



# KENSINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News, Events, and Resources

## ABOUT TOWN

November 2012

P.O. Box 453, KENSINGTON, MD 20895

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**KHS Membership > Join today!**



*Membership form*

**Members > Watch for your Holiday Party Invitation!**

### KHS Sponsors

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*Thank you KHS Sponsors for your generous support.*

### November 13 > Marian Green Kensington's Banking Evolution

On Tuesday, November 13, Marian Green, long time resident of Garrett Park, will discuss the evolution of banking in Kensington, with particular focus on the families involved. The KHS Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, beginning at 7:00 pm with coffee and cookies. Learn where the original bank was housed, who the "parent" bank was, the bank Presidents, and most importantly the supportive relationships between the bank, families in the community, and Kensington Businesses.

### Do you need a Historic Area Work Permit?

If you are a homeowner or have a business in the Kensington Historic District, a Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) is needed before you make changes to your property that affect the original materials, or exterior appearance (not including paint color). **Proposed alterations that need a HAWP include, but are not limited to** the removal of mature trees (6" in diameter or more); the construction of additions or any new construction project; alterations to existing outbuildings; fencing; the installation of storm windows and doors; the replacement

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*(Continued)*

of existing windows and doors; or the installation of a terrace, a pool, a sidewalk, a driveway or any other kind of paving, and any changes in materials – such as artificial siding or a different roofing material.

**If you wonder whether a HAWP is required for a project, or if you have ANY questions about the historic preservation process, call the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) at 301-563-3400 to discuss your ideas with staff.**

The HPC approves over 95% of the applications it reviews and works cooperatively with owners of historic properties to develop proposals that will complement the site. The HPC will make a decision within 45 days. As you begin thinking about projects that may change exterior features and elements of your Historic District property in any way, it is very important to remember that the HPC will have to review the proposal BEFORE you begin work. Applications for a HAWP must be submitted to the Department of Permitting Services as least three weeks before the HPC hearing date at which you would like your case to be heard. For a listing of hearing dates and an application call the HPC office at 301-563-3400 or go to <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/index.shtm>.

## Warner Circle Update

Julie O'Malley



We are all anxiously waiting for some obvious activity at Warner Circle to be sure it hasn't been forgotten. I've been in touch with Julie Mueller from the Parks

Department, who assured me wholeheartedly that we are not forgotten. I thought you would appreciate her rundown of what's been done since May!

- ❖ Completed final architectural design for the removal of the wings and the construction of the new walls (includes cost estimate, bid documents, specifications, etc.)
- ❖ Applied for and received approval of these plans from the Maryland Historical Trust Easement Committee. (MHT)
- ❖ Applied for and received a Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) from the Historic Preservation Commission. (HPC)
- ❖ Issued a Request for Bids, contracted, and remediated asbestos in the wings and areas of the manor house where construction will take place during this phase.
- ❖ Relocated electrical lines so that the wings can be removed while still powering the manor and carriages houses. This required extensive coordination with the electric company.
- ❖ Applied for relevant permits through the Mont. Co. Department of Permitting Services. (DPS)
- ❖ Disconnected plumbing lines to the wings in preparation for the demolition (coordination with WSSC required).
- ❖ Drafted Invitation For Bid document to be released once DPS permits are received.

After the required permits are in hand (hopefully within the next month), they will:

- ❖ Issue the Invitation For Bid (planned within two weeks of receipt of permit).
- ❖ Issue a contract and give Notice to Proceed (within 6 to 12 weeks of issuing IFB).

The above schedule will hold **IF** everything goes as planned from this point.

Have heart, we may have that Demolition Party yet! (Only the kitchen and nursing wings!)

## DONATIONS to KHS Archives

- ❖ A bound collection of the 1972 editions of *The Silver Spring Advertiser* from Joan Paulin David
- ❖ Photographs of early Kensington from South Lynn
- ❖ Oral Histories from Joanne Minter Lynn, and Robert Orr Warthen taken by Julie O'Malley
- ❖ *1901 Town of Kensington Charter* from Robert Orr Warthen

## What's Up Kensington?

By Julie O'Malley

The Kensington Historical Society has been busy!

We've produced the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Calendar, *Everything Old is New Again*, under Detta Voesar's guidance! We enjoyed seeing many of you at our Saturday Morning Concert Series throughout the summer ~15 different bands played! We saw many more of you at the Labor Day parade when you visited our KHS table. And what a wonderful model train show, *All Aboard Kensington*, which brought thousands of locals, and not-so-locals, enjoyment. Our thanks to Gary and Diana Ditto as they continue to do things for the Kensington community!

### Come see Us!

Behind the scenes there's also been activity. Our Archive has new file cabinets and a new computer! We are open Friday mornings from 9:30 am to 12 noon and other times by appointment. (Contact [info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org) if you need to make an appointment.) Would you like to be part of our Archive Committee? The committee is being led by an Archivist, Karen King, whom we are lucky to have as our consultant. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare displays of toys from the Isabelle Barr collection. We need volunteers to identify and organize our photo collection. We are extremely grateful for those who have brought photos to share with us. We are now able to scan your photo while you wait so it's never out of your sight!

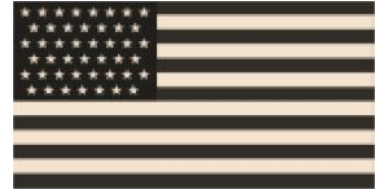
### Calling all VOLUNTEERS >Contact us Today!

We have a variety of activities, such as our Garden Tour, Oral Histories, Archives, KHS Calendar, and more. Get to know your town and your neighbors! It's easy to get started. Email us at [info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org). We'd love your participation.

**Welcome NEW MEMBERS** >Ben Bawden, Dan and Christina Bowen, Cope Family, Vanessa Eisemann and Catherine Whiting, Steve Fox, Angela Mickalide and Ali Alikhani, Michele and James Stinson

## Voting Challenges and Election Districts in Early Kensington

Barbara Scharman



Some interesting recollections about voting and elections districts in Kensington a century ago may sound familiar today. They are found in the writings of town resident Wilson L. Townsend from 1964:

*Knowles Station, and Kensington, were located in the 13th election district, as at present, but this large area had only two polling precincts, No. 1 at Wheaton and No. 2 at Silver Spring, which, before the days of women's suffrage, and in a purely rural community, sufficed.*

*By 1900, with the suburban growth in Kensington, Takoma Park and Woodside, this limited polling facility created a serious problem, which discouraged voting by residents of these communities, and made it difficult for local precinct leaders to get out the vote. Residents of Kensington, which by 1900 had a population of 1,000, had to get to Wheaton to register and to vote, and, before the days of the automobile, this required the party leaders to arrange to meet the evening trains out of Washington with horse-drawn vehicles and get up the hill at the gallop in order to get in more than one trip. Even when the horse-drawn carriages were supplanted by the early automobiles, the situation was most difficult. A personal recollection is that of walking the nearly two miles from Kensington to Wheaton to register, just before the 1912 election.*

*By 1917 our representative in the legislature, with others from the suburban areas, succeeded by securing legislation creating two new precincts, No. 3 in Kensington and No. 4 in Takoma Park, with similar relief for the Chevy Chase-Bethesda district. Our first polling place was in the store where Mizell's is now located, succeeded by the store at the corner of Fawcett where the DGS is now, and, later, in the schoolhouse and the Armory. Before the use of voting machines, the use of paper ballots kept party workers up all night watching the count, arguing over misplaced X marks and errors in the tally sheets.*

Source: *The Montgomery County Story*. February 1964. "Knowles Station and the Town of Kensington," by Wilson L. Townsend. Part II.

### KHS Perfect GIFTS

- ❖ 2013 Calendars are available at \$5.00 (Kensington Row Bookshop, Prevention of Blindness, Kensington Pharmacy, Town Hall Office, and KHS meetings/archives.)
- ❖ Long Sleeved T-Shirts, grey with "Where the People Still Walk and the Train Still Stops" logo for \$15.00 (Kensington Row Bookshop and KHS meetings/archives)
- ❖ *Kensington Walking Tour 2009* self-guided tour with historical facts about the different parts of Kensington (Kensington Row Bookshop, KHS meetings/archives, and Town Hall Office)

### History for all Ages

Thanks to the Wolf Den of Cub Scout Pack 478 and also the Tiger Den of Troop 460 for reaching out to the Kensington Historical Society to learn more about Kensington History! In response to these requests and others, the Society is creating a series of programs for different age levels.

If you would like to help create these or participate in giving one or more, please contact Julie O'Malley at [info@kensingtonhistory.com](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.com) or 240-460-2548.

**Thanks to our Volunteers** > Mabel Baker, Janet Barnes, Mary Buckingham, Tiff Carroll, Steve Cohen, Bonita Condon, Gary & Diane Ditto, Sigrid & John Doherty, Sheila Dunne, Jack Gaffey, Harley Higgins, Connie Kelly, Karen King, Al Lacey, Sue & Jim Mathias, Trammel Maury, TJ O'Malley, Leanne Pfautz, Katie Rangos, Barbara Scharman, Courtney Smith, Elisenda Sola-Sole, Betsy and Mary Stewart, Detta Voesar, Toni Ward and our student volunteers Emily Mancini and Nick Logan.

Kensington Historical Society  
PO Box 453  
Kensington, MD 20895

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**Kensington Historical Society Membership Form**

(Please send completed form and payment to KHS, P.O. Box 453, Kensington, MD 20895

I would like to **JOIN** the Kensington Historical Society for 2013.

Please Renew my current membership for 2013.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Lived in Kensington since (Year): \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership**

Individual (\$20.00)

Family (\$25.00)

Business (small and non-profit) (\$75.00)

Corporations (\$100.00)

Lifetime (Individual & Family)(\$500.00)

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in helping on the following committees: ( Please Check)

Programs

Membership

Newsletter

Socials

Concerts

Preservation

Calendar

Archives