeGrange '71 graduate of Frederick High School. 3/31/72