

**Volume 7
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Duvall News

The Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants



Highlights of the 80th Annual Meeting

Fifty-two society members attended the 80th Annual Meeting of the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants on October 14, 2006. The meeting was held in the old St. James' Episcopal Church in Lothian, Maryland, with President Barbara Murphy presiding. The invocation was given by First Vice President Bourne Garner and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Elizabeth Everett.

Barbara welcomed the members and their guests. She followed with a brief history of St. James' Parish, which was established in 1692, including its connection to the Duvall family through Mary Duvall, who was married to the Reverend Henry Hall, St. James' first rector.

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The President then announced that the Society now had acquired a fireproof file cabinet to house the Society's irreplaceable documents, such as genealogical information, photographs, obituaries, scrapbooks dating back to the 1930's, and various Society meeting minutes and reports. Members are encouraged to submit copies of their genealogical information and family photographs, to not only benefit Duvall researchers, but for safekeeping in the Society's archives. The file cabinet is located at Marietta in the room behind the Gift Shop. The file cabinet remains locked and access is controlled.

Barbara then gave an extremely important report, saying she had contacted the Anne Arundel County officials regarding the proposed development on Mareen Duvall's home site at Middle Plantation. The new development is to be known as "Cedar Lane Farms." Because the County officials determined that the site had been completely excavated, and that no additional archaeological resources were left to preserve, the property is no longer eligible for preservation. The County did, however, rule that the cemetery site would be preserved. A committee was then formed, consisting of Lanny Ridout, David Duvall, Dent Downing and Barbara Murphy, along with Weems Duvall as legal advisor. In July, Lanny, Weems and Barbara were permitted to attend the Developer's Progress Meeting that was scheduled for presentation of the final plans for the development of this subdivision. The Council, on behalf of the Society, requested that the subdivision be renamed, and submitted as "Duvall's Grant," originally recommended by Mr. William Doepkens' daughter, Elizabeth Yuan; or "The Cedars of Middle Plantation," as recommended by Dent Downing (Note: William Doepkens authored "Excavations of Mareen Duvall's Middle Plantation of South River Hundred.") Weems Duvall then reported that the developer



More than 50 people gathered for the 80th Annual Meeting of the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants.



President Barbara Murphy welcomes everyone to our Annual Meeting.

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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

You will find inserted in this newsletter a supplement to our most recent Membership Directory. Any members having changes of addresses should advise immediately our Membership Secretary, Priscilla Duvall, 3642 Cemetery Lane, Westminster, MD 21158-2003, priswdu35@aol.com.

Highlights of the 80th Annual Meeting, continued



London Town Publick House

(Continued from page 1)

had agreed to preserve and maintain access to the graveyard; the developer also agreed to rename the development, using the Society's suggestion, as well as pay for an historical marker on the site. (The Council ultimately determined the subdivision be named "Duvall's Grant.")

The Treasurer, Clifford Hearn, reported that the Society had a balance of \$15,397.21 in the BB&T checking account, \$2,500 in the BB&T Certificate of Deposit, and \$13,959.92 in its Invest Savings Account.

In the absence of Barry McKown, Registrar, Priscilla Duvall presented his report and her own as Membership Secretary. There are a total of 403 members, which include 4 Sustaining Members, 14 Associate Members, 8 Junior Members, and 377 Regular Members. Of the 403 members, 260 are Life Members, six of whom are new. There are 143 dues paying members, of which 52 have paid dues for the year 2006. Thirty-eight members were lost this year for non-payment of dues. There were 12 new Society members for the year. The Society learned of one death, Life Member

#385, Hubert D. Warthman of Livonia, Michigan, whose death is listed as October 24, 1989.

Chairman Bourne Garner gave the Nominating Committee report. Council Members Elizabeth Everett, Lois Simpson and Claire Mower

were reelected. Edna Powell was elected to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Carol Duvall. For the two vacant positions on the Council, Beth Everett volunteered to fill in as the Website Coordinator until October 2007, and Brenda Duvall volunteered to serve as the Editor of the "Duvall News."

Regarding new business, Barbara Murphy reported on revisions to the Society's Constitution and Bylaws. She noted that the Council, upon reviewing the financial needs of the Society, determined that the current dues structure was inadequate to meet current and/or anticipated expenditures. As a result, the Council unanimously voted to increase the entrance fee to \$10, the annual dues in all categories to \$15, and the fee for Life Membership to \$200.

In addition, the Council voted unanimously to eliminate the Junior Membership category in order to put them in a non-dues paying status until they reach the age of 18. Only Junior Life Members will be counted in future membership reports. The Society's Constitution and Bylaws were amended and ratified by the members present.

Following adjournment, David Duvall, Jr., catered in the Parish Hall a delicious luncheon of Maryland fried oysters, baked ham and all the trimmings.

The sun-filled autumn afternoon proved a delight for all, thanks to members Lanny Ridout and Weems Duvall. Lanny arranged our tour of London Town Publick House and Gardens in Edgewater, Maryland. The Publick House, circa 1744-50, is the only remaining structure on the site of what was once a thriving seaport town of 100 acres on the shores of the South River near Annapolis. The house, perched on a high knoll overlooking the river, was once a fine inn which provided a stopping place and ferry service for travelers making the journey between Williamsburg and Philadelphia. Many famous historical figures including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Francis Scott Key noted making the crossing here. The inn also served occasionally as a courthouse and meeting place. Today it stands as the sole survivor of a vanished town. Eight acres of undulating terrain adjoining the Publick House have been planted to preserve and enhance the natural beauty. Society members enjoyed wandering along the walks amassd with seasonal flowers and native trees and shrubs, forming some of America's loveliest woodland gardens at this most-charming 18th century-site.

Weems Duvall provided a perfect end to a perfect day

by arranging the visit to the 1740 Sudley House. Society members were grateful and most appreciative to Weems for hosting a delicious and delightful wine and cheese reception for us. To round out the day, some members enjoyed an evening of conversation and an outstanding dinner at the waterside restaurant, The Pirates Cove, in Galesville, Maryland. A wonderful ending to a great day!



President Emeritus Lanny Ridout and Society Member Alice Ruth enjoy the delightful weather at our October Annual Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

2007 Council Meetings

Sunday, April 29, 2007
Marietta in Glenn Dale,
Maryland

Saturday, July 28, 2007
Marietta in Glenn Dale,
Maryland

Saturday, October 13, 2007
81st Annual Meeting
Chesapeake City, Maryland

The Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants

Society Officers 2005-2007

PresidentBarbara M. Murphy
 1st Vice PresidentBourne A. Garner
 2nd Vice PresidentJohn W. Duvall
 Recording SecretaryB. Dent Downing
 Membership SecretaryPriscilla W. Duvall
 RegistrarBarrett L. McKown
 TreasurerClifford B. Hearn, Jr.
 Chaplain.....A. Weems McFadden
 Historian.....Ann Duvall Edwards
 President Emeritus.....David D. Duvall
 President Emeritus.....Orlando Ridout IV
 President Emeritus.....Weems W. Duvall, Jr.

Society Council Members

2004-2007 Term

Eric S. Ryberg
 Josef K. Ruth
 Coralee Duvall

2005-2008 Term

Donald D. Duvall
 Peter B. Duvall
 Edna Duvall Powell

2006-2009 Term

Elizabeth D. Everett
 Lois G. Simpson
 Claire S. Mower

Council Staff

Society Contacts

Barbara M. Murphy (President)
 9713 Dale Drive
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
 bmurphy2301@comcast.net

Barrett L. McKown (Registrar)
 3580 South River Terrace
 Edgewater, MD 21037
 bmckown@aacpl.net

Priscilla W. Duvall
 (Membership Secretary)
 3642 Cemetery Lane
 Westminster, MD 21158-2003
 priswdu35@aol.com

Newsletter Editor—Brenda B. Duvall, Newsletter Design and Graphics—Jed Duvall of JEDCOGraphics
 (www.jedcographics.com), Website Coordinator—Elizabeth D. Everett, Society Photographer—Peter B. Duvall

New Members

We welcome the following new members into the Society:

Clewell Howell, Jr.
 Towson, MD.....#1002

Edward Latimer Duvall
 Charlotte, NC.....#1003-L

William J. Everett
 Church Hill, MD.....#1004

Margaret L. McCormack
 Doswell, VA.....#1005

Juanita Bray
 Townsend, MT.....#1006

Nancy Shelton Bratic
 Houston, Texas.....#1007

duVal Radford Goley, Jr.
 Goodyear, AZ.....#J-136-L

Brenda B. Duvall
 Upper Marlboro, MD.....#A-45

MEMBERSHIP NOTES The Irony of The Number 401

At the January 27, 2007, Council Meeting, Priscilla Duvall updated her Membership report and stated there are a total of 401 members in The Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants. Of this number, four are Sustaining Members, 14 are Associate Members, five are Junior (Life) Members and 378 are Regular Members. Of these 401 members, 265 are Life Members.

There are 136 dues-paying members. Of these 136 members, only 55 have paid dues for the year 2007. Dues were to be paid in January. If you have not already sent in your payment for 2007, please do so today, using the form found on page 5 of this newsletter.

It is interesting to note that an article in our September 1985 Society newsletter announced and welcomed 29 new members, taking the number of Society Members to an

all-time high of 401. Since that time we have welcomed many more new members; however, we have lost many former members and mourned a great many others. As you read above, 401 is coincidentally the same number of members we have today! Of course, this trend does not bode well for our Society's growth.

Please be a "Recruiter" by motivating and assisting other family members to join The Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants. Only with all of our ongoing efforts will our unique family organization continue to flourish in numbers and strength.

If you need assistance in helping a relative join our Society or in receiving an application for membership, contact our Registrar, Barry McKown, 3580 South River Terrace, Edgewater, MD 21037 or by E-mail at bmckown@aacpl.net.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES: *The Duvall Pecan Trees and Thomas Jefferson*

Over the years, many articles of special interest for the Duvall family have appeared in our Society's newsletters. The following article was written by the late Ted Bissell and was featured in an issue of the Prince George's County Historical Society's "News and Notes"; however, it first appeared in the Society's September 1986 newsletter. Mr. Bissell writes:

"At Marietta, home of Gabriel Duvall and his successors, are four huge pecan trees. In 1977 Dr. John Kundt, Department of Horticulture, University of Maryland, and the writer, measured the diameter of the trees as 31 to 41 inches (2 ½ to 3 ½ feet) and 81 to 103 feet in height. A short time later Mr. Sam Lyon, Naturalist, National Capital Park and Planning Commission, by making boring of the trunks, estimated the age of the trees at 100 to 105 years.

At the homes of William Elson Duvall IV and John Byron Duvall at Naylor (Maryland) are more old pecan trees. In 1977 I measured the largest as 44 inches in diameter and the branches spreading some 50 feet. This is the largest pecan tree I know in the State of Maryland.

Tradition in the Duvall family says these trees were the gift of Thomas Jefferson whom we know was a friend of Gabriel Duvall and, when President (Jefferson), appointed him Treasurer of the United States. We have not been able to find a record of such a gift but there is ample record of Jefferson's interest in pecans.

There are at least ten entries in Jefferson's Garden Book, edited by Edwin Morris Betts, of planting "pacans" at Monticello; then, in 1800, he wrote

Daniel Clark of New Orleans that he had two trees planted in 1780, "flourishing but have not produced nuts." Clark in reply suggested the comparatively high elevation might retard bearing.

Then when Mrs. Anna Bankhead gave Jefferson some cape jesszmine (sic) he offered her various plants including pecan, for her planting.

In 1781, in response to an inquiry from Europe, Jefferson wrote a lengthy treatise, "Notes on the State of Virginia," which includes information on the people, crops, minerals, and much more. It contains a description of the pecan in Latin, in formal botanical style, naming it *Juglans alba* and adding, "It grows on the Illinois, Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers." The treatise was published in Paris in 1785.

A few years later while Jefferson was Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States to France, he wrote three different men in America to send him pecan nuts for planting. He specified nuts from Illinois, "the western country," and said they might be obtained in Pittsburgh. Several lots were sent and acknowledged one lot had been "Pilfered." It would be more than interesting to know if any of these trees survive in France.

From their ages, it is obvious that the present trees are progeny of the originals given by Jefferson."

- **(Editor's Note: Mr. Bissell refers to the pecan trees at Marietta being between 100 and 105 years old in 1977. That makes them approximately 130-135 years of age today).**

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR OUR 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

Mark Your Calendar

The 2007 Annual Meeting of The Society of Maren Duvall Descendants is scheduled for Saturday, October 13 at 10:00 a.m. This year's meeting will be held in Chesapeake City, in Cecil County, Maryland. Chesapeake City is home to the busiest canal in the nation and the town is known as both "The Village of Bohemia" and as the town that happened as a result of the C&D Canal. The town's historic area is on the National Historic Registry as well as Maryland's Historic Registry. Chesapeake City boasts many historic homes, the C&D Canal Museum and many shops and galleries. The town's Victorian charm has been featured in several national magazines, including Travel & Leisure, Coastal Living and Southern Living.

Nearby towns you may want to include in your personal itinerary while in the area include Cecilton, home to several exquisite historic manor homes and colonial estates; Charlestown, where the North East River meets the Chesapeake Bay; North East, where St. Mary Anne's Episcopal Church, dating back to the early 1700s has one of the oldest graveyards in the state; Perryville, an important staging area and camp for Union soldiers and supplies during the Civil War; and, Elkton, the County Seat.

Don't miss this chance to visit with your relatives and see this area of Maryland. Further details including the location of the meeting, luncheon and activities will appear in your summer edition of the Duvall News. In the meantime, mark October 13 on your calendar and join us for what surely will be a delightful day and weekend.

QUERY CORNER

What to do if you are researching your family line and you run into a dead end? First, feel free to contact our Registrar, Barry McKown, who may be able to help. If our Registrar cannot answer your question about your Duvall roots, we might be able to print your query in the Duvall News, space permitting. Send your query to Brenda B. Duvall, 12504 Croom Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772, bdduvall3750@starpower.net.

Tips For Creating a Good Query:

1. If possible, include the full name of the person;
2. Known (or estimated) dates of birth, marriage, death;
3. Person's spouse, children, parents (if known);
4. Known location(s) for this person; and,
5. Ask a specific question about this person.

REVISED MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND DUES SCHEDULE

The Council, upon reviewing the financial needs of the Society, determined that the existing dues structure was not adequate to meet current and/or anticipated expenditures. As a result, the Council unanimously voted to increase the application/entrance fee to \$10.00, annual dues to \$15.00, and the one-time fee for Life Membership to \$200.00, effective January 1, 2007. The Council also voted to eliminate the Junior Membership category. This in no way implies that our children are not encouraged to participate in Society activities or meetings. All current Junior Members will remain on the membership roll, but in a non-dues paying status until they reach the age of 18. At that time they may elect to join The Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants as a Regular or as a Life Member.

Detach Here

PAY YOUR DUES TODAY!

Your annual dues were to be paid in January. Be sure to maintain your membership in The Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants by completing this form and returning your dues payment.

Name _____ Member # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone Number _____

- _____ Regular Member \$15
- _____ Associate (Spouse of Member) \$15
- _____ Sustaining Member (Pending Approval) \$15
- _____ Life Membership (Payable in one lump sum) \$200

Make check payable to: Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants

Mail to: Ms. Priscilla W. Duvall, 3642 Cemetery Lane, Westminster, MD 21158-2003

In Memoriam

The Society mourns the loss of the following members. We extend our sympathy to their families.

Rebecca I. Bass
(103-years-old)
#442

John A. Greaves
#870

Scott Trapnell Hilleary
#288-L

IN MEMORIAM Scott Trapnell Hilleary

By Orlando Ridout IV

We are deeply sorry to report the death of SMDD member Scott Trapnell Hilleary, 58, of Hammond Lodge, Catonsville, Maryland. Mr. Hilleary, beloved brother of John Thornton Hilleary, died February 20, 2007. His family traced their line to Mary Duvall Hall, a daughter of Mareen Duvall and wife of The Reverend Henry Hall, the first rector of St. James' Parish in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Scott's unexpected death followed just three years after the passing of his widowed mother, Mrs. Eleanor Trapnell Hilleary Dorsey Dosh, aged 91.

Mrs. Dosh and her two sons dedicated their lives to the conservation and protection of heritage woodlands and fields. They enthusiastically planted trees and grasslands at their stone farmhouse in western Virginia, their hilltop historic homestead in Catonsville, Maryland, and at their green park and cottage on the Severn River. They generously funded each with perpetual endowments and protected them with conservation easements.

Scott was buried at St. James' Parish Cemetery, Lothian, Maryland.

The Society of Maren Duvall Descendants



c/o Barrett L. McKown, Registrar
3580 South River Terrace
Edgewater, MD 21037

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

(Marietta House Museum is open for public tours on Fridays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, Noon to 4 p.m. Weekday group tours are available by appointment. For additional information, visit their web site at www.pghistory.org, or call 301-464-5291. Marietta is situated in Glenn Dale in Prince George's County, Maryland. The Society of Maren Duvall Descendants relocated the family graveyard from its nearby original location to the serene surroundings at Marietta. The grounds boast two champion trees and lovely old boxwood).

Throughout his distinguished career, Gabriel Duvall was regarded as a gentleman of the highest integrity. He built Marietta circa 1813 and in the 1830's added a two-story wing on the north side. The Judge's law office and the root cellar are the only remaining outbuildings on the 25 acres of the original 650-acre estate. Gabriel Duvall was distinguished for a lifetime of public service, which included election to the Maryland State Legislature and the United States Congress. In 1802, President Thomas Jefferson appointed him Comptroller of the Treasury, a position he held until his appointment to the Supreme Court by President James Madison in 1811. Gabriel Duvall retired from the Supreme Court in 1835 and died at Marietta in 1844. He was 92-years-old.

Gabriel Duvall's home Marietta is exquisitely decorated during the Christmas holidays



MARIETTA BY CANDLELIGHT, A CHRISTMAS DELIGHT