



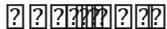
# ABOUT TOWN

## The Kensington Historical Society Newsletter

### KHS SPRING PROGRAMS

#### MARCH 3rd

MAKE MORE NOYES! Come to learn more about the history of the Noyes Library. Get an update on the progress of the rehabilitation including access for people with physical disabilities. Have you ever wondered what a Penny Theater is? Now's your chance to find out! Come to the March 3rd KHS meeting!



Our speakers will be Chris and Ed Hyland from the Bantrak Club. They will have a small train and trolley display and will speak on the Kensington Trolley line. You'll enjoy the stories related to the trolleys as well as the history of the line.

#### MEETING DETAILS

All are welcome to the KHS meetings. These will be held at the Town Hall 3710 Mitchell St. on the ground floor. There will be coffee and cookies at 7:00 pm followed by the Program at 7:30, and a brief business meeting.

### KENSINGTON HISTORIC BUILDINGS WORKSHOP

#### Building a Future for Our Past!

Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, the Montgomery Parks Departments held a Workshop on Kensington's Historic Buildings. Their focus was on Noyes Library, the Warner Circle, and Kensington Cabin. This was an opportunity for interested residents to brainstorm about uses, restoration, and coordination of activities for all three. More than 80 people attended and shared their thoughts with great enthusiasm. The Parks Department has compiled a preliminary list and put it on their website under Park Stewardship, Cultural Resource Stewardship, Kensington Historic Buildings, meeting notes. It will be updated next week:

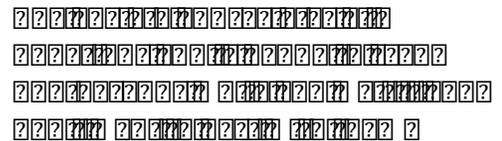
[http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/Cultural\\_Resources\\_Stewardship/heritage/documents/kensington.hist.bldgs.workshop.comments-1.31.15.pdf](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/Cultural_Resources_Stewardship/heritage/documents/kensington.hist.bldgs.workshop.comments-1.31.15.pdf)

This workshop was also sponsored by the Town of Kensington, the Kensington Historical Society, the Noyes Foundation, Montgomery County Public Libraries, the Warner Circle Committee and the Kensington Cabin Task Force. Our thanks to St. Paul's Methodist Church for the use of their auditorium.

*Special thanks to Martha and Val Deale for hosting our Holiday Party!*

### .ARCHIVE NEWS

We are grateful to Brian Rawlings for bringing us his early family photos to scan for the Archives. Their family home was at 10600 Nash Place.



We are also grateful to Mark Hudson for offering his office window on Armory Avenue to display the large dollhouse from the Isabelle Barr Toy Collection. The house will be undergoing restoration and renovation thanks to volunteers Steve Cohen, Sally Buck Rawlings, Jane Davis Shaub, and Di George. We especially thank Tony Ward for organizing this dedicated group! Work will probably begin in March.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Anne Banville
- Joan & Jan Brown
- Margaret Byrnes
- Family Cieslak
- Martha & Dr. John Giovanelli
- Jane & Jaffrey Griffith
- Cynthia Monroe
- Lawrence Stubbs
- Shirley Watson
- Evan Wolff

THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIPS!

**MARTIN LUTHER KING TAPE RECORDING**

~ Barbara Scharman

State Delegate Al Carr and his family hosted an event at the Kensington Town Hall on October 22, 2014 to listen to this newly discovered recording. Attendees, including some middle school students, listened to Delegate Carr's late grandmother's recording of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speaking to an assembly of 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students in Ohio exactly 50 years earlier. This was Dr. King's first public appearance after winning the Nobel Peace Prize. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, which Dr. King and President Johnson had worked on together, had become law a few months earlier. President Johnson was on the ballot for the 1964 Presidential election to be held 12 days later. Dr. King was working to get out the vote in Ohio in hopes of continuing the partnership with Johnson. Events in Selma, Alabama and elsewhere would lead to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Delegate Carr discovered the tape last summer, while going through family possessions in Ohio. It was made by his grandmother, Dorothy Douglass at Addison Junior High School in Cleveland, Ohio on Oct 22, 1964, where she served as assistant principal. Mrs. Douglass sent the original tape to the King Center in Atlanta, but kept a copy. The tape was digitized, preserved and enhanced by Brian Whitney a friend of Delegate Carr's.

Before Del. Carr's presentation to the House of Delegates on the Martin Luther King, JR. holiday last month, the tape had only been played to small gatherings and was not available on the internet. It is now available at: [http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGiKgLq1-QAMGnywCTPPkxjYLz\\_pjF2Ma](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGiKgLq1-QAMGnywCTPPkxjYLz_pjF2Ma).

Mrs. Douglass understood the historic and educational nature of the recording and wanted it to be shared, according to Delegate Carr. She lived in an era where her parents' interracial marriage was not recognized in many states, including her father's native state of Maryland. She and other black students could not live on campus while attending college in Ohio. Teachers in Cleveland could not be married, so her career was put on hold when she wed Carl Douglass. After his passing, she resumed her career and became a distinguished educator, serving as teacher, counselor and assistant principal.

When Delegate Carr was asked to give the annual presentation traditionally given by a member of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, he played his grandmother's recording. More details of this remarkable story are in his address at the State House. <https://www.facebook.com/notes/delegate-al-carr/delegate-al-carrs-remarks-to-the-maryland-house-of-delegates-1192015/10152984180437349>

**PATRICIA ANN HALL ATHERTON 1930~2014**

We were sorry to lose another long time member last fall, Pat Atherton. Many of you will remember that she and her husband Jim (also deceased) ran a popular bookstore on Armory Avenue where Gala is now located. She was active in the Society and attended many events even after they moved to the Annapolis area

CELEBRATE with us at THE  
DAY OF THE BOOK FESTIVAL  
April 26th 11 AM ~ 4 PM

HOWARD AVENUE

[www.dayofthebook.com](http://www.dayofthebook.com)**HIGGINS CEMETERY Part II**

Our last newsletter contained part one of the Higgins Cemetery history in Rockville and the cemetery's family ties with Kensington. The article described a small cemetery plot in Rockville whose first internment was in 1816 (James William Higgins, a Revolutionary War Militiaman) and whose last known one was in 1891. The cemetery is at 4709 Arundale Avenue, on a portion of a once large piece of property owned by the Higgins family. "Each grave in the Higgins Cemetery represents a tie to the history of Kensington. The little parcel of land serves as the final resting place for representatives of many Kensington founding families, including the Higgins, Mannakees, Becrafts and Knowles. In future generations, these town founders spawned several more surnames synonymous with Kensington: Welsh, Baruch, Talbott, Jones, Wilson, Betts, Cromwell, Little, and Prather."

GOD'S ACRE: HIGGINS CEMETERY  
(continued) ~ by Luis Blandon

**THE MANNAKEES**

William Henry Mannakee (1835-1910) owned a successful farm adjacent to the Higgins Plantation. Mannakee was a successful farmer, local politician and served as a collector for the Kensington Wheaton District. In 1865, he purchased a farm about a mile from present-day Kensington which he sold at a later date for a large sum and retired.

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On June 26, 1866, he married Georgiana A. Knowles, the daughter of George and Luraner Knowles. He had married into a prosperous, well-connected family: she was a granddaughter of the Higgins family and her father, George Knowles, owned several tracts of land including the present site of the Town of Kensington. William Mannakee was a stockholder and director in the street railway from Kensington to Chevy Chase. William and Georgiana had seven children, of which four survived into adulthood. Their son, Harry, was the leading grocer of Kensington. The Mannakee General Store operated on modern-day Metropolitan Avenue where the Mizell Lumber Yard was recently located. The Mannakees lived at 10522 St. Paul Street. The house was later demolished to make for the current Pepco substation.

One of William and Georgiana's daughters, Edna, married John A. Jones. Edna's son, Earl Mannakee Jones, was the father of John Wesley Jones, who was the Mayor of Kensington from 1990 to 1996. Another daughter, Luraner Elizabeth, married Newman G. Little. She was the grandmother of Knowles G. Little, the Treasurer of the Higgins Cemetery Historic Preservation Association. Mr. Little symbolizes the familial connection to Kensington as he is a sixth generation descendant of James Higgins and his great-grandmother was Georgiana Knowles Mannakee. Members of the Little Family buried at the Rockville Cemetery have first names that serve as a reminder of Kensington's evolution: Daisy, Knowles, Luraner and Mannakee. Daisy Mannakee was born in 1870. She died at the age of 15 during the late summer of 1885 on September 5th. She was the daughter of William Henry Mannakee and Georgiana A. Knowles Mannakee. She was the granddaughter of George and Luraner Higgins Knowles (1811-1883). Her great-grandparents were James Becraft Higgins and Mary Eleanor Wilcoxon Higgins. Her great-great grandparents were James William Higgins and Luraner Becraft Higgins. All are buried at the Higgins Family Cemetery.

According to her obituary, Daisy died at the home of her parents "near Knowles Station in Silver Spring Parish, Maryland, after a few months' suffering, a rapidly developing disease, in the 16th year of age." She was carried by her classmates to "the GOD's acre of the Higgins family near Rockville..." A February 14, 1979 Montgomery Journal article on the Higgins Cemetery relates that Daisy Mannakee's stone was seen at the cemetery, with the following inscription: "Many daughters have done virtuously but thou excellest them all." The writer describes eleven tombstones standing forgotten in the snow, suffering from the evils of vandals and neglect. The story noted that Daisy's stone was toppled. It has since disappeared.

William Henry Mannakee died at his home in Kensington on February 2, 1910 at the age of seventy-five. One obituary has him interred in the family burial lot in the Union Cemetery near Rockville, a common but officially incorrect name for Rockville Cemetery. The Evening Star obituary states he will be buried in the family burial grounds near Rockville; that could refer to either Rockville or Higgins Cemetery. On November 6, 1919, Georgiana Knowles Higgins passed away. A review of her will probated after her death does not express her wishes regarding her place of burial. It has been said that she may be buried at Higgins. At this moment in time, there is no certainty where Daisy's parents are buried.

## THE HIGGINS CHILDREN

Five of James William and Mary Eleanor Higgins's children are buried at the family cemetery, including Luraner Higgins Knowles. By the time of the last recorded burial in 1891, Higgins family members had drifted away from the farmstead. Higgins family members fought on both sides during the Civil War, created and bought businesses and served in public office. The manor house and land were sold. The land was subdivided into Spring Lake Park. A history of the Higgins family indicated that by 1891, the manor had new owners and was divided into separate dwellings. The land was valuable because of its proximity to the railroads and commuter lines. The cemetery itself was legally "reserved."

Their first child and daughter Elizabeth Wilcoxon West (1802-1888) is buried at Higgins in the left corner isolated from the other known burial sites. She married Henry O'Neill West in 1830 and they had seven known children.

Continued page 4.

The February 14, 1979 Montgomery Journal article on Higgins Cemetery and the corresponding pictures indicate that the Horatio Higgins and Darius Higgins stones were at the cemetery. The Darius Higgins stone was in one piece. Like George Knowles' stone, the Darius McElfresh Higgins (1824-1869) stone was found on the ground during one of the clean-up sessions. It is kept in storage. The stone is broken in two parts. The inscription reads: "He that Overcometh the same shall be clothed in white raiment and I will confess his name and I will confess his name before my Father and before this angles. Rev 3.5." Darius Higgins was the last child born to James and Mary Eleanor Higgins. He married Elizabeth Prather on June 23, 1862.

Horatio Higgins' (1817-1884) stone was lost, found, then lost again. The stone disappeared from the cemetery around 1980. The four-foot 400 pound stone was found in 1983. Articles from the Montgomery Journal dated August 22 and 23, 1983 discussed a county worker finding Horatio Higgins' stone huddled among beer kegs in a county warehouse at 16650 Crabbs Branch Way off of Shady Grove. The article mentioned Horatio's birth in 1817 and death on February 26, 1884, and that Janet Manuel of the Montgomery County Historical Society confirmed that the stone was from the Higgins Family Cemetery. Eileen McGuckian of Montgomery County Historical Society mentioned that they have attempted to obtain more information from the police, but were unsuccessful as they had not kept records of the incident. Horatio's marker has vanished once again. It is could be in another county warehouse. It could be in a landfill. It could be in someone's yard. It could be anywhere.

The last known burial at the Higgins cemetery was for Mary Eleanor Higgins Gott(1812-1891). She married Edwin Gott in 1833. During her lifetime, the area around the cemetery underwent significant changes. When Mary's father died in 1848, there were farmlands and dirt roads around the cemetery. The Mexican War was concluding and Lincoln was completing his only term in the House of Representatives. By 1890, a new subdivision was platted in the area that included the remnants of the Higgins farm near the B&O Railroad's Halpine Station, close by the present Twinbrook station. It was incorporated as Spring Lake Park Company and the subdivision became Spring Lake Park on part of the former Higgins farm.

#### UNMARKED BURIALS

There are twelve unmarked stones in the southwest quadrant of the cemetery. We know that the Higgins and Knowles families owned slaves and that several are buried at Higgins in unmarked graves. In back corner of the plot, there are several uncoordinated and unmarked stone markers which likely represent the location where some of the slaves are buried. According to Knowles G. Little, the Treasurer of Higgins Cemetery Historic Preservation Association, the building facing the cemetery has no basement. It is likely that there are slaves buried underneath the building. The cemetery was much larger in size per the 1891 plat for the Spring Lake Park development.

#### THE PRESENT AND FUTURE

Family members and other volunteers have cleared the property of trash. They have laid a new path, allowing for easier access to the site. A sign welcomes visitors and explains the significance of the site. The Higgins Cemetery Historic Preservation Association has developed a vision and plan for restoring hallowed and historic grounds. What is slowing down the plans is funding.

What remains under the soil are the bones and dust of the souls who played a role in creating today's Kensington. Go to the site and imagine the changes that have resulted since 1816, and what has remained the same. What was once a large expanse of fields, crops and dirt roads has evolved into a concrete landscape of one-story buildings, empty lots and cracked asphalt. Except for a tiny plot of land referred to over a hundred years ago as God's Acre.

*Thank You Sponsors!* Ayoub N & H Carpet & Rugs, Benchmark Painting & Cabinetry, Catch Can,, Chesapeake Framing Company, The Ditto Group, David Gregg's Tree Service & Garden Maintenance, Frankly...Pizza, Hardware City, JennyCakes Bakery, JSA Cardozo Home Remodeling, Jubilee Association of MD, Kensington Caboose, Kensington Pizzeria, Kensington Pharmacy, Kensington Row Bookshop, Kensington Service Center, Knowles Printing Services, Logan's Automotive, Moose, Green & Korom, PA, One-Stop Tax & Business Service, Patrick Realty Co, Inc., Precious Pals, Safeway, Sage Eclectic Consignment, sub\*urban trading, Susan I. Wranik Associates, LLC, Textile & Rug Museum.

The By-Laws Committee has been working to update the By-Laws of the Kensington Historical Society.  
The proposed By-Laws are presented below.  
They will be presented formally at the April 28th meeting for a vote on their adoption.

**Kensington Historical Society, Inc.**  
**A Non-Profit Corporation**  
**BY-LAWS**

The Society is organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. These purposes include:

- A. Safeguarding the heritage of the Community of Kensington by preserving and archiving a record of its cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history;
- B. Promoting the preservation, protection, and restoration of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of historic importance or historic interest.
- C. Supporting efforts within the Community of Kensington and surrounding region that advance local history education and preservation of for the benefit of its citizens;
- D. Fostering civic beauty and pride, and strengthening the local economy in a manner consistent with these objectives; and
- E. Exploring other compatible objectives.

Membership. Membership shall be open to persons who are interested in the purposes of the Society, not limited to residents of the incorporated Town of Kensington.

Officers and At-Large Members The Officers of the KHS shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary/Operations Officer, and a Treasurer. Other At-Large Members may be appointed as these Officers consider necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the Society.

Officer Duties

President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society membership and shall execute all instruments requiring the legal and financial commitments of the Society, and perform such other duties as are incident to the proper administration of the Society. The President is the principal spokesperson for the Society.

Vice President. The Vice President shall assist the President and in the absence of the President, shall act as the President pro tem.

Secretary/Operations Officer. The Secretary/Operations Officer shall be the President's principal deputy for the internal operations of the Society. The Secretary/Operations Officer shall ensure that a true record is kept of the proceedings of all meetings of the Society. The Secretary/Operations Officer shall assist the Chair in any matter related to the internal operations of the Society, including preparing agendas and overseeing work plans for At-Large Members.

Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have responsibility for managing funds of the Society under the direction of the President. The Treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Society. He or she shall be bonded and deposit all moneys and other valuables in the name of and to the credit of the Society. The Treasurer shall disburse funds of the Society. The Treasurer shall render to the President and to the membership an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Society. The Treasurer shall provide periodic financial reports to the President for timely review of the Society's fiscal condition. The Treasurer shall ensure that an audit of the Society financials is performed annually.

Term of Office. A Nominating Committee consisting of the President, Secretary/Operations Officer and two additional members from the general membership shall present a slate of officers to the membership at least 10 days preceding the Annual Meeting at which such officers are to be elected. Eligible and willing additional nominees may be proposed at the Annual Meeting. Officers may be elected by voice vote if there are not further nominations; or in case of such nominations, by ballot. Those receiving a plurality of votes cast shall be elected. Each elected Officer shall hold office for two (2) years, commencing at the beginning of the calendar year immediately following the Annual Meeting, and thereafter until a successor is elected and qualified, or until death, resignation or removal.

Vacancies. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary/Operations Officer and At-Large Members may between Business Meetings, fill vacancies in these positions as the need arises. These Officers and At-Large Members shall serve until the next Business Meeting.

Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the members of the Society shall be held on a day in November or December as designated by the Officers. At the Annual meeting officers will be elected to succeed those whose terms have expired as of the date of the meetings; and other corporate business may be transacted. The Officers shall give the membership at least thirty (30) days' notice of the date, time, and place of the Annual Meeting

Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Society take place at times and places determined by the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary/Operations Officer and relevant At-Large Member(s). Regular meetings are generally held quarterly for the purpose of transacting ordinary business, for considering and approving actions of the Officers and the At-Large Members, for programs appropriate to the aims of the Society, and for other purposes. The members of the Society present at a duly-constituted meeting of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called at any time for any purpose(s) by the President, Vice President, Secretary/Operations Officer, or by a majority of the At-Large Members. The special meeting notice shall state the purpose(s) of the meeting. Business transacted at special meetings shall be confined to the purpose(s) stated in the notice of the meeting.

Place of meetings. All meetings of members shall be held at a convenient location in Kensington as designated by the Officers.

Amendment of the By Laws. The membership may, by a majority vote, alter, amend, repeal or adopt new By Laws at any regular or special meeting; provided that notice of such proposed action shall have been given to the membership at least ten (10) days prior to said meeting.

Dissolution. In the event that circumstances make it appropriate for the Kensington Historical Society, Inc. to dissolve, the Officers shall present an appropriate motion to the membership at an annual or special meeting called for that purpose, having notified all members that such a motion is to be presented. The Officers shall inform the membership of the reasons that justify dissolution and include in the motion the disposition of remaining funds and new home for the materials in the archives. The Officers will make every effort to ensure the archives find a new home with the Montgomery County Historical Society or other local historical organization. Upon majority vote of the membership at the annual or special meeting, the Society will be dissolved.

KENSINGTON HISTORIC BUILDINGS WORKSHOP, January 31st



ABOVE; More than eighty residents participated!



BELOW: Warner Circle, 10231 Carroll Place

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22 22 27 2 2222



NOYES LIBRARY for Young Children

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2277 22 2



KENSINGTON CABIN 10000 Kensington Parkway

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227777777 2 222222



Parks Department personnel recorded every suggestion!

Kensington Historical Society  
PO Box 453  
Kensington, MD 20895

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**KHS, P.O.Box 453, Kensington, MD 20895**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lived in Kensington since (Year): \_\_\_\_\_

***2015 DUES ARE DUE!***

*Paid already? Check your address label above for membership paid through date.*

**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